Religion in Motion: Multi-Level Entanglements Between the USSR and Germany

A workshop at the Nordost-Institut

Thursday, 17 September 2026

15:00 | Welcome

Kirsten Bönker, Nadezhda Beliakova and Franziska Schedewie

15:15–17:15 | Panel I

Transnational Church Diplomacy Networks in Motion (Chair: Sandra Dahlke)

Marion Averbeck-Dotter: Catholic Networks Between Germany, Austria and the Soviet Bloc (online)

Andriy Pykalo: Jewish Emigration from the Soviet Union (online)

Franziska Schedewie: The Russian Orthodox Church's Public Relations in Germany

18:00–19:00 | Keynote

Robert F. Goeckel: German Connections with the Baltic Churches: Entangled History and Perestroika

Friday, 18 September 2026

09:00–11:00 | Panel II

Religious Solidarity and Local Agency (Chair: Sebastian Rimestad)

Nadezhda Beliakova: German Support for Christians in the USSR

Viktor Bilotas: German Religious Publications in Lithuanian Samizdat

Aliaksei Lastouski: The London Diaspora and the Uniate Church in Belarus

Johannes Dyck: The Mennonite Central Committee and Perestroika

11:30–13:00 | Panel III

Gendered Religious Authority and Transnational Mediation (Chair: Sandra Dahlke)

Anna Sidorevich: Tat'iana Goricheva Between East and West (online)

Dmitry Biriukov: Female Leadership and Russian–German Religious Networks

Maria Gerdt: Female Religious Authority Among Soviet Germans

14:30–16:00 | Panel IV

Religious Networks in Times of Transformation (Chair: Sebastian Rimestad)

Victor Khroul: Lithuanian Catholics and Cross-Border Connections

Yuliya Shapoval: The Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan During and After Perestroika

Naemi Fast: German Free-Church Networks in the Soviet Union and Germany

More information:

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