

***Making Green Germany: The Emergence of Climate Politics amidst German Reunification and the Post-Cold War Transformation of Europe***

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This research project will study how efforts to mitigate anthropogenic climate change gained political currency in the reunified Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) during the 1990s. It will consider how the end of the Cold War and German Reunification shaped the emergence of climate change as a political issue, but also examine the influence of climate politics on reunified Germany. The project will depart from existing scholarship, which describes climate change as a unique problem and thus rarely considers its relationship to mainstream politics, by considering the myriad ways in which climate politics were entangled in German reunification and Europe's post-Cold War transformation.

The project will study three transformations that re-shaped post-Cold War Europe in order to find and analyze the links between climate politics and high politics: (1) the expansion and entrenchment of liberal democracy and neo-liberal economics after the end of Communism, (2) the creation of new identities after the end of German (and European) division, and (3) the re-conception of technology amidst the transformation of Cold War Big Science.

By studying post-Cold War era climate politics in the FRG, this project will help us to see how climate change became not only a salient issue, but also part of mainstream politics in the 1990s. Thus, the project will also further a broader re-conception of environmental history that better links the study of the environmental concerns with "mainstream" social and political problems.