



Online conference “The history of the Soviet Special Camps in Germany. Historiography and future perspectives”

August 20-21, 2021

A cooperation between the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum with the Buchenwald Memorial and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Speziallager Sachsenhausen 1945-1950 e.V.

The conference is directed towards people from the field of memorial work, research, representatives of initiatives and institutions, students and relatives and takes place in the context of the annual commemorative event of the Sachsenhausen Memorial and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Speziallager Sachsenhausen 1945-1950 e.V.

The central focus lies in how the complex history of Soviet special camps in Germany will be researched, communicated, and remembered in the future. For this purpose, past and current research on the history of the Soviet special camps in Germany will be reviewed and discussed. Building on this, we will broaden our perspective and compare the special camps within the context of Allied post-war politics (Day 1).

We will then discuss the prospects for future research and mediation efforts on the topic of Soviet special camps in the context of war, the consequences of war, and political injustice in the 20th century, as well as questions of family tradition and commemoration and remembrance culture (Day 2).

Due to the Covid-19-pandemic, the conference will not take place on site. Instead, the discussions will be held virtually over two days. Because of this, we decided not to have a podium with contemporary witnesses. However, in order to integrate the voices of the former prisoners of the Soviet special camps, we tried to collect recorded greetings and statements from them that will be presented throughout the conference. The event will be simultaneously interpreted and recorded.

On August 22, 2021, the joint commemorative event of the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Speziallager Sachsenhausen 1945-1950 e.V. will take place marking the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the establishment of the Sachsenhausen special camp.

Please register by 17 August:

Praktikant-SL@gedenkstaette-sachsenhausen.de

Program

Thursday, August 19, 2021

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. | Get together on wonder.me

Friday, August 20, 2021

9:00 a.m. Welcome (Enrico Heitzer, Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum / Julia Landau, Buchenwald Memorial)

9:30 a.m. Elke Scherstjanoi (Institute for Contemporary History Munich-Berlin): Introductory remarks on the subject of the conference

Part I: Research

10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. | Panel I State of research on the Soviet special camps

Moderation: Anna Kaminsky (Federal Foundation for Coming to terms with the SED dictatorship)

Annette Weinke (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) - The Allied occupation and internment practice in the years after the Second World War

Bernd Faulenbach (Ruhr University Bochum) - The Soviet special camps and remembrance culture in the years after German unification

Alexander von Plato (University of Hagen) - The joint special camp research project (1993-1998)

1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Panel II | Current research and new perspectives

Moderation: Mike Schmeitzner (Hannah Arendt Institute for Totalitarianism Studies, Dresden)

Andreas Weigelt (Jamlitz-Lieberose Memorial) - Reflections on the heterogeneity of the prisoner society and the importance of historical and political educational work

Nadeshda Leont'eva (Lomonosov State University, Moscow) - Soviet citizens in special camps of the NKVD / MVD of the USSR in East Germany: Sources and methods of research

Enrico Heitzer (Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum) / Julia Landau (Buchenwald Memorial): Soviet special camps in context. Insight into a current publication project

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Panel III | The view from the outside: Comparative perspectives

Moderation: Ines Reich (Memorial Leistikowstraße, Potsdam)

Participants: Irina Scherbakowa (Memorial, Moscow, Russia), Mikkel Dack (Rowan University, Glassboro / Philadelphia, USA), Andrew Beattie (University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia), Ilya Udovenko (State GULag Museum, Moscow, Russia)

Saturday, August 21, 2021

10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. | Panel IV | Mediation work on the Soviet special camps in Germany in the context of war, the consequences of war and political injustice in the 20th century (part 1)

Moderation: Katharina Steinberg (Memorial Leistikowstraße, Potsdam)

Jörg Morré (German-Russian Museum Berlin-Karlshorst): Conveying the history of injustice in the German-Russian context

Ilja Udovenko (State GULag Museum, Moscow) - The mediation of the topic "Soviet special camps" in the GULag Museum Moscow

Robert Parzer (Documentation and Information Center Torgau): Insights into the new exhibition on the Soviet special camps in Torgau

1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Panel V | Mediation work on the Soviet special camps in Germany in the context of war, the consequences of war and political injustice in the 20th century (part 2)

Moderation: Enrico Heitzer

Sjoma Liederwald (Center for Antisemitism Research) - The educational day project "Soviet Special Camp No. 7 / No. 1 in Sachsenhausen "

Daniel Bohse (Moritzplatz Magdeburg Memorial), To convey the topic of Soviet repression in the Moritzplatz Magdeburg Memorial

Franz Waurig (Buchenwald Memorial) - "Remembering without Knowledge?" - Soviet arrests in the post-socialist remembrance culture

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Panel VI | Soviet arrests in family tradition

Moderation: Julia Landau

Participants: Sandra Prechtel (filmmaker), Julia Schmidt (Mainz), Blanca Schorcht (University of Northern British Columbia, Canada), Katie Trumpener (Yale University, USA)

6 p.m. | Review and perspectives

Summarizing remarks, open questions and impulses for discussion: Enrico Heitzer / Julia Landau

Final podium

Moderation: Katrin Grüber

Discussing: Axel Drecol (Director of the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation), Joachim Krüger (Chairman of the Sachsenhausen Working Group 1945-1950); Maria Nooke (Representative of the State of Brandenburg to deal with the consequences of the communist dictatorship), Jens-Christian Wagner (Director of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials Foundation)

Sunday, August 22, 2021

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Joint commemorative event of the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum and the Sachsenhausen Working Group 1945-1950 at the "Am Kommandantenhof" cemetery

Planned speeches

Joachim Krüger (Chairman of the Sachsenhausen Working Group 1945-1950)

Axel Drecol (Director of the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation),

Manja Schüle (Minister for Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg)

Friedrich Klausch (former inmate of the Soviet prison in Leistikowstrasse and the special camp in Sachsenhausen)

Due to Covid-19, the memorial event is held as a closed event for invited guests.