

Feb.25

Binational Heraeus Seminar

“The American and the German Atomic Bomb Projects and Their Legacies”

Organized by
Dieter Hoffmann (Fritz Haber Institute Berlin) &
Mark Walker (Union College, Schenectady)

Physics Center (Bad Honnef) from June 1st to 6th, 2025

<https://www.we-heraeus-stiftung.de/veranstaltungen/the-american-and-the-german-atomic-bomb-projects-and-their-legacies/>

	Sunday, 1 June	Monday, 2 June	Tuesday, 3 June	Wednesday, 4 June	Thursday, 5 June	Friday, 6 June
7:30-9:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:10-10:00			Popp	Wiescher	Sachse	Götter
10:00-10:50		Opening Walker	De Klerk	Martin	Wellerstein	Augustine
10:50-11:20		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:20-12:10		Maier	Reed	Heinemann -Grüder	Robey	Final Discussion Hoffmann & Walker
12:10-1:00		Hoffmann	McCauley	Fang	Hamblin	Lunch
1:00-2:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
2:00-2:50		Blum	Park	Battimelli, Bonolis & La Rana	Röhrlich	
2:50-3:40		Dahn	Karlsch	Gheorghe & Schmid	Rentetzi	
3:40-4:30		Joas	Rider	[Open]	Posters Students +	
4:30-6:00	Arrival	Break	Break	Break	Break	
6:00-7:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Heraeus Evening (Dinner)	
7:30-9:00	Free	Evening Lecture Gordin	Movie Väter der 1000 Sonnen	Round Table v. Rauchhaupt	Movie Copenhagen	

Speakers will have 35 minutes for their presentation, followed by 15 minutes of discussion.

Sunday, June 1st

Afternoon: Arrival

7:30: Dinner

Monday, June 2nd

7:30-9:00 Breakfast

9:10-10:00 Free

10:00-10:50 Opening of the Seminar Mark Walker (Union College, Schenectady, NY, USA):
Heisenberg, Oppenheimer, and the Bomb.

10:50-11:20 Break

11:20-12:10 Helmut Maier (University of Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany):
Science, Innovation and Military Research in Germany up to 1945.

12:10-1:00 Dieter Hoffmann (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Berlin, Germany):
The Berlin Imperial Institute for Physics and Technology and the German Uranium Club.

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:50 Alex Blum (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany):
Heisenberg's Research on Particle Physics.

2:50-3:40 Ryan Dahn (American Institute of Physics, College Park, MD, USA):
Pascual Jordan and Werner Heisenberg.

3:40-4:30 Christian Joas (Niels Bohr Archives & the University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark):
Niels Bohr during the Second World War and What He Thought of the German Atomic Bomb.

4:30-6:00 Break

6:00-7:30 Dinner

7:30-9:00 Evening Lecture Michael Gordin (Princeton University, Princeton, NY, USA):
Nuclear History beyond Manhattan.

Tuesday, June 3rd

7:30-9:00 Breakfast

9:10-10:00 Manfred Popp (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany):
He Who Makes No Mistakes Never Makes Anything – An Error Record of the German Uranium Club 1939 – 1945.

10:00-10:50 Piet de Klerk (University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands):
Bohr/Wheeler, Frisch/Peierls and the German nuclear programme 1939-1945.

10:50-11:20 Break

11:20-12:10 Cameron Reed (Alma College, Alma, MI, USA):
The Frisch-Peierls Memorandum. The Physics, Effects, and Ethics of Nuclear Weapons: March 1940.

12:10-1:00 Joseph McCauley (University of Houston, Houston, USA):
Predictions of Critical Radii for Reactors and Bombs 1939-45.

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:50 Patrick Park (Princeton University, Princeton, NY, USA):
Myths of German Graphite.

2:50-3:40 Rainer Karlsch (Historian, Berlin, Germany): The GRU reports on the German atomic bomb: facts or fiction?

3:40-4:30 Todd Rider (MIT; Rider Institute) "Forgotten Creators of the German Atomic Bomb."

