

Abstract

Popular cultural media today play an important role in the reconstruction of collective imaginations of history. Mainstream films, novels, comics, television series, computer games, photography and music videos generate, revise, perpetuate, dismantle or question common notions of the past, and thus contribute to an affectively charged visualization and virtualization thereof. The popularization of historical images and narratives shape and reassembles collective memory cultures to an even greater extent than state politics, school textbooks or museum exhibitions do.

Ten years ago, a volume edited by Barbara Korte and Sylvia Paletschek titled "History Goes Pop" dealt with similar phenomena in western popular cultures. Our workshop aims to continue this approach focusing on examples from Belarus, Germany, Hungary, Russia and Ukraine. We are interested in the role of globalized popular media in post-Soviet space and the way in which they relate to national forms of memory culture and state history policy: We will discuss which historical events are in the center of attention and which media formats contribute the most to revising representations of the past in Eastern Europe. What strategies of dramatization, emotionalization and personalization of historical events do these media products offer, and to what extent do they manage to update older Soviet or even pre-Soviet (national) narratives and imaginations?

Venue

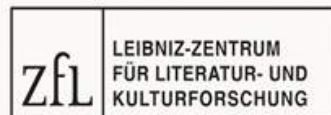
Europa-Universität Viadrina
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Organizers

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with the support of Roman Boichuk and Yaroslava Hryhorchuk



History Goes Pop?

On the Popularization of the Past in Eastern European Cultures

International Workshop
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
December 10-12 2019



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Tuesday, 10 Dec 2019

15.00 Opening of the Conference
(Closed Meeting)

Wednesday, 11 Dec 2019

9.30 Welcome

10.00 **Panel I: Transforming the Soviet Past: Popular Photographic and Cinematic Devices**

Moderation: Erik Martin (EUV, Frankfurt (Oder))

Olga Shparaga (ECLAB, Minsk): From External to Inner Contradictions. The Soviet Past in Belarusian Photography

Yaraslava Ananka (Universität Innsbruck): Catherine the Little and Crimean Puppets. From Vandalism to Voodoo in Ukrainian Popular Culture

12.00 **Panel II: Reinventing the Soviet Subject: Audio-visual Representations of Collective Belongings**

Moderation: Nina Frieß (ZOiS, Berlin)

Olga Romanova (ECLAB, Minsk): Deconstructing the "Soviet Man" in Belarussian Films of the Perestroika Period and the Early 1990s (in Russian)

Matthias Schwartz (ZfL/FU Berlin): Reconstructing the "Soviet People". Entertaining History Narratives in the TV Series "Sluga Naroda"

15.00 **Keynote Lecture**

Moderation: Matthias Schwartz (ZfL/FU, Berlin)

Jerome de Groot (University of Manchester): «Do You Ever Think how Different Life Could Be if You Could Change One Thing?». Experimental and Counterfactual Historical Fictions (via Skype)

16.30 **Panel III: Narrating Violence: Imagined and Actual War Stories in Popular Fiction**

Moderation: Clemens Günther (FU, Berlin)

Maria Galina (Novy Mir Magazine, Moscow): Speculative Military Fiction in Post-Soviet Russian Literature. Themes and Tendencies (2000-2014)

Tanya Zaharchenko (University of Oslo): Reading the Wound. Trauma and War Literature in Ukraine

18.30 Reception (Senatsaal)

20.00 **Book Presentation** (German/Russian)

Sirens of War. Populism, Politics of History and the Ukrainian-Russian Conflict, with **Roman Dubasevych** (Greifswald), **Vakhtang Kebutadze** (Kyiv), **Igor Sid** (Moscow)

Moderation: Matthias Schwartz
Interpreter: Yurko Prokhasko

Venue: Europa-Universität Viadrina, Senatssaal (Raum 109), Große Scharrnstraße 59, 15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

Thursday, 12 Dec 2019

10.00 **Panel IV: Post-Soviet Identity Formations: Strategies of Appropriating History**

Moderation: Nikolai Okunew (ZZF, Potsdam)

Aleksey Bratochkin (ECLAB, Minsk): "Our history": How Belorussian History and Identity Became Part of the Global «Experience Economy»

Karin Reichenbach (Universität Leipzig): Slavic Myth and Right-Wing Extremism in Eastern European Popular Cultures of History

12.30 **Panel V: Mainstream Sites of Memory: Consuming and Occupying Past Events**

Moderation: Bodo Mrozek (ZZF, Potsdam)

Stephan Krause (GWZO, Leipzig): "What Was Outside?" Popular Film(hi)stories of 1956 in Hungary

Oleksandr Zabirko (Universität Bochum): Fictionalized Eurasianism: Lev Gumilev's Idea of History in Popular Russian Literature after 2000

14.45 **Roman Dubasevych** (Universität Greifswald): Mummified Subversion. Reconstructions of Soviet Rock Underground in Contemporary Russian Cinema

Moderation: Nina Weller (EUV, Frankfurt (Oder))

15.30 **Concluding Remarks and Discussion**