The conference deals with the social and political role of scientific networks between Germany and the Balkans (especially Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and the current Republics of the former Yugoslavia). The period under consideration stretches from the establishment of the national states in the Balkans up to the two first decades of the Cold War. Both humanities and sciences are taken under consideration.

The point of departure is the idea of scientific networks. While placing emphasis on networking, we intend to challenge the widespread consideration of the Balkan scientific elites as bare recipients of Western European discourses. The conference therefore suggests re-examining the transfer of knowledge between the Balkans and Germany, placing it in the national and transnational context of the relationship between power and science.

A further point of departure is the approach to scientific communities as internally diverse in terms of professional and political/ideological interests. On the grounds of this internal heterogeneity, the conference will address the diverse strategies pursued by the scientific agents who acted between the Balkans and Germany. We suggest making a distinction between state-conform (in terms of scientists affiliated to state institutions in particular), mainstream and alternative and/or dissident scientists.
Thursday 20 September 2012

Morning Session (9:30–12:30)

Opening and Keynote address
SEVASTI TRUBETA and CHRISTIAN VÖß
Science “in between”: Conceptual questions on scientific networks

Chair: Hannes Grandits

DIANA MISHKOVÁ (Sofia), Balkan-German Scholarly Networks and the Making of Balkan Studies, late 19th – mid 20th cc

Discussion

Coffee Break

GEORGETA NAZARSKA (Sofia), Transferring Knowledge: Bulgarian Women Scientists in Bulgarian-German Scientific Networks (1920–1950s)

JOVICA LUKOVIC (Belgrade), Networking for the New Order? Affinity and differences between Yugoslavian and German economists in the interwar period

Discussion

Lunch

Afternoon Session (15.30–18.30)

Humanities to serve the nation(s)

Chair: Michael Wedekind

MILTOS PECHLIVANOS (Berlin), Scholars in Hellenic Studies during the Cold War: Johannes Irmscher and German-Greek academic networks

ALBERT DOJA (Lille), From the German point of view: a critical view of cultural particularism in Albanian studies

KURT GOSTENTSCHNIGG (Graz), German-speaking Albanology between Science and Politics

Coffee Break

GEOGRA PAPACHRISTOU (Athens), Transferring Knowledge: The case of the Greek 1920s in German medical networks

Discussion

Dinner

Friday 21 September

Medical Networking

Morning Session (9:30–12:30)

Chair: Rozita Dimova

MARIA ZARIFI (Athens/Regensburg), Civilizing through medicine: knowledge transfer and scientific networks between Greece and Germany in the long 19th century

CHRISTIAN PROMITZER (Graz), Cultures of Defeat: the adoption of German racial hygiene and racial anthropology in Bulgaria (1918–1941)

Discussion

Coffee Break (10.45–11.00)

CORINA DODOS (London/Bucharest), Experimental psychology and delinquency in interwar Romania: Wundt and Kretschmer reinterpreted

SEVASTI TRUBETA (Mytilene), Greek Doctors with German Conscience: The case of gynecologist Nikolaos Louros and his German ambitions

Discussion

Lunch

Afternoon Session (15.30–18.30)

Chair: Stratos Georgoulas

URSULA FERDINAND (Münster/Berlin), Medical Network between Prague and Münster

MICHAEL WEDEKIND (Vienna), Restructuring Space and Society: German Scholars and Nazi Occupation of Slovenia

Discussion

Coffee Break (10.45–11.00)

NENAD STEFANOV (Berlin), From Contact to Entanglement: A comparison of the relationship between critical and conventional intelligencia in Yugoslavia/Serbia to Western German intellectuals after 1945

IOANNIS ZELEPOS (Vienna), A German Connection in Greek Orthodox Fundamentalism? The Cases of Christos Giannaras and Georgios Metallinos

Discussion

Concluding Discussion

Saturday 22 September

Morning Session (9:30–12:30)

Scholars and Politicians

Chair: Christian Voß

STRATOS GEORGOULAS (Mytilene), Konstantinos Gardikas: German connections of a Greek criminologist and liberal politician in the interwar period

SPYROS MARCHETOS (Thessaloniki), Interwar Scientific Reviews in Greece and the Rise of Nazism

Discussion

Coffee Break (10.45–11.00)

NENAD STEFANOV (Berlin), From Contact to Entanglement: A comparison of the relationship between critical and conventional intelligencia in Yugoslavia/Serbia to Western German intellectuals after 1945

IOANNIS ZELEPOS (Vienna), A German Connection in Greek Orthodox Fundamentalism? The Cases of Christos Giannaras and Georgios Metallinos

Discussion

Concluding Discussion