

# CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY HISTORY POTSDAM

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HISTORY POTSDAM

Institute of the Leibniz Association





# Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam \_\_\_\_\_

**Directors: Prof. Dr. Frank Bösch, Prof. Dr. Martin Sabrow**

The Centre for Contemporary History (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, ZZF) is a research institute for German and European contemporary history in the twentieth century and its impact on the present. As a member of the Leibniz Association, its basic endowment is funded half by the federal government and half by the states. Added to this is external funding acquired by the institute for research projects.

The ZZF works with numerous universities and other research institutes in Germany and abroad, and has an international visiting-scholar program. It is linked to the University of Potsdam and Humboldt University in Berlin by joint professorships, and cooperates with a range of other institutes of higher learning in research, teaching, and training a new generation of scholars.

The institute has four research departments. Alongside basic research, the central tasks of the ZZF are providing research infrastructure and promoting knowledge transfer.



## DEPARTMENT I

### Communism and Society

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**Heads of Department:**

**Dr. Jens Gieseke**

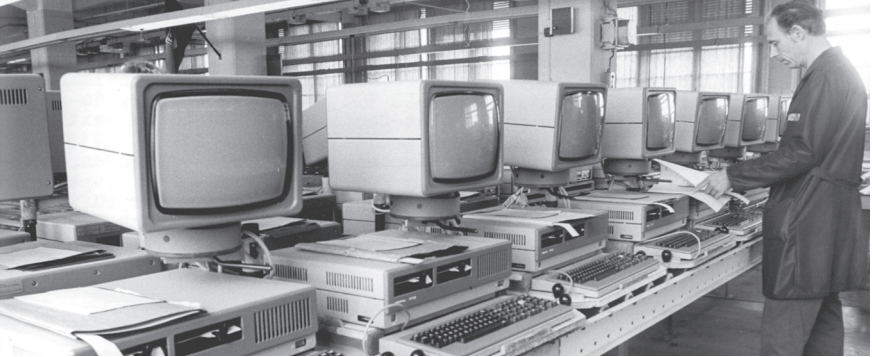
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**Prof. Dr. Thomas Lindenberger**

[lindenberger@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:lindenberger@zzf-potsdam.de)

In Department I, research is focused on the social practices of governance in the GDR and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and more specifically on the transformation processes in the last third of the twentieth century, including and extending beyond the sea change of 1989–91.

A key emphasis is placed on linking various national research cultures into a transnational understanding of history. Areas of specialization are the history of violence in Eastern Europe and the transformation of burgeoning civil-society movements and social structures in late and post-communism.



## DEPARTMENT II

### Economic Thought and Practice

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**Head of Department: Priv.-Doz. Dr. Rüdiger Graf** | [graf@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:graf@zzf-potsdam.de)

The research of Department II focuses on economic structures and institutions as well as on the practices and behaviors of economic actors, and ideas and discourses linked to economics. It looks at economics in contemporary history in its interdependency with politics, culture, and society.

Most of the department's research concentrates on the second half of the twentieth century from a transnational or East-West perspective. Individual projects deal with the history of globalization and structural policies, of retail trade and computerization, of collective economies in Western Europe, of the family and theories of economic behavior.

## DEPARTMENT III

### Contemporary History of Media and Information Societies \_\_\_\_\_

**Heads of Department: Dr. Jürgen Danyel** | [danyel@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:danyel@zzf-potsdam.de)  
**Priv.-Doz. Dr. Annette Vowinckel** | [vowinckel@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:vowinckel@zzf-potsdam.de)

The availability of audiovisual media steadily increased throughout the twentieth century, changing the daily lives of people as well as social communication and politics. Department III researches the process of media transformation in European societies and the changes brought by the advance of new information technologies and digitalization.

Another focus is historiography itself, the question of how scholarly communication, the working methods of historians, and the communication of historical knowledge have changed in the digital age. The department's work is closely linked to its own Internet publications and resources on contemporary history.





## DEPARTMENT IV

### Regimes of the Social Sphere —

**Head of Department:**

**Prof. Dr. Thomas Schaarschmidt**

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The research projects of Department IV investigate the question of how social processes were contained and regulated by the political systems of the twentieth century. How did social inequalities develop? Which processes of mobilization and rationalization are evident? And how were normative orders subjectively appropriated?

