Movements and Ideas of the Extreme Right in Europe: Positions and Continuity

Concept and organisation

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In cooperation with Henrik-Steffens-Professor Jorunn Sem Fure Humboldt University Berlin Department for Northern European Studies

The conference will take place at

Humboldt University Department for Northern European Studies Dorotheenstr. 24, room 3.246 10117 Berlin

Supported by The Norwegian Embassy in Germany



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10.–11.12.2009 Berlin

Conference at the Humboldt University Berlin in cooperation with the University of Oslo



The interwar fascist movements and regimes were parts of a distinct historical period: they were products of a unique crisis stemming from the cultural pessimism of the 1890s, the "nationalization of the masses" and the upheavals caused by the First World War and the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. Due to increased European integration, the development of welfare societies in the post-war period and the crimes against humanity of the fascist regimes, a revival of historical fascism seems impossible. Nevertheless, ideas and concepts fundamental to an extreme right worldview have been able to survive and adapt – in phases – to the radically changed political, social and economic climate of the post-war era.

With participants from Germany, Norway, France and Great Britain, the conference will present various ideas and movements in Europe from the end of the First World War until the present day and seeks to explore the diversity of ongoing research into the extreme right. The topics range from different aspects of and influences on the ideology of interwar fascism, the interaction between the National Socialist regime in Germany and other European National Socialist associations, the attempted survival and redevelopment of fascism in the immediate post-war climate and the advance of the populist radical right in contemporary Europe.

The public conference is initiated and organized by Nicola Karcher and Anders G. Kjøstvedt at the Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History at the University of Oslo with the support of Henrik-Steffens-Professor Jorunn Sem Fure at the Department of Northern European Studies at the Humboldt University Berlin, where it will be held. It is our pleasure to announce that the conference will be attended by Associate Professors Uwe Puschner (Free University Berlin, Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute) and Ulrich Wyrwa (Technical University Berlin, Centre for Research on Anti-Semitism) who will comment on the lectures.

Thursday 10. December 2009

9.45 Welcome

by *Henrik-Steffens-Professor* Jorunn Sem Fure, Nicola Karcher and Anders G. Kjøstvedt

10.00–11.00 From Idea to Ideology: Imaginations of the "German Forest" between Romanticism and National Socialism. Johannes Zechner, PhD candidate Free University Berlin/Heinrich Böll Foundation

11.00–12.00 National Socialist Appeals to Labour in Berlin, 1925–1933. Anders G. Kjøstvedt, PhD-candidate University of Oslo

12.00-13.30 Lunch break

13.30-14.30

Embodied politics? Associations between Political Ideas and Body Movements in the Interwar Years. Kerstin Bornholdt, PhD candidate University of Oslo

14.30–15.30

Finding Fascism: Sir Oswald Mosley and the Emergence of the British Union of Fascists. Matthew Worley, PhD, Reader University of Reading

15.30–16.00 Coffee break

16.00–17.00 The Norwegian National Socialist movement in Germany: Political approach, structure and internal conflict. Nicola Karcher, PhD candidate University of Oslo

17.00–18.00 Tactical Moderation? Anti-Semitism and the Nazi Movement in Denmark. Thorsten Wagner, PhD candidate Humboldt University Berlin Friday 11. December 2009

10.00-11.00

Johann von Leers (1902–1965) as part of an international network of post-war fascism. Martin Finkenberger, PhD candidate Free University Berlin

11.00-12.00

Radicalization of the Extreme Right within Italian Neo-Fascism (1945–1960). Elisabetta Cassina Wolff, Associate Professor Vestfold University College

12.00-13.30 Lunch break

13.30-14.30

Communal Movements and Consumerism – Social Change and Ideology in Post-Industrial Society Tor Espen Simonsen, MA, Research Assistant Norwegian School of Management, Oslo

14.30-15.30

Is there such a thing as extreme-right voters? The case of the French Front National. Joël Gombin, PhD candidate University of Picardie Jules Verne

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.00

Wise Women and Germanic Faith. Neopaganism and Right-Wing Ideology in Germany. Focusing on Representations of Witches and the Witch-Hunt. Felix Wiedemann, PhD, Lecturer University of Potsdam

17.00-18.00

Bund der Vertriebenen and Erika Steinbach. A Voice of the Radical Right in a Historical Debate in Germany? Astrid Dypvik, MA, Journalist Dag og Tid Oslo

18.00 Closing remarks

The presentations will be commented on by Associate Professors Uwe Puschner and Ulrich Wyrwa, followed by general discussions.