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

From 9 to 11 December 2026, the international workshop “Entangled Transformations: Temporalities, Experiences, and Critical Histories of Postsocialist Change in Europe,” co-organised by the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw and the Department of Public History at FernUniversität in Hagen, will bring together scholars from across Europe, the United States, and Central Asia to critically examine the diverse and interconnected transformations that accompanied the collapse of state socialism in Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia.

Challenging dominant narratives that portray postsocialist change as a almost linear process of democratisation, modernisation, and a “return to Europe,” framed within the discourse of the “end of history,” the workshop approaches postsocialist transformation as prolonged, uneven, and often unfinished process whose consequences extend far beyond the conventional historical turning points of 1989 and 1991. Particular attention will be paid to the lived experiences of transformation, its multiple temporalities, and the complex interplay between structural change and everyday life.

The three-day programme features nine thematic panels addressing a wide range of topics, including labour and class relations, social reforms and inequalities, everyday experiences, gender relations, nostalgia and memory politics. By bringing together diverse geographical perspectives and methodological approaches, the workshop aims to explore both the specificities of local experiences and the transnational entanglements that shaped postsocialist societies.

The programme also includes a presentation of *The Routledge Handbook of 1989 and the Great Transformation* (2026), co-hosted by the German Historical Institute in Warsaw, with the participation of the volume’s editors and contributors: Dr Magdalena Baran-Szołtys, Prof. Jannis Panagiotidis, and Prof. Tomasz Zarycki.

Designed as an interdisciplinary forum for scholarly exchange, the workshop will follow a work-in-progress format, with papers circulated among participants in advance to facilitate in-depth discussion and constructive feedback. Selected contributions are expected to be developed into a special journal issue.

The workshop is organised by Dr Janine Fubel (Department of Public History, FernUniversität in Hagen) and Katarzyna Szarla (Faculty of History, University of Warsaw). The scientific committee includes Prof. Felix Ackermann (Department of Public History, FernUniversität in Hagen), Prof. Dobrochna Kałwa (Faculty of History, University of Warsaw), Prof. Claudia Kraft (Research Center for the History of Transformations, Vienna), Prof. Jannis Panagiotidis (Research Center for the History of Transformations, Vienna), and Prof. Joanna Wawrzyniak (Center for Research on Social Memory, Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw).

Dates: 9–11 December 2026
Venue: Faculty of History, University of Warsaw
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