

# Hazardous Chemicals Agents of Risk and Change (1800-2000)

ConvenerPaul Erker (Rachel Carson Center), Ernst Homburg (University of Maastricht)and Elisabeth Vaupel (Deutsches Museum)VenueKerschensteiner Kolleg, Deutsches Museum

During the past two centuries millions of new substances have been discovered, and thousands of them have become novel industrial products. In several cases the scale of production, by-products and wastes has led to previously unknown effects on human health. The workshop focuses on the interaction between the growing presence of hazardous substances in the economy and the environment, and the cultural, scientific, regulatory and legal responses by modern society. In each contribution a specific chemical or group of related chemicals will take center stage: its history will be traced from the start of its industrial production, through its widespread distribution and use, to the discovery of its effect on workers and/or the biosphere, and finally attempts to control its emission and use, including the development of alternative products. Using a "biographical approach" it will trace the entire "life history" of those hazardous substances, culminating at the point at which legislative control or alternative technical pathways were finally established.

# Friday, April 27

- 13:00 13:10 Welcome by RCC Director Helmuth Trischler
- 13:10 13:20 Welcome/ Organizational details
- 13:20 14:00 Intentions of the workshop/ Comprehensive chronological survey of the problems of key "hazardous chemicals" Ernst Homburg (University of Maastricht, Netherlands)

#### **1. Inorganic Substances**

#### 14:00 - 15:30 1.1 Heavy Metals (I)

Michael Egan (Mc Master University, Hamilton, Canada) Mercury's Modern Alchemy

Christian Warren (Brooklyn College, USA) Old Situations; New Complications: Lead and Lead Poisoning in a Changing World

Laurence Lestel (CNRS, Paris, France) White Lead in France and its International Context

Christine Shearer (University of Santa Barbara, USA) Comments/ Discussion

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

#### 16:00 - 17:30 1.2 Heavy Metals (II)

Joost Mertens (The Hague, Netherlands) Scheele, Schweinfurt, and the Sanitary Police: The Fight against Copper Arsenite Green

Elisabeth Vaupel (Deutsches Museum, Germany) Between Economical Interests and the Need to Protect Consumers and Workmen: The Handling of Arsenicals in the 19th and 20th Century

Masanori Kaji (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan) The Cadmium Poisoning and Other Heavy Metal Poisoning in Japan: The Case of Itai-Itai-Disease and Beyond

Ernst Homburg (University of Maastricht, Netherlands) Comments/ Discussion

#### 17:30 - 18:00 Coffee break

#### 18:00 - 18:45 1.3 Keynote presentation and Evening get-together

Nancy Langston (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA) Keynote

19:00 - 21:00 Dinner at the Kerschensteiner Kolleg

# Saturday, April 28

# 2. Organic Substances

### 09:00 - 10:30 2.1 Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Tony Travis (Sidney M. Edelstein Center, Jerusalem, Israel) Aromatic Amines

Heiko Stoff (Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany) Butter Yellow: The Fear of Contaminants in Germany and Western Europe (1930-1950)

Christopher Sellers (State University of New York, USA) Benzene's Passage from Poison to Carcinogen: How Uneven a Progression?

Bob Flanagan (King's College Hospital, London, England) Comments/ Discussion

# 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

## 11:00 - 12:30 **2.2 Organic Pesticides**

Amy M. Hay (RCC / University of Texas, USA) War and Peace: The Phenoxy Herbicides and Chemical Defoliation

Leif Fredrickson (University of Virginia, USA) Picloram: From Ecocide to Eco-ally

Fritz Davis (Florida State University, USA) Organophosphate Insecticides: From Nerve Gases to the Most Prolific Insecticides in the World

Evelyn Krache Morris (Georgetown University, Washington D.C., USA) Comments/ Discussion

# 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break

#### 14:00 - 15:30 2.3 Roles of Government

Hugh Gorman (Michigan Technological University, USA) Learning to Govern Human Interactions with the Nitrogen Cycle

Kevin C. Armitage (Miami University, Ohio, USA) From Death Gases to a Hole in the Sky: Refrigerants in the Chemical Century

Nasir Tyabji (Independent Researcher, New Delhi, India) Horizontal reverberations of hazard concerns; The Bhopal Industrial Accident and the Indian Nuclear Liability Act

Paul Erker (RCC / Deutsches Museum, Germany) Comments/ Discussion

## 15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

Time for private excursions in and around Munich

# Sunday, April 29

# 09:00 - 10:40 3. Some Notorious Organic Compounds

Peter Morris (Science Museum London, GB) DDT

Stefan Böschen (Augsburg University, Germany) Dioxins

John K. Smith (Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, USA) Raising a Stink: The Short Happy Life of MTBE

Alexander von Schwerin (Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany) Cyclamate

Pierre Laszlo (University of Liege, Belgium) Comments/ Discussion

- 10:40 11:10 Coffee break/ Midday snack
- 11:10 11:40 Final remarks/ Comments on the topics of the Workshop Kai Hünemörder (Kompetenzzentrum Handwerkskammer Hamburg, Germany)
- 11:40 12:30 Final organizational issues/ Discussion of book proposal



N

Kerschensteiner Kolleg (Deutsches Museum)

# • Take tram 16 in direction Effnerplatz to the tram stop Deutsches Museum or walk (ca. 3-5 min.)

By subway (**U-Bahn**): U1+2, disembark at Fraunhoferstraße.

- Take Bus 132 in direction Rindermarkt to the bus stop Ludwigsbrücke, proceed to Deutsches Museum by crossing the bridge (Ludwigsbrücke)
- Alternatively, walk along the river Isar from Fraunhoferstraße (ca. 10 minutes walk)

The **entrance** of the Kerschensteiner Kolleg is located on the west side of the museum (walk along the right hand side of the building when coming from Ludwigsbrücke).

# RegistrationThe workshop is free and open to the public;<br/>however registration is required. Please send an e-mail to<br/>events@carsoncenter.lmu.de by April 22, 2012, to sign up.

#### Venue

