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

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

Photo by Dario Chiquitó: Archive of the National Police of Guatemala
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