



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



Writing a French-German Handbook of (Post) Soviet Environmental History

A 1.5 Day Workshop
Paris, 13-14 March 2025

École des hautes études en sciences sociales, site Raspail, 54 boulevard Raspail, Paris
6e arrondissement, Basement, Room AS1_08

Participants

Alexander Ananyev (Tübingen)

Tatiana Kasperski (Barcelona)

Laurent Coumel (Paris)

Olga Nikonova (Tübingen)

Katja Doose (Lyon)

Anna Safronova (Paris)

Marc Elie (Paris)

Timm Schoenfelder (Leipzig)

Klaus Gestwa (Tübingen)

Thursday 13 March, 14–18

14–15:30 Introduction and Discussion: The Challenges We Face

- What handbook is needed? What is available and what should we bring new?
- The General Characteristics: length, chronology and geography
- How to write French-German?
- What Publishing Houses say, which one do we want?
- The Route Ahead: Our “Hike and Write” Retreat in Aussois, the submission process

15:30–16 Coffee from the vending machines (chouquettes are provided)

16–18 Structuring the Book

- The choice of themes, questions, and actors: What should we cover, what shouldn't we miss, what must we leave aside?
- Solo v. collective chapters
- Problem-oriented v. thematic v. chronologic chapters
- Infusing questions and ideas at the top: what are the guiding threads across the chapters?
- A first chapter or an introduction?
- The result: a first structure of our book!

19 Dinner at Polidor (41, rue Monsieur Le Prince)

Friday 14 March, 9–13

9–12 Work in Groups around Tentative Chapters

12–13 Presentation of Results and Conclusion

Tentative Book Structure (to be discussed)

1. Marc Elie, Klaus Gestwa, Laurent Coumel: Environmental transformations of the Soviet era: is there a Soviet Anthropocene? (Introductory chapter)
2. Laurent Coumel & Sascha Ananjew: What was “Nature Protection” in the USSR? Is there a “socialist environmentalism”?
3. Tatiana Kasperski: How did nuclear energy activities and hazards shape Soviet landscapes?
4. Marc Elie & Anna Safronova: Why couldn't agriculture go greener in Soviet times?
5. Timm Schönfelder & Laurent Coumel: Why were Soviet rivers so relentlessly destroyed?
6. Katja Doose & Olga Nikonova: Was the Soviet Union any better than capitalist countries in regulating industrial pollutions and hazards?
7. Sascha Ananjew & Katja Doose: Did Climate Change impact the Soviet Union?
8. Anna Safronova & Timm Schönfelder: Was there a Soviet way of treating and exploiting animals?
9. Klaus Gestwa: What was the rationality of Soviet Forestry?