



“Undone from Within: The Downfall of Rudolf Slánský and Czechoslovak-Soviet Dynamics under Stalinism”

Workshop

Date: Friday, 30 September 2022

10:00 a.m. - 13:00 p.m.

Venue: Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam

On November 27, 1952, a Czechoslovak court sentenced Rudolf Slánský and ten other prominent party men to death following trial laced with antisemitic tropes. Historians have traditionally understood the Slánský affair as a predominantly foreign import imposed on Czechoslovakia by Soviet advisors and Josef Stalin. Our book project, by contrast, argues that local, intra-party dynamics within Czechoslovakia and rivalries within the Communist bloc best explain events leading up to the trial. Drawing upon previously unexamined archival materials located in Moscow and Prague, as well as newly published memoirs, our study also provides a fresh perspective on the Czechoslovak Communist Party's relationship with the Soviet Union more broadly.

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Potsdam, conference room, 2nd floor

Programme

10 – 11 a.m. Presentation of the book project “Undone from Within: The Downfall of Rudolf Slánský and Czechoslovak-Soviet Dynamics under Stalinism” by Chad Bryant (UNC, Chapel Hill) and Kateřina Čapková (USD, Prague)

11 – 11:15 a.m. coffee break

11:15 a.m. – 13 p.m. Discussion of an yet unpublished article in the Journal for Modern History.

You are very welcome to attend the workshop. Please register under karmann@zzf-potsdam.de. After registration you will receive the article for the second part of the workshop.