

German Politics Specialist Group

Political Studies Association

Call for Papers

Annual Workshop

Technische Universität Chemnitz, 9/10 November 2009

We would like to invite paper proposals for our annual Workshop which will take place at the Technische Universität Chemnitz, 9/10 November 2009.

Germany 20 Years After the Fall of the Wall: Still in search for ‘inner unity’?

Ever since German unification, scholars have jumped at the chance to examine East German ‘distinctiveness’ and assess the state of ‘inner unity’. Whereas early expectations assumed a process of only a few years until ‘what belonged together’ would have ‘grown together’, nearly two decades after the fall of the wall and German unification, the academic debate has started to concentrate on whether what is supposed ‘to grow together’ really ‘belongs together’. However, with economic considerations continuing to be at the forefront of the debate, Germans in the West have started to question their established political, economic and social status quo. This presents new opportunities for their Eastern counterparts to influence the emergence of a new all-German consensus on the future of the country’s constitutional setting, political system, as well as the shape of its economy and welfare state.

We would like to invite contributions which examine different aspects of this debate, e.g.

- The ongoing debate on differences in culture and identity between East and West Germany and related contested concepts such as ‘*Ostalgie*’;
- The impact of the *Hartz* reforms and the credit crunch on Western and Eastern attitudes towards Germany’s social market economy;
- Convergence or divergence in the political culture of the former two German states and resulting impact on Germany’s political system, particularly the party system;
- Western and Eastern attitudes towards European integration and Germany’s external affairs, especially global military engagement of the *Bundeswehr*;
- The use of collective memory in identity construction processes in East and West

Please send abstracts by 31 August 2009 to ruth.wittlinger@durham.ac.uk
gerd.strohmeier@phil.tu-chemnitz.de
and christian.schweiger@durham.ac.uk