

Towards a Global History of Appeasement: Munich 1938

International Workshop

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

Leipzig University

ReCentGlobe/GWZO

Venue: GWZO, Tagungsraum Nikolai, 2. Etage

Adresse: Reichsstr. 4-6, Specks Hof, Leipzig

Amid the current global crisis of liberal democracy, the rise of right-wing movements, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many commentators invoke the catastrophes of the interwar period and the road to World War II. The question of how liberal democracies should deal with expansionist dictatorships is on the political agenda again. Thus, the term appeasement is currently in the global news. Some invoke ‘Munich 1938’ as a warning against the futility of appeasing expansionist dictatorships.

Instead of repeating the familiar “Chamberlain vs. Hitler” story, the workshop will uncover new ground because of its approach at the crossroads of global and transimperial history. The workshop will relate attempts to appease Hitler to the global clash between fascist expansionism on the one hand and the attempt of France and Britain to preserve their empires.

This timely workshop brings together international scholars to explore the global dynamics of interwar appeasement and its legacies for the present world.

Program

- 13.45-14.00 **Welcome & Introduction**
Daniel Hedinger (Leipzig University)/
Christian Goeschel (University of Manchester)
- 14.00-16.00 **Panel**
Chair: Frank Hadler (GWZO)/Katja Castryck-Naumann (GWZO)
- Norman Domeier (Charles University, Prague)
“The Munich Conference 1938 and the Role of the Global Media”
- Leslie James (Queen Mary, University of London)
“Caribbean and West African anti-colonial Networks and Appeasement”
- Daniel Hedinger (Leipzig University)
“Appeasement, Axis, and War in East Asia”
- Christian Goeschel (University of Manchester)
“Fascist Italy, the Mediterranean, and the Munich Moment”
- 16.00-16.30 **Coffee break**
- 16.30-17.30 **Discussion** (all participants)
“Global Appeasement: Past, Present, and Future”

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