Entangled Transformations: Temporalities, Experiences, and Critical Histories of Postsocialist Change in Europe

Warsaw, 9 – 11 December 2026
co-organised by University of Warsaw, Faculty of History,
and FernUniversität in Hagen, Department of Public History

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Arriving
9.30 – 10.00

Opening
10.00 – 10.30

Panel 1: Labour, Class, and Long Transformation in Postsocialist Europe
10.30 – 12.15

Omar Gordeziani (Tbilisi)
Living an Unfinished Transformation: Life Histories of Former Engineer-Mechanics after the Collapse of Soviet Industry in Georgia
Bartosz Pergół (Warsaw)
Torn Between the State and its Opposition: Women Textile Artists and the Oral History of State Patronage in Post-Martial Law Poland
Urszula Ewa Woźniak (Berlin)
Unfinished Ground: Toxic Legacies and Class-Making Across Multiple Conditions of 'Post' in Berlin and Warsaw

Discussant: tba

Lunch
12.15 – 13.15

Panel 2: The Social Contract after Socialism: Reforms, Inequalities, and Social Inclusion
13.15 – 15.00

Andrzej Turkowski (Copenhagen)
Elites, Expertise, and Legitimacy in Poland's Postsocialist Pension Reform
Otto Sander (Hague)
Reality Clashes in a Time of Transformation: The Lived Experiences of Vietnamese Students and Alumni in the GDR from the 1980s to the 1990s
Paweł Downarowicz (Warsaw) *Negotiating the Postsocialist Past. May Day in Berlin and Warsaw (1990–2019)*

Discussant: tba

Coffee Break
15.00 – 15.30

Panel 3: Deferral, Return, and Nostalgia in Postsocialist Time
15.30 – 17.15

Roberta Koleva (Vienna)
The Political Work of the "Post:" Governing Futures after Socialism in Bulgaria
Karolina Kluczewska (Warsaw)
Is the Past Really Over? The 'Post' and the 'Socialist' of Post-socialist Social Policies
Iryna Ramanava (Vilnius)
Decentering Postsocialist Nostalgia: Oral Histories, Ambivalence, and the Soviet Project in the Belarusian Provinces

Discussant: **Claudia Craft** (Vienna)

Keynote
17.30 – 19.30

Dinner
20.00

Thursday, December 10, 2026

Panel 4: Landscapes in Transformation: Spaces and Connections Between Socialism and Postsocialism
9.00 – 10.45

Katarzyna Maniak (Cracow)
Living with Transformation. Dispersed Mobilizations and the Afterlives of the PGR
Olga Trufanova (Helsinki)
Post-Growth in Socialism, Growth in Post-Socialism? Reconciling Economy and Ecology in Russia During and After the Soviet Union (1970s–1990s)
Roman Mamin (Paris)
Moscow Between Times: (Post-)Soviet Transformation through the Lens of French Psychoanalysis, 1987–1992

Discussant: **Felix Ackermann** (Hagen)

Coffee Break
10.45 – 11.15

Panel 5: Health, Care, and the Limits of Solidarity in Postsocialist Europe
11.15 – 13.00

Birte Kohtz (Helsinki)
Reproductive Health in Transformation: (Dis)Entangling Maternal Healthcare in Estonia before and after 1991
Anca Mândru (Sibiu)
Precarious Bodies: Alternative Medicine in Romanian Women's Magazines, 1980s–1990s
Katarzyna Szarla (Warsaw)

“Solidarity of the Outcasts”: HIV/AIDS, Europeanness, and the Limits of Solidarity in Postsocialist Poland, 1985–2004

Discussant: **Janine Fubel** (Hagen)

Lunch
13.00 – 13.45

Panel 6: **Archives, Art, and Literature in Postsocialist Transformation**
other option: Archives, Media, and Art in Postsocialist Transformation
13.45 – 15.30

Lilit Dabagian (Berlin)
From the End of the World with Love: The Lettered Lives of an Armenian-Kyrgyz Couple Through the Soviet Collapse
Zofia Rohozińska (Warsaw)
What to Do with Contaminated Art: The Memory of Socialist Realism and the Material Work of Transformation
Magdalena Baran-Szołtys (Vienna)
Narrative Inequality: Negotiating Polish Postsocialist Transformation Through Influential Literature

Discussant: **Aliaksei Bratachkin** (Hagen)

Museum Visit
15.30 – 17.30

The Routledge Handbook of 1989 and the Great Transformation – Book Presentation at the German Historical Institute Warsaw with Jannis Panagiotidis, Magdalena Baran-Szoltys, Andrew Tompkins, and Tomasz Zarycki
18.00 – 19.30

Friday, December 11, 2026

Panel 7: Gendering Transformation: Violence, Media, and the Politics of Feminist Knowledge
9.00 – 10.45

Paweł Bagiński (Warsaw)
Workplace Sexual Harassment and the Politics of Sensibilities in Postsocialist Poland
Margot Desplanches (Leipzig)
From Autonomous Feminist Groups to Public Recognition: Responding to Violence against Women during East Germany's Democratic Transition
Diana Röthlinger & Farukh Sauerwein (Oxford/Bielefeld & Bremen)
Gendering German Unification: Media, Transformation, and Belonging

Discussant: **Dobrochna Kałwa** (Warsaw)

Coffee Break
10.45 – 11.15

Panel 8: Development, Governance, and Economic Expansion after Socialism
11.15 – 13.00

Sinéad Carolan (New Haven, USA)
What is the Point of Competition? Lessons from Eastern Europe (1956–1995)
Farzona Rakhimova (Tashkent)
Transforming the Vocabulary of Development: Good Governance and Country ownership in post-socialist Central Asia
Alice Trinkle (Berlin)
Entangled Transformation(s)? From Socialist Reforms to Financial Expansion in China and Eastern Europe

Discussant: **Jannis Panagiotidis** (Vienna)

Lunch
13.00 – 13.45

Panel 9: The Long Perestroika in Discussion
13.45 – 14.45

Juliane Fürst (Vienna)
Stefanie Eisenhuth (Potsdam)

Discussant: tba

Synthesis: Conclusions and Future Perspectives
14.45 – 15.30

Optional Museum Visits and Guided Tours
after 15.30