

Ukraine, Russia and Nuclear Uncertainties from Chernobyl to the War

Dr. Tatiana Kasperski (Barcelona)

Prof. Paul Josephson (Colby)

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Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine has included assault on Ukrainian civilians, the targeting of their homes, schools, and hospitals, and even attacks on Ukrainian nuclear power facilities, waste dumps and laboratories, including Chornobyl and more recently the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant in Enerhodar, with its six 1,000 MW reactors the largest station in Europe. These attacks have had significant environmental impacts and have challenged international norms, including those of the International Atomic Energy Agency to which both Ukraine and Russia belong, and whose members promise to encourage and assist peaceful application of atomic energy to ensure all such activities do not further any military purposes. In this talk, Tatiana Kasperski and Paul Josephson will focus on the significance and risks of the ongoing war for the nuclear enterprise. They do so against the backdrop of nuclear history in Ukraine which dates to the Soviet atomic bomb project, and the environmental history of nuclear power in Ukraine and Russia, which long predates the Chornobyl disaster. They argue that the frequently-offered distinction between peaceful and military regimes in the nuclear enterprise is clearly inoperative.



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Historisches Seminar

Forschungskolloquium der Professur für Wirtschafts-, Sozial- und Umweltgeschichte
(Prof. Dr. Melanie Arndt)