

E L S E

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B R U N S W I K

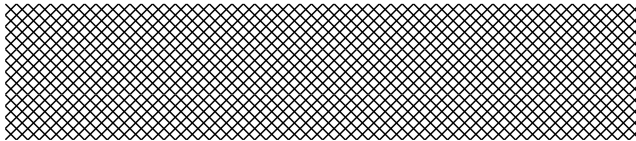
I N S T I T U T

FÜR DEMOKRATIEFORSCHUNG IN SACHSEN
AN DER UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

VARIETIES OF COMMUNISM

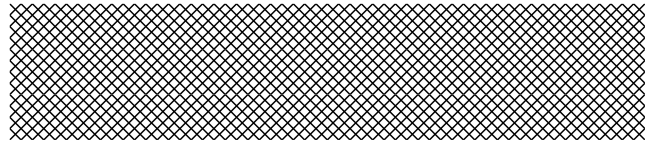
VARIETIES OF COMMUNISM

COMPARITIVE POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON
TEMPORAL AND REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN
SOCIALIST REGIMES



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Communism played a major role in shaping the 20th century, and the remaining communist regimes still play an important role in global politics. Especially with the rise of China, pronouncements of the end of the communist era seem short-sighted. Rather, communism is a political project that, despite the collapse of the Soviet Union, has proven to be enduring and continues to challenge the „free world“. And not only in the form of military tensions, for example between the US and China, or nuclear threats from North Korea. Communist regimes offer alternative paths, for example in terms of distributive justice (see Venezuela or Cuba) and distance themselves from Western ideas of modernity (seen as compromised by colonialism by promoters of China's Belt and Road initiative). The „socialist experiment“ therefore still has appeal and resonance.

Against this background, it still seems crucial to analyze communist regimes from a political science perspective. Yet comparative political science is only marginally concerned with communist systems. The question of what actually constituted and still constitutes communist systems in Asia or Cuba, for example, has been all too hastily abandoned in favor of questions of system transformation and/or democratization. The conference aims to close this gap both synchronically and diachronically. Following the still influential paradigm of „varieties of capitalism“ in comparative politics, the conference will attempt to trace the increasing internal differentiation of the „communist world“ over time. These differences can

be explained primarily along two dimensions: temporality and informality. On the one hand, the importance of the first dimension of temporality is suggested by research on authoritarianism, according to which the time at which regimes seize power has a far-reaching influence on their character. On the other hand, communist systems have undergone considerable evolution in the course of their nearly 100-year history, both in terms of political repression (see, for example, de-Stalinization in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc states, or the reform and opening-up in the People's Republic of China) and in terms of economic policy (ranging from forced collectivization or war communism to market reforms allowing coordinated market competition). The second dimension of informality is particularly important because, despite similar institutions and constitutions, the communist systems in the Eastern bloc differed greatly in the political practice of exercising power precisely because of the necessity of adapting to local conditions via unique different informal practices.

The experts gathered in Chemnitz will examine how communist systems differed and continue to differ from other forms authoritarianism, and from each other in terms of a range of geographical and historical perspectives.

PROGRAM

17. MAY 2024

09:00 - 09:30 UHR

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

09:30 - 10:00 UHR

WELCOME ADDRESS

10:00 - 11:30 UHR

CONCEPTUAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMPARING COMMUNIST SYSTEMS I

- DAN SLATER, MICHAEL BERNHARD (University of Michigan, University of Florida) "Varieties of Communism: Heterogeneity, Informality, Temporality"
- IZA DING (Northwestern University) "Communism, Authoritarianism, and the Comparative Imagination"
- MICHAEL BERNHARD, MARTIN DIMITROV & PETRA GUASTI (University of Florida, Tulane University, Univerzita Karlova) "Post-Crisis Adaptation in Communist Regimes"

Discussant: Steffen Kailitz (TU Dresden)

11:30 - 12:30 UHR

LUNCH BREAK

12:30 - 14:30 UHR

"KARL-CHEMNITZ-CITY" - ON TRACES OF KARL MARX, COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNISM IN TODAY'S CHEMNITZ

- JEANNETTE BRABENETZ (Chemnitz/Berlin)

14:30 - 16:00 UHR

CONCEPTUAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMPARING COMMUNIST SYSTEMS II

- STEFFEN KAILITZ (HAIT) "The Specifics of Communist Ideocracies in Comparison of Political Regime Types (1900 to the Present)"
- JEFFREY KOPSTEIN (University of California, Irvine) "The Common Economic History of Fascist and Communist German Regimes"
- THOMAS LINDENBERGER (HAIT) "Comparing European Societies under Communist Rule. A Historian's Perspective"

Discussant: Dan Slater (University of Michigan)

16:00 - 16:30 UHR

COFFEE BREAK

17:00 - 18:30 UHR

COMMUNISM IN AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA AND ASIA - LONG OVERLOOKED DIVERSITY?

