

# 1989 GLOBAL HISTORIES

HAUS  
DER  
KULTUREN  
DER  
WELT

**Themed Days**  
**19 – 22 February 09**

Curated by Nevim Çil,  
Manthia Diawara, Silvia  
Fehrmann, Navid  
Kermani, Yang Lian

**Readings, talks, interviews, music, radio and an exhibition with international archive materials, photographs, and films.**

1989 was a decisive year in the history of the Twentieth Century. The opening of the Berlin Wall was not the only break with the past with international consequences: on every single continent, unforeseeable upheavals occurred whose impact is still felt today. Two decades on, the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (founded in March 1989) examines the global significance of these events and developments. The year 1989 saw the massacre at Tianan'men Square in China, the death of Khomeini in Iran, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan (with its impact on the whole of Central Asia), the end of the South American dictatorships and the triumph of neo-liberalism, the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, Namibia's independence and the end of apartheid in South Africa. Crucial, too, were the consequences of the fall of the Wall for immigrants and their children in East and West Germany. By focussing on six key aspects, the Haus der Kulturen der Welt is shifting attention away from Europe to focus on a patchwork of interrelated events whose ramifications transcend regional boundaries. With our programme we invite guests to listen as the historical events of 1989 are narrated by a variety of people – actors, dissidents, artists, authors and scientists, among others – whose biographies are inextricably tied up with these transformations.

Free admission to all events. All events with simultaneous translation into German and English.

*In cooperation with the Forum Berlin '1989 - 2009. Erinnern in die Zukunft' of the 'Stiftung Zukunft Berlin', the 'Freie Universität Berlin' and the Hertie School of Governance – 19 and 20 February 2009. Information [www.forum-berlin.eu](http://www.forum-berlin.eu)*

# Opening

**Thursday, 19 Feb.**

**8 pm**

**Talk | Free admission**

Greeting: Bernd M. Scherer, Director

Introduction and Moderation: Susanne Stemmler, Literary Scholar

Nobel Laureate in Literature **Wole Soyinka**, Nigeria, and historian **Timothy Garton Ash**, United Kingdom

**10 pm**

**Videograms of a Revolution**

Film | Free admission

D: Harun Farocki, Andrei Ujica, Germany 1991, 107 mins

The autumn of 1989 is ingrained in our minds as a succession of visual events: Prague, Berlin, Bucharest. But Romania presented the most extreme revolutionary scenario of all. It all happened in just two cities in the space of ten days: from the popular uprising to the overthrow and execution of the country's rulers. In Bucharest, demonstrators occupied the television station and broadcast live almost non-stop from 21 to 26 December 1989. The directors have combined this material with amateur film recordings to create a comprehensive picture of the events.

## **1989 in Pictures**

19 – 22 Feb.

Daily from 12 am and during the events

A documentary exhibition | Free admission

How were the events of 1989 portrayed, perceived, and commented upon to the public worldwide? In an attempt to present the events from a variety of standpoints, research assistants in five regions of the world have gathered historical material for the Haus der Kulturen der Welt: photographs and news clips from around the world, representing events of the year and the ensuing developments.

# Iran

Curated by Navid Kermani

## Friday, 20 Feb.

### 5 pm

#### **The End of the War, the Fatwa, and the Death of a Leader**

Readings, talk | Free admission

The writers Shahrnush Parsipur (Richmond/USA), and Natasha Amiri (Tehran) in conversation with Navid Kermani, Islamic scholar and writer (Cologne)  
German translations read by the actress Laura Tonke.

With the end of the First Gulf War, which cost well over a million people their lives, the Iranians hoped that they would be able to live a halfway decent life again. However, the Iranian regime stepped up the pressure so that it could maintain control over public opinion. Thousands were executed in purges. Khomeini, the Revolutionary Leader, not only called for the assassination of Salman Rushdie, but also had his designated successor, Mr. Montazeri, placed under house arrest for criticising human rights' violations. When the Revolutionary Leader died, millions flocked to his funeral. However, the epoch that began with his death is not over yet. Three generations of Iranian writers, including names such as Shahrnush Parsipur, Ali Khodaiy and Natasha Amiri, have been invited by Navid Kermani to recall the seminal events of the time and reflect upon where their country stands now, twenty years later.

