

Absolute monarchies as well as modern dictatorships of the Twentieth century strove for far reaching control of the public sphere. To achieve this goal, they used censorship and the agencies of their political police against opposition and non-conformist groups that would not bow to state-control of the public sphere. We assume that in both – absolute monarchies and modern dictatorships – specific cultures of underground publishing emerged. As has been suggested by recent historical research on the public sphere, the conference seeks to carry out large-scale diachronical comparison. We assume that political underground literature in both the systems of the Ancien Regime and the totalitarian state was surrounded by a “web of discourse” and (cross-border) networks of writers, intellectuals, printers, and distributors, thus making it a field of transnational history. The literary underground was, however, not isolated from the ruling classes of the “Leviathan”. We believe that underground publishing had a greater impact on the development of societies than the generally low circulation of its products may suggest.

The WZB-conference is a first-time attempt at investigating the phenomenon of political underground literature in a comparative and transnational perspective. The enterprise seeks to bring together experts on the theory of public sphere, historians of absolutism and experts on underground publishing in modern dictatorships such as Nazism and Communism. The geographical framework for case studies shall reach roughly from France to Russia, but is open to include non-European cases such as Communist China or Apartheid South Africa. Senior experts and young scholars will be given the opportunity to present new original research. National surveys are as much in demand as detailed studies on social, intellectual, and cultural aspects of underground publishing or on theoretical questions concerning the structural change of the public sphere. The influence of counter publics on the revolutions of 1789 and 1989 may also be a question of debate.

The Conference was kindly supported by Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung

Organizers:

Jan Behrends (WZB), Thomas Lindenberger (ZZF), Franz Mauelshagen (Zürich)

Venue:

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
Reichpietschufer 50
10785 Berlin-Tiergarten
Raum: A 300/310

Registration:

Please respond by 24 July 2006 to Inken von Borzyskowski
phone: (+49) 030-25491-539
fax: (+49) 030-25491-553
e-mail: borzyskowski@wz-berlin.de



Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
für Sozialforschung

D-10785 Berlin
Reichpietschufer 50

www.wz-berlin.de

WZB Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

Social Science Research Center
Berlin

in Zusammenarbeit mit dem



Underground Publishing and the Public Sphere:

Comparative and
Transnational Perspectives

27-29 July 2006



Programme

Thursday, 27 July 2006

13.30-14.00

Welcome Address and Introduction,

Jan C. Behrends (Berlin), Franz Mauelshagen (Zürich) and Thomas Lindenberger (Potsdam)

I. Censorship and the Information Underground (Early Modern Europe I)

Chair: *Guðrun Gersmann*

14.00-14.30 **Modes of Censorship in Early Modern Europe**, *Philip M. Soergel* (Maryland)

14.30-15.00 **The Information Underground in Early Modern Italy**, *Brendan Dooley* (Bremen)

15.00-15.30 – Discussion followed by Coffee Break

II. Propaganda and Clandestine Literature (Early Modern Europe II)

Chair: *Franz Mauelshagen*

16.00-16.30 **John Tutchin's *Observer* and the Limits of Propaganda in Early Eighteenth-Century England**, *Brian Cowan* (Montreal)

16.30-17.00 **Ein "frecher Broschüren-Vertrieb" in der Schweiz im Jahr 1796**, *Alfred Messerli* (Zürich)

17.00-17.30 – Discussion

1st Keynote Lecture

17.30-18.30 *Guðrun Gersmann* (Köln): *to be announced*

18.30 – Dinner at the WZB

Friday, 28 July 2006

III. Underground in the Periphery of the Russian Empire I

Chair: *Malte Rolf*

9.00-9.30 **Tight Censorship, Active Smugglers, Critical Readers. The Reception of Forbidden Titles in Early 19th Century Finland**, *Jyrki Hakapää* (Helsinki)

9.30-10.00 **Common People and the Public Sphere. Finnish and Swedish Finns in Finland in the 19th Century**, *Ilkka Mäkinen* (Tampere)

10.00-10.30 – Discussion followed by Coffee Break

IV. Underground in the Periphery of the Russian Empire II

11.00-11.30 **Repressive Censorship in Lithuania (1795-1864)**, *Arvydas Pacevičius* (Vilnius)

