

The Silk Curtain. Migration of computer experts and technologies between socialist East-Central Europe and the 'West' from the late 1960s onwards

The term 'Iron Curtain' was coined by Winston Churchill to denote the border between the socialist states of Central and Eastern Europe and the market economies of Western Europe and the US. Since the late 1960s, however, the curtain has been gradually permeated. Computer technology, was transferred from Western to Eastern Europe and vice versa as border restrictions within the 'Eastern Bloc' were gradually removed. Computer specialists from both sides exchanged knowledge, formed networks and migrated to and from Eastern and Central Europe.

This panel will address the shift in migration policies from the late 1960s onwards, as well as the logics behind the transfer of computer technologies between East and West during the last 20 years of the 'Cold War'.

The open session invites researchers from all fields interested in the migration of computer and other experts, ideas or technologies in the socialist bloc or across the 'Iron Curtain'. We warmly welcome abstracts that address or contribute to the following issues (among others):

- Expert networks bridging the 'iron curtain'
- Migration of 'computer specialists' from East to West and back
- The logics of formal technology transfers across the 'iron curtain'
- Informal technology transfers or espionage
- The role of technology embargoes

If you are interested in participating, please send a proposal to johannes.kleinmann@zzf-potsdam.de by 23 March. The abstract should be between 150 and 250 words, and the author's name, institutional affiliation, and email address should be included.