

As both human rights and globalization have emerged as dynamic fields of historical and socio-logical research, the “socialist world” is relegated to a supporting role in the triumph of Western capitalism and liberal democracy. The aim of this conference is to question established narratives that have ignored or downplayed the role of socialist ideas, practice, and experts—be they state officials, loyal intellectuals or dissident activists—in the development of international human rights ideas, discourses, and systems in the post-war era. With a geographic scope that covers the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc, Yugoslavia and China, we hope to show that the socialist world did not just react passively to Western human rights politics, but was a vital participant in the production of global human rights with legacies that continued past the revolutions of 1989. By examining the socialist contribution to the evolution of human rights, we hope to contribute to revising standard narratives of globalization that focus exclusively on the perceived winners of these processes.

■ Organizers

German Historical Institute Warsaw
Exeter University's Research Project “1989 after 1989: Rethinking the Fall of State Socialism in Global Perspective”, funded by the Leverhulme Trust
Georg-August University of Göttingen

■ Conceptualization

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■ Conference Language

English

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Conference

Human Rights after 1945 in the Socialist and Post-Socialist World

March 3-5, 2016

German Historical Institute Warsaw
Conference Room, 3rd Floor

Thursday, 3 March 2016

14:00-14:30 Ruth LEISEROWITZ (German Historical Institute Warsaw)
Welcoming Address

14:30-15:30 **Introductory Panel: State Socialism,
Human Rights and Globalization:
In Search of a New Narrative**

Hella DIETZ (Georg-August University of Göttingen)
Ned RICHARDSON-LITTLE (University of Exeter)
Robert BRIER (London School of Economics)

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-18:00 **Panel 1: Defining Human Rights Internationally**

Steven JENSEN (Danish Institute for Human Rights)
Defining the Social in the Global: Social Rights,
UN Diplomacy and the Emergence of International
Non-Discrimination Norms and Politics, 1950-1960

Alexander OSIPOV (European Centre for Minority Issues)
The Soviet Union's Involvement in the Establishment
of the European Minority Rights Regime

Discussant: Arnd BAUERKÄMPER
(Free University Berlin)

19:00 *Conference Dinner*

Friday, 4 March 2016

09:00-11:00 **Panel 2: State-Socialist Conceptions
of Rights and Human Rights**

Jennifer ALTHENGER (King's College London)
Rights, Not Human Rights: Communist China's
National Constitution Discussion, 1954

Michal KOPEČEK (Central European University, Budapest/
Institute for Contemporary History, Prague)
Socialist Conceptions of Human Rights
and its Dissident Critique

Todor HRISTOV (University of Sofia)
Rights to Weapons: Human Rights
as a Resource in Workplace Conflicts
in Late Socialist Bulgaria

Discussant: Paul BETTS (Oxford University)

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:00 **Panel 3: Tolerance, Difference, and Rights
under Socialism**

Ivan SABLIN (University of Heidelberg)
Illusive Tolerance: Buddhism in the Late Soviet State

Zhuoyi WEN (Hong Kong Institute of Education)
Contesting Cultural Rights in Post-socialist China

Discussant: tba

13:00-14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30-16:00 **Panel 4: Human Rights as Socialist Foreign Policy**

Sebastian GEHRIG (Oxford University)
The Fifth Column of the Third World?
The East German Quest for International
Recognition through UN Rights Discourses

Jens BOYSEN (German Historical Institute Warsaw)
Polish Engagement in the United Nations
as a Tool for Justifying Communist Rule
in Poland and Gaining Leeway in the
Warsaw Pact

Discussant: Robert BRIER
(London School of Economics)

16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30-18:00 **Panel 5: Transnational Movements and Flows**

Christie MIEDEMA (University of Amsterdam)
Negotiating Space for International Human
Rights Activism: Amnesty International
in Eastern Europe before 1989

Rósa MAGNÚSDÓTTIR (University of Aarhus)
Soviet-American Inter-marriage:
Transnational Love and the Cold War

Discussant: James MARK (University of Exeter)

19:00

Dinner for the conference participants

Saturday, 5 March 2016

9:00-11:00 **Panel 6: Dissent and Human Rights**

Simone BELLEZZA (University of Eastern Piedmont)
The Right to Be Different: Ukrainian Dissent
and the Struggle Against a Global Consumerist
Cultural Standardization

Hermann AUBIÉ (University of Turku)
Between Loyalty and Dissent: Revisiting
the History of Human Rights in China
Through the Discourse of Chinese
Intellectuals and Dissidents

Zsófia LÓRÁND (European University Institute, Florence)
Feminist Dissent, Activism for the Elimination of
Violence against Women, and the Human Rights
Discourse in Yugoslavia in the 1970s-1980s

Discussant: Celia DONERT (University of Liverpool)

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:00 **Concluding Panel:
The Place of State Socialist Societies
in the Global History of Human Rights**

Paul BETTS (Oxford University)
James MARK (University of Exeter)
Celia DONERT (University of Liverpool)