

August 24, 2015

Transatlantic Summer Workshop Brings Together Students and Faculty of CUNY's Graduate Center and the Ruhr University Bochum in New York

The first Transatlantic Summer Workshop of the CUNY Graduate Center (CUNY-GC) and the Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) brought together 18 Ph.D. students and 4 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, 1945-2015." 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.

As a transatlantic collaboration between the CUNY-GC and RUB, 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. Dr. Patrizia Nobbe, Associate Director of the European Union Studies Center at the CUNY-GC, administratively supported the workshop.

Eric Weitz, Distinguished Professor of History and Dean of Arts & Humanities at City College of New York, kicked off the week with a lecture on the history of human rights. Following the first day's sessions, in which students and faculty introduced their various research projects, the Consul-General of Germany, Ms. Brita Wagener, hosted a reception organized by the New York office of the University Alliance Ruhr, a consortium of universities in the German region once dominated by manufacturing and mining and now a post-industrial knowledge-intensive zone. The week's discussions concluded with a festive reception at the Goethe-Institut New York, where Director Christoph Bartmann welcomed the participants into the Institut's pleasantly airy new space on Irving Place.

Funding for the workshop was provided by the CUNY Graduate Center, the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies and the European Union Studies Center at the GC, the RUB Research School, and the New York office of the University Alliance Ruhr.

On the foundation of this year's successful discussions, a second meeting will take place in Germany next summer with the same participants. Stimulated by the energy from this year's gatherings, the students and faculty have already begun to plan for next year's Transatlantic Summer Workshop at RUB.

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