

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,  
Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf  
*Nils Hansson, Thorsten Halling, Heiner Fangerau*  
Department for History of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden  
*Peter M Nilsson*  
German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

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



# 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*

Nordeuropawissenschaften 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 Rezensionenabteilung: Boris Belonos-  
chkin (1906-1988) als Mittler zwischen der nordamerikanischen  
und deutschen Fertilitätsforschung nach 1945  
Florian Mildenerger, *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)



ML – Member of the Leopoldina