

# The GDR Today

New Interdisciplinary  
Approaches to  
East German History,  
Memory and Culture

*Edited by Stephan Ehrig,  
Marcel Thomas and David Zell*



PETER LANG

Oxford • Bern • Berlin • Bruxelles • New York • Wien

# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| List of Figures  | ix |
| Acknowledgements   | xi |
| STEPHAN EHRIG, MARCEL THOMAS AND DAVID ZELL  |    |
| Introduction: The GDR Today  | I  |
| PART I Narrative Cultures  |    |
| 17   |    |
| RICHARD SLIPP  |    |
| Memory in the Narratives of Christoph Hein – Christoph Hein<br>in Narratives of Memory             | 19 |
| ELIZABETH M. WARD  |    |
| ‘Who is Heinz Stielke?’ Questions of Identity in Michael Kann’s<br><i>Stielke, Heinz, fünfzehn</i> | 43 |
| MARY FRANK   |    |
| Investigating the (Un)Translatability of the GDR   | 63 |
| PART II Reframing Cultural Heritage  |    |
| 81   |    |
| STEPHAN EHRIG  |    |
| Deconstructing Revolutionary Traditions: Stefan Schütz’s <i>Kohlhaas</i>                           | 83 |

TOM SMITH

Music, the GDR Military and the GDR  
Today in the Works of Walter Flegel 99

CHRISTIAN RAU

Agent of Socialism? The Knowledge of the East German  
Academic Librarian 117

PART III Post-Wall Narrative Identities 135

DIRK THOMASCHKE

The GDR in *Ortschroniken* and *Heimatbücher* after 1990 137

MARCEL THOMAS

Beyond *Ostalgie*: Villagers and Social Change  
in East and West Germany 155

HANNA HAAG

Memory as Transmission: East German Families Remember the  
GDR 175

PART IV Memory Conflicts Re-Examined 193

DANIEL KUBIAK

Socialization, Downgrading and Othering:  
The Formation of Identity of Young 'East Germans' 195

MARIE MÜLLER-ZETZSCHE

Classroom Memory Debates on the GDR 215

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| PART V History and Memory in Museums  | 229 |
| MICHAELA DIXON  |     |
| (Re)Unifying Narratives: The Political Memory<br>of Opposition at Museums of the GDR  | 231 |
| STEFANIE KREIBICH   |     |
| Post- <i>Ostalgie</i> : How German Visual Culture Gradually<br>Overcomes Binary Representations of Everyday Life in the GDR | 247 |
| SUSANNE WERNING   |     |
| 'Modell DDR': Performative Memory as Curatorial Practice  | 263 |
| Notes on Contributors   | 283 |
| Index   | 287 |