### 6.30 pm

#### **Bashu, the Little Stranger**

Film | Free admission

D: Bahram Beizai, Iran 1986/89, 120 mins

Amidst the inferno of the Iraqi-Iranian war, a ten-year-old boy runs away from his bombarded village in Iran's Arab south. Orphaned, dirty, and at the end of his tether, he gets to know Naii, where he finds shelter, care and someone he can trust. Naii is a strong woman. Opposing tradition and the wishes of the others, she succeeds in integrating the dark-skinned boy into his new, and somewhat alien, Persian environment. A film containing excellently composed imagery and mythical elements. Originally censored, the film was not shown until 1988 – after the war was over.

### 8.30 pm

#### **Homework (Maschgh e schab)**

Film | Free admission

D: Abbas Kiarostami, Iran 1989, 86 mins

Kiarostami realises that he cannot help his son with his homework. So he grabs his camera, aiming to find out what the problem is. Talking to schoolchildren about their experiences at school and life at home with their parents, and about their joys and fears, he discovers what a crucial role religion plays in their lives. The children have learned what they may and may not say. The film vividly shows Iran's repressive educational system, with its harsh discipline.

**Repeat: Wednesday, 25 Feb., 8 pm**

# China

Curated by Yang Lian

**Friday, 20 Feb.**

**7 pm**

## **The Unfinished Journey – From Tianan'men Square to Exile**

Talk, readings, film | Free admission

Wang Dan, student leader in 1989 and poet (London), and the documentary film maker Ai Xiaoming (Guangdong/China) in conversation with the poet Yang Lian (London)

Moderation: Tilman Spengler, writer and sinologist

The German translations of the poems will be read by the actor Bastian Trost.

1989 stands for the transition to a democratic system for people in many countries around the world. In China, however, the Tianan'men Square massacre, which took place that year, signalled the end of the movement for democracy. From the early 1990s on, Deng Xiaoping pushed ahead with a program of radical economic reforms. Nowadays, nobody can ignore the global player. Yet the country's political system has barely changed. What is today the relevance of the Charter 08? Chinese lyricist Yang Lian talks with dissidents and authors such as Wang Dan, one of the initiators of the student protests at the time. How have the events of 1989 left their mark on modern Chinese society?

**10 pm**

## **The Gate of Heavenly Peace**

Film | Free admission

D: Richard Gordon/Carma Hinton, USA 1995, 190 mins

The protests at Tiananmen Square in Beijing lasted from April to June 1989, and culminated in a brutal massacre on 4 June. Students, working-class people, teachers and pupils reflect upon both the drama and the absurdity and sheer scale of the tragedy. Tiananmen was and remains a historical rupture. All of the interviews focus on how these events have changed China. The film was controversial months before it was completed.

***Repeat Saturday 28 Feb., 8 pm***

# Chile, Argentina, Venezuela

Curated by Silvia Fehrmann

*In co-operation with the Iberoamerikanisches Institut (Ibero-American Institute).*

## Saturday 21 Feb.

**2.30 pm**

### **Democratic culture, the crisis of neo-liberalism?**

Talk | Free admission

Beatriz Sarlo, Argentine literary critic, social historian Margarita López Maya (Venezuela) and the political scientist Véronica Valdivia Ortiz (Chile) in conversation with Silvia Fehrmann, cultural studies (Buenos Aires/Berlin)

In 1989, with Pinochet in Chile and Stroessner in Paraguay, the last remaining dictatorships in Latin America collapse. The 'Transición' begins. The fact that democracies do not necessarily stand for non-violence is demonstrated by Venezuela: mass uprisings in Caracas directed against a package of neo-liberal economic measures are brutally suppressed. In conformity with the Washington Consensus, Argentina pursues radical liberal economic reforms. Brazil follows suit. Today, however, the uprising in Venezuela is considered the birth of the 'Revolución Bolivariana'. In a talk with Silvia Fehrmann, Argentinean literary critic Beatriz Sarlo, Venezuelan historian Margarita López Maya, and others examine the implications of 1989.

**4.30 pm**

### **Memoria del saqueo (Chronicle of a Plundering)**

Film | Free admission

D: Fernando Solanas, Argentina 2004, 114 mins

In his film *Memorias del Saqueo*, the past master of Latin American cinema shows the devastating effects of globalization. Taking the crisis in Argentina over the past few years as an example, Solanas shows what consequences neo-liberal policies have for Latin America as a whole. He pieces together events that have taken place over the past three decades: under the Videla dictatorship, during the popular rebellion at the end of 2001, and under the corrupt Alliance government. Historical photographs are presented in a new light. And Solanas asks: How is it possible to prevent, or at least stop, countries from being bled white in this way?

