

## **Austria and Central Europe Since 1989: Legacies and Future Prospects**

Third in the series of biannual conferences on  
Contemporary Austria and Central Europe

The Forum on Contemporary Europe  
At the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies  
Stanford University, March 5 and 6, 2009

This conference on *Austria and Central Europe Since 1989: Legacies and Future Prospects* is the third in the series of biannual international conferences co-organized by Stanford University Forum on Contemporary Europe and the University of Vienna to study the political and cultural landscape of Austria and Central Europe since 1945. Our previous conferences focused on Central Europe during the period of the post-war up to 1989. This year's conference gathers leading scholars and public figures to discuss the exciting developments of our contemporary era and to offer comments on future prospects for the region.

The conference panels will offer multi-disciplinary views of Central Europe today. Addressing topics from the area stretching from the Baltic to the Balkans, speakers will focus on Austria as well as Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the counties of former Yugoslavia. Presentations will explore political, economic, social, and cultural facets of the region's larger dynamic. Among the milestone changes during this period which will be highlighted will be Austria's (and other Central European countries') ascendance to the European Union, the disintegration and reconfiguration of Balkan nations, the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, and the great mobility of goods and labor through the region and new forms of social and cultural interaction.

The two-day conference will be held at Stanford University on March 5 and 6, 2009. The conference panels will be conducted in workshop format. Papers will be pre-circulated papers to facilitate round table discussion among participants. Faculty, students, and the interested public are encouraged to attend.

The Stanford University and University of Vienna conference planning group includes:  
Emil Brix (Ministry for European and International Affairs, Vienna)  
Christophe Crombez (University of Leuven, School of Business)  
Amir Eshel (Stanford, FCE, German Studies)  
Pavle Levi (Stanford, Art and Art History)  
Norman Naimark (Stanford, History)  
Hanspeter Neuhold (University of Vienna, and Diplomatic Academy, Vienna)  
August Reinisch (University of Vienna)  
James Sheehan (Stanford, History)  
Helen Stacy (Stanford, Law)  
Arnold Suppan (University of Vienna, Institute for Eastern European History)  
Georg Winckler (University of Vienna)

## **Austria and Central Europe Since 1989: Legacies and Future Prospects**

Conference schedule – draft, please do not circulate

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**

**Conference Light Breakfast** – 9:00-9:30am

**Conference Welcome** -- 9:30-9:50am

**Chip Blacker, Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies**

**Opening keynote Address:** John Boyer (Univ. of Chicago) -- 10:00-10:45am

“Power, Partisanship, and the Grid of Democratic Politics: 1907 as the Pivot Point of Modern Austrian History.”

Coffee break 10:45-11am

**Panels: 1. “Memory”** -- 11:00-1:00pm

Chair, Norman Naimark

\*Wolfgang Mueller (University of Vienna): “Missed Chances? The Fall of the Iron Curtain, East Central Europe, and Austrian Politics and Historiography.”

\*Norman Naimark (Stanford): Title TBA

\*Arnold Suppan (University of Vienna): "History and Memory in Modern Politics: Austria and East Central Europe since 1989."

**Lunch 1:00-2:00pm**

**2. “Security”** -- 2:00pm-3:30pm

Chair, James Sheehan

\*Hanspeter Neuhold (University of Vienna; Diplomatic Academy, Vienna) and Erwin Schmidl (Austrian Defense Academy): “The Return of History in the Balkans after the Cold War. International Efforts at Conflict Resolution”

\*James Sheehan (Stanford): “What does it mean to be neutral? Reflections on the Austrian Case”

\*Chip Blacker (Stanford): “The Empire Strikes Back: Central European Dependence on Russian Energy”

**Break 3:30-3:45pm**

**3. “Law” -- 3:45pm – 5:45pm**

Chair, Helen Stacy

\*Michael Gehler (University of Hildesheim): “Austria and the European Union 1995-2008”

\*Helen Stacy (Stanford) “Human Rights: universal or particular?”

\*August Reinisch (University of Vienna) -- "The Rediscovery of Holocaust-Related Property Issues after 1989 - An Inside View of the Arbitral Panel for *in Rem* Restitution."

\*Manfred Nowak, (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights/UN Special Rapporteur on Torture) – "Human Rights in Europe – 20 years after the Fall of the Iron"

\*Eva Brems (Ghent University) – title pending

**Dinner** – 6:45pm with Keynote speaker, panelists, Austrian Consul General, and guests.

**Friday, March 6, 2009**

Light Breakfast – 8:30 – 9:00am

9-9:30am:

Emil Brix (Ambassador, Director General for Cultural Affairs) – Opening remarks on “The New Cultural Politics of Austria after 1989.”

**4. “Culture in New Europe” – 9:30-10:45am**

Chair, Amir Eshel

\*Kristin Rebien (San Diego State University) – “Bachmann-Preis, Klagenfurt, and the Contemporary Literary Landscape”

\*Adrian Daub (Stanford University) – "Hermann Nitsch - Austria in the Age of Post-Scandalous Culture."

Andreas Stadler (Austrian Cultural Forum, New York) – “Disturbing Realities in Austria: Nation Building, Arts and Politics”

Coffee break 10:45-11am

**5. “Culture and Global Europe” – 11am-1pm**

Chair, Amir Eshel

\*Günther Stocker (Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna) -- “Changing Perspectives. East European Migration Literature in Austria: Vladimir Vertlib: "Das besondere Gedächtnis der Rosa Masur" and Dimitré Dinev: "Engelszungen" ”

\*Marton Dornbach (Stanford University) – on the crises of transition in post-1989 East Central European countries.

\*Russell Berman (Stanford University) -- "After Europe? Islamism in Bosnia"

### **Lunch 1-2pm**

#### **6. Afternoon Session: “The Economics of EU Enlargement: Austria and Central Europe.” -- 2pm-4pm**

Christophe Crombez (University of Leuven, Stanford FCE), Chair and panelist

Christophe Crombez (Leuven/Stanford): title pending.

Timothy Josling (Stanford University): title pending

Bernhard Ramsauer (CEO, Sal. Oppenheim): title pending

**Closing:** Closing remarks by Amir Eshel; with discussion of the conference publication.  
– 4:15-4:45pm

**Conference Closing Dinner** – 6:30pm with participants and guests.