

September 21, 2016

Transatlantic Summer Workshop Brings Together Students and Faculty of CUNY's Graduate Center and the Ruhr University Bochum, This Year in Bochum

The second Transatlantic Summer Workshop of the CUNY Graduate Center (CUNY-GC) and the Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) again brought together 18 Ph.D. students and faculty from the fields of history, sociology, political science, and economics to discuss their research on "Politics, Identities, and Conflicts in Europe and the United States, 1945-2016." The mix of dissertation projects and approaches generated lively discussions that went beyond individual research interests and extended to ideas for future transnational and transatlantic cooperation.

The workshop's organizers came from both sides of the Atlantic. They included Professors John Torpey, Presidential Professor of Sociology and History and Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the CUNY-GC, Benjamin Hett, Professor of History at CUNY-GC and Hunter College, and Constantin Goschler and Michael Wala, both from the History Department at RUB as well as Dr. Patrizia Nobbe, Associate Director of the European Union Studies Center. Special thanks also to Dr. Marcus Böick, Marcel Schmeer and Darius Harwardt from RUB's history department for their contributions to the success of this year's seminar.

The President of the German Bundestag, Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, who delivered the opening remarks, was joined by Prof. Dr. Axel Schölmerich, Rektor of the Ruhr University Bochum, and Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Löwenstein, Managing Director and Dean of the RUB Research School, in welcoming the workshop participants. Professor Ludger Pries, a member of the German Expert Council on Migration (Sachverständigenrat), gave the keynote speech on the contemporary migration situation in Germany. Further highlights included a lecture by RUB art historian Cornelia Jöchner on the modernist architecture of the Ruhr University-Bochum, a fascinating guided tour through the "Zeche Zollverein," a de-commissioned coal mine industrial complex in the City of Essen that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The RUB Research School and the CUNY Graduate Center provided generous funding for the workshop. The organizers are pleased to announce funding for the continuation of the workshop by the RUB Research School and the Max Kade Foundation.

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