

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

**The International Community of Experts
and the Transformation of the Fatherland.
Central Eastern Europe in the European
Context since WWI**

Warsaw (Poland), 11-13 September 2008

Convened by:

Dr. Martin Kohlrausch ①, Dr. Katrin Steffen ②

and Dr. Stefan Wiederkehr ①

① German Historical Institute Warsaw, PL

② University of Halle-Wittenberg, DE

Co-sponsored by





The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 77 Member Organisations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries. The Mission of ESF is to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to advance European research and to explore new directions for research at the European level. Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

The main objectives of ESF for the years 2006-2010 as defined by its current *Strategic Plan* are to promote Science Strategy and Science Synergy, paving the way for initiatives across disciplinary and geographic boundaries in the European Research Area (ERA).

The Exploratory Workshops scheme is one of the key instruments of the Science Strategy “pillar”. Each year, ESF supports approximately 50 Exploratory Workshops across all scientific domains. The focus of the scheme is on workshops aiming to explore an emerging and/or innovative field of research or research infrastructure, also of interdisciplinary character. Workshops are expected to open up new directions in research or new domains. It is expected that a workshop will conclude with plans for specific follow-up research activities and/or collaborative actions or other specific outputs either within the frame of ESF (e.g. prepare the ground to develop a [Forward Look](#), a [Research Networking Programme](#) or a [EUROCORES](#) proposal; publication of a Policy Briefing...) or for submission to the EU 7th Framework Programme or to other European or international funding organisations.

European Science Foundation

1 quai Lezay Marnésia
BP 90015
67080 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
<http://www.esf.org>

ESF Exploratory Workshops:

Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman
Scientific Coordinator

Valerie Allspach-Kiechel
Administrator
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 36

Isabelle May
Administrator
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 46

Email: ew-office@esf.org
<http://www.esf.org/workshops>

Convenors:

Dr. Martin Kohlrausch

kohlrausch@dhi.waw.pl

Tel: + 48-22-525 83 17

Dr. Stefan Wiederkehr

wiederkehr@dhi.waw.pl

Tel: + 48-22-525 83 07

Dr. Katrin Steffen

katrin.steffen@gmail.com

Tel: +49-30-36749531

German Historical Institute Warsaw

Pałac Karnickich

Aleje Ujazdowskie 39

00-540 Warszawa

Poland

Tel: +48-22-525 83 -00, -02

Fax: +48-22-525 83 37

e-Mail: experts@dhi.waw.pl

University of Halle-Wittenberg

Institute for History

Hoher Weg 4

06120 Halle (Saale)

Germany

Tel.: +49-345-55-24 281

Fax.: +49-345-55-27 101

Main Objectives of the Workshop:

The aim of the workshop is to analyze the phenomenon of the transfer of knowledge and technological expertise in Europe after the First World War, mainly focussing on Central Eastern Europe. In order to use this focus, the workshop will explore three perspectives: experts and the media of knowledge-communication; the role of the state and finally the relation of expertise and power. Central Eastern Europe will be analysed in its connections to the West and the East. For this purpose, examples from Western Europe and Russia will be integrated.

Despite the great incursions of the First World War the Interwar-period was characterised by an immense expansion of professional communication. Forums developed in existing and specially created organisations, which drew their dynamic from the need to keep up with the accelerating pace of technological development. A tense interrelationship between nation-states and expert-knowledge was observable, which continued under radically changed circumstances after the Second World War. On the one hand this expert-knowledge was developed in the framework of a universal understanding of knowledge, on the other hand, it was intended to serve the progress-

oriented development of the respective national society. Especially in the case of the newly founded states of Central Eastern Europe these issues are of high relevance for understanding the history of the 20th century.

The analysis of the relationship between technological innovation and transnational communication of knowledge has long been neglected by historiography. These questions were rarely followed up prior to 1989 as a result of the general political situation. This also requires linking eastern and western narratives to develop a new synthesis of the history of technology and science and its transfer in Europe.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 10 September 2008

afternoon

Arrival of participants

Thursday 11 September 2008

09.00-09.15

Welcome Address

Eduard Mühle (Director of the German Historical Institute)

09.15-09.30

Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF)

Jacques Dubucs (Standing Committee for the Humanities)

09.30-10.00

Introduction by the Convenors

SESSION 1:

Transnationalism and Knowledge-Transfer – A Theoretical Approach

10.00-10.30

Experts or Impostors? Blindness and Insight in Secret Intelligence

Eva Horn (University of Basel, CH)

10.30-11.00

Coffee break

11.00-11.15

Comment: Johannes Paulmann (University of Mannheim, DE)

11.15-12.00

Discussion

12.00-13.30

Lunch

SESSION 2:

Experts and Expert Groups I

13.30-13.50

Public Health in Central Europe: National and International Expertise

Paul Weindling (Oxford Brookes University, UK)

13.50-14.10

The Agency of Knowledge Transfer: Hungarian Fellows of the Rockefeller Foundation, 1922-1939

