Contacts and Cultural Transfer in the Historical Region of East Prussia (1700 – 2000)

Date: 20-22 September 2013

Place: Nida (Lithuania)

Organizers: Centre for Research on Anti-Semitism at the Technical University of Berlin, Institute of Baltic Sea Region History and Archaeology at the University of Klaipėda, Thomas-Mann-Kulturzentrum, Academia Baltica

20 September 2013

18.00 Address of welcome (Silva Pocytė, head of the Institute of Baltic Sea Region History and Archaeology, University of Klaipėda)

18.30 The History of the Thomas-Mann-Haus in Nida (Lina Motuzienė, Thomas-Mann Cultural Centre)

19.00 Key-note speech by Andreas Kossert (Berlin): “East Prussia and its afterlife. The persistence of a historical phenomenon.”

20.30 Dinner

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9.00 – 9.45 Introductory remarks by Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin), Vasilijus Safronovas (Klaipėda), Klaus Richter (Birmingham)

9.45 – 10.00 Coffee break

10.00 – 11.15 Session 1 – Loyalty and identity politics in East Prussia

Chair: Vacys Vaivada (Klaipėda)

Arūnas Baublys (Klaipėda): From court church to intellectual elite. The reformed preachers in Prussia, 17th to 18th cet.

Darius Barasa (Klaipėda): Confessionalization as a means of social and cultural integration in East Prussia in the 18th cet.

Commentary: Esther-Beate Körber (Berlin)

11.15 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.15 Session 2: Border regions and cultural transfer

Chair: Klaus Richter (Birmingham)
Jan Musekamp (Frankfurt/O.): The royal Prussian Ostbahn and German-Polish cross-border relations in the 19th cet.

Anna Zglińska (Toruń): “Ein Blick nach Russland”. Myth and reality of border and borderland between Prussia and Russia in 19th century

Felix Heinert (Köln): A trans-imperial biography? Dr. Adolph Ehrlich between Mitau, Halle, Berlin, Riga and Tilsit

Commentary: Christian Pletzing (Sankelmark)

13.15 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.15 Session 3 – Defining and practicing space in East Prussia

Chair: Lina Motuzienė (Klaipėda)

Axel Walter (Osnabrück): (Re-)Constructions of Old Prussian identities in East Prussia. The beginnings of the writing of a regional cultural history (Arnoldt, Lilienthal, Pisanski) in the 18th cet. and their repercussions

Nijolė Strakauskaitė (Klaipėda): East Prussian health resorts in the context of the popularization of tourism (19th cet. – 1st half of 20th cet.)

Vasilijus Safronovas (Klaipėda): The creation of a national space in Prussian Lithuania at the turn of the 20th cet.

Commentary: tbd

16.15 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.15 Session 4 – Intercultural contacts and the change from imperial to national order

Chair: Silva Pocytė (Klaipėda)

Charles Perrin (Atlanta): Between German and Lithuanian Culture, Between the Intelligentsia and the Peasantry. The Intellectual Development of Martynas Jankus (1858 – 1946)

Romualdas Adomavičius (Klaipėda): The port of Klaipėda as a place of cultural contact in the interwar period

Andrzej Kopiczko (Olsztyn): The Catholic Church in the Memelland, 1923 – 1939
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10.00 – 11.15 Session 5 – Consequences of annexations

Chair: Werner Bergmann (Berlin)

Stefan Thierfelder (Freiburg): The East German Heimatdienst and the plebiscite period in East Prussia. The beginning of the end of peaceful co-existence?

Machteld Wenken (Vienna): Polish children's forced labour experiences in ego documents and testimonies

Commentary: Andrzej Sakson (Poznań)

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.45 Session 6 – Transcribing East Prussia

Chair: Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin)

Bert Hoppe (Berlin): Kaliningrad as a „Prussian Atlantis“

Ilya Dementyev (Kaliningrad): From “Ancient Slavialand” to “Paradise Lost”. Rehabilitation of cultural heritage in cultural memory of Kaliningrad citizens (end of 1940s – beginning of 1980s)

Lina Motuzienė (Klaipėda): The past as a basis for cultural contacts. Initiatives of social groups in Kaliningrad in the late 20th cet.

Commentary: Alvydas Nikžentaitis (Vilnius)

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.30 Concluding discussion

Moderation: Ruth Leiserowitz (Warsaw)