WORKSHOP
East European Jewish and Non-Jewish Migrants in Germany:
Strategies of Migration and Adaptation
January 23-24, 2017 / Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe -
Institute of the Leibniz Association, Marburg/Germany

MONDAY, January 23, 2017

4:00 pm-6:30 pm  "Voices of the New Russian-Jewish Diaspora" essay contest:
                    Final round judging

6:30 pm-7:00 pm  Opening “East European Jewish and Non-Jewish Migrants in Germany”
                    Workshop
                    Introductory remarks
                    Peter Haslinger (Herder Institute, Marburg)
                    Welcome and overview
                    Rebecca Kobrin (Columbia University, New York)
                    Dirk Hoerder (Arizona State University)

7:00 pm-9:00 pm  Dinner
TUESDAY, January 24, 2017

8:30 am - 9:30 am  Breakfast

9:30 am - 9:45 am  Transfer from hotel to Herder Institute

9:45 am - 10:15 am  Fieldnotes from the essay contest

Ljudmila Belkin (Leibniz-Institut für raumbezogene Sozialforschung, Erkner)

The core of the workshop will consist of a series of panels. The aim of the panels will be to address the following questions:

10:15 am - 12:45 pm  SESSION 1

Theme: Historical framing of recent Jewish and Non-Jewish migration from East and Central Europe to Germany

What is the place of recent streams of Jewish and non-Jewish immigrants from the (former) Soviet Union and East and Central Europe in the larger history of immigration to Germany and East-West migration in European history? How do these streams of migration inform our understanding of the transition of 1989? How has the arrival and integration of these immigrants affected discussions and understandings of national identity in Germany?

» Dirk Hoerder (Arizona State University)
» Michael John (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz)
» Peter Haslinger (Herder Institute, Marburg)
» Eszter Gantner (Herder Institute, Marburg)

Moderator: Heidi Hein-Kircher (Herder Institute, Marburg)

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm  Lunch

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  SESSION 2

Theme: The essay as medium

What are the limitations of using essays as source material? How are essays similar and different from other personal and authored materials found in archives? How do essays compare to other approaches that rely on contemporary, first-person accounts, like oral history? What advantages and disadvantages of using an administered contest as a collection method?

» Rebecca Kobrin (Columbia University, New York)
» Kinga Frojimovics (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies)
» Éva Kovács (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies)
» Achim Saupe (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam)

Moderator: Peter Haslinger (Herder Institute, Marburg)

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm  Coffee break
SESSION 3

Theme: Migrant strategies

What was it like to be an emigrant and immigrant in the late-20th century? What were their personal strategies and praxis? Have there been particular strategies or distinctive patterns of adaptation, integration and identification that Jewish or non-Jewish immigrants employ? Or that characterize immigrants from post-socialist states? What roles have state organs, communal and co-ethnic associations or organizations played in shaping these experiences?

- Klavdia Smola (University of Greifswald)
- Viktor Krieger (University of Heidelberg)

Moderator: Koby Oppenheim (City University of New York)

Coffee break

Wrap-up: Questions and concepts to carry forward
Koby Oppenheim (City University of New York)

Dinner

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Panelists will each have 15 minutes to present their paper. Papers will be circulated in advance of the workshop. Papers and presentations should be in English. We ask you to submit your paper by January 7, 2017 and we will make it available for download for all workshop participants shortly afterward.

We have scheduled time for discussion throughout the workshop with the aim of having all workshop participants, regardless of session or panel, as active participants. To the extent possible, we therefore ask that you read the papers made available in advance of the workshop.

We are in discussion to publish a volume that would include a selection of papers from the workshop. We hope to have more to report when we meet in Marburg.

The impetus for this workshop is the recently concluded essay contest among Jewish immigrants from the (former) Soviet Union. We will have a presentation and discussion of this project, its origins, aims, methods and contents, during the workshop. We also plan to make available a small selection of short essays to add context and content to our discussions. They too will be made available for download prior to the workshop.