

PARAPSYCHOLOGY UNDER SOCIALISM II: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES IN CHINA AND THE USSR

A Workshop by Birgit Menzel, Michael Lackner

Since its inception, CAS-E has focused on global perspectives on esoteric phenomena and their assessment. This workshop seeks to compare the role of parapsychology/paranormal phenomena within the scientific communities of China and the USSR. Particular attention will be given to both the differences and the commonalities in the conceptual, institutional, political and ideological contexts of parapsychological research in the two countries. Speakers will present their recent research on China and the USSR.



Prof. Dr. Birgit Menzel

Permanent Fellow, CAS-E



Prof. Dr. Michael Lackner

Director, CAS-E

1. The language, discourses and concepts of parapsychology in China and in the USSR.
2. Expectations of practical applications of parapsychological discoveries
3. The relationship between the state and parapsychology and the adaptation of parapsychological research to state ideology; types of institutionalization and legitimization of paranormal research and practice
4. Parapsychological communities and alliances of psychics, healers, parapsychologists and academic scientists in China
5. Transnational interactions of parapsychologists within the social camp and with Western countries
6. The influence of parapsychological research in socialist countries (China, the USSR and countries of the Eastern Bloc) on global New Age and contemporary alternative medical and health practices



Date:
29th – 30th January, 2026



Time:
4:00 (29th) – 3:00 (30th) PM

Location: Big Seminar room, Hartmannstr. 14, Building D1, Erlangen

Link for virtual attendance: <https://fau.zoom-x.de/j/62556506187>



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Alternative Rationalities and
Esoteric Practices from a Global Perspective



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