

**Conveners**

Prof. Dr. Julia Richers

*(Department of History, University of Bern)*

Prof. Dr. Frithjof Benjamin Schenk

*(Department of History, University of Basel)*

**Conference venue:**

Schloss Münchenwiler, Kühergasse 7,  
1797 Münchenwiler

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# SITES OF MEMORY OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM IN EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
SCHLOSS MÜNCHENWILER, SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2015

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IN DIESEM HAUSE  
WURDE AM 5. MAI 1818  
KARL MARX GEBOREN

| Thursday September 3, 2015                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
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| Until 12:45                                                                                                                                | Arrival of participants in Bern<br>Meeting point, Main Building «West», University of Bern                                                       |  |
| 13:00 - 13:30                                                                                                                              | Bus transfer to Schloss Münchenwiler                                                                                                             |  |
| 13:30 - 14:00                                                                                                                              | Light buffet lunch / coffee, tea                                                                                                                 |  |
| 14:00 - 14:30                                                                                                                              | Welcome and introduction: Julia Richers, Benjamin Schenk                                                                                         |  |
| 14:30 - 16:30 Panel 1<br>Events as commemorated “turning points” in history                                                                |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <i>Rayk Einax (Giessen)</i>                                                                                                                | Forgotten Glory – Minsk and the First Congress of the RSDLP                                                                                      |  |
| <i>Lauri Viljanen (Helsinki)</i>                                                                                                           | Finnish Communist Expatriates, Memory and Interpretations of History of the Finnish Civil War in Interwar Soviet Union                           |  |
| <i>Andrea Talabér (Florence)</i>                                                                                                           | Communist Memories in Communist States: The Appropriation of Czechoslovak and Hungarian Commemorative Events for Communist Legitimacy Commentary |  |
| <i>Ron Blom (Amsterdam)</i>                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 16:30 - 17:15                                                                                                                              | Coffee break, Check in                                                                                                                           |  |
| 17:15 - 18:45 Panel 2<br>Commemorating the Great Patriotic War in Russia                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <i>Anne Hasselmann (Basel)</i>                                                                                                             | The Central Museum of the Red Army as a Site of Memory                                                                                           |  |
| <i>Tatiana Voronina (Basel)</i>                                                                                                            | Past as a Socialist Realism Project: The Narrative Structure of the Soviet Historical Discourse about WWII                                       |  |
| <i>Julia Richers (Bern)</i>                                                                                                                | Commentary                                                                                                                                       |  |
| 19:00 Keynote lecture: Maria Todorova (Urbana Champaign):<br>Shared or Contested Heritage? Commemorating Socialism and Communism in Europe |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| Friday September 4, 2015                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 08:30 - 10:30 Panel 3<br>Commemorating Lenin and Stalin in Eastern and Western Europe                                                      |                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| <i>Maria Silina (Montréal)</i>                                                                                                             | Memorial Industry: V. I. Lenin Commemoration in Soviet Russia from 1924 till Nowadays                                                            |  |
| <i>Barbara Martin (Geneva)</i>                                                                                                             | The Discussion on Stalin as an Object of Research in Historical Perspective: Towards a New Approach                                              |  |
| <i>Eliza Kriza (Coburg)</i>                                                                                                                | The Stalin Plaque in Vienna                                                                                                                      |  |
| <i>Benjamin Schenk (Basel)</i>                                                                                                             | Commentary                                                                                                                                       |  |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 10:30-11:00                                                        | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| 11:00 - 13:00 Panel 4<br>Concrete memories / Constructed heritage  |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <i>Dimitrina Popova (Sofia)</i>                                    | The Prefabricated Concrete Housings as Architectural Heritage of Socialism in Sofia, Bulgaria                                                                                           |  |
| <i>Dominika Czarnecka (Warsaw)</i>                                 | Feeling at Home in the Post-Soviet Base in Poland: Cultural Practices and Politics of Memory                                                                                            |  |
| <i>Raino Isto (College Park, Maryland)</i>                         | “An Itinerary of the Creative Imagination:” Bunk’Art, Avant-Garde Practices of Memory Production, and the Touristic Experience of the Socialist Past in Contemporary Albania Commentary |  |
| <i>Nikolas Dörr (Berlin)</i>                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 13:00 - 14:00                                                      | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| 14:00 - 16:00 Panel 5<br>Dealing with the Socialist heritage today |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <i>Oleksandra Gaidai (Kyiv)</i>                                    | Lenin Statues in Post-Soviet Ukraine: Legislation, Practices and Attitudes                                                                                                              |  |
| <i>Stanislav Holubec (Jena)</i>                                    | Marx, Lenin and Commemoration of Socialism in Three Countries: Former GDR, Czech Republic and Slovakia                                                                                  |  |
| <i>Rasa Balockaitė (Kaunas)</i>                                    | The Trouble with Soviet Heritage: Rethinking Indirect Violence of Totalitarianism                                                                                                       |  |
| <i>Christina Diac (Bucharest)</i>                                  | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 16:00 - 16:30                                                      | Coffee break                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| 16:30 - 18:30 Panel 6<br>Spaces and practices of memory            |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <i>Melinda Harlov (Budapest)</i>                                   | A Square that Has Seen It All: The '56-ers Square in Budapest                                                                                                                           |  |
| <i>Codruta Pohrib (Maastricht)</i>                                 | Archiving Romanian Communist Childhood: Online (m)lieux de mémoire?                                                                                                                     |  |
| <i>Nutsa Batiashvili (Tbilisi)</i>                                 | What Are Sites of Memories for?                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <i>Brigitte Studer (Bern)</i>                                      | Commentary                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 18:30 - 19:30                                                      | Dinner                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

