

Spaces of Opportunities

Expert Networks, Research Collaboration and Science Diplomacy in the Socialist World

9/10 October 2025

University of Freiburg, KG IV, Übungsraum 2

Thursday, 9 October

Bogdan C. Iacob & Martin Bemmman

9.00-9.30

Welcome and Introduction

Motives

Doubravka Olšáková (Prague)

9.30-10.30

Global Ambitions, Local Tensions: Expert Networks and Science Diplomacy in the Cold War

Felix Herrmann (Bremen)

10.30-11.30

Divergent Goals in Building the Socialist Cross-Border Computer Industry

Coffee Break

11.30-12.00

Marius Tarita (Freiburg)

12.00-13.00

Poland's Institute for Environmental Management and the CMEA during the 1970s and 1980s

Lunch Break

13.00-14.00

Emergence of Spaces of 'Successful' Cooperation

Jan Zofka (Leipzig)

14.00-15.00

Cotton in the CMEA: State Socialist Cooperation and Competition during the Early Cold War

Martin Bemmman (Freiburg)

15.00-16.00

Phosphor Dynamics and Fertilizer Tests: Successful Research Collaboration within the CMEA (1970s and 1980s)?

Coffee Break

16.00-16.30

Elena Kochetkova (Bergen)

16.30-17.30

Food as a Cold War Matter: Industrial Food Manufacturing and Cooperation in the CMEA

Dinner

19.00

Friday, 10 October

National Interests, Individual Benefits

Austin Jersild (Norfolk, VA)

9.00-10.00

Balancing the Books in the Socialist World: Czechoslovak, Bulgarian and East German Trade Dilemmas in Guinea-Conakry, 1958-1973

Darina Volf (Munich)

10.00-11.00

"The Enthusiasm is There, the Equipment Not Yet": Czechoslovak and East German Institutes in the Intercosmos-Cooperation

Coffee Break

11.00-11.30

Alexa Geisthövel (Berlin)

11.30-12.30

"Budapest, We Have a Kidney": Inter-Socialist Cooperation in Organ Transplantation, 1970-1990

Matthias Kaltenbrunner (Munich)

12.30-13.30

Comecon Town: Prospects of Prosperity on the Ukrainian Steppes

Lunch Break

13.30-14.30

Beyond the Socialist World

Dora Vargha (Berlin)

14.30-15.30

There and Back Again: The World Health Organization and Socialist International Health

Anna Calori (Glasgow)

15.30-16.30

When Business Met Science: Agroindustry and Genetics between Yugoslavia and Its Non-Aligned Partners

Coffee Break

16.30-17.00

Bogdan C. Iacob (Bucharest/Vienna)

17.00-18.00

Romania, Medicinal Plants and Counter-hegemonic Cooperation in Global Health during the late 1970s and the 1980s

Ylber Marku (Munich)

18.00-19.00

Knowledge for the Revolution: The Pursuit of Expertise and Its Limits in Communist Albania

Concluding Remarks and Discussion

19.00-19.30

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