

Conference

“Flexibility“ and “Agility“: Strategies, Practices, and Ambivalences of a Key Concept since the 1980s

Date: 17 - 19 November 2022

Location: Darmstadt

Organizers: Martina Heßler (TU Darmstadt), Martin Krzywdzinski (HSU), Christopher Neumaier (ZZF)

Conference hosted by: Technical University of Darmstadt, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF), Helmut-Schmidt-University/University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg (HSU), SPP 2267 “The Digitalization of Working Worlds. Conceptualising and Capturing a Systemic Transformation“

<https://www.geschichte.tu-darmstadt.de/flexibility>

Thursday, 17 November 2022

18.15

Key Note: Richard Sennett

Friday, 18 November 2022

9.00 – 9.30

Martina Heßler, Darmstadt

Welcome, Introduction

A History of Flexibility

9.30 – 10.15

Vincent August, Berlin

The Rise of Cybernetic Network Ideas: A Critical Conceptual History of Flexibility

10.15 – 10:45 Break

Working Time/Temporary Work

10.45 – 11.30

Michael Homberg, Potsdam

The Flexible Clock. Circadian Rhythms, Temporal Concerns, and the Debate about Night and Shift Work in the Federal Republic of Germany

11.30 – 12.15

Anna Elisabeth Keim, Halle-Wittenberg

From Harmful Fluctuation to Beneficial Flexibility: Mobility Regimes and the Concept of Zeit-Arbeit in West Germany During the Boom

12.15 – 13.00

Ariane Leendertz, Stuttgart

Promoting Agility and Competitiveness in Science and Research: The Max-Planck Society and the Strategies of Flexibilization since the 1980s.

13:00 – 14.00 Lunch

Flexible Biographies

14.00 – 14.45

Kirstin Berit Jäggi-Jorns, Zürich

Flexibilization Configurations in Future Designs: The Subjectivization of Social Problems in the Swiss Federal Law on Vocational Education and Training since 1930

14.45 – 15.30

Christian Garland, London

“Flexibility“ as Precarity/Precarity as “Flexibility“: The Neoliberal Ideological Mask and the Social Reality, 40 Years of the “Anglo-American-Model” in the UK

15.30 – 16.00 Break

Work Processes: Promises/Policies of Flexibility

16.00 – 16.45

Sarah George, Berlin/Franziska Zehl, Würzburg-Schweinfurt

Mobile Work and the New Middle Class. Time-Space Compression and Impacts on Social and Spatial Mobility

16.45 – 17. 30

Mirjam Mayer, Zürich

Efficiency through Flexibility? Office Automation in the Swiss Federal Administration in the 1980s

17.30 – 18.15

Tim Clausnitzer, Martin Meister, Ingo Schultz-Schaeffer, Kevin Wiggert, Berlin

Narratives of Flexibilization Regarding the Introduction of Collaborative Industrial Robots

c. 19.00 Conference Dinner

Saturday, 19 November 2022

Re-Organization – Flexibility/Agility

9.00 – 9.45

Mona-Maria Bardmann, Hohenheim

„Quo Vadis Flexibility? Digitalization and Formalization in High-Reliability--Organizations.“

9.45 – 10.30

Christopher Neumaier, Potsdam

Group Work a Win-Win-Option for Management and Workers? The Flexibilization of Work Processes in the German Automotive Industry between the 1970s and 1990s

10.30 – 10.50 Break

10.50 – 11.35

Martin Krzywdziniski, Hamburg/Berlin

Remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Experiences of agile, hybrid and traditional teams.

Software / Agile Practices

11.35 – 12.15

Sebastian Randerath, Bonn

How We (Almost) Became Agile: A Format History c. 1972–2001

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch

13.15 – 14.00

Timo Leimbach, Aarhus

Rooting agility – The Different Origins of Agile Methods and Their Contributions to the Current Conceptualization of it

14.40 – 14.45

Donald Bertulfo, Delft

The World in a Sprint: Computational Infrastructures and Agility in the New Economy

14:45 – 15.15 Break

15.15 – 16.15 Concluding Comments

Sabine Pfeiffer, Erlangen-Nürnberg / Martina Heßler, Darmstadt/Christopher Neumaier, Potsdam

Final Discussion

For the conference a registration is required:

<https://www.geschichte.tu-darmstadt.de/flexibility>

Information on venues and hotels can be found here: <https://www.geschichte.tu-darmstadt.de/flexibility>