| 20:00 - 21:30 Evening talks<br>Commemorating communism and socialism in Europe in practice          |                                                                                                                     |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Gennadii Kuzovkin (St. Petersburg)</i>                                                           | Commemorating Communism in Russia Today: The NGO Memorial                                                           |  |
| <i>Nikolas Dörr (Berlin)</i>                                                                        | Sites of Memory of Communist Dictatorships. A Documentation                                                         |  |
| Saturday September 5, 2015                                                                          |                                                                                                                     |  |
| 8:30 - 10:00 Panel 7<br>Historical sites as lieux de mémoire                                        |                                                                                                                     |  |
| <i>Anna Kršinić Lozica (Zagreb/Paris)</i>                                                           | Performing Memory in Kumrovec: From Mini-Yugoslavia to Contested Heritage                                           |  |
| <i>Kathleen Beger (Regensburg)</i>                                                                  | Where Future Meets Past – The Soviet Pioneer Camp Artek as a Site between Socialist Utopia and Memory               |  |
| <i>Sandrine Mayoraz (Basel)</i>                                                                     | Commentary                                                                                                          |  |
| 10:00 - 10:30                                                                                       | Coffee break                                                                                                        |  |
| 10:30 - 12:00 Panel 8<br>The conference of Zimmerwald (1915) – historical event and lieu de mémoire |                                                                                                                     |  |
| <i>Jürg Ulrich (Basel)</i>                                                                          | The Conference of Zimmerwald (1915). Its Historical Significance for the Development of the Communist International |  |
| <i>Julia Richers (Bern)</i>                                                                         | “Zimmerwald” between Memory and Oblivion in Russia and Switzerland                                                  |  |
| 12:15-13:15                                                                                         | Lunch                                                                                                               |  |
| 13:30-14:30                                                                                         | Bus transfer to Zimmerwald                                                                                          |  |
| 15:00                                                                                               | Commemorative event in Zimmerwald<br>Return to Münchenwiler                                                         |  |
| 19:00                                                                                               | Dinner                                                                                                              |  |
| 20:00 - 21:00                                                                                       | Final Discussion                                                                                                    |  |
| Sunday September 6, 2015                                                                            |                                                                                                                     |  |
| 09:00 - 09:30                                                                                       | Bus transfer from Münchenwiler to Bern, departure of participants                                                   |  |