

## Conference

### **“Flexibility“ and “Agility“: Strategies, Practices, and Ambivalences of a Key Concept since the 1980s**

**Date: 17 - 19 November 2022**

Location: Darmstadt

Organizers: Martina Heßler (TU Darmstadt), Martin Krzywdzinski (HSU), Christopher Neumaier (ZZF)

Conference hosted by: Technical University of Darmstadt, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF), Helmut-Schmidt-University/University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg (HSU), SPP 2267 “The Digitalization of Working Worlds. Conceptualising and Capturing a Systemic Transformation“

<https://www.geschichte.tu-darmstadt.de/flexibility>

#### **Thursday, 17 November 2022**

**Venue: Friedrich-Ludwig-Weidig-Saal 18 in building S3|20. Adress: Rundeturmstr. 10**

18.15

Welcome, Martina Heßler, Martin Krzywdzinski, Christopher Neumaier

“Participatory Introduction“: Flexibility and Agility as key concepts of social change?  
- based on comments of all participants

Dinner

#### **Friday, 18 November 2022**

**Venue: Georg-Lichtenberg-Haus, Darmstadt**

##### **A History of Flexibility**

Chair: Martin Krzywdzinski

11.00 – 11: 45

Vincent August, Berlin

*The Rise of Cybernetic Network Ideas: A Critical Conceptual History of Flexibility*

11.45 – 12:00 Break

## **Flexible work and psychology**

Chair: Nora Thorade, Berlin

12:00 – 12:45

Lubna Rashid, Berlin

*The Blessing & Curse of No-Strings-Attached: A Topic Modeling-Driven Exploration of Flexible Work Designs & Psychological (Un)Wellbeing*

12:45 – 14.00 Lunch

## **Flexible Biographies**

Chair: Kevin Liggieri, Darmstadt

14.00 – 14.45

Kirstin Berit Jäggi-Jorns, Zürich

*Flexibilization Configurations in Future Designs: The Subjectivization of Social Problems in the Swiss Federal Law on Vocational Education and Training since 1930*

14.45 – 15.30

Christian Garland, London

*“Flexibility“ as Precarity/Precarity as “Flexibility“: The Neoliberal Ideological Mask and the Social Reality, 40 Years of the “Anglo-American-Model” in the UK*

15.30 – 16.00 Break

## **Work Processes: Promises/Policies of Flexibility**

Chair: Tanja Paulitz, Darmstadt

16.00 – 16.45

Sarah George, Berlin/Silvio Suckow, Berlin

*Working from Home. Strategies of time-spatial flexibility of the new middle class*

16.45 – 17. 30

Mirjam Mayer, Zürich

*Efficiency through Flexibility? Office Automation in the Swiss Federal Administration in the 1980s*

17.30 – 18.15

Tim Clausnitzer, Berlin

*Narratives of Flexibilization Regarding the Introduction of Collaborative Industrial Robots*

c. 19.30 Conference Dinner

**Saturday, 19 November 2022**

**Venue: Georg-Lichtenberg-Haus, Darmstadt**

**Re-Organization – Flexibility/Agility**

Chair: Julia Erdogan, Stuttgart

9.00 – 9.45

Mona-Maria Bardmann, Hohenheim/Caroline Ruiner/Matthias Klumpp

*„Quo Vadis Flexibility? Digitalization and Formalization in High-Reliability-Organizations.“*

9.45 – 10.30

Christopher Neumaier, Potsdam

*Group Work a Win-Win-Option for Management and Workers? The Flexibilization of Work Processes in the German Automotive Industry between the 1970s and 1990s*

10.30 – 11.15 Martin Krzywdziniski, Hamburg/Berlin

*Remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Experiences of agile, hybrid and traditional teams.*

*11.15 - 11.45 Break*

**Software / Agile Practices**

Chair: Martin Schmitt, Darmstadt

11.45 – 12:30

Sebastian Randerath, Bonn

*How We (Almost) Became Agile: A Format History c. 1972–2001*

12:30 – 13.15

Timo Leimbach, Aarhus

*Rooting agility – The Different Origins of Agile Methods and Their Contributions to the Current Conceptualization of it*

13:15 – 14.00 lunch

14:00 – 14:45

Donald Bertulfo, Delft

*The World in a Sprint: Computational Infrastructures and Agility in the New Economy*

14:45 – 15:00 Break

**15.00 – 16:30**

**Chair: Martina Heßler, Darmstadt**

**Key Note, Richard Sennett**

*The Theatre of Labour: everyday performances in flexible workplaces*

**16:30 – 17.00 Martin Krzywdzinski, Christopher Neumaier**

**Final Discussion**

Tagungsbericht: Lukas Doil, Potsdam

**For the conference a registration is required:**

<https://www.geschichte.tu-darmstadt.de/flexibility>

**Information on venues and hotels can be found here: <https://www.geschichte.tu-darmstadt.de/flexibility>**