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The Soviet otherwise: Affects, margins, and imaginaries in the Late Soviet era

**26 July - 2 August, 2019
Tallinn, Estonia**

Hosting institutions: Estonian Literature Museum; Graduate School of Culture Studies and Arts; School of Humanities, Tallinn University.

Supporters: Estonian Ministry of Education, European Union Structural Funds, Canadian Embassy, US Embassy.

Organising Committee: Epp Annus (Estonian Literature Museum, Ohio State U), Linda Kaljundi (Tallinn U), Uku Lember (Tallinn U)

Course director: Uku Lember (Tallinn U)

READINGS

July, 27, Saturday

14:00 - 15:30: **Natalya Chernyshova seminar.** ""The most Soviet"" republic? Belarusian national identity in the late Soviet era"

In preparation, please read:

- Steven L. Guthier. "The Belorussians: National Identification and Assimilation, 1897-1970." Part 2: 1939-70. *Soviet Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Apr., 1977): 270-283.
- Zina Gimpelevich. "Vasil Bykaŭ's Belarusan Pilgrimage." *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue Canadienne des Slavistes*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Sept., 2000): 343-362.

16:00 - 17:30: **Neringa Klumbyte seminar.** "Censoring Jokes in Late Socialist Lithuania."

In preparation, please read:

- Epp Lauk. "Practice of Soviet Censorship in the Press: The Case of Estonia".
- Maarja Lõhmus. "Political correctness and political humour in Soviet Estonia and beyond".

July 29, Monday

9:30 – 11:00. **Zbigniew Wojnowski seminar.** "Embracing the market: entrepreneurship in late socialism."

* No specific readings are assigned for this seminar.

11:30 – 13:00. **Rasa Balockaite seminar.** "Politically vs Sexually Repressive Order."

In preparation, please read:

- Rasa Balockaite. "Marian Apparitions in the Soviet Lithuania as a Form of Low Profile Resistance." Paper draft.

14:30 – 16:00. **Diane Koenker seminar.** "Labour in the late Soviet service sector (shops, restaurants, other services) in the context of "progressive forms of service"".

In preparation, please read:

- Diane Koenker. "The Taste of Others: Soviet Adventures in Cosmopolitan Cuisines". *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 19, 2 (Spring 2018): 243-272.

August 2, Friday

9:30 – 11:00. **Alissa Klots seminar.** "Late Soviet Crisis of Masculinity Reconsidered."

In preparation, please read:

- Mary Louise Roberts. "Beyond 'Crisis' in Understanding Gender Transformation". *Gender & History* 28, 2 (Aug., 2016): 358-366.
- Elena Zdravomyslova and Anna Temkina. "The Crisis of Masculinity in Late Soviet Discourse". *Russian Studies in History* 51, 2 (2012): 13-34.

11:30 - 13:00. **David Beecher seminar.** "What Good Is a Road If It Doesn't Lead to a Church?" Faith & Unbelief in Late Socialism and Tengiz Abuladze's Repentance."

In preparation, please:

- Watch "Repentance" (1987), directed by Tengiz Abuladze (recommended to watch the whole film, but at least the minutes 00:32-00:43 and 02:10-02:24): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdiZCRH9Vj4&t=6364s&fbclid=IwAR1JqPq2sC7cQmNAEcTs00Act-qwY_qmQ1oxSQSZm5Pdgd74WCwU5KXaYO8
- Listen: A BBC interview on "Belief and Unbelief in Russia": <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b095qsqp>
- Read: Gene Zubovich. Review of Victoria Smolkin's book *A Sacred Space is Never Empty: A History of Soviet Atheism* (Princeton University Press, 2018): <https://religionandpolitics.org/2018/10/16/russias-journey-from-orthodoxy-to-atheism-and-back-again>

14:30 – 16:00 **Aro Velvet.** *Rethinking Late Socialism from an STS Perspective*

In recent years, a new wave of scholarship has reinvigorated the study of the late Cold War. Scholars working in fields as diverse as space exploration, nuclearity, the decision sciences, and environmental history have highlighted how the study of what we now call the „great acceleration“ has helped dislodge conventional boundaries of historical research, and bring into focus the role of superpower collaboration in developing new

sociotechnical systems, from nuclear infrastructure to the ecological sciences, the legacies of which remain with us today. How does looking at the period of late socialism from the perspective of such globally oriented histories of science and technology change our understanding of the relevance of this period for historians with interests within and beyond the former Iron Curtain?

In preparation, please read:

- Kate Brown. *Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future*. Part 6: "Science across the Iron Curtain". (W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).
- Elena Aronova. "Geophysical Datascares of the Cold War: Politics and Practices of the World Data Centers in the 1950s and 1960s." *Osiris* 32 (2017): 307-327.

