

Not many ideas had such a deep impact on the world as the one of communism. In theory, communism aimed at the welfare of everyone and their equality under the law. Equal treatment and individual freedom were also crucial pillars for the idea of universal human rights. Taking this into consideration, the workshop deals on various levels with the complex relation of communism and human rights: from conceptual debates to the very precise actions of Human Rights Organizations.

Organizers: Janis Nalbadidacis (*South East European History, Humboldt University, Berlin*)

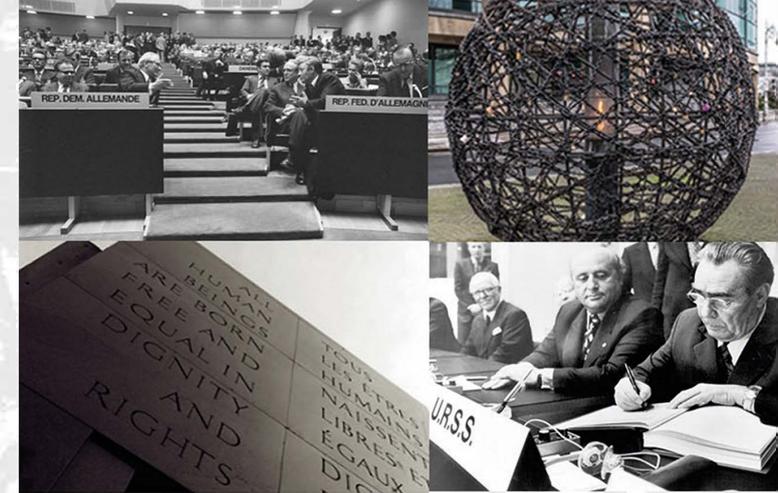
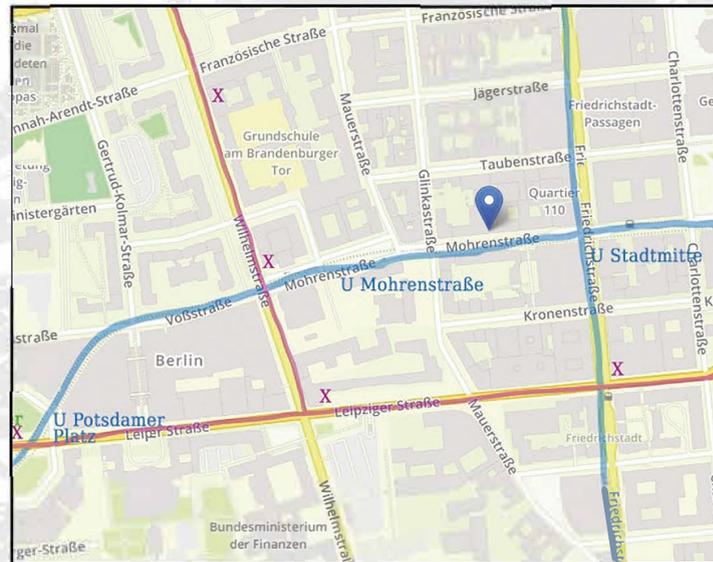
Jochen Krüger (*East European History, Humboldt University, Berlin*)

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Venue: Centre for East European and International Studies, Berlin (ZOiS)
Mohrenstraße 60, 10117 Berlin

How to get there?

U Stadtmitte: U2, U6 | Bus M48, 246 | 



Free and Equal - Equal and Free? Communism and Human Rights in the 20th Century



Workshop, November 23-25, 2017
in Berlin

The workshop is organised by the History Department of Humboldt University Berlin. We like to thank the Foundation for the Study of Communist Dictatorship in East Germany for the generous funding, the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial for the cooperation, and the Centre for East European and International Studies Berlin (ZOiS) for hosting the event.



Thursday, November 23, 2017

18:00 *Panel Discussion*

Communism and Human Rights in the 20th Century (German)
with Helmuth Frauendorfer, Christian Halbrock, Ernst

Wawra, and Annette Weinke

Chair: Jochen Krüger, Janis Nalbadidacis

reception

Helmuth Frauendorfer, born in Romania, is writer of numerous essays, poems and articles. Due to his publications and his political commitment he suffered repressions by the Romanian secret service Securitate. In 1987, he emigrated to West Germany where he became active in human rights organizations. Today, he works as vice director of the Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial.

