



Conference Program

“A Player and not just a Payer?”

The Work of German Political Foundations abroad with a special focus in Israel and the Palestinian Territories

Ruhr University of Bochum, Technologiezentrum Ruhr

Universitätsstraße 142, 44799

June 1-3, 2016

conducted by

Anna Abelmann, Ruhr University of Bochum, and Katharina Konarek, University of Haifa

Conference Abstract:

What role do the German political foundations play in the international arena? What impact do they have on the German foreign policy? Are they think tanks, independent political actors or an instrument of the foreign office? How do they influence the political landscape in the countries, they are working in? How did and do they influence the development of German-Israeli relations?

These questions should be discussed during the conference. A special focus should be on the case study of German political foundations in Israel and Palestine as a sample for the worldwide work of the foundations and with regard to the unique character of the German-Israeli relations and its development during the last 60 years. Today, all six German foundations have been active in the region for many years. The development of the bilateral relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel and the German approach towards the Palestinian questions as well as the large amount of projects in a geographically small area offers a great opportunity to analyze the work of the foundations and their influence. Furthermore, the case of Israel and the Palestinian Territories are a blue print of the problems of strengthening democracy in the specific political and social framework of the Middle East. Politics in Israel and Palestine have nationwide relevance and are also one of the main topics in German foreign policy. That is why these cases are (1) ideal to show the foundations capacity to act as a pioneer in complicated or non-existing bilateral relations between two states and (2) ideal for monitoring the influence of German political foundations on German foreign policy and on the political landscape itself.

Registration: The conference will be conducted in English and is open to the public. No conference registration fee will be charged. To sign up for the conference, please send a short email to a_abelmann@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, June 1, 2016:

13:00-13:30

Welcome & Opening

- Anna ABELMANN, Ruhr University Bochum
- Katharina KONAREK, University of Haifa

13:30-15:30

Panel I: The Work of German Political Foundations and other NGOs from a Historical Perspective

Chair: Prof. Stephan STETTER, Bundeswehr University Munich

- Dr. Jenny HESTERMANN, Fritz-Bauer-Institute Frankfurt
- Ido PORAT, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Anna ABELMANN, Ruhr University Bochum

15:30-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-18:00

Panel II: German Political Foundations and Think Tanks in Foreign Policy Analysis

Chair: Katharina KONAREK, University of Haifa

- Walter KLITZ, Director Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation Jerusalem
- Dr. Ernst KERBUSCH, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation Bonn
- Muhammed AMMASH, Global Political Trends Center Istanbul

Thursday, June 2, 2016:

09:00-11:00

Panel III: Work in Peace and Conflict Situations: German Political Foundations between Ramallah, Tel Aviv and Berlin

Chair: Prof. Michael WALA, Ruhr University Bochum

- Marc FRINGS, Director Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Ramallah
- Idit SELTENREICH, Political Secretary Israel Embassy Berlin (ret.)
- Prof. Dani KRANZ, University of Wuppertal

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Discussion Round: Squaring the Circle? The Work of German Political Foundations abroad between Independence and Dependency

Moderation: Christoph DINKELAKER (Journalist) & Tobias PIETSCH (Journalist)

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-16:00

Panel IV: At Home and Abroad: German Political Foundations and the legal Aspects

Chair: Anna ABELMANN, Ruhr University Bochum

- Antonie NORD, Heinrich-Boell-Foundation Berlin (tbc)
- Prof. Eli SALZBERGER, University of Haifa
- Dr. Heike MERTEN, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf

16:00-16:30

Coffee Break

16:30-17:30

Keynote Speech:

Prof. Fania OZ-SALZBERGER, University of Haifa

19:00

Conference Dinner (Participants only)

Friday, June 3, 2016

09:00-11:00

Panel V: Looking back, looking ahead: German Political Foundations in a Globalized World

Chair: Prof. Dani KRANZ, University of Wuppertal

- Katharina KONAREK, University of Haifa
- Amaal ABU GOSH, International Peace & Cooperation Center Jerusalem
- Jörg SCHULTZ, Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation Berlin

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-12:00

Closing Remarks and Feedback

- Anna ABELMANN, Ruhr University Bochum
- Katharina KONAREK, University of Haifa

- End of Conference -