

Austria and Central Europe Since 1989: Legacies and Future Prospects

Third in the series of biannual conferences on
Contemporary Austria and Central Europe

The Forum on Contemporary Europe
At the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Stanford University, March 5 and 6, 2009

This conference on *Austria and Central Europe Since 1989: Legacies and Future Prospects* is the third in the series of biannual international conferences co-organized by Stanford University Forum on Contemporary Europe and the University of Vienna to study the political and cultural landscape of Austria and Central Europe since 1945. Our previous conferences focused on Central Europe during the period of the post-war up to 1989. This year's conference gathers leading scholars and public figures to discuss the exciting developments of our contemporary era and to offer comments on future prospects for the region.

The conference panels will offer multi-disciplinary views of Central Europe today. Addressing topics from the area stretching from the Baltic to the Balkans, speakers will focus on Austria as well as Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the counties of former Yugoslavia. Presentations will explore political, economic, social, and cultural facets of the region's larger dynamic. Among the milestone changes during this period which will be highlighted will be Austria's (and other Central European countries') ascendance to the European Union, the disintegration and reconfiguration of Balkan nations, the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, and the great mobility of goods and labor through the region and new forms of social and cultural interaction.

The two-day conference will be held at Stanford University on March 5 and 6, 2009. The conference panels will be conducted in workshop format. Papers will be pre-circulated papers to facilitate round table discussion among participants. Faculty, students, and the interested public are encouraged to attend.

The Stanford University and University of Vienna conference planning group includes:
Emil Brix (Ambassador, Director General for Cultural Affairs, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs)
Christophe Crombez (University of Leuven, School of Business)
Amir Eshel (Stanford, FCE, German Studies)
Pavle Levi (Stanford, Art and Art History)
Norman Naimark (Stanford, History)
Hanspeter Neuhold (University of Vienna, and Diplomatic Academy, Vienna)
August Reinisch (University of Vienna)
James Sheehan (Stanford, History)
Helen Stacy (Stanford, Law)
Arnold Suppan (University of Vienna, Institute for Eastern European History)
Martin Weiss (Consul General of Austria)
Georg Winckler (University of Vienna)

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Thursday, March 5, 2009

Conference Light Breakfast – 9:00-9:30am

Conference Welcome -- 9:30-9:50am

Amir Eshel, Director, Forum on Contemporary Europe

Chip Blacker, Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Opening keynote Address: -- 10:00-10:45am

*John Boyer (Univ. of Chicago): *Power, Partisanship, and the Grid of Democratic Politics: 1907 as the Pivot Point of Modern Austrian History.*

Coffee break 10:45-11am

Panels: 1. “Memory” -- 11:00-1:00pm

Chair, Norman Naimark

*Wolfgang Mueller (Austrian Academy of Sciences): *Missed Chances? The East European Revolution of 1989 and Austrian Politics and Memory*

*Norman Naimark (Stanford): *History, Memory, and the Debate about the Vertreibung*

*Arnold Suppan (University of Vienna): *Austria and Eastern Europe After the “Wende”:*
Return to History or Forward to European Unity?

Lunch 1:00-2:00pm

2. “Security” -- 2:00pm-3:30pm

Chair, James Sheehan

*Hanspeter Neuhold (University of Vienna, Vienna Diplomatic Academy): *The Return of History in the Balkans after the Cold War. International Efforts at Conflict Resolution*

Erwin Schmidl (Austrian Defense Academy): *Between Isolation and Integration:*
Austria’s Security Policy after 1985

*James Sheehan (Stanford): *What Does it Mean to be Neutral? Reflections on the Austrian Case*

*Chip Blacker (Stanford): *The Empire Strikes Back: Central European Dependence on Russian Energy*

Break 3:30-3:45pm

3. “Law: Human Rights: Universal or Particular?” -- 3:45pm – 5:45pm

Chair, Helen Stacy (Stanford)

*Michael Gehler (University of Hildesheim): *Austria and the European Union 1995-2008*

*August Reinisch (University of Vienna) -- *The Rediscovery of Holocaust-Related Property Issues after 1989 - An Inside View of the Arbitral Panel for in Rem Restitution.*

*Manfred Nowak, (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights/UN Special Rapporteur on Torture) – *Human Rights in Europe – 20 years after the Fall of the Iron*

*Eva Brems (University of Ghent) – *European Human Rights as Limits on Domestic Efforts Addressing the Communist Past*

Dinner (speakers and invited guests) – 6:45pm, Oksenberg Room, Encina Hall, Stanford University.

Friday, March 6, 2009

Light Breakfast – 8:30 – 9:00am

9-9:30am:

Emil Brix (Ambassador, Director General for Cultural Affairs, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs)

The New Cultural Politics of Austria after 1989.

Introduction by Martin Weiss (Consul General of Austria)

4. “Culture in New Europe” – 9:30-10:45am

Chair, Amir Eshel

*Kristin Rebien (San Diego State University): *Bachmann-Preis, Klagenfurt, and the Contemporary Literary Landscape.*

*Andreas Stadler (Austrian Cultural Forum New York, Consul): *Disturbing Realities in Austria: National Building, Arts and Politics.*

*Adrian Daub (Stanford University): *Hermann Nitsch - Austria in the Age of Post-Scandalous Culture.*

Coffee break 10:45-11am

5. “Culture and Global Europe” – 11am-1pm

Chair, Amir Eshel

*Günther Stocker (Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna): *Changing Perspectives. East European Migration Literature in Austria: Vladimir Vertlib: "Das besondere Gedaechtnis der Rosa Masur" and Dimitré Dinev: "Engelszungen"*

*Marton Dornbach (Stanford University): *Post-Transition Hungary and Its Austro-Hungarian Past*

*Russell Berman (Stanford University): *After Europe? Islamism in Bosnia*

Lunch 1-2pm

6. Afternoon Session: “The Economics of EU Enlargement: Austria and Central Europe.” -- 2pm-4pm

Christophe Crombez (University of Leuven, Stanford FCE), Chair and panelist

*Bernhard Ramsauer (Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie. KGaA): *The CEE-exposure of the Austrian economy: Opportunities, Achievements and Challenges*

*Timothy Josling (Stanford) – *Austria and the CAP: an Unlikely Reformer*

*Christophe Crombez (Leuven/Stanford): *The Political Economy of EU Enlargement: Impact on EU Budget and Decision Making*

Closing: Closing remarks by Arnold Suppan (University of Vienna)

Conference Closing Dinner (speakers and invited guests) – 6:30pm, California Café, Stanford, California.