Cold War Europe

Eleventh Annual Student-Faculty Conference in European Studies

February 26-27, 2016

The College of William & Mary

The European Studies Program at W&M is pleased to present this student-faculty conference. All events are free and open to the public.

Conference Sponsors:
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Special Thanks:
Bruce Campbell, Modern Languages & Literatures
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Friday February 26

Keynote Address
5:00pm, Tucker Hall 127A

Edith Sheffer, Assistant Professor of History, Stanford University

“Making the Iron Curtain”:
This talk reveals the hidden origins of the Iron Curtain, showing how the physical border between East and West Germany was not simply imposed by Cold War superpowers, but was an improvised outgrowth of an anxious postwar society.

Saturday February 27

Student Panels
Tucker Hall 127A

8:00-8:30 Breakfast
8:30 Opening Remarks
8:45-10:15 Cold War Battleground: Poland

Áine Cain, “Solidarity in Our Hearts”: Father Jerzy Popiełuszko and the Transformation of the Catholic Church in Communist Poland

Lydia House, The Art or the Artist: The Lives of Roman Polanski and Andrzej Wajda

Megan Willmes, “The International Community was Behind Us”: Western European and American Aid to Poland’s Solidarność Trade Union, 1980-1989

10:15 Coffee
10:30-11:45 Superpowers and Satellites: USA, USSR, GDR


Zimei Fan, A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Soviet Union? An Analysis and Comparison of Intourist’s Published Materials in the 1930s and 1960s

Allison Ramage, Conspicuous Consumption in East Germany: A Failure of Conflicting Views

12:00 Lunch for Panelists and Faculty
1:00 Legacies of War: France

Daniel Sieh, The Legal Purification: A New Republic and the Question of Legitimacy in Postwar France