PROGRAMME

July 26, Friday

16:30: Opening of the summer school.

Key note by **Anne Gorsuch** (U of British Columbia)

"Soviet Other? Soviet Self?: Estonia and Cuba in the Soviet Imaginary."

18:00: Summer school opening reception.

July, 27, Saturday

10:00 – 12:30: Round table discussion I.

"How to study and define the Years 1956-85 Otherwise? Themes, Problems, Methodologies."

Participants: Natalya Chernyshova, Jonathan Flatley, Alissa Klots, Neringa Klumbyte, Serguei Oushakine.

14:00 - 15:30: Seminar: "'The most Soviet" republic? Belarusian national identity in the late Soviet era".

Natalya Chernyshova (U of Winchester)

16:00 - 17:30: Seminar: "Censoring Jokes in Late Socialist Lithuania."

Neringa Klumbyte (Miami U)

Plans:

Walk to City Hall ("Linnahall") roof and continue to a location (tbc) for an evening programme.

Screening and discussion of "Soviet Hippies", a documentary film by **Terje Toomistu** (2017; 52').

July 28, Sunday

10:00 – 12:30 Round table discussion II.

"How to study and define the Years 1956-85 Otherwise? Themes, Problems, Methodologies."

Participants: Rasa Balockaite, Anne Gorsuch, Diane Koenker, Aro Velmet, Zbigniew Wojnowski.

14:00 -18:00. Tallinn excursion on foot and by public transport: Soviet otherwise on the road to Pirita. Excursion is led by Oliver Orro (Estonian Academy of Arts).

18:00. Possibly, a picnic at Maarjamäe.

July 29, Monday

9:30 – 11:00. Seminar: "Embracing the market: entrepreneurship in late socialism."
Zbigniew Wojnowski (U of Roehampton)

11:30 – 13:00. Seminar: "Politically vs Sexually Repressive Order."
Rasa Balockaite (Vytautas Magnus U)

14:30 – 16:00. Seminar: "Labour in the late Soviet service sector (shops, restaurants, other services) in the context of "progressive forms of service"".
Diane Koenker (UCL SSEES)

16:30 – 18:00. Key note by **Jonathan Flatley** (Wayne State U).
""Our Friend Angela": The Black Communist Star."

18:00. A glass of wine and discussion [tbc]

July 30, Tuesday - Student Presentation day

8 sessions in total; 2 in parallel:

9:30 – 11:10. Session I (M-225) and Session II (M-213)

11:40 – 13:20. Session III (M-225) and Session IV (M-213)

Lunch break

14:40 - 16:20. Session V (M-225) and Session VI (M-213)

16:50 - 18:05. Session VII (M-225) and Session VIII (M-213)

July 31, Wednesday

10:00 – 19:00.

Excursion day: Soviet otherwise in townscapes and landscapes around Tallinn.
Excursion is led by **Epp Lankots** (Estonian Academy of Arts).

August 1, Thursday

10:00 – 12:00. Visit to the Kumu Art Museum (walking distance from Tallinn University, Weizenbergi St 34) <https://kumu.ekm.ee/en/>

Guided tours at two exhibitions: "Sots Art and Fashion: Conceptual Clothes from Eastern Europe", guided by curator **Liisa Kaljula** (Kumu Art Museum) and "Gustavs Klucis: Russian Avant-Garde Art in the 1920s-1930s" guided by **Karin Pastak** (Kumu Art Museum).

After the guided tours, it is possible to visit independently Kumu Art Museum's permanent exhibition of the Soviet Estonian Art "Conflicts and Adaptations: Estonian Art of the Soviet Era (1940-1991)"

14:30 – 16:00. Roundtable discussion: Writing Soviet Cultural History: Otherwise and from Other Perspectives.

16:30 – 18:00 Key note by **Serguei Oushakine** (Princeton U).
"The Grotesque of the Typical: Masking Jokes in Soviet Comedy"

18:00. A glass of wine and discussion or evening programme [tbc]

August 2, Friday

9:30 – 11:00. Seminar: "Late Soviet Crisis of Masculinity Reconsidered."
Alissa Klots (European U at St. Petersburg).

11:30 - 13:00. Seminar: "What Good Is a Road If It Doesn't Lead to a Church?" Faith & Unbelief in Late Socialism and Tengiz Abuladze's Repentance."
David Beecher (U of California, Berkeley)

14:30 – 16:00 *Seminar topic tbc.*
Aro Velmet (U of Southern California and Oxford U)

16:00 - 17:30 Concluding discussion with faculty, programme committee, and the participants.

18:00 Conclusion of the Tallinn Summer School (general reception).