**Repeat Tuesday 24 Feb., 8 pm**

## Sunday, 22 Feb.

**2 pm**

### **Jorge Volpi reads from 'Zeit der Asche'**

Book launch | Free admission

Presented by Dieter Ingenschay, Humboldt University Berlin

German text will be read by Jeanette Spassova, Volksbühne

In his new novel, Mexican writer and cultural attaché Jorge Volpi focuses on how women from different continents deal with the consequences of 1989: the hopes and fears of an era.

**Monday, 23 Feb.**

**7 pm**

**Ibero-American Institut**

**Beatriz Sarlo: Redefiniciones**

**del campo intelectual tras la caída del muro**

*Lecture in Spanish language | Free admission*

*In the framework of 'The two Germanys and Latin America'*

[www.iai.spk-berlin.de](http://www.iai.spk-berlin.de)

*In co-operation with the Ibero-American Institute.*

## **Radio/Workshop**

Concept by Next Interkulturelle Projekte

**19 – 22 Feb.**

**Hausradio '89**

Free admission

A radio workshop for young Berliners to accompany the programme '1989 – Global Histories'. The reporters are members of 'Die DeuKische Generation'. With live broadcasts on Sunday 22 Feb., 18-19 h on UKW 97.2 and a live stream at [www.myspace.com/Hausradio](http://www.myspace.com/Hausradio), as well as podcasts at [www.hkw.de/Hausradio](http://www.hkw.de/Hausradio).

*Concept by Next Interkulturelle Projekte in co-operation with Klubradio and the Offener Kanal Berlin radio stations.*

**Friday, 20 Feb.**

**4 pm**

**Generation Neunzehnhundertneunundachtzig**

Free admission

Presentation of the Youth workshop

Members of the 1989 generation spent an entire month on the road. The results are shown in a sound sculpture.

*In cooperation with the John-Lennon-Schule, Berlin-Mitte and with Klubradio and the Offener Kanal Berlin radio stations.*

**Friday 20 Feb., 5.30 - 6.30 pm**

**Saturday 21 Feb., 6 - 7 pm**

**Gläsernes Studio**

Talk | Free admission

Moderation: Evi Chantzi

In the 'Gläsernes Studio', the Hausradio invites international guests to two round table talks on revolutions and democratic movements of 1989. Visitors are able to witness the radio production in progress.

# Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir

Curated by David Kermani

**Saturday, 21 Feb.**

**2.30 pm**

**Osama**

Film | Free admission

D: Siddiq Barmak, Afghanistan/Ireland/Japan 2003, 83 mins

The first feature film shot after the fall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Since women were banned from public life and from their places of work during the Mullah domination, a twelve-year old girl is supposed to feed her family. Her mother dresses her up as a boy. The terror of the Taliban is tangible in the young girl's fear of disclosure.

**Repeat Saturday 28 Feb., 18 h**

**8 pm**

**A Season Outside**

Film | Free admission

D: Amar Kanwar, India 1998, 30 mins

Wagha is a village on the border between India and Pakistan. Everyday, Indians and Pakistanis encounter one another here along a thin white line. At dusk and sunrise, they celebrate the ritual closing and opening of the border. No other frontier guard is better placed for examining why the Pakistan-India conflict repeatedly erupts anew. How suitable are concepts of non-violence in helping to solve the problems between Muslims and Hindus? Amar Kanwar takes us on a journey that also turns out to be a search for wisdom and humanity.

**Repeat Wednesday 25 Feb., 8 pm**

**8.30 pm**

**Murderous Outbreaks, Forgotten Wars: 1989 between Central Asia and Kashmir**

Talk | Free admission

The journalists Faheem Dashty, editor-in-chief of the Kabul Weekly, Ejaz Haider, Friday Times (Pakistan), and the Iranian Professor Bert Fragner, Academy of Sciences in Vienna, in conversation with Navid Kermani, Islamic scholar and writer (Cologne)

In 1989, dramatic upheavals befell the southern part of the Soviet Empire: After ten years of occupation, the last Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February. The ensuing inner-Afghan war continues to this day, and there is no end in sight. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in Central Asia, many countries gained their independence, each a conflict unto its own: authoritarian regimes, civil wars, ethnic tensions, human rights violations, the infiltration of dogmatic conservative strands of Wahhabi Islam. In Tajikistan, secular and religious forces join in a fight against the post-Soviet rulers. Until 1997, the following civil war claimed over 100,000 lives and forced over a half million people to flee the country. The insurgency in Kashmir, which in 1989 erupted over a series of blatantly fraudulent regional elections, exacted a similar number of victims. Because India and Pakistan are both nuclear powers, Bill Clinton called Kashmir the most dangerous conflict in the world.

