



Max Weber
Foundation
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German Humanities
Institutes Abroad



Leibniz Research Alliance "Value of the Past" – Annual Conference 2025

Re-Visions of history in right-wing populism and the far right. European and global perspectives

Monday 8 September – Wednesday 10 September 2025
Venue: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Schumannstr. 8, 10117 Berlin

Programme

Monday, 8th September 2025

13:30 – 14:15

Greetings and introduction

Clara Fryszacka (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

Bettina Böhm (Leibniz Association)

Martin Sabrow (Speaker of the Leibniz Research Alliance "Value of the Past")

Achim Saupe (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)

14:15 – 16:00

Panel 1: Right-wing memory politics: Approaches and ideological contexts

Moderation: Achim Saupe (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)

Paula Diehl (Kiel University)

The Complexity of Populism

Berber Bevernage (Ghent University) / Walderez Ramalho (Santa Catarina State University) / Marie-Gabrielle Verbergt (Ghent University / Lund University)

Why do right-wing populists presence the past?

Gideon Botsch (Moses Mendelssohn Center Potsdam)

"Fictional-historical counter narratives": Holocaust and Second World War in right-wing historiography and memory

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00

Panel 2: Global Perspectives

Moderation: Sabine Mannitz (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt)

Richard Steigmann-Gall (Kent State University)

Trump, national memory, and the fascism question

Srirupa Roy (University of Göttingen)

The new civilizational project and the mainstreaming of the political right in India

David M. Malitz (German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo)

Pushing alternative pasts, losing the future? Historical narratives of Japanese right-wing populist parties

18:00 – 19:00 Dinner at the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

19:00 – 21:00

Public evening event (in German, simultaneous translation into English)

Rechte Geschichtsmythen. Eine Herausforderung für Gesellschaft, Wissenschaft und Politik

(Right-wing historical myths. A challenge for society, academia and politics)

Greetings: Jan Philipp Albrecht (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

Moderation: Christine Watty (Deutschlandfunk Kultur)

Input-Keynote: Volker Weiß (Hamburg)

Geschichtsrevisionismus heute

(Historical revisionism today)

Panel discussion

Frank Bösch (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)

Constanze Itzel (House of European History Brussels)

Katja Meier (Member of the Saxon State Parliament and former Saxon State Minister for Justice, Democracy, Europe, and Equality, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)

Volker Weiß (Hamburg)

Tuesday, 9th September

09:00 – 11:00

Panel 3: Right-wing inventions of traditions

Moderation: Karin Reichenbach (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig)

Klaus Oschema (German Historical Institute Paris)

Brave knights, pure maidens and devote Christians? Conveying right-wing political agendas through distorted images of the (European) Middle Ages

Georg Schuppener (Jan Evangelista Purkyně University Ústí nad Labem)

Misuse and appropriation of Nordic-Germanic mythology in German right-wing extremism – Roots and further development

Adamantios Skordos (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig)

Central topoi of right-wing populist politics of history in contemporary Greece

Aleksandr Rusanov (Bielefeld University)

Global and national medievalism in contemporary Russian right-wing discourses

11.30 – 12.30

Panel 4: Right-wing histories after 1945

Moderation: Cornelia Siebeck (Memorial Museums Department, Topography of Terror Foundation, Berlin)

Andrea Martini (Paris 8 University / Institute for the History of the Resistance and Contemporary Age, Verona)

“Au nom des silencieux” (On behalf of silent ones): The construction of the post-1945 far right narrative canon and the reaction of democracies

Marie Müller-Zetsche (Moses Mendelssohn Center / Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)

Historical references to Europe in right-wing extremist discourses in the post-colonial era

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch at the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 5: Contemporary revisionisms in right-wing populism

Moderation: Arnold Bartetzky (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig)

Stefan Couperus (University of Groningen)

Exploiting the Past: How politico-cultural opportunity structures enable far-right historical revisionism in the Netherlands

Robert Heinze (German Historical Institute Paris)

Colonial revisionism – the 'balanced approach'?

Katarina Ristic (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig)

European far right and the de-recognition of Kosovo: Revisionism against the liberal order

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:00

Postgraduate seminar – “Meet the authors” (in German)

Moderation: Clara Frysztacka, Achim Saupe

With Frank Bösch, Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska, Jakob Schergaut

19:00

Conference Dinner (for speakers only)

Wednesday, 10th September

09:00 – 10.45

Panel 6: Performances, Popular Culture and Media

Moderation: Ned Richardson-Little (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)

Karin Reichenbach (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig)

The suggestive power of sensory experience – Neopagan history popularisation in Poland and its relation to museums and academia

Katrin Kremmler (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) / Tatyjana Szafonova (Charles University Prag)

Contemporary pan-ideological revivals: Turanism in Hungary and Pan-Slavism in Slovakia

Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska (German Historical Institute Warsaw)

Heroes and traitors. How do polish right-wing media abuse history?

11.15 – 12.45

Roundtable: How to react? Academic and democratic answers in public history

Moderation: Clara Frysztacka (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

Jakob Schergaut (Buchenwald Concentration Camp Memorial / Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

History Instead of Myths – Combatting fake history through research

Michał Bilewicz, (University of Warsaw)

Using localized memory to confront antisemitism: Experiences from the School of Dialogue

Branimir Đurović (Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Belgrad)

Uncertain past - Through activism against denial

12.45 – 13.15

Final discussion