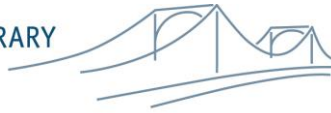




CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY  
HISTORY POTSDAM

Institute of the Leibniz Association



Conference

## **The Practices of Structural Policy in Western Market Economies since the 1960s**

**Conveners:** Ralf Ahrens (ZZF Potsdam), Astrid M. Eckert (Emory University), Stefan Hördler (GHI Washington); supported by Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für Wissenschaftsförderung

**Venue:** Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam, Seminar Room (Ground Floor),  
Am Neuen Markt 9d, 14467 Potsdam

**Registration Deadline:** May 20, 2015. Please contact [ahrens@zzf-pdm.de](mailto:ahrens@zzf-pdm.de).

As the postwar boom abated in the Western industrial nations, a broad variety of state economic interventions rapidly gained significance that were subsumed (though with partly differing connotations) under the labels of "structural" or "industrial policy." Unlike regulatory and stabilization policies that address economic conditions on the macro level, structural policy focuses on the development of particular regions or sectors. It has always implied expectations and assumptions about the desired composition and development of a national economy and its regional and sectoral labor markets. Through the use of subsidies and infrastructure projects financed by the state, tax money was redirected in favor of certain regions, industries or even single companies. The costs of such measures, their economic outcomes and the concomitant socio-political principles required public justification and have frequently been the subject of debates. Structural policy therefore stands at the intersection of politics and economics. Despite its centrality for both, the historical practice of political decisions relating to structural policy after the boom decades has yet to be explored.

This conference aims at convening economic and political historians to discuss the driving forces, debates and practices of structural policy in Western Europe and the United States since the 1960s. It seeks to address the range of reactions within the "varieties of capitalism" to challenges posed by global structural changes. It intends to elucidate negotiations between political players and industrial actors as well as the economic causes and consequences of subsidies.

### **Conference Program**

Thursday, 28 May 2015

14.30-16.00

*Frank Bösch*, Welcome

*Conveners*, Introduction

#### **I. Industrial Policies "After the Boom"**

Chair: *Christopher Neumaier*

*Martin Chick*, Industrial policy in Britain since 1970: changing values, assumptions and mechanisms

*Marc Levinson*, Punishing productivity: Some consequences of U.S. industrial policy, 1969-1985

16.30-18.00

#### **II. European Impacts**

Chair: *Marc Buggeln*

*Samuel Beroud*, "Positive adjustments": The emergence of supply-side economics in OECD and G7 debates, 1975-1983

*Laurent Warlouzet*, The Golden Age of EEC industrial policy. Managing the decline of steel from 1977 to 1984

*Christos Tsakas*, The industrialization of Europe's South-Eastern bulwark: Greek industrial policy from the association treaty with the EEC to the transition to democracy, 1961-1975

19.00 Dinner

Friday, 29 May 2015

9.30-11.00

### **III. Regional Development: Theories and Policies**

Chair: *Rüdiger Graf*

*Ferenc Gyuris*, Western concepts about regional convergence as products of the scientific Cold War

*Astrid M. Eckert*, West German borderland aid and European state aid control

*Fabio Lavista*, Structural policies, regional development and industrial specialisation in Italy (1960-1990)

11.30-13.00

### **IV. Sectoral Policies**

Chair: *Kim C. Priemel*

*Dorothee Ryser*, Fighting structural change: The case of the Swiss dairy sector, 1960s-1990s

*Stefan Hördler*, Structural crisis and industrial policy in the 1970s: The steel industries in Germany and the US

*Ralf Ahrens*, Subsidies and the perception of change. Debates and practice in West German structural policy

14.00-15.30

### **V. Politics, Companies, and Unions**

Chair: *Anne Sudrow*

*Christian Marx*, A European structural crisis cartel as solution to a sectoral depression? The West European fibre industry in the 1970s and 1980s

*Sebastian Voigt*, Delayed perception, familiar reaction? The crisis policy of the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund in the 1970s and early 1980s

*Final Discussion*



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