

**Twenty-first New Hampshire Symposium
June 21-28, 1995
World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH**

Who's "We"?

**The Identity Dispute in the New German States
Five Years after Unification**

The 1995 New Hampshire Symposium will concern itself with East German identity, the various forms it has taken since unification, factors that influence and shape it, and the political, social, and cultural implications for the integration of the East German population into the Federal Republic and the European Union. The writer Brigitte Burmeister will attend the conference; one evening will be dedicated to a reading from her novel *Norma* and a discussion with the author. In addition, one day of the conference will be devoted to an informational workshop on archives, research institutes, and other research resources, and to an exchange of information about present and future research projects.

Political scientists, sociologists, historians, and other social scientists, as well as Germanists and specialists in the arts and media are invited to participate. As in the past, the seminars are intended to be multi-disciplinary. Ideally, all topics will be treated from a variety of points of view, including their representation in literature and other art forms.

• Seminar I: Regional, Nation and European Identity

Historical and current issues of the East German search for identity: conflicting identities and allegiances in the *Spannungsfeld* between European Union, national unity and regional ties; molders and representatives of the various identities; consequences of identity issues for political and social behavior; the scholarly and journalistic identity debate in Germany.

• Seminar II: Relationship to the State

Varying concepts of the state and its role: citizens' expectations; allegiance to/alienation from the state (*Staatsnähe/Staatsferne*); symbols of allegiance and alienation; effects of external domination in political and economic affairs; political participation; old and new elites.

• Seminar III: Economic Identity

Economic issues affecting identity: Aufschwung Ost; ecological *Altlasten*; regional deindustrialization; branchplant economy; (un)employment; imported entrepreneurial culture; economic situation of East German "Mittelstand"; East German goods versus West German goods; relationship to DM; commuting from East to West.

• Seminar IV: Social Identity

Identity in a multi-cultural society—the jump from the socialist "Menschengemeinschaft" to a multi-cultural society; collective identity construction; milieus; women; family; the unemployed; older generations; youth; generational and gender differences.

• Seminar V: Identity-building Institutions

The impact on identity of social and cultural institutions and phenomena such as the media, language, education, religion, sports, public debate, advertising, *Alltagskultur*.

• Seminar VI: Literary and Cultural Identity

Literature and the arts as expression and source of identity; new literary and artistic definitions of East German identity; generational differences in cultural identity; current state of literary/artistic debate in the East.

• Workshop: Archives, Research Institutes, and Other Research Resources

Informational session on archives and other research resources on the GDR and the new German states such as new professional journals and data bases; research institutes; exchange of information on present and planned research projects.

For more information on the program, contact Margy Gerber, Bowling Green State University. For information about the Symposium location, travel arrangements, and conference registration, contact W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818 (tel 603-356-5208, fax 603-356-5252).