



The Stasi Records Archive. From Repression to Revolution to School for Democracy

An overview over three decades of archival use for the German transitional justice process following the Communist dictatorship in East Germany

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German Democratic Republic

Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records (BStU)

- began **October 3, 1990**, the day of German unification
- 40 years of documentation of the secret police work of East Germany's Stasi (Ministry for State Security) – world-wide first
- opening was a direct result of the **Peaceful Revolution of 1989**
- **January 2, 1992** personal access started on basis of **Stasi Records Act (StUG)**
- has counted **7 million requests for access**, among those 3 million by individuals, additionally by researchers and journalists, plus petitions for vetting of public employees, for rehabilitation and retirement pension issues

Historic context

- Ministry for State Security, 1950 to 1989
- Secret police in the service of the one-party rule of the SED
- “Shield and Sword of the Party”



BStU-Kopie



BStU-Kopie



BStU-Kopie

Specific Conditions of the Archive Opening

1. opening of archive was **a people's demand** as part of regime change, transitional justice ideas organic to the process (accountability, rehabilitation, education, reconciliation)
2. **unification** eliminated the old state and added a new fully developed democratic state actor
3. the **precedent of the reappraisal process** of the Nazi regime and its deficits contributed to the speed and political consensus of the immediate opening



Measuring the Success of the Stasi Records Archive

Criteria - accountability, justice, truth telling, reparations, public trust, reconciliation, education

- **personal access** hugely successful, partly a public and mostly a private process (re-appropriation of your personal biography)
- **vetting** of public sector employees and public office holders, huge numbers, restoration of public trust with one pitfall (focus on unofficial collaborators)
- **criminal prosecution** very minimal despite access to records

Measuring the Success of the Stasi Records Archive

-continued-

Criteria - accountability, justice, truth telling, reparations, public trust, reconciliation, education

- the agencies charged with **rehabilitation and reparations** had no trouble with documentary evidence, success however not all encompassing from the victims' pov (difficult to measure, mostly through public discourse, few studies)
- public discourse through **access for researchers and journalists**, entwined with the public debate
- **education** about the mechanism of the regime through BStU activities and other organisations' efforts

The Archive as permanent source of human rights discussion

- as long as people are alive who have suffered from Stasi and SED activities the archive **serves a concrete and symbolic role** in their public treatment and public respect for them
- a *continued and reformed* dialogue serves to **further the path to reconciliation** on multiple levels throughout the unified society – developing a guide is the challenge
- archive has a fundamental lessons to offer for the **role of human rights in society** and the qualities we assign our society
- it is a huge repository to address the issue of **data collection** by a state and its effects as well as the **mechanisms of secrecy**
- the archive itself is a monument of surveillance and its site embodies **repression – revolution - reappraisal**

Campus for Democracy



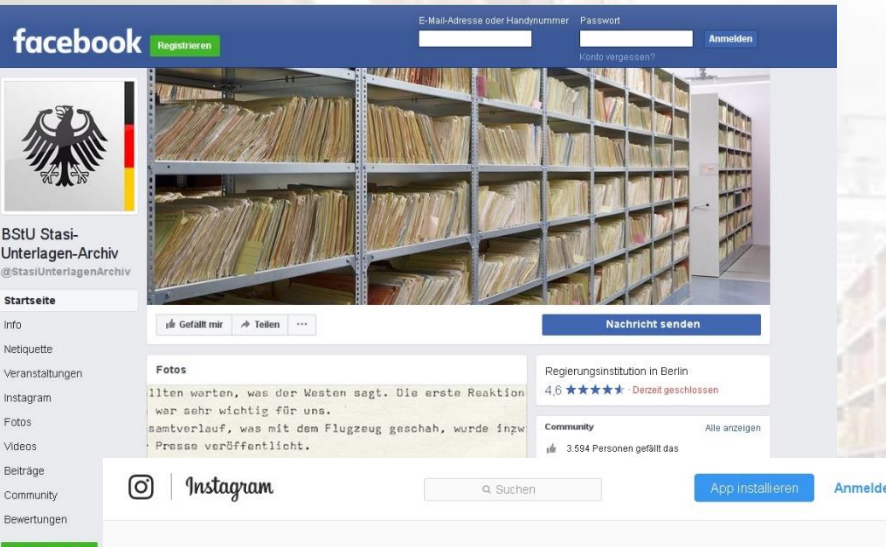
2016 entsteht auf dem Gelände der ehemaligen Stasi-Zentrale eine Open-Air-Ausstellung über die Revolution in der DDR (Modell).



Im ehemaligen Schreibtisch von Stasi-Minister Krich Mithras können Besucher original erhaltene Klammern erkunden.



The Stasi Archives in the digital realm



facebook E-Mail-Adresse oder Handynummer Passwort

BSU Stasi-Unterlagen-Archiv
@StasiUnterlagenArchiv

Startseite

Info
Netiquette
Veranstaltungen
Instagram
Fotos
Videos
Beiträge
Community
Bewertungen

Fotos

11ten warten, was der Westen sagt. Die erste Reaktion war sehr wichtig für uns. samverlauf, was mit dem Flugzeug geschah, wurde inzw. Presse veröffentlicht.

Regierungsinstitution in Berlin
4,6 ★★★★★ · Derzeit geschlossen

Community
3.594 Personen gefällt das



BSStU_Presse ✓
@BSStU_Presse

Tweets 413 Following 2 Followers 833 Likes 26 Lists 0 Moments 0

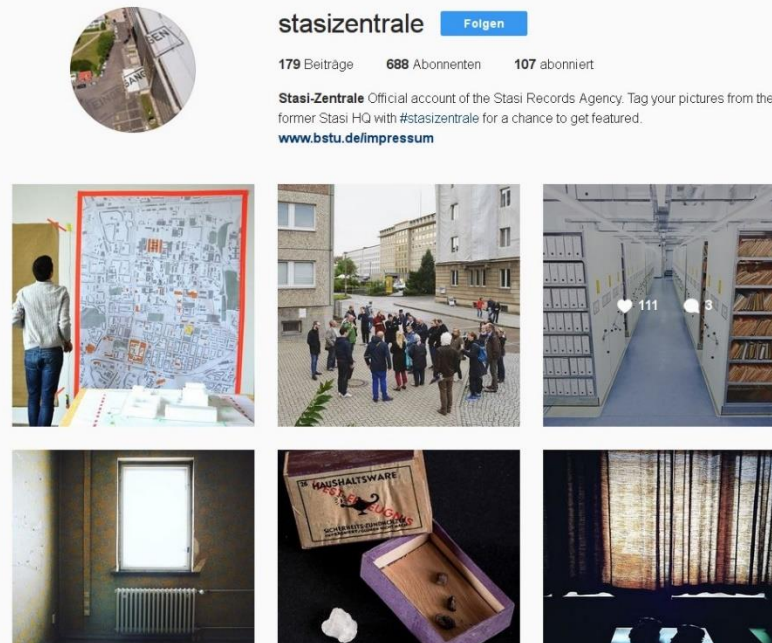
Tweets Tweets & replies Media

BSStU_Presse ✓ @BSStU_Presse · Nov 10
Am 11. Nov, 14.30 Uhr, #BSStU #Schwerin Vortrag, ZeitzeugenGespräch und Führung: "Aufbruch in Parchim 1989" di-ri.co/nml/yw

11 Nov Vortrag und Führung 14:30 Uhr | Leezen BSStU-Außenstelle Schwerin

Informationen von der Pressestelle des Bundesbeauftragten für die Stasi-Unterlagen (BSStU) / press office of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records

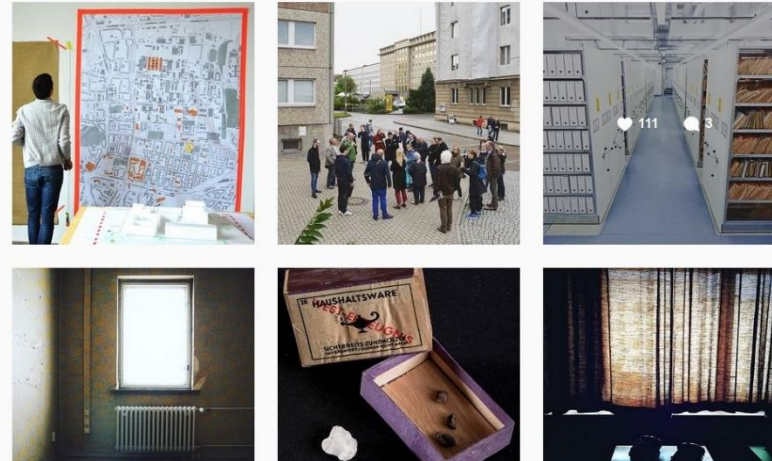
📍 Berlin
🌐 bstu.bund.de/DE/Presse/_nod...
📅 Joined August 2014
🕒 Born on January 2, 1992



