





Concept: Christiane Brenner, Martin Schulze Wessel

The Watchful Society:

Sexuality, Society, and Vigilance in East-Central and Southeast Europe, 1945–1989

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Image Source:

Hoffmeister, Adolf: Die Tschechoslowakei. Tatsachen und Ziffern (Angaben zum 1.1.1957), Verlag: SNTL, Verlag Technische Literatur, Prag, 1958.



Annual conference by Collegium Carolinum in cooperation with the Collaborative Research Centre 1369 "Cultures of Vigilance" at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

Fischbachau/Bavari 17–20 November 202



Sunday, 20 November 2022

Breakfast and Check-out

Friday, 18 November 2022

09:00 - 10:30 Welcome
MARTIN SCHULZE WESSEL / CHRISTIANE BRENNER

ARNOT BRENDECKE (Munich): Introductory Remarks on the Collaborative Research Center "Cultures of Vigilance"

Chair: Peter Bugge (Aarhus)

Key Note: Andrea Pető (Vienna/Budapest): Sexuality Transformed from a Promise of Emancipation to a Threat in Eastern Europe (1945-2020)

Coffee Break

11:00 - 13:00 Shaping the Socialist Nation through Sex and Gender Norms

Chair: DARINA VOLF (Munich)

IVA JELUŠIĆ (Bergen): Yugoslav Partisans and Sexing of the Socialist Nation

OTA KONRÁD (Prague): Sexual Violence in the Family. Comparison of Czechoslovakia and West Germany, 1945-1970

ENIS SULSTAROVA (Tirana): The Socialist Paterfamilias: Enforcing Family Norms through Appeals to the Party of Labor of Albania, 1960-1961

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 - 17:30 Sex and the Secret Police Chair: MICHAL PULLMANN (Prague)

Priska Komaromi (Berlin): Prostitution and State Security in Socialist Budapest

ANCA ŞINCAN (Bucharest): The Many Lives of a Sisterhood of Nuns in a Secret Police File

MARK CORNWALL (Southampton): Shadowing Mark Cornwall: a Czech Secret Police File from 1989

18:00 Dinner

19:30 Evening Programme: CRC-Lecture

MARIACARLA GADEBUSCH BONDIO (Bonn): Suspected Body Parts and Endangered Femininity. The Female Genitalia in the Sights of Medical Inspection in the Pre-Modern Era

Saturday, 19 November 2022

09:00 - 13:00 Non-Normative Sex and the Socialist State Chair: Franz Schindler (Gießen)

VĚRA SOKOLOVÁ (Prague): Queer Encounters with Communist Power: Non-heterosexual Lives and the State in Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989

Shaban Darakchi (Sofia/Antwerp): Navigating "Perversity": Classification and Control of Homosexuality in Bulgaria, 1944-1989

Coffee Break

Chair: ALFRUN KLIEMS (Leipzig)

ANNA DOBROWOLSKA (Fiesole): Policing Sexuality Before and After AIDS. Institutional Approaches Toward Non-Normative Sex in Late State-Socialist Poland

HENRIKE VOIGTLÄNDER (Dresden): "How to deal with Dona Juanitas?" – Slutshaming in the GDR Industry

13:00 - 15: 00 Lunch Break

15:00 - 16:30 Monitoring Reproduction and the Family Chair: GABRIELA DUDEKOVÁ-KOVÁČOVÁ (Bratislava)

EVA ŠKORVANKOVÁ (Bratislava): "Solutions to the Gypsy Inhabitant Issues": The Socialist Regime's Supervision of the Reproductive Behavior of Roma Women in Slovakia in the early 1960s

MICHAEL ZOK (Warsaw): "Without the help of the Catholic Church, we will be unable to solve the problems of demography and sexuality". Sexuality, Moral and Gender Relations as Areas of Conflict in Late Socialist Poland

Coffee Break

17:00 - 19:00 Sex and the Body in Public and the Arts Chair: JANA OSTERKAMP (Munich)

DANIEL MOLNÁR (Berlin): 'Let's Leave Sexuality to be the Opium of the Declining West!' – Boundaries and the Control of Eroticism in Budapest Revue and Variety Theatres, 1945-1978

CATHLEEN M. GIUSTINO (Auburn): Sex and Foreign Sales: Watchfulness and the International Marketing of Western Desire in Socialist Czechoslovakia

19:30 Dinner