4:30-6:00 Break

6:00-7:30 Dinner

7:30-9:00 Movie "Väter der 1000 Sonnen" (Fathers of the Thousand Suns), DDR 1989 [With English subtitles.].

Wednesday, June 4th

7:30-9:00 Breakfast

9:10-10:00 Michael Wiescher (University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, USA):
Nuclear Astrophysics and the Manhattan Project.

10:00-10:50 Joseph Martin (University Durham, Durham, UK):
The Redirection of Infrastructure and Personnel from the Manhattan Project Working at the University of Chicago to a Series of “Basic Research Institutes” after the War

10:50-11:20 Break

11:20-12:10 Andreas Heinemann-Grüder (Senior Fellow am Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, University of Bonn & Senior Researcher am Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies, Bonn, Germany):
The Soviet Atomic Bomb and Its Lasting Impact on Soviet and Russian Military Research.

12:10-1:00 Zaiqing Fang (Chinese Academy of Sciences & East China Normal University, Shanghai, China):
The Chinese Atomic Bomb.

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:50 Giovanni Battimelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), Luisa Bonolis (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany), & Adele La Rana (University of Macerata, Italy):
Nuclear Fission in Rome 1939-1946.

2:50-3:40 Eliza Gheorghe (Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey) and Sonja Schmid (Virginia Polytechnic, Blacksburg, VA, USA):
The Evolution of Nuclear Industries and Nuclear Markets.

3:40-4:30 [Open]

4:30-6:00 Break

6:00-7:30 Dinner

7:30-9:00 Roundtable Discussion Ulf von Rauchhaupt (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt, Germany):

Thursday, June 5th

7:30-9:00 Breakfast

9:10-10:00 Carola Sachse (University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria):
[?]

10:00-10:50 Alex Wellerstein (Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NY, USA):
What the Germans Knew about the American Bomb, what the Americans Knew about the German Bomb, and Why This Mattered.

10:50-11:20 Break

11:20-12:10 Sarah Robey (Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID, USA):
Atomic Americans: Citizens in a Nuclear State.

12:10-1:00 Jacob Darwin Hamblin (Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA):
America's Global Gamble with Peaceful Nuclear Technology.

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:50 Elisabeth Röhrlich (University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria):
The Establishment and Evolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

2:50-3:40 Maria Rentetzi (Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany):
The Gender of Nuclear Things: IAEA's TA Programs and its Material Culture.

3:40-4:30 Poster Session

4:30-6:00 Break

6:00-7:30 Heraeus Evening (Dinner)

7:30-9:00 Movie "Copenhagen," 2002.

Friday, June 6th

7:30-9:00 Breakfast

9:10-10:00 Christian Götter (Technical University Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany):
From Nuclear Bombs to Bazookas. Public Perceptions of Explosions in Nuclear Power Plants.

10:00-10:50 Dolores Augustine (St. John's University, Queens, NY, USA):
Nuclear Fears/Nuclear Utopias in the Mass Media of the Federal German Republic and
German Democratic Republics, 1945 - 1970.

10:50-11:20 Break

11:20-12:10 Final Discussion Dieter Hoffmann and Mark Walker.

12:10-1:30 Lunch

Poster-Session

St. Fischer (Gymn. Rahden):
Alswede - letzter Internierungsort der deutschen Atomforscher.

Michael Schaaf (Dtsch. Intern. Schule Kapstadt):
Celle und der deutsche Uranverein im zweiten Weltkrieg.

Matthias Uhl (Max-Weber-Netzwerk Osteuropa, Helsinki):
Neue sowjetische Geheimdienstquellen zum deutschen A-Waffen-Programm.

Louis Wick (Uni Stuttgart, Hist. Institut):
The atomic bombs on Hiroshima / Nagasaki 1945 in Film – Polyperspectives and the struggle for
sovereignty of interpretation.

Michael Schober (Montan Universität Leoben): Richard Herzog.

Sandra Klos (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Gender and Radiation

NN (Uni Flensburg): Das Thema „Kernenergie“ in Schulbüchern.