



THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL:

a lucky moment in history, paving the way towards German and European Unification

A Conversation with witnesses

Florida International University | Webinar

Participants: Biographical Notes

Monday, November 9, 2020

For many people, the **Fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989**, was the best day of their lives — the day they regained their freedom through a Peaceful Revolution. 31 years later, it is still worth remembering this historical day, which opened the door towards German unification.

Join the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami, the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU for an interactive virtual roundtable discussion of the legacies of the two Germanies that existed between 1949 and 1990. 31 years after the fall of the Iron curtain, do differences between east and west still persist in Germany? Experts and witnesses will provide historical context and personal experiences.

Participants: Biographical Notes



Hon. Andreas Siegel

Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami

Andreas Siegel is a career diplomat with a broad range of international experience in strategic, political, economic and cultural affairs. He holds both a (postgraduate) diploma of the College of Europe, Bruges/Belgium and a Master degree of French, English and American literature/linguistics of the University of Freiburg/Germany.

Andreas has had a long-time connection and affinity with the United States: he was an AFS exchange student in Michigan during the Bi-Centennial year 1975/1976. In the early 1990ies he served as a Vice-Consul at the German Consulate General in Boston, Mass.

Before coming to Florida in July 2019, Andreas headed the German Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Prior to that he was Head of the Strategic Planning Division for External Cultural Policy in the Directorate General for Culture and Communication at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

From 2010 to 2013 he was posted in Brussels/Belgium as First Counsellor at the Permanent Representation to NATO, coordinating in particular arms control and counter-terrorism matters. Prior to this, he worked for 6 years in Strasbourg/France, first as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe (CoE) , then – on leave from the Foreign Service – as Director of Strategic Planning, reporting directly to the Secretary General of the CoE. From 2001 to 2004, Andreas led a working unit in the European Directorate General in Berlin, serving as the German spokesperson for European cultural policy and coordinating German cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries.

During the first years of his career, Andreas occupied two posts in (the then capital) Bonn and three abroad: after two years of diplomatic training, he started off as a desk officer for Poland at the Foreign Office to move on to Boston/USA as Vice-Consul. He then spent three years in Lilongwe/Malawi (South-Eastern Africa) as Deputy Head of Mission and Chargé d'affaires. Back to Bonn, he worked at the Federal Chancellery, dealing with international strategic issues. Another assignment led him to Rabat and Casablanca/Morocco, where he served as Head of the economic section of the Embassy and Consul General, respectively.



Gunnar Aguila-Rohr, MBA, Dipl.-Kfm



Susanne Zwingel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Politics & International Relations

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs

Florida International University

Dr. Zwingel received her Ph. D. in Political Science from Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and an M.A. in Politics and Sociology from Hamburg University, Germany. Before joining the Department of Politics and International Relations at FIU in 2014, she worked as Associate Professor of Politics at the State University of New York in Potsdam, NY.

Dr. Zwingel's research interests include international women's rights norms and their translation; gender equality advocacy around the world; global governance and gender; feminist, constructivist and post-colonial IR theories; and gender and armed conflict. Publications in her fields of expertise include journal articles (e.g. "How Do Norms Travel? Theorizing International Women's Rights In Transnational Perspective", *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 56, 2012) and co-edited volumes (with Elisabeth Prügl and Gülay Caglar: *Feminist Strategies in International Governance*, Routledge, 2013). In 2016, she published a monograph titled "Translating International Women's Rights: The CEDAW Convention in Context" (with Palgrave Macmillan). The focus of this book is on the diverse connections between internationally codified women's rights and real-life contexts as well as on the agency that is necessary to integrate rights into women's lives. For a complete list of publications please see her CV.

A project Dr. Zwingel is currently working on is finding reasonable ways of assessing outcomes of gender equality policies beyond mere numerical measuring (see in this context her co-authored piece with Debra J. Liebowitz, "Gender Equality Oversimplified: Using CEDAW to Counter the Measurement Obsession", *International Studies Review*, Vol. 16, 2014). In the future, Dr. Zwingel plans to investigate the role of translators in international organizations.