# Angola, Namibia, South Africa

Curated by Manthia Diawara

*In co-operation with AfricAvenir*

**Saturday, 21 Feb.**

**6 pm**

## **The Dawning of Independence and Democracy**

Talk | Free admission

Andreas Eckert, African History at Humboldt University Berlin, Mueni Wa Muiu, Winston Salem State University (North Carolina) and the documentary director Jihan El-Tahri (Egypt/France), talk with Manthia Diawara, African Studies (New York)

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Communist Block in 1989 had a direct impact on Africa: In the competition for zones of influence and alliance partners, the brutality of South Africa's regime was ignored along with human rights violations in other regions. That situation is now changed. The apartheid regime lost its supporters, the following year the African National Congress ANC was legalized, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, and Namibia gained its independence. The single party system was weakened, and 'strongmen' such as Mobutu Sese Seko, Mengistu Haile Mariam and Moussa Traoré lost power. The Angolan Liberation Organization MPLA, sponsored by Cuba, came under pressure and Fidel Castro commanded the withdrawal of his troops from Africa. After 1989, 'civil society', 'modernization', and 'democratization' become fashionable words. But the revolt of 1989, according to Manthia Diawara, was also the transition into a phase of ignorance by the United States and Europe towards Africa, seeing it as merely a source of raw materials. Using films such as 'Cuba: An African Odyssey,' 'Blood Diamonds' or Aduaka's 'Ezra,' he traces the ways in which Africa has been re-presented up to the present day: Africa-pessimism and religious fundamentalism on the one hand, Africa-optimism through modernization and a new self-confidence on the other. Andreas Eckert will speak about the importance of the struggle against apartheid and Mueni Wa Muiu on developments in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

**6.30 pm**

## **Camera and History**

### **How is history written in film? A discussion with film critics and film-makers**

Talk | Free admission

Cristina Nord, film critic (Berlin) in discussion with the director Thomas Heise (Berlin)

**9 pm**

## **Cuba: An African Odyssey**

Film | Free admission

D: Jihan El-Tahri, Egypt 2007, 180 mins

The film focuses on a hitherto largely neglected aspect of the Cold War period: 300,000 Cubans supported the revolutionary liberation struggles in Africa up to the end of the Cold War, helping the young nations in their fight against their former and new colonial powers. Jihan El-Tahri found these impressive archive recordings of Nelson Mandela and Che Guevara, who operated under the name of Tatu during the Congo mission.

**Repeat Friday 27 Feb., 8 pm**

## Camera and History

**Saturday 21.2**

**6.30 pm**

**How is history written in film? A discussion with film critics and film-makers**

Talk | Free admission

Cristina Nord, film critic (Berlin) in discussion with the director Thomas Heise (Berlin)

## Party

**Saturday, 21 Feb.**

**From 10 pm**

**Dr. Motte presents: PARTY LIKE IT'S 1989**

Free admission

'Friede, Freude, Eierkuchen' (good clean fun): This is the motto under which the 150 participants in the first Love Parade take to the streets of Berlin in 1989. Without this parade, Berlin would never have become the world capital of electronic music. A party in the style of the early days of Techno.

**DJs: Mijk van Dijk | Tanith | Hardy Hard | Jonzon | Rok | Ronny Pries**

# Migrants and a re-united Germany

Curated by Nevim Çil

## **Brotherland is Broke**

19 Feb. – 1 March

Daily from 12 am

Exhibition | Free admission

The history of contract workers in the GDR

In 1989 over 90,000 contract workers from other socialist countries lived in the GDR. Around two thirds of them came from Vietnam, over 15,000 from Mozambique, and the rest came from Angola, Cuba, China, North Korea, Algeria, Hungary and Poland. With the collapse of the GDR, a large proportion of contract workers returned to their home countries. Those who remained literally ended up on the streets due to the closing of rooming houses. And they were the first in a reunified Germany to become unemployed. Photographs and documents show a forgotten chapter of immigration to Germany.

*An exhibition by the Vietnamese Cultural Association Reistrommel e.V.*

## **Sunday, 22 Feb.**

*In co-operation with Reistrommel e.V.*

**2 pm**

### **Wir bleiben hier (We Are Staying Here)**

Film | Free admission

D: Dirk Otto, GDR 1990, 30 mins

What is going to happen next? East Germany disappears and contracts of employment become meaningless. The decision to stay is fraught with problems: Old standards no longer apply and new ones have yet to be established. People have to take their fate in their own hands: the former contracted workers from Vietnam – the losers of unification. They fight with the authorities over the right to stay. That right is contested and they face discrimination from all sides, including violence from compatriots who now flood into a united Germany. A portrait of a Vietnamese family in the wake of unification.

