

CHRONOPOLITICS: TIME OF POLITICS, POLITICS OF TIME, POLITICIZED TIME

16-18 September 2021

Organized by Tobias Becker, Christina Brauner, Fernando Esposito

in cooperation with the German Historical Institute London, ZZF Potsdam/Leibniz Research Alliance "Value of the Past", Arbeitskreis Geschichte+Theorie and funded by the Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung.

Time is so deeply interwoven with all aspects of politics that its importance is frequently overlooked: politics relies on time, timelines and timing; time can be an instrument and also a subject of politics. Clock time, summertime, calendars, working hours and leisure time impact everyday orders of time. Political actors use time as a resource as well as to legitimize or delegitimize policies and politics, for instance, when differentiating between conservatives and progressives or when constructing "primitives" existing outside of (modern) time as objects of civilizing missions, development aid and modernizing projects. More generally, politics aims at creating futures in the present—or at preventing them from being created. The "politics of time" is strongly connected to the question, how social change is understood and managed.

The international, interdisciplinary conference "Chronopolitics: Time of Politics, Politics of Time, Politicized Time" engages with exactly these issues and interrelations. It aims to systematize the debates about chronopolitics, temporality and historicity and to bring together researchers working on these subjects. The emphasis on chronopolitics also connects traditional fields of historical inquiry—politics, society, economy—with the history of temporalities, showing, in this way, that it has relevance outside of its immediate subject. The conference also wants to trigger reflections how historiography and related disciplines are themselves producers of "characteristic images of history and temporal order" (Charles Maier). Neither time nor history are ahistorical givens but are changeable and have their own histories and are thus in need of historical investigation.

The first panel "Synchronicity. The Simplification and Coordination of Time" looks at the construction of non-synchronicities or temporalities of difference, while the second, "(Post)Colonial Temporalities, or: Pluritemporality", explores conflicts between colonial and Western temporal regimes and scrutinizes eurocentrism as chronocentrism. The third panel, "Ideological Temporalities from Communist to 'Neoliberal'", studies the transformation of ideological temporalities in the last third of the twentieth century focussing on (post-)communist and "neoliberal" temporalities. The fourth panel, "A Tale of Many Historicities", focusses on historicity as a specific form of temporality. It takes up the critique of a history in the singular, closely entangled with teleological narratives of modernisation and the call for pluritemporal histories.

Note: The conference is currently planned as a hybrid event, taking place locally at the ZZF Potsdam and via Zoom. External guests can participate via zoom only as the space at the ZZF is limited. Please send an email stating your name and institutional affiliation to hiwis.brauner@histsem.uni-tuebingen.de to register. The papers and the respective zoom link will be circulated in due time before the conference.

All times given in Central European Summer Time (UTC +2).

THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

- 16.00-16.15 h Christina von Hodenberg / Martin Sabrow: Welcome
- 16.15-16.30 h Tobias Becker, Christina Brauner, Fernando Esposito: Introduction
- 16.30-17.00 h Break

Keynote I

Chair: Kathleen Davis

- 17.00-18.30 h Dipesh Chakrabarty: Anthropocene Time and the Clash of Geological and Human-Historical Time
- 18.30-19.00 h Break

Panel 1: Synchronicity. The Simplification and Coordination of Time

Chair: Tim Neu

- 19.00-20.30 h Burak Onaran: Politics, Time and History in Turkey: A Case Study of the Coup d'État of 1960
- Helge Jordheim: Realigning Time: The Politics of Timelines after the 22 July Attacks in Norway
- Alexander Geppert: Synching the Planet on July 21, 1969

FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

Panel 2: (Post-)colonial Temporalities, or: Pluritemporality

Chair: Benno Gammerl

- 14.00-15.30 h Mirjam Hähnle: Multiple Layers of Temporality in 18th Century Travelogues about the Middle East
- Mirjam Brusius: Excavating and Burying Temporalities: Archaeology and the Historical Construction of Time
- Andrea Nicolas: Legacies of Time: Political Calendar-Chartes and the History of Generations (Oromo/Ethiopia)
- 15.30-16.00 h Break

Panel 3: Ideological Temporalities from Communist to “Neoliberal”

Chair: Daniel Morat

- 16.00-17.30 h (Post)Communist Temporalities
Juliane Brauer: The GDR as a Radical “Modern Regime of Historicity”
Marcus Colla: Time and Politics in the Age of Late Socialism
Adéla Gjuričová: Measuring the Tempo of Democracy: Time as an Element of Post-Communist Transformation
- 17.30-18.00 h Break
- 18.00-19.30 h Evening lecture: Margarita Rayzberg, Blake Smith: Academic Chronopolitics: Failure, Fast and Slow

SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2021

Panel 3: Ideological Temporalities from Communist to “Neoliberal” (cont.)

Chair: Tobias Becker / Christina Brauner

- 14.00-15.00 h “Neoliberal” Temporalities
Benjamin Möckel: What has posterity ever done for us? “Future generations” in the political discourse of the 1970s
Elizabeth Cohen: The Political *Value* of Time
- 15.00-15.15 h Break

Panel 4: A Tale of Many Historicities

Chair: Allegra Fryxell

- 15.15-16.45 h Fernando Esposito: Gleichzeitigkeiten or: Present Past
Ethan Kleinberg: The Past that Haunt Time: Deconstructing Historicist Temporality
Zoltán Boldizsár Simon: The Conflicts of Political and Technological Time
- 16.45-17.00 h Break

Keynote II

Chair: Martin Sabrow

17.00-18.30 h	Christopher Clark: Time, Power and History
18.30-18.45 h	Break
18.45-20.00 h	Final discussion and end of conference