

## **24. Berliner Colloquien zur Zeitgeschichte, September, 23rd-24th**

### **Sino-Soviet Relations and the Global Cold War**

#### **Abstract**

The end of the Cold War and the increasing availability of new archival materials from Russia, Eastern Europe, and China has inspired new work on the Sino-Soviet alliance and split, understood by many scholars as one of the most significant episodes in the entire history of the Cold War. China's frustrations with the socialist world formed the background to its subsequent overtures to the Global South after 1960, and also to its efforts to normalize relations with Western Europe and the United States. This Berlin Colloquium explores Sino-Soviet relations and their global consequences, with attention to the strategic realignment that led to the making of the U.S.-Chinese partnership as well as the implications for the Third World of the Sino-Soviet rivalry.

The first session of the two-day colloquium explores the evolution of the Sino-Soviet alliance and split, with attention to similarities between Russia and China, the consequences of evolving foreign policies for domestic culture and society in both countries, the nature of China's frustration with the experience of socialist bloc collaboration, the effort of China to appeal to the East European states in its struggle against the Soviet Union, and other topics. A subsequent session explores the consequences of the Sino-Soviet rivalry for key struggles and episodes in the Cold War, such as decolonization in Africa, the Soviet decision to place missiles in Cuba in 1962, the accelerating militarization of the Vietnam conflict, and other topics. To what extent did the Sino-Soviet rivalry offer space for leaders of newly decolonized countries and Nonaligned countries to critique the "imperialism" of both of the global superpowers?

Another session will explore the surprising U.S.-China reconciliation of the 1970s and its longer term economic consequences as one of the more significant outcomes of the Sino-Soviet conflict. And a final session will be devoted to the emergence of new forms of cooperation between China and Russia in recent decades. Throughout the conference there will be time to consider new scholarly methods and approaches to the study of Sino-Soviet relations and international relations generally, and new approaches to the broader history of a Cold War too often cast as simply a struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Prof. Austin Jersild  
Old Dominion University (Norfolk/USA)/ Berliner Kolleg Kalter Krieg  
2016, August, 12th