Erik Ingebrigtsen (Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim, NO)

14.10-14.30

The Economic Debates in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia in the 1980s: Between Affirmation of Facticity and Critical Approach

Michal Pullmann (University of Prague, CZ)

14.30-15.00

Coffee break

15.00-15.30

Comment: Karl Hall (Central University of Budapest, HU)

15.30-16.30

Discussion

19:00-21:00

Dinner

Friday 12 September 2008

SESSION 3:

Experts and Expert Groups II

09.00-09.20

The Role of the League of Nations in the Internationalisation of Aviation during the Interwar Period

Markus Funck (York-University of Toronto, CA)

09.20-09.40	Technical Relations between Germany and Spain: Technological Transfer and International Policy in the 20th Century Albert Presas i Puig (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Berlin, DE)
09.40-10.00	Comment: Ronald J. Pohoryles (ICCR Vienna, AT)
10.00-11.00	Discussion
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
SESSION 4:	The Role of the State I
11.30-11.50	Networks of Technocracy and Scientific Management in Poland between the Wars? Stefan Rohdewald (University of Passau, DE)
11.50-12.10	How to Run a State: The Question of Know-how in Public Administration in the First Years after Poland's Rebirth in 1918 Ingo Loose (HU Berlin, DE)
12.10.-12.30	The 'Techno-Corporatist Bargain' in Western Europe and the United States, 1914-1944. A Case for a Transnational Transfer of Knowledge? Kenneth Bertrams (University of Brussels, BE)
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30-14.00	Comment: Georg Wagner-Kyora (University of Hannover, DE)
14.00-15.00	Discussion
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
SESSION 5:	The Role of the State II
15.30-15.50	Polish Economic Circles and the Question of European Common Market after WWI Dagmara Jajeński-Quast (University of Erfurt, DE)
15.50-16.10	Knowledge through the Iron Curtain. Transferring Knowledge and Technology in Cold War Europe Sari Autio-Saraso (University of Helsinki, FI)
16.10-16.30	Between International Community of Experts and National 'Carnival of Revolution': Consumerism and Decline of the Communist System in Poland Małgorzata Mazurek (Center for Research on Contemporary History Potsdam, DE)
16.30-17.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
17.00-17.30	Comment: Catherine Gousseff (Centre Marc Bloch Berlin, DE)
17.30-18.30	Discussion
19.30-21.30	<i>Dinner</i>

Saturday 13 September 2008

SESSION 6: Communication and the Transfer of Knowledge I

09.30-09.50	Languages of International Scientific Communication in Central Eastern Europe after World War I Roswitha Reinbothe (University of Duisburg-Essen, DE)
-------------	--

09.50-10.10	Copy-paste in Technologies? Soviet Advisers in the Hungarian Military Industry in the 1950s Pál Germuska (Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, Budapest, HU)
10.10-10.30	People's Cars and People's Technologies: Škoda and Fiat Experts face the American Challenge (1918-1948) Valentina Fava (European University Institute Florence, IT)
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00-11.30	Comment: Christoph Mick (University of Warwick, UK)
11.30-12.30	Discussion
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
SESSION 7:	Communication and the Transfer of Knowledge II
14.30-14.50	The Life and Thinking of Ludwik Fleck in and outside Poland (1896-1961) Justyna Górny (Independent Scholar Berlin, DE)
14.50-15.10	Political Geography Travels East: Stepan Rudnytsky and the Emergence of an Ukrainian Political Geography, 1914-1926 Guido Hausmann (University of Dublin, IE)
15.10-15.30	Engineers without Borders? Scientific Management in Interwar East Central Europe Elisabeth van Meer (College of Charleston, US)
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00-16.30	Comment: Jörg Requate (University of Bielefeld, DE)
16.30-17.00	Discussion
17.00-18.30	Final Discussion and Discussion of Further Activities
18.30	End of the Conference
19.30-21.30	<i>Dinner</i>

Sunday 14 September 2008

morning *Breakfast and departure*

European Science Foundation

Objectives of the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

The main tasks of the **ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)** are:

- to encourage interdisciplinary work through the independent evaluation of collaborative research proposals emanating from the scholarly community;
- to identify priority research areas and to play an integrative and co-ordinating role by creating links between research communities which in the Humanities are often small and fragmented.
- to contribute to the development of the ESF science policy agenda and to provide expert advice on science policy actions at the European level in the field of its responsibilities.

The Committee is well aware that the ESF is the only European Agency where the Humanities have a place next to the other sciences and where European projects are reviewed, developed and subsequently operated.

The Committee considers it all the more important to be heard as the voice of the Human Sciences in Europe and to continue pleading for a more prominent place for the Humanities in the European landscape.

ESF Humanities Unit:

Monique van Donzel

Head of Unit

Rüdiger Klein

Deputy Head of Unit

Irma Vogel

Senior Administrative Assistant

Marie Suchanova

Administrative Assistant

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 83

Email: humanities@esf.org

<http://www.esf.org/human>