

# Lifeworlds of the Radical Right

## Practices, Ideologies and Structures, 1945-2000

Conference hosted by ZAER (the working group for the contemporary history of the extreme right) and the research project, "The Radical Right in Germany, 1945–2000"

27–28 June 2024 at the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF)

Organized by Frank Bösch & Gideon Botsch

The rise of the radical right in Germany and other parts of the world is primarily attributed to the success of right-wing parties, which are at the centre of attention. However, successful parties are rooted in ideological milieus, in the sense of cultural lifeworlds that constitute their social foundation. In Germany in particular, the radical right was long based less on well-organised parties than on networking groups and individuals who interact in everyday life, thus forming their values. This conference will focus on how the lifeworlds of the radical right changed in the second half of the twentieth century, which structures and sites of encounter emerged, and which interpretations arose and were passed on during such encounters. A key question focuses on the extent to which the lifeworld shaped by the Weimar Republic and National Socialism was re-formed after the Second World War in the course of generational change and social transformation, and to what extent practices, ideologies and structures arose that still characterise the radical right to this day.

The lifeworlds of the radical right can be understood as a communicative action that reinforces common ideas and habitual behaviours, for example through youth associations, scenes, meetings in fixed locations, excursions, clubs, sport, media, music and clothing. These lifeworlds will be analysed in their own right, but we will also examine interactions with other parts of society, for example shooting clubs, fraternities, everyday racist acts, and confrontations with left-wing groups. Our assessment of this lifeworld will include aspects such as violence, discussions about ideology, and provocative protests, as well as deliberately secluded meetings. Special attention should be paid to gender roles and certain physical forms of integrating people into the community. Everyday life in families and friendships should also be taken into account. Approaching this subject through the lens of the lifeworld will also help us to gain insight into the history of the East German right before 1990.

As early as the 1990s, right-wing lifeworlds were no longer found only in real territories (from settlements and neighbourhoods to entire regions); they also occupied digital spaces. Therefore, lectures that deal with right-wing lifeworlds in the early World Wide Web of the 1990s/2000s from a historical perspective will also be of interest. The conference will focus on East and West Germany, but comparative contributions or international presentations with references to the German right are very welcome.

This Call for Papers is aimed at historians as well as scholars from the fields of political, social and cultural studies who work on historical issues and are interested in interdisciplinary exchange. Fields of research can be, for example:

- Everyday life of radical right-wingers between work, leisure, and weekend get-togethers
- Associations and informal meet-up places of the radical right
- Internal life of right-wing political parties and relations to political parties
- Networks at the interface between politics and everyday life
- Family, parenting, and educational structures
- Gender roles and physical practices
- Right-wing or right-wing-dominated youth and popular culture and music scenes
- Practices of right-wing violence
- Educational ideals in the context of the youth movement, the Nazi legacy and its transformation
- Sites of right-wing encounters
- Media and ideology in everyday life
- Transitions from the "national" to the "conservative" milieu
- Rural, urban, and digital lifeworlds

We look forward to receiving your abstract of up to 5000 characters as a PDF, along with a short CV with information on your research interests; please send your documents to: [rechtelebenswelten@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:rechtelebenswelten@zzf-potsdam.de) by 10 February 2024.

Travelling expenses for train and hotel will be covered for accepted speakers. In case of flights individual agreements will be necessary.

Please note that the conference will be held primarily in German.