



mobilizing and weaponizing

memories of Soviet repressions



Bieg Pamięci Sybiru Wrocław / Fot. Tomasz Król



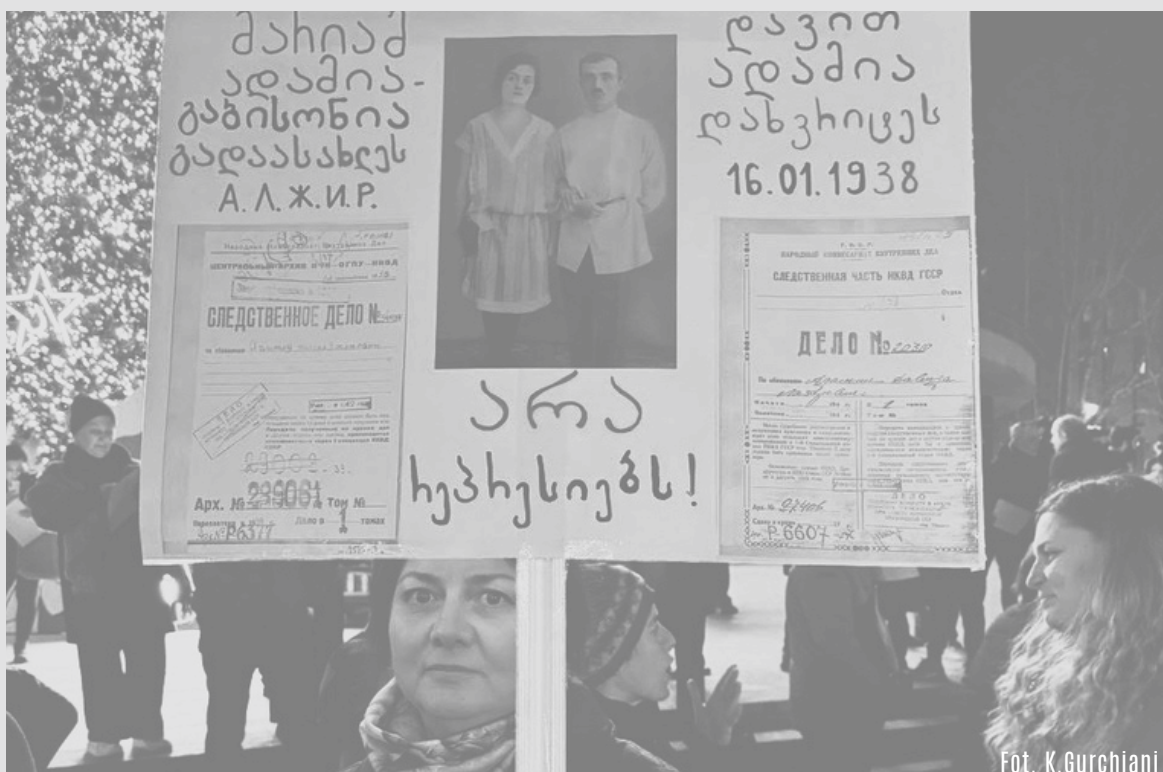
Call for papers

**international
academic
conference**

**29-31 October,
2025
WARSAW**

**Pre-conference
Masterclasses
for
MA and PhD
students**

**28 October, 2025
WARSAW**



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The memory of Soviet repressions is entering a new and critical phase. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the intensifying **politicization of history and memory, and the resurgence of traumatic recollections triggered by the war and shifting geopolitical dynamics** have profoundly reshaped the landscapes of memory of various societies that were affected by Soviet repressions. These developments not only disrupt existing narratives but also demand fresh scholarly approaches to **understanding how Soviet repressions are remembered, contested, and instrumentalized today.**

The memory of Soviet repressions is fragmented, multi-layered, and entangled with other historical traumas unique to each society that experienced them. These entanglements—shaped by **national, regional, and cultural specificities**—render the memory of Soviet repression a **complex and elusive phenomenon**. What unites the various forms that Soviet repression took across two continents, within such different societies and cultures, besides the fact that they happened under Soviet leadership?

A central focus will be on how local memories have interacted with broader frameworks and how Russia's war against Ukraine is disrupting or reshaping that legacy.

The conference will address the role of a wide array of actors—**governments, civil society, religious institutions, and grassroots movements**—in **shaping, preserving, or contesting these memories**, and how these processes play out across a spectrum of political and ideological contexts.

We will examine **how memories of Soviet repressions are being transformed and mobilized in contemporary processes of decolonization** and disengagement from Russian influence. We will look into how they have been instrumentalized in political and cultural battles, underscoring their potent role in ongoing struggles over history, identity, and geopolitical alignment.

This conference invites reflection on the varied local forms through which memory of Soviet repressions is articulated across affected societies.

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Pre-conference Masterclasses

This one-day intensive masterclass is designed for **master's and doctoral students** and aims to foster collective reflection on the shape and future direction of research on Soviet repressions.

Students present their work before peers and faculty, receiving detailed feedback from experts. Participants take part in the conference and all related events, building a **platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the academic development of young researchers.**

To attend the pre-conference masterclasses please send your **extended abstract** of 600 words together with a short **biographical statement** by **May 31, 2025**.

Abstracts will be selected by the academic committee. We will notify you about the acceptance of your proposal by **June 15, 2025**. By **September 30, 2025** you will be expected to send your final papers.

The masterclasses will only take place in person.

Organizers will cover travel expenses and accommodation in a hostel in Warsaw for the duration of the conference.

Conference organization information

Language: English

To attend the conference please send your **abstract of no more than 300 words** together with a **short biographical statement** by **May 31, 2025**. Abstracts will be selected by the academic committee. We will notify you about the acceptance of your proposal by **June 15, 2025**.

Conference participation is **free of charge**.

The organizers **provide accommodation** in Warsaw, but the participants have to cover the travel expenses by themselves.



ONLINE APPLICATION

Conference Convenors

Academic Council of the conference

- **Zuzanna Bogumił**, PhD. (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, UW)
- **Margaret Comer**, PhD. (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, UW)
- **Ketvan Gurchiani**, Prof. (Ilia State University, Georgia)
- **Iwona Kaliszewska**, PhD. (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, UW)
- **Shugyla Kilybayeva**, PhD. (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)
- **Raili Nugin**, PhD. (Tallinn University, Estonia)
- **Andriy Fert**, PhD. (Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine)