

International Conference

“The Role of Experts in Dealing with the Past“

Center for Global Studies, University of Bern,
18 – 19 November 2011

UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3012 Bern, Room A 201

Sponsored by:

Center for Global Studies, University of Bern
Institute of History, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Organizers:

Regula Ludi, Universities of Bern and Zurich
Stephan Scheuzger, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich

Program

18 November 2011

09:30

Welcome Address and Introduction

Welcome Address

Thomas Späth, Director of the Center for Global Studies, University of Bern

Introduction

Regula Ludi, Universities of Bern and Zurich

10:00

Panel I:

The Constitution of Experts

Chair:

Marina Cattaruzza, University of Bern

Speakers:

Caspar Hirschi, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich:

How to Combine Competence and Impartiality? On the Early Organization of Official Expertise

Lutz Niethammer, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena:

Three Ways of Becoming an Historical Expert: Experiences and Observations

Deborah Posel, University of Cape Town:

Expertise and Authority in the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission

12.30

Lunch

14.30

Panel II:

The Significance and Impact of Expertise in Processes of Dealing with the Past

Chair:

Frank Haldemann, University of Geneva

Speakers:

José Zalaquett, University of Chile, Santiago de Chile:

The Role of the Legal Profession in Dealing with the Past

Stephan Scheuzger, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich:

From Transfer to Canonization of Knowledge? Expertise and Truth Commissions

Carola Sachse, University of Vienna:

The Meaning of Apology: The Survivors of Nazi Medical Crimes and the Max Planck Society

19 November 2011

09:30

Panel III:

Modalities of Knowledge Production and the Impact of Experts on Historical Interpretation

Chair:

Regula Ludi, University of Bern

Speakers:

Michael Marrus, University of Toronto:

Doing Justice to the Nazi Past: Three Paradigms for Contending with Historic Wrongs

Richard A. Wilson, University of Connecticut:

Historians as Expert Witnesses in the International Criminal Courtroom

Elazar Barkan, Columbia University, New York:

History and Conflict Resolution: Experts as Civil Society Advocates

12:00

Lunch

13:30

Panel IV:

Expertise, Knowledge Transfer and the Emergence of Global Epistemes

Chair:

Stephan Scheuzger, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich

Speakers:

Pablo de Greiff, International Center for Transitional Justice, New York:

Theorizing Transitional Justice – and Why It Matters, Practically

Frank Haldemann, University of Geneva:

The Expertism Trap: Critical Reflections on the Normalization of Transitional Justice Discourse

Briony Jones, Swiss Peace Foundation, Bern:

Brčko District, Bosnia-Herzegovina as a Model of 'Success': Interrogating Expertise, Agency and Resistance

16:00

Final Discussion

17:00

End of Conference