

**From a Totalitarian State to an Open Society?  
De-Stalinisation in the Soviet Union**

**Schloss Rauschholzhausen, 9.-12.2.2012**

Ferdinand-von-Stumm-Straße, 35085 Ebsdorfergrund-Rauschholzhausen

Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Gießener Zentrum östliches Europa, Gerda Henkel Stiftung

**Conference program**

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup>

Arrival

**20.00 Opening lecture (impulse)**

Chair: Thomas Bohn (Gießen)

Stefan Plaggenborg (Bochum):                      Post-Stalinism – An Epoch?

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup>

**9.00-12.30 Panel 1: Society**

Chair: Steven Bittner (Sonoma)

Thomas Bohn (Gießen):                      Closed Cities” versus “Open Society”. De-Stalinisation and Urbanisation

Galina Ivanova (Moscow):                      Десталинизация и социальная программа Хрущева

Melanie Ilic (Birmingham):                      Khrushchev and the Revival of the Woman Question

Juliane Fürst (Bristol):                      Destalinised Youth? Changes and Continuities of Policy, Concept and Experience

Commentary: Dietmar Neutatz (Freiburg)

### **14.00-17.30 Panel 2: Communication**

Chair: Melanie Ilic (Birmingham)

Stephan Merl (Bielefeld): How did basic principles of political communication change after Stalin's death?

Jurij Aksyutin (Moscow): Эволюция общественных настроений в СССР в 50-е – 70-е годы по материалам массовых опросов очевидцев и свидетелей событий тех лет

Simon Huxtable (London): Rethinking 'The Regime': *Komsomol'skaia pravda* and Political Power, 1956-68

Commentary: Sergei Zhuravlev (Moscow)

### Saturday, 11th

### **9.00-12.30 Panel 3: Culture and memory**

Chair: Stephan Merl (Bielefeld)

Polly Jones (London): Coming to terms with the past, or mastering the past? De-Stalinisation in comparative perspective

Maria Zezina (Moscow): Soviet writers and De-Stalinization in the period of "thaw" and after

Alexandra Oberländer (Bremen): A cultural history of work

Michel Abesser (Freiburg): A cultural playground for the Soviet Middle Class? – Soviet Jazz in the 1950s and 60s

Commentary: Beate Fieseler (Düsseldorf)

### **14.00-17.30 Panel 4: Space**

Chair: Jurij Aksyutin (Moscow)

Karsten Brüggemann (Tallinn): National in form, socialist in content? Song Festivals in the Estonian Soviet Republic

Rayk Einax (Gießen): Much ado about De-stalinisation. The view from the Belarussian periphery

Natalija Kibita (Glasgow): De-Stalinising economic administration: Ukrainian ideas on an alternative vision of centre-republic economic relations (1953-1965)

Commentary: Julia Obertreis (Freiburg)

**19.00 Final session & discussion**

Chair: Michel Abesser (Freiburg)/Rayk Einax (Gießen)

Steven Bittner (Sonoma):                      Was it really the Beginning of the End? De-Stalinisation and the Shadow of the Soviet Collapse

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Departure

Contact: Michel.Abesser@frias.uni-freiburg.de, Thomas.Bohn@geschichte.uni-giessen.de,  
Rayk.Einax@geschichte.uni-giessen.de