

March 28-March 30, 2019 | Mickeln House |  
Alt-Himmelgeist 25, 40589 Düsseldorf

## Bridging the Baltic Sea: Scandinavian-German contacts in medicine and the sciences during the Cold War

### Leopoldina Symposium

During the 19th century, and up to the first decades of the 20th, Scandinavian physicians and natural scientists were heavily influenced by German academia. German was the prime scientific language in Scandinavia, students and researchers went on study trips to Germany and published their research in German journals. Although the exchange was encouraged from both sides of the Baltic Sea, it is fair to say that Swedish researchers had a stronger interest in German science than vice versa, what has come to be known as "Swedish provincialism". However, this relationship was to change rather abruptly with the Second World War.

A number of studies on Scandinavian-German scientific relations between 1933 and 1945 have been published in recent years, but the relationships after the war have not yet been systematically examined, particularly as regards the fields of medicine and the natural sciences. Case studies suggest that "neutral" Scandinavian countries could act as a gateway to the West for researchers from the GDR as well as a German-German contact zone. The conference will focus on the transfer of knowledge across the Baltic Sea and old and new personal relationships between researchers in Northern Europe, and not least on the political and technological aspects of the contacts. How did science exchange work during the Cold War? To what extent did the Scandinavian countries serve as a hub for German-German exchanges?

Founded in 1652, the Leopoldina brings together some 1,500 outstanding scientists from about 30 countries. It is dedicated to the advancement of science for the benefit of humankind and to shaping a better future. In its role as the German National Academy of Sciences, the Leopoldina represents the German scientific community in international committees. It offers unbiased scientific opinions on political and societal questions, publishing independent studies of national and international significance. The Leopoldina promotes scientific and public debate, supports young scientists, confers awards for scientific achievements, conducts research projects, and campaigns for the human rights of persecuted scientists.



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#### Contact & registration

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#### Organisation

Department for the History, Philosophy, and Ethics of Medicine,  
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German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

[www.leopoldina.org](http://www.leopoldina.org)

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# Program

## Thursday March 28, 2019

4:00 – 5:30 pm | [Registration](#)

### I. Introduction

**Chair:** Heiner Fangerau ML

5:45 | [Welcome addresses](#)

Nikolaj Klöcker, *Dean Faculty of Medicine, Düsseldorf*  
Peter M Nilsson, *Lund*  
Alfons Labisch ML, *Düsseldorf*

6:00 – 7:00 | [Keynote lecture](#)

**Presenter:** Nils Hansson

„Deutschland ist bekanntlich nicht nur die Bundesrepublik“.  
**Akademische Beziehungen zwischen Schweden und der DDR im Kalten Krieg**  
Charlotta Seiler Brylla, *Stockholm*

7:15 | [Dinner \(Mickeln House\)](#)

## Friday March 29, 2019

### 9:00 | II. Cooperation and conflict

**Chair:** Nils Hansson

**Vorüberlegungen zu einer Geschichte der westlichen Medizin im Kalten Krieg**  
Wolfgang Eckart ML, *Heidelberg*

**Wissenschaft zwischen Diktatur und Demokratie.  
Wissenschaftsaustausch unter geheimer Agenda**  
Birgitta Almgren, *Stockholm*

10:00 – 10:20 | [Break](#)

**Der Ostseeraum als Konfliktzone eines wissenschaftlichen Geltungsstrebens. Die Deutschen Wissenschaftlichen Institute in Skandinavien (1941-1945)**  
Martin Göllnitz, *Mainz*

**Nordepawissenschaften im Fadenkreuz der Nachrichtendienste des Kalten Krieges**  
Thomas Wegener Friis, *Odense*

11:20 – 11:30 | [Break](#)

### III. Communication: Media and language

**Chair:** Thorsten Halling

**Publikationsnetzwerke in der operativen Medizin in der Nachkriegszeit**  
Friedrich Moll, *Cologne*

**The interaction between German urology and the Swedish surgeon Einar Ljunggren (1896-1986) was not only transfer of knowledge**  
Bengt Uvelius, *Lund*

**Der liebe Kollege aus der Rezensionsabteilung: Boris Belonoshchkin (1906-1988) als Mittler zwischen der nordamerikanischen und deutschen Fertilitätsforschung nach 1945**  
Florian Mildemberger, *Frankfurt/Oder*

1:00 – 2:00 | [Lunch](#)

### IV. Scientific communities and networks

**Chair:** Yvonne Gavallér

**Akademien der Wissenschaften in Nord- und Mitteleuropa: Kontakte und Mitgliedschaften im 'Kalten Krieg'**  
Thorsten Halling, *Düsseldorf*

**Walter Christaller and his central place theory – a road via Sweden to world-wide fame**  
Erki Tammiksaar / Taavi Pae, *Tartu*

**Säuglingsernährung als Entwicklungspolitik – Deutsche und schwedische Mediziner\*innen in der „Dritten Welt“**  
Verena Limper, *Münster*

3:30 – 4:00 | [Coffee, fruit](#)

5:30 | [Transport "Old city"](#)

6:00 | [Dinner, Altstadt](#)

## Saturday March 30, 2019

### 9:00 | V. Transfer of knowledge

**Chair:** Peter M Nilsson

**Knowledge exchanges between Swedish and German architects during the after-war period**  
Andreea Blaga, *Karlskrona*

**The anti-cancer drug THX: Swedish – West German exchange at the outskirts of science and medicine between 1960 and 1980**  
Maria Josephson, *Stockholm*

10:00 – 10:20 | [Break](#)

**Techniktransfer und mehr? Schwedische Engström-Respiratoren in DDR-Krankenhäusern der Maximalversorgung**  
Florian Braune, *Düsseldorf*

**German-Scandinavian contacts in medicine and the sciences during the Cold War – perspectives and open research questions**  
Nils Hansson, *Düsseldorf*

### VI. Concluding remarks

**Chair:** Peter M Nilsson, Nils Hansson

11:20 – 12:00 | [Final discussion and fare-well](#)

12:30 – 3:30 | [Sightseeing Düsseldorf \(voluntary\)](#)