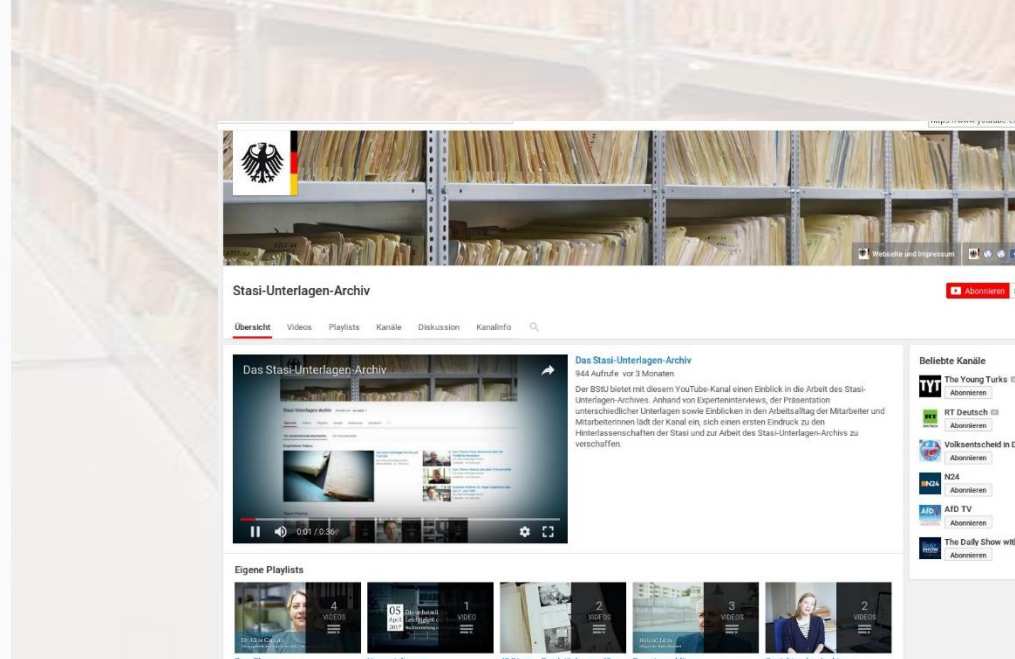
stasizentrale

179 Beiträge 688 Abonnenten 107 abonniert

Stasi-Zentrale Official account of the Stasi Records Agency. Tag your pictures from the former Stasi HQ with #stasizentrale for a chance to get featured.
www.bstu.de/impresum



The grid shows various photos: a man looking at a large map, a group of people in a courtyard, a long hallway with rows of filing cabinets, a window with a radiator, a box of household goods, and a room with curtains.



Stasi-Unterlagen-Archiv

Überzicht Videos Playlists Kanäle Diskussion Kanalinfo

Das Stasi-Unterlagen-Archiv
944 Aufrufe vor 3 Monaten
Der BSStU bietet mit diesem YouTube-Kanal einen Einblick in die Arbeit des Stasi-Unterlagen-Archivs. Anhand von Experteninterviews, der Präsentation unterschiedlicher Unterlagen sowie Einblicken in den Arbeitsalltag der Mitarbeiter und Mitarbeiterinnen lädt der Kanal ein, sich einen ersten Eindruck zu den Hinterbühnenszenen der Stasi und zur Arbeit des Stasi-Unterlagen-Archivs zu verschaffen.

Beliebte Kanäle

- The Young Turks
- RT Deutsch
- Volksentscheid
- N24
- AfD TV
- The Daily Show with

Eigene Playlists

- 4 Videos
- 1 Video
- 2 Videos
- 3 Videos
- 2 Videos

Stasi Mediathek – an online window into the archive

Der Bundesbeauftragte für die Unterlagen
des Staatssicherheitsdienstes der ehemaligen
Deutschen Demokratischen Republik

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Stasi Mediathek

Sammlung

Friedliche Revolution

Ein knappes Jahr reichte aus, um das SED-Regime in der DDR zu stürzen. Einer friedlich agierenden Bürgerbewegung gelang es, einen stark bewaffneten Sicherheitsapparat zu entmachten. Die Stasi hatte dem letztendlich nichts mehr entgegen zu setzen. Dieser Höhepunkt der jüngeren deutschen Geschichte spielte sich im Wesentlichen zwischen Mai 1989 und März 1990 ab und wird heute als Friedliche Revolution bezeichnet.

[Zur Sammlung](#)



Suche

Zeitraum auswählen: 1949 – 1991



Medientyp auswählen

573 Dokumente

92 Fotos

24 Audios

36 Videos

23 Geschichten/Sammlungen

748 Treffer anzeigen [>](#)



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