

Christina Gutz

Wado-Pentecost Seminar 2019 in Berlin

Living Tradition of Wado Ryu

More than 100 participants from Austria, Finland, Germany and Turkey as well as a large group from Hungary met in Berlin for the traditional Wado-Pentecost Seminar 2019. The instructors were **Shuzo Imai**, 9th Dan Wado ryu, **Takamasa Arakawa**, 6th Dan JKF Wado-Kai, **Bernd Alscher**, 7th Dan Wado ryu, and **Christina Gutz**, 7th Dan Wado ryu.

The participants of the seminar were highly motivated and concentrated, and, together with the instructors, thoroughly enjoyed the entire seminar.

Living Tradition of Wado Ryu

Wado ryu was founded by **Hironori Otsuka** (1892 – 1982). It was registered at Dai Nippon Butokukai in Kyoto in 1939, and Otsuka added the Wado Ryu syllabus in 1942.¹ This teaching programme, registered under the name “Technical System of Wadoryu“, was far more comprehensive than what we now practise in Wado ryu.²

Kihon, kata including kaisetsu and bunkai, idori, kihon kumite, kumite gata, ohyo kumite, tanto dori and jiyu kumite were trained at this year’s Wado-Pentecost Seminar. The four sensei placed the focus on fundamental principles of Wado ryu such as sente, irimi, tai sabaki, tai otoshi and chushin tadasu. The imperative underlying all exercises was action from relaxation which is the pre-requisite for flowing, dynamic, fast and effective techniques.

Shuzo Imai taught the ten ohyo kumite which Tatsuo Suzuki and Teruo Kono had developed. These illustrated not only the above principles to the participants but also prepared them for Takamasa Arakawa’s jiyu kumite. Shuzo Imai also impressed the participants with tanto dori which he derived from the traditional Wado ryu tanto dori. Takamasa Arakawa provided the participants not only with more insights into kata and kaisetsu with respect to nihanchi, chinto and niseishi but also impressed them very much with his competition-related kumite drills. The participants found his training about knife attacks very convincing, dynamic and realistic. Bernd Alscher and Christina Gutz taught a selection of the first 15 of the total of 36 kumite gata. In so doing, they commemorated Robbie Smith who had presented these at the 2014 Wado Seminar in Berlin.³ The participants trained kihon kumite 1 – 10 under Takamasa Arakawa’s and Christina Gutz’ guidance which were complemented by the two in-

¹ “Technical System of Wadoryu” by Dr. Fujiwara, presented in ‘Wadokai 60 years’ Registered at Butokukai, Kyoto (1939) and revision at Tojo Butokukai, (T. B.) (1942 – 1945)

http://www.wadokai.se/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10&Itemid=10 (Stand: 15.06.2019)

Mario McKenna: An Overview of Karate-dō. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 2009.

² „The techniques registered at Butokukai in 1939 are very comprehensive comparing with those that are practiced today. It had to be this way in order to be accepted as a style as Japanese bujutsu.” Shingo Ohgami: History of Wado Ryu Karate. www.wadokai.se (Stand:15.06.2019)

³ Robbie Smith (7th Dan JKF Wado-Kai) used the Nippon Budokan video series “Wadoryu Jujutsu Kenpo” as a basis when he taught the first 12 of the kumite gata in Berlin. Wado Seminar with Toby Threadgill and Robbie Smith 2014 in Berlin. See also: Christina Gutz, Below the Surface: Deeper Insights into Wado Ryu and Shindo Yoshin Ryu, Wado Course with Toby Threadgill (US) and Robbie Smith (New Zealand) in Berlin on 22nd and 23rd February, 2014.

<https://www.jkfwadokaisohonbu.de/home/artikel-articles/> (Version: 15th June, 2019)

structors with applications. The participants also gained some insights into idori which is unique to Wado within karate and of which Christina Gutz presented a selection.

It was very pleasant to renew friendships at this Pentecost Seminar, to establish new contacts and to train together.

Dan Gradings

The following karate-ka passed dan exams at the Wado-Pentecost Seminar:

Gyerkó Tamas (1st Dan DKV, 1st Dan JKF Wado-Kai), Nóra Izsó (2nd Dan DKV, 1st Dan JKF Wado-Kai), István Szük (3rd Dan DKV, 1st Dan JKF Wado-Kai), Nikolett Wippelhauser (2nd Dan DKV, 2nd Dan JKF Wado-Kai).

Demonstration

Wado ryu kihon kumite 1 – 10 demonstrated by Christina Gutz (Germany, 7th Dan Wado ryu) and Niko Utriainen (Finland, 6th Dan JKF Wado-Kai).

Wado-Pentecost Seminar 2019 in Berlin, link: https://youtu.be/L-yz8Loz_Dg

See you again

We are looking forward to seeing you again at the **Wado and TSYR Friendship Seminar** with Tobin E Threadgill, Shuzo Imai and Tran Hieu Minh in Berlin on 30th and 31st May, 2020.