



THE GLOBAL SOUTH IN DIVIDED GERMANY

Conference

The two-day conference will explore the history of migrant agency and (post-)colonial entanglements in East and West Germany from the 1950s to the 1990s.



For more info
check our website...

01 OCTOBER 2026

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm · U Erfurt

Introduction & Panel I-III

With contributions by:

Yonson Ahn (Frankfurt)
Carlos Sanz Diaz (Madrid)
Tobias Santosh Großmann (Nürnberg)
Felix Krämer (Erfurt)
Christopher Molnar (Flint, online)
Silvan Niedermeier (Erfurt)
Grazia Prontera (Salzburg)
David Templin (Osnabrück)

02 OCTOBER 2026

8:30 pm - 1:00 pm · U Erfurt

Panel IV-VI & Final Discussion

With contributions by:

Émelie Bosselmann (Erfurt)
Tom Drechsel (Potsdam)
Kien Nghi Ha (Tübingen)
Emilia Henkel (Jena)
Sara Pugach (Los Angeles, online)
Anja Schade (Hildesheim)
Birgit Schäbler (Erfurt)
Jan Schubert (Florence)

Venue: University of Erfurt · Research Building „Weltbeziehungen“ · Room C19.00.04 (ground floor)
Contact: Carsta Langner · carsta.langner@uni-erfurt.de
Florian Wagner · florian.wagner@uni-erfurt.de

To register for the conference please send us an email in advance. Thank you!



**The Global South in Divided Germany:
Migrant Agency and (Post-)Colonial Entanglements in East and West (1950s–1990s)
October 1, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – October 2, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
University of Erfurt**

October 1, 2026, Research Building “Weltbeziehungen”, Room C19.00.04, University of Erfurt

13.00 Arrival, Registration, Coffee

13.30 Introduction: Carsta Langner, Florian Wagner

14.00-15.00 | Panel 1 | Chair: Silvan Niedermeier (Erfurt)

Carlos Sanz Diaz (Madrid): Voluntary? Rethinking Spanish Labour Migration and Return through Migrants' Experiences in West Germany (1960s-1980)

Christopher Molnar (Flint, online): Racism and Return: The Case of Bosnian War Refugees

15.00-15.15 Coffee Break

15.15-16.15 | Panel 2 | Chair: N.N.

Grazia Prontera (Salzburg): Italienische Migration in die Bundesrepublik Deutschland seit 1955: Formen, Erfahrungen und Darstellungen

David Templin (Osnabrück): Arrival Infrastructures and Migrant Agency in Hamburg in the 1970s/80s

16.15-16.45 Coffee Break

16.45-17.45 | Panel 3 | Chair: Felix Krämer (Erfurt)

Tobias Santosh Großmann (Nürnberg): Daughters, Nurses, Migrants: Catholic Women from Kerala in West Germany in the 1960s

Yonson Ahn (Frankfurt): “Yellow Angels”: South Korean Nurse “Guest Workers” in West Germany

19.00 Conference Dinner

October 2, 2026, Research Building “Weltbeziehungen”, Room C19.00.04, University of Erfurt

8.30-10.00 | Panel 4 | Chair: Kien Nghi Ha (Tübingen)

Florian Wagner (Erfurt): Gastarbeiter Activism in West Germany (1960s-1980s)

Jan Schubert (Florence): Interwoven Narratives. How did Experiences of French Colonialism Shape Oral History Narratives of Algerian Labour Migration to the GDR?

Émelie Bosselmann (Erfurt): Memories of Migration: An Oral History Project on Memories, Narratives and Experiences of Greek Labour Migration to Germany

10.00 – 10.15 Coffee Break

10.15– 11.15 | Panel 5 | Chair: Birgit Schäbler (Erfurt)

Sara Pugach (Los Angeles, online): Marxism-Leninism, African Socialism, or Something else? The Politics of African Students in and beyond the GDR, 1951-1980

Anja Schade (Hildesheim): Spaces of Agency in Exile: Self-Organization and Participation of Exiled ANC Members in the GDR

11.15 - 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30 | Panel 6 | Chair: Carsta Langner (Erfurt)

Tom Drechsel (Potsdam): Mozambican Labour Migrants Under the Auspices of the Protestant Church in the late GDR

Emilia Henkel (Jena): Asylum Seekers Resisting their Involuntary Allocation to East German Camps (1990/91)

12.30 – 13.00 Final Discussion

14.30 Short Walking Tour Decolonize Erfurt (optional)