

The American and the German Atomic Bomb Projects and Their Legacies

US-German WE-Heraeus-Seminar

01 – 06 June 2025

at the Physikzentrum Bad Honnef, Germany

**WILHELM UND ELSE
HERAEUS-STIFTUNG**



Program

Sunday, 01 June 2025

16:00 – 21:00 Registration

18:00 *BUFFET SUPPER and informal get together*

Monday, 02 June 2025

08:00 *BREAKFAST*

09:30 – 09:45 Organizers **Opening Remarks**

09:45 – 10:00 Stefan Jorda **The Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation**

10:00 – 11:00 Alexander Blum **Heisenberg's Research on Particle Physics during World War II**

11:00 – 11:30 *COFFEE BREAK*

11:30 – 12:30 Ryan Dahn **Pascual Jordan and Werner Heisenberg**

12:30 – 12:40 **Conference Photo (in front of the main entrance)**

12:40 – 14:00 *LUNCH*

Program

Monday, 02 June 2025

14:00 – 15:00	Rainer Karlsch	The GRU Reports on the German Atomic Bomb: Facts or Fiction?
15:00 – 16:00	Todd Rider	Forgotten Creators of the German Atomic Bomb
16:00 – 16:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
16:30 – 17:30	Dieter Hoffmann	The Berlin Imperial Institute for Physics and Technology (PTR) and the German Uranium Club
17:30 – 18:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
18:00 – 19:30	<i>DINNER</i>	
19:30 – 21:00	Michael Gordin	Nuclear History Beyond Manhattan

Program

Tuesday, 03 June 2025

08:00	<i>BREAKFAST</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Manfred Popp	He Who Makes No Mistakes Never Makes Anything – An Error Record of the German Uranium Club 1939 – 1945
10:00 – 11:00	Piet de Klerk	Bohr/Wheeler, Frisch/Peierls and the German nuclear programme 1939-1945
11:00 – 11:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11:30 – 12:30	Joseph McCauley	Predictions of Critical Radii for Reactors and Bombs 1939-45
12:30 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Cameron Reed (ONLINE)	The Frisch-Peierls Memorandum. The Physics, Effects, and Ethics of Nuclear Weapons: March 1940
15:00 – 16:00	Patrick Park	Myths of German Graphite
16:00 – 16:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
16:30 – 17:30	Patrick Park	Nuclear Forensics of the B8 Pile
17:30 – 18:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
18:00 – 19:30	<i>DINNER</i>	
19:30 – 21:00	Movie: „Väter der 1000 Sonnen“ (Fathers of the Thousand Suns), DDR 1989 (with English subtitles)	

Program

Wednesday, 04 June 2025

08:00	<i>BREAKFAST</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Carola Sachse	The (Non-) Participation of the Max Planck Society (MPS) and its Scientists in the Spanish Nuclear Program
10:00 – 11:00	Luisa Bonolis / Adele La Rana	Nuclear Fission in Rome 1939-1946
11:00 – 11:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11:30 – 12:30	Andreas Heinemann-Grueder	The Soviet atomic bomb and its lasting impact on Soviet and Russian military research
12:30 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Zaiqing Fang	China's Atomic Bomb: Development, Strategic Implications, and International Perceptions
15:00 – 16:00	Eliza Gheorghe	The Evolution of Nuclear Industries and Nuclear Markets
16:00 – 16:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
16:30 – 17:30	Mark Walker	Heisenberg, Oppenheimer, and the Bomb
17:30 – 18:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
18:00 – 19:30	<i>DINNER</i>	
19:30 – 21:00	Ulf von Rauchhaupt FAZ, Germany	Roundtable Discussion

Program

Thursday, 05 June 2025

08:00	<i>BREAKFAST</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	Michael Wiescher	Nuclear Astrophysics and the Bomb
10:00 – 11:00	Joseph Martin	Hanging on the Glamorous Atom: Post-Manhattan Nuclear Research at the University of Chicago
11:00 – 11:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
11:30 – 12:30	Sarah Robey	The First Duty of a Sovereignty Is to Protect Its People': Citizenship and Survival in the Atomic Age
12:30 – 14:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Jacob Hamblin	America's Global Gamble with Peaceful Nuclear Technology
15:00 – 16:00	Elisabeth Roehrlich	The Establishment and Evolution of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>COFFEE BREAK</i>	
16:30 – 17:30	Poster Session	
17:30 – 18:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
18:00 – 19:30	<i>HERAEUS DINNER</i>	
19:30	Video: "Reconstructing Françoise: The Gender of Nuclear Things"	

Program

Friday, 06 June 2025

08:00 *BREAKFAST*

09:00 – 10:00 Dolores Augustine **Nuclear Fears/Nuclear Utopias in the Mass Media of the Federal German Republic and German Democratic Republic, 1945 – 1970**

10:00 – 11:00 Christian Goetter **From Nuclear Bombs to Bazookas. Public Perceptions of Explosions in Nuclear Power Plants**

11:00 – 11:30 *COFFEE BREAK*

11:30 – 12:30 Organizers **Final Discussion**

12:30 *LUNCH*

End of the seminar and departure

For participants leaving on Saturday a self-service breakfast will be provided on Saturday morning.