

Futures Past: Experts, Development and Sustainability
27.-29. April 2016, IASS, Potsdam

Schedule

Wednesday, 27. April 2016

7 pm: Welcome Dinner at Il Teatro (Schiffbauergasse 12, 14467 Potsdam)

Thursday, 28. April 2016

9.30 am: Introduction

10-12 am:

Panel I: The Evolution of Expert Cultures across Time

Energy, economic development, and other domains have all seen the rise of new expert cultures and accompanying national and international institutions in the course of the twentieth century. What were the main ideological and institutional formations of different expert regimes?

Chair and commentator: Franz Mauelshagen (IASS Potsdam)

Talks à 15 minutes

- Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (University of Chicago): The Logic of Coal Exhaustion. Geology and Politics, 1820-1880
- Rachel Rothschild (New York University): Environmental Expertise in a Global Commons
- André Steiner (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam): The Role of Experts in Economic Reforms in Socialist Systems. The Case of East Germany

Comment and discussion

Lunch Break

13.30-15.30 pm

Panel II: Comparing Experts, Knowledge Regimes and Techniques

How does energy expertise relate to the broader rise and fall of “modernization” paradigms? With what models of future (and knowledge of the past) have different experts operated? To what degree have energy experts and their changing techniques of forecasting and analysis mirrored or resisted grand models of progress, planning and development in the mid-20th century, and the disillusionment with large-system solutions since the 1970s.

Chair and commentator: Anna Barbara Sum (Freie Universität Berlin)

Talks à 15 minutes

- John Toye (Oxford University): Undermining the Official Concept of Progress. Three Classic Debates
- Frank Trentmann (Birkbeck, University of London) and Rebecca Wright (Birkbeck, University of London): The Social Life of Energy Futures. Experts, Users and Lifestyles in the Golden Age of Modernization, c. 1900-1973
- Libby Robin (Australian National University): From The Environment to Global Change. A History of Changing Expertise, 1946-2016

Comment and discussion

Coffee Break

16-18 pm

Panel III: The Science of Governance: Citizens and Experts

Scenarios of transitions and development imagine (more or less explicitly) civic as well as economic change. How do such imagined changes in people's norms and behaviour feature in models, policies and public debate? What has been the role assigned to citizens in development projects? Conversely, how have citizens as well as experts reflected on the transitions their societies were going through?

Chair and commentator: Frank Trentmann (Birkbeck, University of London)

Talks à 15 minutes

- Frank Fischer (Rutgers University): Citizens and Experts in Deliberative Policy Analysis
- Philipp Lepenies (Freie Universität Berlin) und Anna Barbara Sum (Freie Universität Berlin): Experts and Social Engineering. Analysing Agents of Change
- Stefan Schäfer (IASS Potsdam) und Sean Low (IASS Potsdam): Self-governance in Science and Technology. Historical Developments and Contemporary Dynamics

Comment and discussion

18.30 pm: Dinner at IASS

Friday, 29. April 2016

9.30-11 am

Panel IV: The Relationship between Global and Local Expertise

What has been the relative influence of local knowledge for national and international experts across the twentieth century? How does this compare between different political regimes (democracy, socialism, nationalism, imperialism)? What kinds of local knowledge have been allowed in or been kept out in past transitions? Has the critique of large-scale technical solutions and the rise of environmental movements prompted more pluralistic, less hierarchical expert cultures? To what degree is there an affinity between decentralised solutions and democratic participation?

Chair and commentator: Rüdiger Graf (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam)

Talks à 15 minutes

- Vincent Lagendijk (Maastricht University): From American South to Global South: The TVA's Experts and Expertise, 1933-1998
- Jessica Reinisch (Birkbeck, University of London): What Makes an Expert? The View from UNRRA, 1943-1947

Comment and discussion

Coffee Break

11.15-12 am: Wrap-up and discussion

Lunch