**Remembering and Re-thinking the GDR: Multiple Perspectives and Plural Authenticities**

**Ways forward (10 September 2010)**

**Outputs**

The main outputs of the network will be a) an edited volume of selected papers from the conference and b) the network website.

a) Palgrave Macmillan has expressed interest in the volume for its Memory Studies series, but AS and DP will only be able to submit a detailed proposal once they are able to provide a full account of the proposed volume’s content. The book is to be a tightly focused volume on memories of the GDR, and contributors will need to engage with the theoretical framework discussed by the network. Participants are asked to let AS or DP know if they do not wish to have their papers considered for publication in the conference volume; otherwise, AS or DP will be in touch with individual speakers in due course.

b) It was felt that the website should contain as much information as possible about the conference, as the programme had been very full and it had not been possible for individuals to hear all papers. Keynote addresses will certainly be documented as fully as possible, but it was suggested that (for example) powerpoints from other papers might not be particularly helpful as stand alone items, and that putting all papers on the website might be a lot of work for the organisers and detract from the eventual conference volume. It was decided that participants should thus be encouraged to send lists of key references from their papers to supplement the information given in their abstracts.

Anyone who wishes to become a ‘virtual member’ of the network (i.e. have their contact details / research and teaching interests) posted on the site is invited to send information to AS and DP. It was also suggested that all members should list their key publications in the field of GDR studies for reference.

One of the agreed AHRC outputs is a website containing teaching materials on the GDR, particularly materials available in English for the benefit of non-Germanists. This area of the site is still under construction and individuals have been asked to contribute bibliographies / useful links for their own areas of expertise. It was felt that an image bank would be particularly useful. All participants were encouraged to send any relevant materials to AS / DP for inclusion.

The British Library has asked to archive this site, which should enable us to provide a long-term resource for GDR studies.

**Continued networking**

It was suggested that we explore the possibility of a JISCMAIL list for interested parties so that we can continue to inform one another of useful events / post research-related queries etc. AS is to look into this.

The ‘After the Wall’ network has now reached the end of its AHRC funding, but we feel that we have not yet exhausted the potential of the topic and would like to continue networking in some form. The idea of a less formal one-day workshop which would not need to be particularly expensive and could take place in a different institution each year was mooted, and AS / DP asked for individuals to contact them with offers to host such an event. It was also suggested that it would be worth looking into acquiring some follow-up funding if we wish to continue our work on a larger scale.

A number of related initiatives are already underway:

* Anselma Gallinat hosts an interdisciplinary e-network entitled ‘Memory and History in Post-Socialism’. Further details are available at: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/memory-in-postsocialism/network.html>, or by contacting anselma.gallinat@newcastle.ac.uk. Anselma was unable to be present, but it was suggested that further cooperation between the two networks may be possible here.
* Joanne Sayner mentioned the History and Cultural Theory strand of the 2- year DAAD-supported project ‘*Zeitgeist*: What does it mean to be German in the 21st century?’, hosted by the IGS Birmingham. Their first event is on 19November 2010, and those interested in speaking at this are encouraged to contact Joanne (J.Sayner@bham.ac.uk)
* Sara Jones mentioned an interdisciplinary project provisionally entitled ‘Remembering Communism’, to be based at the University of Bristol. A group of researchers from German (Sara Jones, Mark Allinson, Debbie Pinfold), Slavonic Studies, Historical Studies, and Political Science is to meet on 14 September to discuss the possibility of a series of workshops, a conference, or both on this topic for the forthcoming year, and anyone interested in being part of this group or in having more information about it should contact Sara (Sara.Jones@bristol.ac.uk).
* Geert Crauwels asked for those interested in contributing to a forthcoming comparative volume on totalitarian discourse to contact him (geert.crauwels@fulladsl.be).

**Teaching**

It was felt that there might be scope for some joint teaching initiatives as a result of the network. One of the main possibilities would be for joint trips to Berlin to visit some of the memory sites commonly discussed in units on this topic, and Dr Axel Klausmeier has already suggested using the seminar rooms located near the new Berlin Wall memorial complex at Bernauer Straße. There might also be the possibility of applying for some DAAD or other funding to support such trips, though it was pointed out that the DAAD is particularly keen to encourage trips to German cities other than Berlin.