Christian Halbrock, born in the GDR, had a clerical family background so he was not allowed to attend high school. He was co-founder of the Environmental Library, an initiative to focus on the disastrous environmental damages caused by the GDR industry and to breach the science monopoly. After the fall of the wall he studied history. Currently he is working as a historian at the Stasi Records Agency.

Ernst Wawra is research associate at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. In his PhD-project he deals with the impact of the CSCE-Processes on the Soviet Union and asks specifically what it meant for upcoming civil rights movements there. He published a number of articles on this topic and dealt with the question how specifically the dissidents are related to the topic of human rights.

Annette Weinke is vice director of the Jena Center, 20th Century History. In her research she dealt on various levels with human rights. Her current project asks for transnational bonds among human rights activists. Recently, she published an edited volume about Human Rights and their use for justifying military interventions. She is also member of the Study Group Human Rights in the 20th Century which promotes in various ways the research on human rights.



Friday, November 24, 2017

10:00 Welcome

1. „All Humans are Equal“. **Between Ideal and Implementation**

Chair: Stefan Kirmse (*Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin*)

11:00 Kim Christians (*KU Leuven*)

Beyond Agitprop? Communist Campaigns on behalf of the Third World and the Rise of Human Rights, 1960s-1980s

Comment: Anaïs Van Ertvelde

11:45 Elisa Kriza (*University of Bamberg*)

Utopia for the Chosen? The Soviet Constitution of 1936 in its Context of Hope and Persecution

Comment: Anna Safronova

lunch break

2. **Human Rights in Socialist and Inner State Discourses**

Chair: Hannes Grandits (*Humboldt Universität, Berlin*)

14:00 Ana Devic (*Educons University, Novi Sad*)

Dissidence in Socialist Yugoslavia: (Blurred?) Lines between the Participatory and Nationalist Perspectives on Human Rights

Comment: Srđan M. Jovanović

14:45 Anaïs Van Ertvelde (*Leiden University*)

Disability Rights as Human Rights in Poland after WWII

Comment: Stephen Westlake

15:30 Bedrudin Brljava (*University of Sarajevo*)

Communism and Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Between Fear and Freedom?

Comment: Eriada Cela

coffee break

3. **Precise Actions: NGOs in Socialist States**

Chair: Janis Nalbadidacis (*Humboldt Universität, Berlin*)

17:00 Srđan Jovanović (*Lund University*)

Communists, Europeanists, Sorosites and Eternal Scapegoats: A Short History of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Belgrade

Comment: Bedrudin Brljava

17:45 Tetiana Perga (*National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kiev*)

Influence of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine on the Situation in Ukrainian SSR (1980-1990)

Comment: Elisa Kriza

diner

Saturday, November 25, 2017

4. **Human Rights as Bargaining Chips in Foreign Policy**

Chair: Jochen Krüger (*Humboldt Universität, Berlin*)

09:30 Anna Safronova (*Panthéon Sorbonne Paris I*)

The Right to Food: Use of the Argument for Humanitarian Help in a Struggle for Power by a Group of “old Cooperative Leaders” of Tsentrosojuz against the Bolshevik Regime in 1919-1920

Comment: Ana Devic

10:15 Stephen Westlake (*Central European University, Budapest*)

Did “Human Rights Radio” Kill Communism? Transnational Broadcasting and the Helsinki Final Act, 1973-1981

Comment: Tetiana Perga

coffee break

5. **In the Shadow of Class Struggles - Fights for Women's Rights in Socialist States**

Chair: Elisa Satjukow (*Leipzig University*)

11:45 Eriada Cela (*Aleksander Xhuvani University, Elbasan*)

The Right to Education Propaganda in Communist Albania: the War of Classes versus Women's Emancipation

Comments: Kim Christians, Zsófia Lóránd

short break

12:45 Final Discussion