

CALL FOR PAPERS**Twenty-Second New Hampshire Symposium****Between Confrontation and Understanding:
Bridges and Barriers to Communication in
Eastern Germany**

**June 19-26, 1996
World Fellowship Center
Conway, NH**

The 1996 New Hampshire Symposium will concern itself with communication and miscommunication between East and West Germany and within the East German population itself. Its approach will be two-pronged: the investigation of both past and present economic, political, social, and cultural factors promoting or blocking communication; and the analysis of contemporary German-German and East German communication and breakdowns in communication. The approach of the conference is multi-disciplinary. Political scientists, sociologists, economists, and other social scientists, as well as Germanists and specialists in the arts and media are invited to participate. Ideally, all topics will be dealt with from a variety of points of view, including their representation in literature and other art forms.

Papers are being solicited for the following topics, which will be treated in plenary sessions or in smaller, more discipline-specific work groups.

• **Dissolution and Continuity of Communicative Structures in East Germany** – Ulrich Meyszies (Germanistisches Institut, Universität Halle-Wittenberg, D 06099 Halle); Margy Gerber (Institut für Anglistik, Universität Salzburg, Akademiestr. 24, A-5020 Salzburg)

Effects of the changed societal conditions (of the political, economic, social, technological, and media transformation) on the conditions of communication and on communication (both interpersonal and public) itself.

• **The Sociology and History of East German and German-German (Mis-) Communication** Michael Hofmann (Sonderforschungsbereich 333, Universität

Leipzig, Otto-Schill-Str. 1, D 04109 Leipzig); Rainer Gries (Historisches Institut, Universität Jena, D 07743 Jena)

The sociological and socio-historical analysis of East German and German-German communication problems. The struggle for “gesellschaftliche Öffentlichkeit” in East Germany (e.g., the loss of the East German “communication community” and competition between regions and *Länder* for a public voice; the changed public presence of social groups and themes, communication and lack of communication between various social groups). Social and cultural history of German-German and East German communication in the GDR.

• **Political Culture and Communication in the New States** – Laurence McFalls (Département de science politique, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, succursale Centre-ville, Montréal, Quebec/CN, H3C 3J7); Volker Gransow (Institut für Soziologie, FU Berlin, Babelsberger Str. 14-16, D 10715 Berlin)

Political culture in the sense of party politics and campaign strategy and in the broader sense of political discourse and its cultural context. Topics such as comparative analyses of Eastern and Western campaign materials and strategies, problems of party recruitment in the East, Western parties' adaptations to Eastern issues and electorates, the development of a specifically Eastern political discourse, lingering or evolving differences in political vocabulary.

• **Evaluation of the GDR Past – Implications for the Present and Future? Communication and the Treatment of GDR History** – Lothar Probst (Institut für kulturwissenschaftliche Deutschlandstudien, Universität Bremen, FB 10, Postfach 330440, D 28334 Bremen); Wolfgang Bialas, FSP Wissenschaftstheorie und -geschichte, Jägerstr. 10/11, D 10117 Berlin); Roger Woods, Dept. of German, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, GB NG7 2RD)

Political, social, and cultural demarcations in East German and German-German communication about the GDR past. Analyses and examples of asymmetrical communication situations and legitimization strategies of various societal and

political actors. Possibility of a non-instrumentalized discussion of GDR history.

• **Language – Communication – Understanding against the Background of Varying Worlds –** Thomas Koch (Berliner Institut für sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, Erich-Weinert-Str. 19, D 10439 Berlin); Manfred Hellmann (Institut für deutsche Sprache, Postfach 101621, D 68016 Mannheim)

Differences in language and language behavior between East and West Germans and among East Germans themselves. The role of these differences in interpersonal and public communication between (members of) various groups, in advertising, the media, business and commerce, politics, literature. Influence of the varying life experiences on communication. Communication in asymmetrical communication situations: irritations, learning processes, blocks.

• **Communication Potential and Communication Problems in Business and Industry –** Jörg Roesler (FSP Zeithistorische Studien/Potsdam, Am Kanal 4/4a, D 14467 Potsdam)

East/West communication in business and industry in the wake of unification and the restructuring of the East German economic system. Topics such as the relations between West German managers and East German personnel, East German commuters and West German workers, between the *Mittelstand* in East and West; problems of conveying West German management expertise.

• **Literature and the Arts as Means of Communication and as Examples of Miscommunication between East and West –** Margy Gerber (Institut für Anglistik, Akademiestr. 24, A 5020 Salzburg)

Failures and successes of literature, theater, music, the arts, and *Alltagskultur* as means of communication in the new states; analyses of cultural life in East Germany, of the reception of artistic works in East and West, and of conflicts within and between cultural organizations, among other topics.

• **East/West Differences and Similarities as Themes in Literature and the Arts –** Christiane Zehl Romero (Dept. of German, Russian, and Asian Languages, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155); Nancy A. Lauckner (Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Languages, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996)

The thematization of East/West differences and similarities in literature and the arts. Interpretations and analyses of individual works and bodies of work from literature, film, theater, and art in terms specific to the artistic form and its “communicative codes.”

Papers may be given in either English or German. They should not exceed 30 minutes. Detailed proposals (title plus 1-2 pages) must be submitted to the appropriate seminar organizers—one copy to each—by December 15, 1995. Completed papers are due April 15, 1996. For more information on the program, contact Margy Gerber (see first panel, fax: 01143662 8044-613, e-mail: bgsu@edvz.sbg.ac.at).

For information about the Symposium location and registration, contact W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818 (tel: 603 356-5208, fax: 603 356-5252).