- ANJA OSEI (Freie Universität Berlin) "Legacies of Communism in Africa? Party Dominance, Regime Types, and the Political Class"
- MARIANNE KNEUER "Hugo Chávez's Socialism of the 21 Century: a New Variant of Ideological Mission for the Latin American Continent?"
- AUREL CROISSANT (Universität Heidelberg) "Party-Military Relations and Regime Resilience in Communist Asia"

Discussant: Pierre Landry (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

19:00

DINNER

18. MAY 2024

09:00 - 11:00 UHR

THE SPECIFICS AND TRANSFORMATIONS IN COMMUNIST CHINA

- THOMAS B. GOLD (University of Berkley) "Communism With Hong Kong Characteristics"
- MARTIN DIMITROV (Tulane University) "The Political Logic of Cultural Security in Contemporary China"
- PIERRE LANDRY & ZHENG ZHANG (Chinese University of Hong Kong) "The Developmental Consequences of the Communist Revolution in China (1921-2011)"
- FELIX WEMHEUSER (Universität Köln) "Market Socialism in Eastern Europe and China: Cycles of Economic Reforms of the 1960s and 1980s"

Discussant: Iza Ding (Northwestern University)

11:00 - 11:30 UHR

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 - 13:00 UHR

COMMUNIST REGIMES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE I

- KATARZYNA GRZYBOWSKA-WALECKA (UKSW) "Cross-Iron Curtain Collaborations: The Role of East-West Party Contacts in the Communist Period"
- MATT REICHERT (Harvard University) "The Right to Write Badly: Failure and Success of the Communist Creative Union Model"
- AGATA ZYSIAK (Universität Wien, Uniwersytet Łódzki) "The Varieties of Citizenship. Who Could Become a Citizen under State Socialism?"

Discussant: Stefan Garsztecki (TU Chemnitz)

13:00 - 14:30 UHR

LUNCH BREAK

14:30 - 16:00 UHR

COMMUNIST REGIMES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE II

- PIOTR KOCYBA & ALEXANDER LEISTNER (Universität Leipzig) "Civil Society Engagement in Communist Europe - Between Total Control and Mass Mobilization"
- MICHAEL BERNHARD (University of Florida) "Inverted Imperialism: The Establishment of Soviet Economic Control of the Eastern Bloc"
- DARIUSZ STOLA (ISP PAN) "Varieties of Communism in One Country: From Creative Imitation to Decomposition of the Communist Regime in Poland"

Discussant: Matt Reichert (Harvard University)

16:00 - 16:30 UHR

COFFEE BREAK

16:30 - 18:00 UHR

COMMUNIST REGIMES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE III

- KYLE MARQUARDT (University of Bergen) "Institutions, Language and Separatism in the Soviet Union"
- STEFAN GARSZTECKI (TU Chemnitz) "National Traditions as a Basis of Legitimacy? The CEE Communist Parties and Their Dealing with the Past"
- RAFAL RIEDEL (Uniwersytet Opolski) "Back into the Future or Forward into the Past? Democratic Backsliding Toward (what kind of) Communism - Lessons from Poland"

Discussant: Michael Bernhard (University of Florida)

19:00

DINNER

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

The conference will take place in the Altes Heizhaus of the Chemnitz University of Technology (Straße der Nationen 62, 09111 Chemnitz). We are within walking distance from the main train station.

ACCOMODATION

We have reserved rooms (including breakfast) for active participants at the Biendo Hotel in the city center (Straße der Nationen 12, 09111 Chemnitz).

DOCUMENTATION

We plan to document the event photographically. If you do not want to be photographed, please let us know.

ORGANIZATION

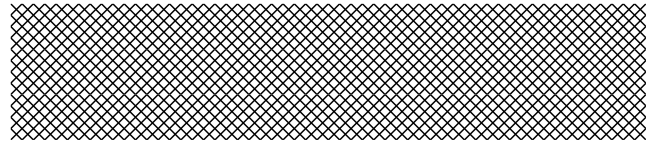
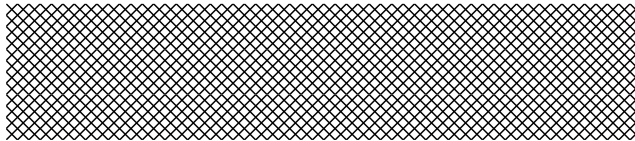
Piotr Kocyba
Katarzyna Grzybowska-Walecka
Michael Bernhard
Iza Ding
Stefan Garsztecki
Dan Slater

CATERING

Vegan or vegetarian meals are available.

REGISTRATION

As long as there are places available, we are happy to accept registrations for the conference at piotr.kocyba@uni-leipzig.de.



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Research Centre Global
Dynamics | ReCentGlobe



Northwestern
Political Science



IMPRESSUM

Gesamtkoordination, Redaktion und Satz: Pia Siemer
Gestaltung: Markus Dreßen



Das Projekt wird finanziert durch Mittel auf Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushalts.