

Highlights in the WZB anniversary year 2019



Joining forces to make the “50” hover above the WZB birthday cake: Wolfgang Merkel, Heike Solga, Michael Zürn, Dorothea Kübler, Agne Kajackaite, Ruud Koopmans, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Steffen Huck, Ursula Noack, Mattias Kumm, Lena Hipp, Macartan Humphreys, and WZB President Jutta Allmendinger (left to right).

92

March 14

Visit by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier

The anniversary year kicked off with a visit by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to the WZB. As part of the public discussion series “Young Science Meets Politics,” President Steinmeier sat down with young WZB researchers, on the morning of March 14, to discuss current trends troubling the liberal democratic order. The discussion focused on

the relationship between democracy and populism, attitudes towards migration and integration, and the digital transformation of the public sphere. Afterwards, the President met with the WZB President, research unit directors, and group leaders to talk about current research issues. Before it was time for the President to head back to Bellevue, there was an opportunity to blow out the candles together on the birthday cake and take a family picture with all WZB staff (see also p. 39).

June 19

Europe: Myth and Vision – Ceremony at Pierre Boulez Saal

On June 19, Daniel Barenboim invited the WZB and its friends to Pierre Boulez Saal to engage in exchanges between science, music, art, and society. The evening was devoted to “Europe: Myth and Vision.” The continent is struggling with the forces of a rift between rich and poor, between strange and familiar, between lethargy and engagement. For the first time since the Cold War, our democracies and free societies seem fragile and threatened from both the inside and the outside. In a series of musical and non-musical contributions, the



Pierre Boulez Saal

event and its 800 guests explored the question of Europe – what it can be and what it must be. The world premiere of a new piece by Jörg Widmann, performed by Daniel Barenboim and the Boulez Ensemble, was framed by other pieces from European musical history. Children of the Kreuzberg art lab “S27” presented their wishes regarding the society of the future, created together with WZB researchers. Speakers included the Federal Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, Maestro Daniel Barenboim, and WZB President Jutta Allmendinger. Later in the evening, US artist Joe Ramirez showed his installation “The New Gold Projections,” featuring film sequences created in collaboration with the WZB. Furthermore, short films and an exhibition in the lobby informed attendees about the institute’s mission and current research.

November 5

Scientific Symposium: WZB Distinguished Lectures and A.SK Award Ceremony at the WZB

On November 5, during the Berlin Science Week, the WZB will host a high-profile scientific symposium featuring a series of Distinguished Lecturers. Speakers will include the Director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, Margaret Levi, Harvard political scientist Jennifer Hochschild, and the Board of Trustees Professor in Economics at Northwestern University, Charles F. Manski. In addition, the symposium will feature the awarding of the 2019 A.SK Award, a prize worth \$200,000.



Lord Dahrendorf

December 4–5

Scientific conference in honor of Lord Ralf Dahrendorf

Together with the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics and Political Science, the WZB will honor its research professor Lord Ralf Dahrendorf on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his death by means of a scientific conference held on December 4–5, which will officially conclude the WZB anniversary year.

Thanks

A big thank you goes out to “Freunde des WZB” for providing generous support in terms of funding, logistics, and advice since 2013. Their contributions and donations have helped make possible the anniversary year events as well as numerous research and transfer projects at the WZB.