***Repeat Thursday 26 Feb., 8 pm***

**2.30 pm**

### **The Wall Fell on our Head**

Talk | Free admission

Phan Huy Thao, founder of the association of Reistrommel, Berlin, the ethnologist Damani Partridge, Center for African-American and African Studies, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor / USA) in discussion with political scientist Nevim Çil (Berlin). Moderated by Mark Terkessidis, migration researcher and author, Berlin.

For many immigrants and their children in East and West Germany, the fall of the Wall and reunification had drastic consequences. The status of contract workers from Mozambique and Vietnam in the GDR and the 'guest workers' in the West changed abruptly. But discussions around the political, social and economic impact of the fall of the Wall and reunification are seen to this day from a German-German perspective. The Panel poses questions about German unity from the perspective of migrants: how did they perceive unification? What has changed for immigrants and their children in the western and eastern part of the Republic? What are the similarities and differences between migrants in the East and West? Phan Huy Thao will report about the changes facing former Vietnamese contract workers to the

present day. Damani Partridge asks what effect reunification had on how migrants are perceived in Germany. The migration researcher Nevim Çil gives an insight into the changing relationship between former Turkish workers and their children and German society.

**4 pm**

**Duvarlar/Mauern/Walls**

Film | Free admission

D: Can Candan, USA/Turkey 2000, 83 mins

After the Wall is down, Turkish immigrants re-consider their relationship to Germany. The documentary snapshot, taken by the Turkish film-maker Can Candan, was made in 1991 – precisely thirty years after the first Turkish ‘guest workers’ entered the country. People of different ages speak about their past, their present and their future prospects in a united Germany.

***Repeat Thursday 26 Feb., 8 pm***

**19 – 22 Feb., daily from 12 am**

**Are we the People, too? 1989 – Yesterday and Today,  
from the migrant’s perspective**

Free admission

Along with the panel and films, discussions will be held in an interview room with migrants and their descendants from the western and eastern parts of Berlin – stories of unity?

**PLACEMAKING**

‘Migration not only means people fleeing, but it’s also a movement of spaces.’ In conjunction with the program ‘The Wall Fell on our Heads,’ Stefanie Bürkle presents an interdisciplinary art project entitled ‘Placemaking’.  
[www.placemaking.de](http://www.placemaking.de)

## Final Discussion

**Sunday, 22 Feb., 5.30 pm**

Free admission

### **1989 – A Global Watershed?**

The sociologist Saskia Sassen (New York) and Russian writer Vladimir Sorokin (Moscow) in discussion, followed by a talk with Manthia Diawara, Yang Lian and others

Moderation: Caroline Fetscher, Der Tagesspiegel (Berlin)

How are we to judge the impact of the global events of 1989 on the present? Did that year really represent a global watershed? According to Saskia Sassen, the globalization of the financial markets, which accelerated after 1989, confirms this supposition. But how does Vladimir Sorokin, a novelist of the younger, post-modern generation, view the war in Afghanistan, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the 'new Russia' of today? These transnational relationships, which often only become transparent at second glance, will be discussed in the light of new approaches to 'world history'. The curators of the theme days will also be participating in the talk that follows, and introducing regional priorities into this final round.

**A part of the programme series '1989- 2009 The Haus der Kulturen and the World'**

**Next event**

**4-6 June 2009**

**BEYOND MULTICULTURALISM?**

**Envisioning the Immigration Society**

**International Symposium**

**Haus der Kulturen der Welt**

**John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10 | 10557 Berlin | Fon +49 30 39 78 71 75**

*1989 – Global Histories*

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*Presented by die tageszeitung*

*Supported by Abion Hotel, Berlin*

1989 – GLOBAL HISTORIES

Bernd M. Scherer, Director

Projektleitung: Susanne Stemmler, Director Department Literature and Humanities |

Project Assistant: Irene Hummel, Leyla Discacciati

Dramaturgy: Alexandra Engel | Exhibition:

Valerie Smith, Director Visual Arts, Daniela Wolf, Johanna von

Websky, Laila Huber (Trainee) | Music: Detlef

Diederichsen, Director Performing Arts,

Gabriele Tuch | Research assistants of the exhibition:

Naghmeh Hosseini, Shao Jiang, Emmanuel

Mwendwa, Susana Zavala Orozco, Elsa de Seynes

Interviews: Martin Hager, Aimée Torre Brons |

Youth Programme: Next Interkulturelle Projekte