Managing land, soil, and people:
Environmental and agricultural knowledge in Tsarist and Soviet Russia

Workshop at the GHI Moscow in cooperation with the Collaborative Research Centre 923 “Threatened orders” of the University of Tuebingen (14-15 March 2014)

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2014

10:00 Opening address
Katja Bruisch, Klaus Gestwa

10:30 Keynote lecture
Frank Uekötter: Green Revolution Dreams

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Panel I: Resource management as a matter of public interest: Institutions and hierarchies of expertise

Marina Loskutova: Forest management in the Russian empire in the 1800s-1860s: the making of a professional community
Olga Elina: „Modernization from below”: Agricultural societies, zemstvos and the institutionalization of scientific agronomy (mid 19th – early 20th century)
Julia Lajus: Experts on unknown waters: construction of marine fish resources and the destiny of local fishing communities in the Russian North, 1895 – 1935

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Panel II: Scenarios of environmental decline: Knowledge production and preventive measures

Anastasia Fedotova: Insect pests, crop failures and the first steps of the agricultural entomology in South Russia
Lutz Häfner: „Robber economy“? Agricultural and environmental knowledge and its transfer to the peasantry in late Imperial Russia
Laurent Coumel: A renewal of environmental expertise on land and water management in Soviet Russia. Attempts for a ‘complex use’ of rivers and lakes at the beginning of the 1960s
15:30 – 16:00  Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30  Panel III: Economic reasoning: Abstract models and the quest for rural transformation

David Darrow: The Moral Economy of Revolution and Civil War: Land Norms after 1917
Ian Campbell: Between resistance and expropriation: land norms, statistical expertise and the ambiguities of late-tsarist resettlement
Maya Haber: Soviet Rural Governmentality and the Re-emergence of the Rational Kolkhoznik, 1945-1958

18:00  Reception (German Historical Institute)

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

10:30 – 13:00  Panel IV: Challenges from the periphery: Universal claims and local constraints

Christian Teichmann: Bitter Lives, Bitter Choices. Irrigation Engineers in Central Asia, 1900-1950
Sarah Cameron: Transforming the ‘Hungry Steppe’: Agriculture and Pastoral Nomadism in Soviet Kazakhstan, 1925-1928

11:30 – 12:00  Coffee break

Marc Elie: Agricultural experts in the Virgin Land Campaign (1954-1963)

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 15:30  Panel V: Expertise on display: Strategies of communication and legitimization

Stephen Brain: Environmental Education Onboard Steamboats and Trains: The Don Agricultural Society and the Effort to Change Public Opinion, 1900-1917
Alexander Ananyev: Spatial representations of modernist projects to conquer, explore, and transform the Far North and the Arctic in exhibitions from 1935 to 1941
Julia Obertreis: Between propaganda and scientific-technical expertise: “infrastructural poetry” and irrigation management in Central Asia, 1950s to 1980s

15:30 – 16:00  Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00  Round table discussion
Katja Bruisch, Klaus Gestwa, Stefan Merl, Frank Uekötter