



## **Workshop**

# **Managing the Land: Agricultural and Rural Actors in Twentieth Century Europe (II)**

**Dates:** October 11-12, 2019

**Venue:** GWZO, Specks Hof, Reichsstr. 4-6, 04109 Leipzig, Germany

**Convenors:** Dietmar Müller (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig), Corinna Unger (European University Institute, Florence), Liesbeth van de Grift (Utrecht University)

## **Abstract**

Agriculture and rural life, topics long dismissed by many historians as irrelevant or old-fashioned, are currently receiving renewed attention in the field of contemporary history. The revival of rural and agricultural history is closely connected to concerns about environmental degradation, food shortages, land grabbing, and migration in the context of climate change, and to academic debates about the so-called Anthropocene, natural resources, and the notion of sustainability. Many historians are studying issues like land rights, property relations, access to natural resources, and rural infrastructure projects in different parts of Europe and in European colonies abroad. Others focus on social relations and practices in rural spaces, on rural political structures, on settlements in frontier regions, on efforts toward the 'modernization' of agriculture, and on the connections between local, regional, national, and international production, marketing, and governance structures.

Our workshop brings together representatives of these different strands of research in order to discuss fresh perspectives on the rural and agricultural history of contemporary Europe. Rather than looking at twentieth-century European rural and agricultural history through the lens of national governments or politically defined events, we focus on the activities related to the management of land in a broad sense. The workshop centers on the different historical actors, from peasants to bureaucrats, from landowners to the advocates of land reform and collectivization, from the members of rural women's associations to business representatives advertising the use of new agricultural technologies, and their various interests, agendas, and strategies. Finally, our aim is to overcome the confines of nationally defined approaches and to contribute to genuinely European perspectives on rural and agricultural history.

## Friday, 11 October 2019

15:00

Welcome and Introduction

### **Panel I: Using the Land, Representing the People**

15:30–17:00

Julia Obertreis

**Making Land Productive: Water Management and Agriculture in Eastern Europe (presentation)**

Katja Bruisch and Liesbeth van de Grift

**Reclaiming the Land (pres.)**

17:00–17:30

Coffee break

17:30–18:15

Wim van Meurs

**The Political Voice of the Village (pres.)**

20:00

Dinner

## Saturday, 12 October 2019

### **Panel II: Mobilizing Rural Resources**

9:00–11:00

Corinne Geering

**Modern Cultural Governance and the European Countryside (pres.)**

Dietlind Hüchtker

**Challenging Socialist Village Structures: Polish Youth in Rural Regions (pres.)**

Gustav Berry

**Managing the land through rural domestic education: Actors, strategies and practice (progress report)**

11:00–11:30

Coffee break

### **Panel III: Professionalizing Land Management**

11:30–13:00

Dietmar Müller

**Registering the Land (pres.)**

Zsuzsanna Kiss

**Professionalization of Land Agents (prog. rep.)**

13:00–14:00

Lunch

## **Panel IV: Circulating rural development concepts**

14:00–15:30

Nikolay Kamenov

**Agricultural Cooperatives (pres.)**

Corinna Unger

**Developing rural regions: Europe in the world (pres.)**

15:30–16:00

Coffee break

## **Panel V: Forming and Reforming the Rural**

16:00–17:30

Liesbeth van de Grift and Anna-Katharina Wöbse

**Rewilding Nature (pres.)**

Carolyn Taratko

**Scientific Management in Interwar Agricultural Education (pres.)**

17:30

Concluding remarks

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### **Concept**

Dietmar Müller (GWZO, Department "Entanglements and Globalization")

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### **Organization**

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