Dissidents
As Figures Of Truth
(Since the 1970s)

14 – 16 July 2021
Workshop

What do Andrei Sakharov, Noam Chomsky, Protestant Nonconformists separating from the Church of England in the 17th and 18th centuries, and today’s mask opponents have in common? They all have at times been called, and identified themselves as, dissidents. Though, we almost intuitively associate dissidents with Soviet intellectual nonconformists, and those from other countries of the Eastern Bloc.

At our conference, we want to look more closely at how the figure of the “dissident” became constructed and solidified across the Iron Curtain and after the fall of the Soviet Union. We will focus on practices, techniques, and media settings which (co)produce the dissident as a (mostly male) “truth figure”, which includes practices of staging oneself, and ways of embodying the (epistemic) values and virtues associated with this figure.

Keynote, round table and final discussion will be open to the public. To sign up, please follow https://bit.ly/3yEfj6Y
For technical help, please contact Ines Rößler (ines.roessler@leibniz-gwzo.de).

The participation in the workshop is limited. To register and for further information, please contact Karin Reichenbach (karin.reichenbach@leibniz-gwzo.de).

Organised by the research initiative “(East) European Epistemologies” (Friedrich Cain, Dietlind Hüchtker, Bernhard Kleeberg, Karin Reichenbach and Jan Surman)
Wednesday, 14 July 2021
18:00 – 20:00 CET
Public Keynote
Maike Lehmann (Bremen):
Of prophets, martyrs and bothersome annoyances: on the de/canonization of Soviet “dissidents” in the West

Thursday, 15 July 2021
9:00 – 9:30 CET
Introduction
9:30-11:00
Barbara Martin (Basel): Roy and Zhores Medvedev: No “true” dissidents?
Olga Rosenblum (Moscow): Dissidents of the 1970s: “Truth figure” among other figures, “truth” as a value among other values
11:00 – 11:30
Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00
Anastasiya Schacht (Vienna): “And how is it there, over the ocean?” - Soviet dissidents reaching the West
Jonas Kaiser (Hildesheim): Dissidents and the trust-building process of the Vienna CSCE-follow-up meeting 1986-89
13:00 – 14:00
Lunch Break
14:00 – 16:15
Barbara J. Falk (Toronto): Václav Havel as dissident: purveyor of truth and philosopher of responsibility
Tatiana Levina (Moscow): Lina Tumanova: philosopher, dissident
David Aitken (Montreal): The historical particularities of dissent as a demand for truth
18:00 – 20:00
Dissidence and feminism: Public Round Table (in cooperation with Memorial International)

Friday, 16 July 2021
9:00 – 10:30 CET
Thuc Linh Nguyen Vu (Vienna): Continuities and disruptions: Many faces of Jacek Kuroń in post-1989 Poland
Michal Ďurčo (Bratislava), Doubarka Oláškává (Prague): Dissidents against their will: the case of environmental activists in Czechoslovakia during the 1980's
10:30 – 11:00
Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30
Elena Korowin (Freiburg): The dissident artist and the “true” art
Klavdia Smola (Dresden): Performing dissidence in Russia since 2000: Aesthetical resources of (un)truth
12:30 – 13:00
Lunch Break
13:00 – 14:30
Andreea Deciu Ritivoi (Pittsburgh): Dissidence and historical revisionism
Ioana Macrea-Toma (Budapest/Vienna): In search for contours in the archives: beyond contextualism and normativism regarding dissidents
14:30 – 14:45
Coffee Break
14:45 – 15:45
Public Final Discussion: Susanne Schattenberg (Bremen), Simone Attilio Belezza (Naples), Stefan Garsztecki (Chemnitz)