

Call for Papers & Panels (English)

21. Conference of Young Experts on Central and Eastern Europe (JOE), May 31–June 2, 2013, Berlin

Promises and Pitfalls of Comparison in a Diverging Eastern Europe

The bloc metaphor of the Cold War, the self-portrayals of the socialist regimes and the almost simultaneous upheavals after 1989 formed a Western perspective on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) that put similarities at the centre of consideration. This can be seen in concepts like “transformation states” and “post-socialist countries”. These common grounds made way for other conceptual linkages, such as European Union member state and authoritarianism, or have been challenged by differentiating historiographies. Diverse as well as divergent processes in CEE have enriched area studies but have possibly deepened the cleft between social sciences and the humanities.

The conference wants to encourage the debate on what makes CEE valuable for comparisons, how research on this region advances knowledge in comparative disciplines, and where to define the limits of comparability. Which concepts have proved their worth in comparative studies with respect to CEE? What are implicit assumptions of the respectively chosen comparison? And how are units of comparisons affected by transnational transfer and diffusion processes?

Submitted papers and panels can deal with longitudinal and cross-sectional comparisons in terms of social, economic, geographic, cultural, media, historical, legal and political aspects. The use of the comparative method within one's own work should be reflected. In addition to focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, Southeastern Europe, and the Caucasus and Central Asia, the inclusion of other regions by intra-regional

comparison is possible. The projects may deal with explicit comparisons, be oriented towards theory-building, or consist of implicit comparisons of idiographic works.

The conference addresses advanced students, Ph.D students and young post-docs with regional competence in Eastern, Central Eastern, and Southeastern Europe and Eurasia from all disciplines of the humanities, as well as from cultural, legal, social and economic sciences. The conference language is German. Entries may also be submitted in English. The conference provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion among young scientists with proven experts from different disciplines. It offers space to deal with theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches to the post-socialist research.

Paper Proposals

- + Abstract of max. 500 words with information on research question, epistemological interest, theoretical approach and method (to be published in the conference reader)
- + Information about the state of the research and organizational affiliation.

Panel Proposals

- + Summary of max. 200 words with information on panel title, topic and goal
- + Abstracts and information about the respective papers
- + A panel consists of three presentations and a moderator which derive from at least two different organizations.

Abstracts should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than January 15, 2013 to joe-tagung@uni-bremen.de.

Applicants are notified no later than February 15, 2013 regarding acceptance of their paper. Upon acceptance German or English written papers (3,000 words) should be sent to the organizers no later than **April 30, 2013**.

The conference is organized by the German Society of Central and Eastern Europe Research (DGO), the multidisciplinary research network “Institutions and Institutional Change in Postsocialism: Between History and Global Adaptation Pressures” (KomPost) and the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen. The conference venue is the European Academy Berlin. There is no conference fee and no costs for accommodation and meals but participants have to bear their own traveling expenses.

Thomas Bremer (University of Muenster), Martin Brusi (KomPost), Anna Buschmann (Humboldt University of Berlin), Björn Buß (Leuphana University Lüneburg), Nele Quecke (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), Hans-Henning Schröder (Free University of Berlin/Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)