

POTSDAM, APRIL, 7TH — 8TH 2011

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE AFTER
CHERNOBYL



CONFERENCE OF THE CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY HISTORY POTSDAM (ZZF) HELD AT THE IASS POTSDAM

This conference, on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, will look behind the different political and social processes that emerged in Eastern and Western Europe in the aftermath of the Soviet nuclear accident. We will ask whether or not Chernobyl has become the archetypal symbol of risk in the modern world, or if social and political developments in Eastern and Western Europe belie this claim. Perhaps we may question this assumption by arguing that the “anthropological shock” of Chernobyl was ultimately more powerful in Western Europe than in those Eastern European countries that were most directly affected by the disaster. Did the Chernobyl experience have a democratising impact on the societies, as some observers suggest, or did it create even more inequalities among citizens and therefore a greater potential for social and political movements and actions? Finally, the conference will discuss new perspectives in the research on disasters more generally, especially the potential perspectives that the growing field of environmental history may offer to our analyses of broader forces set in motion by disasters.

THURSDAY, 7.4.2011

9.30 am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Representative of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies — IASS Potsdam

Wolfgang Levermann, Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover

Jürgen Danyel, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

Thomas Bohn, Justus-Liebig University Giessen

Melanie Arndt, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

10.00 am – 12.00 pm

PANEL I “CIVIL SOCIETAL MOBILIZATION PROCESSES AFTER CHERNOBYL: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS”

Chair: **Jürgen Danyel**, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

Papers: **Miroslav Vanek**,

Institute of Contemporary History, Prague

– **Chernobyl — a Crisis of Credibility:**

Relations Between the Regime and Society in Czechoslovakia in the late 80s

Aliaksandr Dalhouski, Department of History, Justus-Liebig University Giessen

– **Belarus After Chernobyl: Material Compromise under the Conditions of the Temporary Democratization**

Melanie Arndt, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

– **“Children of Chernobyl” and their “German Parents”: Civil Society Commitment in Belarus After Chernobyl**

Discussant: **Jan C. Behrends**, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

12.00 pm – 1.30 pm

LUNCH BREAK

1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

PANEL II “CIVIL SOCIETAL MOBILIZATION PROCESSES AFTER CHERNOBYL: NATIONAL MOVEMENTS”

Chair: **Thomas Bohn**, Justus-Liebig University, Giessen

Papers: **Olexander Stegnyy**, Centre SOCIS/ Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences Ukraine, Kiev

– **The Environmental Movement in Ukraine: Historical Retrospective and Current State**

Leonardas Rinkevičius, Department of Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology

– **25 Years After Chernobyl: Tracing the Impact of Social Trauma on Public Risk Perceptions and Policy Change**

Anastasiya Leuchina, Department of Political Science, Kievo-Mohyla Academy, Kiev
– **Ukrainian Environmental NGOs After the Chernobyl Catastrophe: Trends and Issues**
Discussant: **Alexandra Goujon**, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Bourgogne, Dijon

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

COFFEE BREAK

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

PANEL III “GENDER AND BIOLOGICAL CITIZENSHIP AFTER CHERNOBYL”

Chair: **Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann**, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)
Papers: **Evgenia Ivanova**, Centre for Gender Studies, European Humanities University, Vilnius/Minsk; University of Oxford
– **Gender Analysis of Post-Chernobyl Citizenship**

Sarah D. Phillips, Anthropology Department, Indiana University, Bloomington
– **Disability, Reproduction, and Mobile Citizenship in Post-Socialist Ukraine**
Discussant: **Elena Gapova**, Department of Sociology, Western Michigan University; European Humanities University Vilnius/Minsk

7.00 pm

PUBLIC KEYNOTE LECTURE

Introduction: **Melanie Arndt**, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)
Martin Sabrow, Director of the Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)
Public Keynote: **Matthias Platzeck**, Minister President of Land Brandenburg (tbc)

FRIDAY, 8.4.2011

10.00 am – 12.00 pm

PANEL IV “MEMORIES AND REPRESENTATIONS OF CHERNOBYL”

Chair: **Patryk Wasiak**, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

Papers: **Tatiana Kasperski**, Sciences Po Paris; Department of Political Science, European Humanities University, Vilnius/Minsk

– **Chernobyl's Aftermath Through Political Symbols, Monuments and Rituals: Framing, Remembering and Forgetting the Disaster in Belarus**

Karena Kalmbach, European University Institute, Florence

– **“The Cloud that Stopped at the Border.” – The French Debate on the Impact of Chernobyl**

Olga Kuchinskaya, Department of Communication,
University of Pittsburgh

– *Waves of Chernobyl In/Visibility in Belarus*

Discussant: **Astrid Sahn**, International Educational
and Conference Centre (IBB), Minsk

12.00 pm – 1.30 pm

LUNCH BREAK

1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

PANEL V “POLITICS, POLICIES AND ECONOMY AFTER CHERNOBYL”

Chair: **Ralf Ahrens**, Centre for Contemporary
History Potsdam (ZZF)

Papers: **Andre Stepanov**, European Studies
Program, European Humanities University,
Vilnius/Minsk

– *From Scientific Reversibility to Political Lock-in:
Chernobyl and Nuclear Discourses in Belarus*

Andrew Jamison, Department of Development
and Planning, Aalborg University

– *Environmental Politics in Western Europe Since
Chernobyl: From Anti-Nuclear Protests to
Climate Change Contention*

Liubov Zharova, Institute of Environmental
Management and Sustainable Development
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev

– *Indirect Economical Losses from the Chernobyl
Catastrophe: 25 Years After*

Discussant: **Nicholas Watts**, Faculty of Applied
Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

COFFEE BREAK

4.00 pm– 6.00 pm

PANEL DISCUSSION “NEW APPROACHES TO THE RESEARCH OF DISASTERS: PERSPEC- TIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY.”

Chair: **Dorothee Brantz**, Centre for Metropolitan
Studies, Technische Universität Berlin

Introductory note: **Melanie Arndt**, Centre for
Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

Discussants: **Marc Elie**, National Center for
Scientific Research, Paris; Rachel Carson Centre,
Munich

Paul R. Josephson, History Department,
Colby College

Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, History Department,
Freiburg University

CONFERENCE VENUE:

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ORGANIZED BY:

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Registration Deadline: 31.03.2011