11.30-12.00 **Underground Publishing and Distribution of Lithuanian Books in the "North West Region" of the Russian Empire (1984-1904)**, *Aušra Navickiene* (Vilnius)

12.00-12.30 – Discussion

12.30-14.00 – Lunch at the WZB

V. Samizdat I (Soviet Union I)

Chair: *Andrea Genest*

14.00-14.30 **Underground Publishing in Estonia under Soviet Rule**, *Aile Möldre* (Tallinn)

14.30-15.00 **The Neomodernist Revolt. The Leningrad Literary Underground against a Background of the Decay of the Soviet Empire**, *Stanislav Savitsky* (St. Petersburg)

15.00-15.30 – Discussion followed by Coffee Break

VI. Samizdat II (Soviet Union II)

Chair: *Andrea Genest*

16.00-16.30 **Imagining the Nation: Anti-Semitism in Soviet Samizdat**, *Julie Draskoczy* (Pittsburgh)

16.30-17.00 **Biographies in dissent: the decision to publish in Samizdat** (based on interviews), *Wolfgang Eichwede* (Bremen)

17.00-17.30 – Discussion followed by Coffee Break

VII. Samizdat III (Communist Central Europe I)

Chair: *Jan C. Behrends*

18.00-18.30 **Business Norms, Property Rights and Market Economy in Polish Samizdat in 1980s**, *Mateusz Fałkowski* (Warsaw)

18.30-19.00 **Censored Voices: The Dissemination of Subversive Literature in Communist Romania**, *Stefana Lamasanu* (Montreal)

19.00-19.30 – Discussion

19.30 – Dinner at the WZB

Saturday, 29 July 2006

VIII. Samizdat IV (Communist Central Europe II)

Chair: *Jan C. Behrends*

9.00-9.30 **Religious and National Symbols in the Underground Iconography and Literature of Martial Law in Poland (1980-1983)**, *Anna Nieżwiedź* (Kraków)

9.30-10.00 **Samizdat in der DDR und in Polen. Eine vergleichende und beziehungs geschichtliche Analyse am Beispiel von Leipzig und Wrocław**, *Christian Lotz* (Leipzig)

10.00-10.30 **The Ascent of "Europe". Underground Narratives Entering Public Spheres of Socialism**, *Christian Domnitz* (Potsdam)

10.30-11.00 – Discussion followed by Coffee Break

2nd keynote lecture: Samizdat

11.30-12.30 **Arkansphären und Öffentlichkeiten in der sowjetischen Gesellschaft nach 1953**, *Dietrich Beyrau* (Tübingen)

12.30-14.00 – Lunch at the WZB

IX. Global Perspectives I

Chair: *N.N.*

14.00-14.30 **From Samizdat to Tamizdat. Transnational Publishing in the Late Cold War: Paris New York London**, *Friederike Kind* (Potsdam)

14.30-15.00 **Dimensions of Chinese Underground Publishing**, *Lorenz Bichler* (Heidelberg)

15.00-15.30 **Marranos under the Southern Cross: The Jewish Resistance Press During the Military Dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983)**, *Liliana Ruth Feierstein/ Ricardo Feierstein* (Buenos Aires/Düsseldorf)

15.30-16.00 – Discussion followed by Coffee Break

X. Global Perspectives II

Chair: *N.N.*

16.30-17.00 **(Buch-)Zensur und Untergrundliteratur in der Schweiz 1939-1945**, *Stephan Keller* (Zürich)

17.00-17.30 **The Publishing History of an Anti-Apartheid Writer: The Case of Breyten Breytenbach**, *Francis Galloway* (Pretoria)

17.30-18.00 **Inventing an Alternative Publishing: Afrikaans Alternative Media, Two Case Studies**, *Rudi Venter* (Pretoria)

18.00-18.30 – Discussion

Round Table and Final Discussion: Underground Publishing and the Decline of Authoritarian Rule: Transnational and Comparative Perspectives

Chair: *Thomas Lindenberger*

18.30-19.30 *Guðrun Gersmann, Dietrich Beyrau, Lord Ralf Dahrendorf* (to be confirmed)