Heritage Activism in Cities of Eastern Europe and Russia from 1968 to the Current

Venue: Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, Gisonenweg 5-7, Marburg, Lecture hall (Vortragssaal)
Organizers: Olga Sezneva, University of Amsterdam, Department of Sociology
Eszter Gantner, Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

2:00 pm Coffee and Tea
2:30 pm Welcome remarks by Peter Haslinger, Director of the Herder Institute
Eszter Gantner and Olga Sezneva, Workshop convenors

3:00-4:30 pm PANEL I: Special Session on Kaliningrad: ‘When the past is a foreign country…’
Presider: Eszter Gantner
Forward by Olga Sezneva

Iliia Dementiev (Baltic Federal University, Department of History): ‘Stand and unfold yourself’: first steps of heritage activism in the Soviet Kaliningrad

Olivier Roqueplo, count of Alava and of Laage (Sorbonne-Paris-Cité University, USPC-INALCO): The Most Paradoxical Prussianness in Russian Kaliningrad: Germanness and Borussianness in Practice. A Lack of Activism for Alternative Pasts?

Olga Sezneva (University of Amsterdam, Department of Sociology): Dispossession and its Discontents. The dynamics of remembering and forgetting in Kaliningrad

4:30-5:00 pm Coffee and Tea

5:00-7:00 pm Screening and Round-table discussion with Anastasia Patlay, theater director, and Mareike Schönle, University of Greifswald. Moderated by Olga Sezneva
KANTGRAD
Documentary performance by Teatr.Doc (Moscow, Russia)

Background:
In 1992-1994, a group of Kaliningrad-based historians and social scientists, many affiliated with the Federal Baltic University (Kaliningrad), conducted a life-histories project collecting 256 recorded interviews with early Soviet ‘resettlers’ of East Prussia. The topic, which was closed to researchers for more than forty years and represented only in a highly selective way in the State Archive, received a new and often unexpected light. This was the first, and remains to be the only and unique depository of recollections about the immediate post-war life in the annexed East Prussia.
The performance is an artistic interpretation of the results of this work.

Synopsis:
The world after the catastrophe, post-war Koenigsberg, turned into Kaliningrad. Woe to the defeated, but are the victors happy? Life on the territories annexed in 1945 - as it is, according to documentary evidence.
The Germans, evicted from their homes, Russian, who came to master the city. The love story of two enemies is the novel of a Soviet officer and a German woman, whom he saves from eviction. The inevitable ‘we are here to live’ in the stories of those who were sent to learn the residential. Koenigsberg: ‘I received an apartment with furniture, carpets, dishes, furniture and with an old German.’ Defeated and winners are ordinary people in the world after the war.
How they built a new life and said goodbye to the old two worlds: losers and winners, indigenous people and settlers, military and peaceful, women and men, children and the elderly.

CREATIVE PERFORMANCE GROUP:
Director Anastasia Patlay
The playwright Nana Greenstein
Research Mikhail Kolchin
Artist Lesha Lobanov

ROLES AND ACTORS:
Russian (Ekaterina Korkina) - Olga Lapshina / Ekaterina Strogova
Nemka (Emma Klein) - Maria Surova
Soviet officer – Nikolai Mulakov
Old German Edmund Krause / Immanuel Kant – Alexander Topuria / Rostislav Kapelyushnikov

7:30 pm Dinner for all invited speaker of the workshop
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:30–11:00 am  PANEL II: Heritage Activism
Presider: Peter Haslinger

Magdalena Konopacka (University of Gdańsk, Department of European and Comparative Law):
City of Freedom. On subversion and resistance among judges during the Martial Law in Gdańsk (1981) and its present echoes

Katharina Schwinde (Stiftung Ettersberg, Weimar):
Conflicting Historical Narratives: Russian Heritage Activism and the Solovetsky archipelago in the 1960s

Olha Zarechnyuk (Center for Urban History of East Central Europe, Lviv):
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11:00–11:30 am  Coffee and Tea

11:30 am -1:00 pm  PANEL III: ‘Bottom up’ Heritage protection
Presider: Olga Sezneva

Naum Trajanovski (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences; Institute for Advanced Studies Koszeg, Hungary):
‘I love GTC’ citizens’ initiative: Constructing local solidarity in the course of a major urban refurbishing

Yulia Eremenko (Saint Petersburg State University, Faculty of Sociology):
Knowledge of local history as a resource of local decision-making

Yulia Minutina-Lobanova (NGO ‘Living City’ Coordinator):
‘Myths and legends’ as the heritage protection instruments

1:00–2:00 pm  Closing lunch of the workshop