

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GERMAN & AUSTRIAN EXILE STUDIES
at the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies
School of Advanced Study, University of London

Call for Contributions

Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies Vol. 26
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Refugees from National Socialism returning to the GDR

The topic of refugees from National Socialism returning to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) has since German unification received increasing attention from scholars and those with lived experience in both Germany and Great Britain (Eschwege 1991; von Wroblewsky 1993; Wolffsohn 1995; Fleischhacker 1996; Hartewig 2000; Ó Dochartaigh 2000 & 2023; Monteath 2004; Peitsch 2014; Herzberg 2022). Publications range from personal and family memoirs to academic discussions of returnees' habitus and mentality, the political problems they encountered in the socialist East or the specific contributions they made to the building of a socialist Germany and its promise of equality and justice.

This *Yearbook* wishes to develop the themes of the existing studies and wishes to explore political and artistic careers and networks, as well as questions of Jewish identity. We are keen on contributions which take a closer look at the majority of returnees who, beyond the relatively few prominent names, were part of the re-building and, in their various fields of work and/or in their family and friendship groups, kept links alive to support each other as well as to engage with questions arising from shared ancestry and their experiences during the Nazi dictatorship. We invite contributions which explore areas of East German society in which returnees from exile became active such as media (including radio and newspaper), publishing (including translation), film and theatre (including acting), jurisdiction and education. We are especially interested in studies which include a look at networking among re-emigrants where past/shared experiences and coming to terms with the Holocaust are concerned.

We are looking for contributions of 7000 words in English or German. Deadline for proposals is 21 March 2025. Please send an email with your proposal (not more than 300 words) and a short bio to both Andrea Hammel (a.hammel@aber.ac.uk) and Ute Wölfel (u.wolfel@reading.ac.uk).

Deadline for the contribution is 31 January 2026. We are hoping to organise a workshop for all accepted contributors in October 2025 to facilitate the development of ideas and collaborations.