

The visibility of power has always been indispensable for dictatorships — and photography was the leading medium of visual representation throughout most of the twentieth century. Particularly in dictatorships that lack independent media outlets, small public spheres or “kleine Öffentlichkeiten” (Gerhards/Neidhardt) can emerge. They are used by different communication communities, also in visual terms. The conference focuses on these various small public spaces and the attempts of dictatorial regimes to control these visual representations of the socio-political order, including private production. Beyond that, the conference will examine the contents and aesthetics of photography, the conditions under which images are produced on a daily basis and the use and distribution of photos.



Photographing under Dictatorships of the Twentieth Century

Public Spheres and Photographic Practices

Conference Office:

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Humboldt University Berlin
26 – 28 October 2016

Photographing under Dictatorships of the Twentieth Century

Wednesday, 26 October

18.00 Keynote Lecture

Annette Vowinckel (Potsdam/Berlin): Image Agents. Photography as a New Field of Action in the 20th Century

Welcome Reception

Thursday, 27 October

9.00 – 11.00 Panel 1:

Views from the Fourth Estate: Photojournalism and Press Photography

Katalin Bognár (Budapest): A Country without Christmas? Topics Missing from the Photograph Archives of the Hungarian Daily Newspaper *Szabad Nép*, 1949–1956

Rebekka Grossmann (Jerusalem): Global Visions, Envisioned Mobility and Visual Friction: Agency Photographs and the Contested Nature of a 'National Socialist Aesthetics'

Helena Holzberger (Munich): The Visual Shaping of Stalin's Orient. Photographs of Uzbekistan in the Soviet Press During the First Five-Years-Plan.

Commentary: *Harriet Scharnberg (Münster)*

Coffee Break

11.15 – 13.15 Panel 2:

Reverse Shot: Self/Representations in Photo Albums

Tatiana Saburova (Bloomington/Indiana): "Two Generations": Public, Private, and the Images of Generations in the Soviet Photography

Nathalie Patricia Sourdos (Vienna): The Dictator's Photo-albums: Private and Public Photographs in the Metaxas-Dictatorship

Ulrich Prehn (Berlin): Framing Work: Visual Tropes and Narrative Paradigms in Private and Institutional Photo Albums from Nazi Germany

Commentary: *Elizabeth Harvey (Nottingham)*

Lunch

14.15 – 16.45 Panel 3:

Close-ups: Localized Photographic Perspectives

Linda Conze (Berlin): Filling the Frame: Crowd Shots of May Day 1934 from Provincial Germany

Fátima Moura Ferreira / Patricia Leal (Minho/Lisbon): Re-reading the Photographic Archive: Political Imaginaries and Propagandistic Mis-en-scène – Portuguese New State

Sandra Starke (Berlin): Between Private and Public: Curt Biella's Photographic Studio in Gunzenhausen under National Socialism

Julia Werner (Berlin): Shared and Divided Spaces: Photographic Perspectives on Occupied Warsaw (1939-1945)

Commentary: *Malte Zierenberg (Berlin)*

Coffee Break

17.00 – 19.00 Panel 4:

The Artistic Lens: Photographic Appropriations and Interventions

Daria Panaiotti (St. Petersburg): Discipline of the Photographic Gaze: Normative Language and Individual Strategies in the Late-Soviet Documentary Photography

Bertram Kaschek (Dresden): Defensive Mimicry: Christian Borchert's Photographic Interventions of the Late 1970s and 80s

Briana Smith (Des Moines/Iowa): "Fotografieren Verboten!" Photography and Action Art in the Late GDR

Commentary: *Petra Bopp (Hamburg)*

19.30 – 20.30 Book Presentation

Thomas Medicus (Hg.), *Verhängnisvoller Wandel. Ansichten aus der Provinz 1933-1949: Die Fotosammlung Biella* (Hamburger Edition, 2016).

Friday, 28 October

9.00 – 11.30 Panel 5:

Dodging and Burning: State Repression and Subversive Counter-Strategies

Alumah Florsheim-Shoham (Jerusalem): Public Space in a Dictatorship: the Stasi Photographers Design the Public Sphere

Denis Skopin (St. Petersburg): Elimination of "Public Enemies" From Group Photographs in the USSR during the Stalin Era: Psychological and Political Mechanisms of the Phenomenon.

Natalija Arlauskaitė (Vilnius): Making the Soviet Atrocity Archive Visible: Photo/Graphic Art Projects by Lithuanian Artist Kestutis Grigaliunas

Jeff Hayton (Fairmount/Wichita): Capturing Difference under Dictatorship: Punk Rock, Photography & Dissent in the GDR

Commentary: *Alexandra Oberländer (Bremen)*

Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.00 Closing Discussion

Conference Venue:

Humboldt University Berlin

Campus Nord / Luisensaal

Luisenstr. 56

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