Current projects are investigating the relationship between social inequality and the welfare state, social mobilization during the Second World War, Fordism as a signature characteristic of the twentieth century, and the paradigm of resocialization.



## UNIVERSITY COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

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The ZZF is active in university-level education in Berlin and Brandenburg. Its cooperation is instrumental in the Master's program in Contemporary History at the University of Potsdam. Together with the Free University of Berlin it runs a Master's program in Public History. The institute likewise conducts its own projects in this field, and is involved in contemporary history exhibitions.

The ZZF advises governmental bodies at the federal, state, and local levels in questions of history and memorial culture. It also works with numerous museums, memorials, and other promoters of historical education.

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## PROMOTING YOUNG SCHOLARS

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More than 40 doctoral students are currently conducting their research at the ZZF. They collaborate in departmental work and discuss the progress of their own work in a graduate seminar. Workshops are held on theory and methodology, along with events on the career prospects of historians.

Internationally renowned experts give master classes on selected topics, discussing shared aspects of individual dissertations. Once a year the doctoral candidates at the ZZF organize their own Young Scholars Conference devoted to discussing ongoing dissertations and scholarly networks.

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## PUBLICATION SERIES



The *Zeithistorische Studien* (*Contemporary History Studies*) series has been published since 1993 by Böhlau publishing house. More than 50 volumes have meanwhile appeared on the history of the Soviet Occupation Zone and the GDR, divided Germany, and Central and Eastern Europe after 1945. Wallstein publishing house has been bringing out the *Geschichte der Gegenwart* (*History of the Present*) series, primarily focusing on overarching issues of twentieth-century history, as well as the *Medien und Gesellschaftswandel im 20. Jahrhundert* (*Media and Social Transformation in the Twentieth Century*) series. Another institute series, published by Christoph Links, is dedicated to the topic of *Communism and Society*.

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# ZEITHISTORISCHE FORSCHUNGEN/ STUDIES IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

The periodical *Zeithistorische Forschungen/Studies in Contemporary History* has been published since 2004 – as free online content as well as in a print edition by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht publishers. A focus of this specialist journal is inter-German and European history of the twentieth century, especially the phase of system conflict from 1945 to 1991. At the same time it regularly expands its perspective to include regions outside of Europe.

As a “hybrid” publication, the periodical breaks new ground with its use of visual and audio documents.

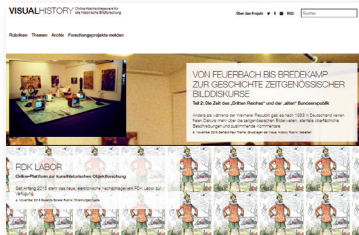
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# DIGITIZED CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

The ZZF is developing its own digital research infrastructure in the form of *Zeitgeschichte digital* ([www.zeitgeschichte-digital.de](http://www.zeitgeschichte-digital.de)). It makes accessible and integrates at one location the online projects developed and edited by the institute, using a wealth of digital resources. The platform offers central access to all of its online resources, e.g., *Docupedia*, *Zeitgeschichte online* and *Visual History*. The portal also includes specialized repositories for research data and retrodigitized publications.

[www.zeitgeschichte-digital.de](http://www.zeitgeschichte-digital.de)





## LIBRARY

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The specialized library of the ZZF collects scholarly literature on German and European contemporary history from 1945 to the present. Its subject areas include social and economic history, political, cultural, and media history, as well as publications on theoretical and methodological discussions in history and the social sciences.

The library's holdings currently comprise about 80,000 items. Apart from printed books, audiovisual media, and at present 110 print newspapers and specialist journals, the library offers a wide selection of electronic periodicals and specialist databases.

The library is open to the public. The online catalog can be found at the ZZF website under "Library": [www.zzf-potsdam.de](http://www.zzf-potsdam.de)

Opening hours:

Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. | Fri. 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Phone: +49 (0)331 745 101 32 | [bibliothek@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:bibliothek@zzf-potsdam.de)

# CONTACT

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## Academic Advisory Board

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