

[The Tours Congress and the birth of the French Communist Party \(1920-2020\)](#)

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Type:

Call for Papers

Date:

April 26, 2020

Location:

France

Subject Fields:

Contemporary History, European History / Studies, French History / Studies, Italian History / Studies, Russian or Soviet History / Studies

The Tours Congress. 1920-2020

The Tours Congress (25-30 December 1920) represents a crucial moment for the Left and the French political environment. After the Great War and the Russian Revolution, the future is matter of intense debates: reform or immediate revolution, adherence to the III International or compromise with the “radical” parts of the bourgeoisie and with its parties, links with the labor unions, class struggle or patriotic union, internationalism, pacifism or militarism, opposition to the colonial imperialism or defense of national interests in behalf of the “civilizing” mission, these were the options among which to choose. The resolution adopted by the majority of the participants in Tours was in favor of the creation of the communist party, while the Longuet and Blum currents kept the old party and the name SFIO (Section française de l’Internationale ouvrière/French Section of the Workers’ International)

Which are the inspirations, from the Marxist theory or other intellectual movements, what is to retain and how to pass to action in the society? Which are the significations of this congress, considered as a founding moment? Which is its role in the French society and its influence on the international plan? Which have been the actors, the ideals and the aims?

In order to reassess all these elements, and in occasion of the centenary of the Congress and more than 50 years after the pioneer works of Annie Kriegel, the historians of the Tours University organize an international conference aimed to explore three main axes

1/ The Tours Congress: history, issues and actors

2/The local environment: Tours and its surroundings 1920

3/The memory of Tours Congress: divisions and changing compositions of the left parties

Organisers: Robert Beck and François-Olivier Touati
CETHIS and EMAM-CITERES

Place: Tours University, Arts and Human Sciences Faculty
Dates: 3-5 December 2010

Applicants should submit an abstract in English or French of no more 500 words and a short CV by 26 April 2020 to robert.beck@univ-tours.fr and francois.touati@univ-tours.fr

Selected applicants will be informed by 24 Mai 2020.

Scientific Committee

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