At FIU, Dr. Zwingel teaches International Relations Theories, Men and Women in International Relations, Political Repression and Human Rights, among other courses. As a German national who is also fluent in English and Spanish, she is excited to contribute to FIU's multicultural and dynamic community.



Stephan Schürer, Ph.D.

*Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami
Director Drug Discovery, Center for Computational Science, University of Miami
Member Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miller School of Medicine
University of Miami*

Dr. Stephan Schürer is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Director of Drug Discovery at the Center for Computational Science, and a Member of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami.

He is also adjunct Professor at the Scripps Research Institute Florida where he was previously heading the HTS- and drug discovery informatics. In prior industry positions Dr. Schürer was Sr. Director at Eidogen-Sertanty, a developer of life science information technology and scientific content products. At Libraria Inc. he was directing the content operations to develop chemistry and SAR knowledge bases.

The core research theme at the Schürer group is data-driven systems drug discovery. The SchürerLab integrates and develops computational models using small molecule-protein interaction, systems biology ‘omics’, and chemistry data to improve translation of disease models into novel functional small molecules. Using distributed and parallelized big data analytics, bio- and chemoinformatics tools the group builds scalable modeling pipelines to predict efficacious drug combination therapies, small molecule properties and targets, drug sensitivity, –mechanism of action, –specificity, –promiscuity and –polypharmacology with a particular focus on kinases and epigenetic bromodomain reader proteins with application to cancer and other diseases.

In several focused as well as larger-scale projects, Dr Schürer’s group develops formal ontologies (e.g. BioAssay Ontology, Drug Target Ontology), data standards, and end-user full-stack software applications (e.g. LINCS Data Portal).

To physically make and test the most promising small molecules, the SchürerLab develops computationally-optimized synthetic routes and uses parallel synthesis technologies to make small compound libraries. Together these capabilities enable the efficient prioritization of novel drug target hypotheses, identification of precision drug combinations, and the development of novel small molecule tool compounds as starting points for drug discovery projects.

Dr Schürer is a PI in three national Consortia, the Library of Integrated Network-based Cellular Signatures (LINCS) project (<http://www.lincsproject.org/>), the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) program (<https://commonfund.nih.gov/bd2k>), and the Illuminating the Druggable Genome (IDG) project (<https://druggablegenome.net/>).

Stephan Schürer received his Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from the Technical University of Berlin and studied chemistry at Humboldt University-Berlin and University of California Berkeley.

Moderator



David J. Kramer

*Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program
Senior Fellow, Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
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David J. Kramer joined Florida International University's Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs as a Senior Fellow in the Václav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy in May 2017. In July 2019, he also became Director for European and Eurasian Studies.

Before moving to Miami, Kramer worked in Washington, DC for 24 years, most recently with The McCain Institute for International Leadership as Senior Director for Human Rights and Democracy. Before that, he served for four years as President of Freedom House. Prior to that, he was a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Kramer served eight years in the U.S. Department of State, including as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs (responsible for Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus affairs as well as regional non-proliferation issues); Professional Staff Member in the Secretary's Office of Policy Planning; and Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary for Global Affairs. He also was Executive Director of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in Washington.

Before joining the U.S. Government, Kramer worked at various think tanks in Washington including the Project for the New American Century, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Kramer was an Adjunct Professor at the Elliott School for International Affairs at The George Washington University. He also is Chair of the Board for the Free Russia Foundation, a Member of the Board of the International Republican Institute, and a Member of the Advisory Council for the George W. Bush Presidential Center's Human Freedom Project, a Member of the Advisory Council for the Alliance for Securing Democracy at the German Marshall Fund, and a Contributing Editor for The American Interest.

A native of Massachusetts, Kramer received his M.A. in Soviet studies from Harvard University and his B.A. in Soviet Studies and Political Science from Tufts University.