



American Institute
for Contemporary
German Studies
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Reconciliation in the Western Balkans and in East Asia The Role of German Governmental and Civil Society Actors and Implications for the U.S.

AICGS
1755 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Agenda

As part of German officials' calls at the 2014 Munich Security Conference for their country's greater international engagement, President Gauck specifically suggested Germany's experience with reconciliation and conflict resolution in its own foreign policy as a useful contribution to international peace-building. This workshop looks at the nature, potential, and purposes of both German government and German civil society activities in two cases where reconciliation and "dealing with the past" are current, and contested, topics: the Western Balkans and East Asia. The workshop will also address the consequences for the U.S. of greater German engagement, and the possibility of increased transatlantic cooperation in these regions.

8:30 – 9:00am **Check-in and Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:15am **Intro: Reflections on the Concept of Reconciliation**

Speakers: Martina Timmermann, Transition and Integration Management Agency (TIMA)
Seiko Mimaki, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
Jelena Obradovic-Wochnik, Aston University, Birmingham, UK

9:15 – 9:35am **Can Germany Reconcile the Western Balkans? Economic Development, Aid, and German Political Foundations in Bosnia, Serbia, and Kosovo**

Germany has been a major player and one of the largest bilateral donors in the reconstruction and redevelopment of post-conflict Western Balkans. Dr. Obradovic-Wochnik will explore the extent to which Germany's involvement is aimed implicitly or explicitly at reconciliation in this region. She will also address Germany's recent historical and political links with the Western Balkans, noting the importance and symbolism of Bosnia and Kosovo for its foreign policy. The presentation will focus on Germany's economic and aid initiatives, and the involvement of German political foundations as key donors for reconciliation projects in this region.

Speaker: Jelena Obradovic-Wochnik, Aston University, Birmingham, UK
AICGS Harry & Helen Gray Reconciliation Fellow

9:35 – 10:15am **Roundtable Discussion**

10:15 – 10:30am **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 10:50am **Wanted!? German/EU Mediation on Reconciliation in Northeast Asia**

The increasingly tense situation in Northeast Asia has led to political gridlock, stalling several other vital negotiations on climate change, nuclear nonproliferation, and food and energy security. The U.S. was asked by its alliance partners to serve as a mediator, but China has made it clear that it will not accept the U.S. as a broker on any matters in the South and East China Seas. The EU, appreciated by all stakeholders for its history of peaceful diplomatic negotiations, might therefore emerge as a facilitator. With the unsolved history issues between Japan, China, and Korea widely found to be one of the root causes of the conflicts in East Asia, Germany could offer a helping hand as a mediator on WWII history reconciliation. Dr. Timmermann will address the questions of whether such EU/German initiatives are actually wanted by the United States and what the precise expectations of such a role would be.

Speaker: Martina Timmermann, Transition and Integration Management Agency (TIMA)
AICGS/DAAD Research Fellow

10:55 – 11:15am **Toward Building Epistemic Communities and Transnational Networks in East Asia: Regional Experience and the Potential for Outside Involvement**

East Asian countries now face the so-called “Asian paradox,” in which deepening economic interdependence coexists with historical and territorial conflicts and mutual suspicion. Dr. Mimaki will explore how to overcome these paradoxical situations and head for a more constructive regional future. While political leaders still hesitate to take drastic measures toward reconciliation, various epistemic and transnational networks have been evolving toward building ties of reconciliation. Dr. Mimaki will consider the possible roles and influence of outsider actors such as Germany, the U.S., and the EU in efforts to construct sustainable transnational networks that could contribute to long-term East Asian reconciliation and peace.

Speaker: Seiko Mimaki, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
AICGS Harry & Helen Gray Reconciliation Fellow

11:15 - 12:15pm **Roundtable Discussion**

12:15 – 12:45pm **Luncheon**