

18.10. until 20.10.2018 in Frankfurt (Oder) / Słubice, Germany

### **Call for Papers: (De-)constructing Central Europe: From Mitteleuropa to Visions of a Common Europe, 1918-2018**

21.03.2018

Recommended by Dr. Małgorzata Szajbel-Keck

18.10. until 20.10.2018

Event language: English

Deadline for submissions: 28.05.2018

Centrum Studiów Niemieckich i Europejskich im. Willy'ego Brandta Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, Europa-Universität Viadrina, Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Polenstudien (ZIP), Uniwersytet Szczeciński

Event location: Collegium Polonicum, Słubice (Poland)

Type of Event: Call for Papers

Link to this post: <https://www.pol-int.org/en/node/6871>

*An interdisciplinary conference hosted by: The Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies, Szczecin University, and the Willy Brandt Center*

#### **Call for papers**

The humanities offer a unique reflection of Central European relations over the past 100 years. After the end of World War I and the collapse of the great empires, new nation-states became the target of border revisionism across the board. In Germany, social scientists went to the field to prove the Germanness of Polish and Czechoslovak territories. Authorities in all countries attempted to expand their territory, basing their claims on history. Divergent uses about the ideas of "federation", and concepts such as "Deutscher Osten," "Międzymorze," "Čechoslovakismus," or "Nagy-Magyarország" dominated academic discourses in the interwar period, as ethnographers and linguists set out to research the "new" peoples and states of Central Europe. Institutions like the Publikationsstelle Berlin-Dahlem funded ideologically-driven studies to prove "scientific" conclusions about the superiority of Germans and their culture.

Scholarly attempts to legitimize political authority continued after 1945. The West Institute in Poznań was but one of many think tanks in the Soviet bloc claiming an unbroken tradition of German revanchism from the Middle Ages to the present. In turn, institutes such as the Herder Institute in West Germany supported claims to territories that had been ceded to the East.

The first cooperative contacts between academics started in the late 1950s. But with the policy of *détente* in the 1970s, however, scholars increasingly came into contact with counterparts on the opposing side of the Iron Curtain. Cooperative projects began to emerge which sought common results and conclusions. Intellectuals began to revive discussions about Central Europe, this time arguing that the region was fundamentally linked to the West.

In the age of the EU, journals like *Przegląd Zachodni*—which has focused on the subject "Poland-Germany-Europe" for the past decade—are symbols of this transition from dualistic, combative research to regional studies focused in a global context. Nevertheless, controversies about the House of Terror in Budapest or the World War II Museum in Gdańsk, or recent debates about reparations or minority rights show that there appears to be no end in sight for politically-charged academia. This conference intends to explore the complicated history of scholarly output between politics and science.

We invite proposals of original research to this international conference from all core disciplines of the humanities to this international conference which examines the academic construction and deconstruction of Central Europe over the past century. We envision interdisciplinary panels which focus on (but are not limited to) sociology, history, anthropology, linguistics, literary studies, urban studies, political science, and musicology. We particularly invite scholars from or who work on the states of Central Europe broadly defined. Our focus will be on three clusters of research: papers which explore particular *actors* who were crucial to the (de-)construction of Central Europe; *institutions and networks* which supported such research; and *discourses* which guided the field.

The official language of the conference is English. It is intended that this conference will lead to the publication of a volume on the 100 years of Central Europe as an intellectual concept.

**Please send a short abstract (max. 350 words) and a CV to the Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies at [zip-conference@europa-uni.de](mailto:zip-conference@europa-uni.de) by 28 May 2018.** Notifications of acceptance will be issued early June.

\*Pending approval of third-party funds,\* travel and accommodation costs for conference panelists will be covered by the hosts. As a family-friendly university, the Viadrina offers child care during the conference.

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**Deadline for abstract submission: May 28, 2018**

**Notification of acceptance: June 11, 2018**

**Conference homepage: <https://www.pol-int.org/en/salon/interdisciplinary-conference-de-constructing-central-europe>**

**Conference e-mail: [zip-conference@europa-uni.de](mailto:zip-conference@europa-uni.de)**

## **Contact**

Małgorzata Szajbel-Keck

Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies

**E-Mail:** [zip-conference@europa-uni.de](mailto:zip-conference@europa-uni.de)

**URL:** <https://www.pol-int.org/en/salon/interdisciplinary-conference-de-constructing-central-europe>

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