

Nineteenth New Hampshire Symposium
June 23-30, 1993
World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH

The GDR Revisited:
A Critical Evaluation of the GDR
within the Context of the Present

The 1993 New Hampshire Symposium will be devoted to a critical review of the GDR state, its politics, society, and culture. It will concern itself with the double question: what was the GDR? and what significance does this past state have for the society now emerging in the five new *Länder*? Economists, 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.

Papers are being solicited for the following topics:

Seminar I: Political and Economic Systems - Gero Neugebauer (Zentralinstitut für sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung der FU Berlin, Malteserstr. 74-100, 1000 Berlin 46), Arthur A. Stahnke (Department of Political Science, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL 62026).

Political issues such as the transformation from authoritarianism to parliamentary democracy, practice and legacy of socialist democracy, development of political culture. Transition from planned to market economy, from state/collective to private/corporate ownership, environmental *Altlästen*. Political and economic reasons for the 'implosion' of the GDR and for the difficulty of the 'new beginning'.

Seminar II: Institutional Change and the Transformation of Experience - Michael Hofmann (Sonderforschungsbereich 333, Universität Leipzig, Ritterstr. 16B, D-7010 Leipzig), Margy Gerber (Hanseatenweg 6, 1000 Berlin 21).

The encounter between the new institutional system and the enduring or transforming "life worlds" and value orientations of the East Germans based on their GDR experience. The various institutional contexts include the work place, education, the church, the role of intelligentsia, family, housing, medical care, social attitudes, and practices.

Seminar III: Varying Perspectives on the GDR - (Roger Woods, Department of Modern Languages, Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham, GB B47ET), Volker Gransow (Centre for International Studies, 18 Madison Ave., Toronto, Ontario, CN M5R 2S1).

The GDR as seen by West and East Germans, European neighbors, in former East block states, USA, etc. From the revival of totalitarianism theory to claims of 'zweite Objektwerdeung' in the new FRG. The era of the Round Table in the GDR. Lost communities and GDR nostalgia. Judging the GDR: from Commission of Enquiry to Tribunal to 'contradictory culture'. The East German legacy: empirical research on a 'distinctive socio-cultural profile' of East Germans.

Seminar IV: GDR Cultural Policy and Practice - Margy Gerber (Hanseatenweg 6, 1000 Berlin 21), Theodor Langenbruch (Department of Foreign Languages, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475).

Review of GDR cultural policy and practice such as state support of culture, centralized cultural management, censorship, *Betriebskultur*, *Alltagskultur*, role of the *Kulturschaffenden* -GDR reality and its relevance for present cultural life in the FRG.

Seminar V: GDR Literature and Culture - New Perspectives - Christiane Zehl Romero (Department of German, Russian, E. Asian Languages, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155), Nancy A. Lauckner (Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996).

New insights into GDR literature and the arts, reevaluation, and reclassification; present developments in East German letters and arts, memory work, and issues of integration.

Workshops: New Focuses and methodologies for research (neue Wege der Forschung).

Concluding Panel: A concluding panel discussion with plenum participation will sum up the findings of the seminars and look for common threads in the research presented at the conference.

Papers may be given in either English or German. All participants are asked to provide a summary of their paper in both languages. Papers 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 14, 1992. Completed papers are due on April 15.

For more information on the program, contact Margy Gerber (Hanseatenweg 6, 1000 Berlin 21). For information on the Symposium location, travel arrangements, and registration, contact W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, NH 03818, tel. (603) 356-5208, fax (603) 356-5252.