

# COMMUNIST PIGS

## AN ANIMAL HISTORY OF EAST GERMANY'S RISE AND FALL

**D**uring the Cold War, the German Democratic Republic, or East Germany, acquired a reputation as one of the most polluted and environmentally destructive countries in the world. And in the wake of the GDR's collapse in 1989, observers were quick to draw a line from this horrific environmental record to the despotic nature of the regime, the "backwards" planned economy, or the "rotten" ideology of socialism. In his new book, *Communist Pigs*, historian Thomas Fleischman contends that these explanations are insufficient by re-examining the country's rise and fall through the lens of one animal, the pig. Fleischman argues that agriculture under communism came to reflect standard practices of capitalist agriculture everywhere, and over time, it allowed the GDR to become entangled in global markets for cheap meat, credit, and energy. His analysis sheds light on the causes of the country's environmental and political collapse in 1989, and offers a warning about the high cost of cheap food in the present and future.



**Prof. Thomas Fleischman**  
(Rochester)

**Donnerstag, 11.11.2021**  
**18:15-19:45 Uhr**

Die Veranstaltung findet online über Zoom statt.

Bitte melden Sie sich für den Zoom-Zugang bei: [sekretariat.wsu@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:sekretariat.wsu@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de) (Natascha Kindermann)

**Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg**

Historisches Seminar

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

