

Remembrance of Soviet Repressions in post-Soviet spaces

PROGRAMME

21 – 24 September 2024

Warszawa – Białystok – Wyszaków

[This workshop is organized to support the further development of the project “Memory of Soviet Repressions in Post-Multi-Colonial Post-Soviet Spaces” (NCN 2020/39/B/HS6/02809). The research hypothesis of the project suggests that the memory of Soviet repressions in post-Soviet spaces is not monolithic or homogeneous but has different facets, dimensions, and textures, influenced by other traumatic experiences unique to each post-Soviet society. These diverse entanglements of memories of Soviet repressions, and their heterogeneous nature, have become even more rhizome-like and arborescent as a result of the Russo-Ukrainian war, which mobilizes memories of Soviet repressions in different ways across various societies.

During the four days of the workshop, we will discuss the convergences and divergences in the remembrances of Soviet repressions across different post-Soviet and post-dependent spaces to agree on a theoretical approach for our research and to select case studies for investigation.]

21 September 2024

Venue:

Faculty of Culture and Arts, University of Warsaw Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-332
Warsaw

(room 108)

16.15 – registration

16.30 – 18.00 – **opening speech by Zuzanna Bogumił** *Memory Studies of Soviet Repressions: between global and local perspectives*

[In her opening speech, Zuzanna Bogumił will discuss the current state of Soviet Repressions Memory Studies. She will address questions such as: What is the genealogy of research on the memory and remembrances of Soviet repressions? Who are the key researchers and conceptualizers in this field? What were the groundbreaking publications? What concepts are employed in the Memory Studies of Soviet Repressions? The goal of the opening speech is to present the genealogy of Soviet Repressions Memory Studies, highlight the significance of the project, and outline its main goals.]

18.30 – dinner in the Cinema Paradiso Restaurant (Krakowskie Przedmieście 21/23)

22 September 2024

Full day excursion to Białystok

[The goal of the excursion is to learn and experience how memories of Soviet repressions materialize in the cultural landscape in Poland. We will visit the Museum of Memory of Sybir, the Sybirak Memorial and memorials in Jedwabne, where the Holocaust and Soviet repressions memories are at war.]

9.00 – **departure from Warsaw** (pick up at the Motel One Warszawa-Chopin, St. Tamka 38, another bus stop - Sanguszki 02 on Wisłostrada in direction to Trasa Toruńska)

11.00 – **visit to the Sybirak Memorial** and the museum of Sybiraks in the Parish of the Holy Spirit in Białystok (ul. Sybiraków 2; 15-204 Białystok)

12.30 – lunch at the Restaurant Mozaika Białystok (at the Museum of Sybir Memory)

13.30 – 15.30 – **visit to the Museum of Sybir Memory** with Piotr Popławski (Head of the Educational and Cultural Projects Department)

15.30 – 16.00 – coffee break and discussion with Piotr Popławski

17.00 – 17.30 **visit to Jedwabne Memorials**

[if you want to learn more about local memory situation in Jedwabne I recommend you our book [*Milieux de mémoire in Late Modernity Local Communities, Religion and Historical Politics*](#) (available in open access)]

Around 19.00 – arrival to "Baśniowa" Hotel & Restauracja (Księcia Józefa Poniatowskiego 10, 07-201 Wyszaków)

19.30 – dinner at the hotel

23 September 2024

10.00 – 12.00: 1st Roundtable **Soviet Repressions Mobilized in times of War**

[In this roundtable discussion, we will explore how Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing war, which has lasted over two years, is updating the memory of Soviet repressions. Does it influence these memories' transformations? If so, how? Is this memory used to antagonize people, or is it employed in the process of decolonizing communities from the influence of the Russian Federation? Each presenter will have 5-7 minutes to briefly introduce the issue. Visual materials and brief PowerPoint presentations that help visualize the problem are welcome. These presentations will serve as an introduction to the general discussion we have within this roundtable]

Moderator: Zuzanna Bogumił (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology University of Warsaw)

Aleksander Makhov (PhD candidate IFiS PAN) *Evoking memory to emplace oneself. Uses of the traumatic Soviet past by wartime migrants from Russia*

Katarzyna Roman Rawska (Institute of Slavic Studies PAS) TBC

Raili Nugin (Tallinn University), *Monument wars in Estonia after the break-out of full Russian aggression towards Ukraine in 2022*

Andriy Fert (lecturer at Kyiv School of Economics), *Spiritual Decolonisation of XXth century history during the Russian invasion*

Iwona Kaliszewska (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology University of Warsaw), TBC

12.30 – 13.30 lunch

13.30 – 15.30 2nd Roundtable **Recalcitrant Heritage of Soviet Repressions**

[In this roundtable discussion, we will focus on the vernacular remembrance of Soviet repressions in various post-Soviet and post-Soviet-dependent societies. We will explore how different modes of living with the dead, various cultural, religious, discursive, and aesthetic patterns of remembrance, as well as the entanglement of memories of Soviet repressions with other traumatic pasts, influence the shape, texture, and role of these memories and their tangible and intangible heritage in different post-Soviet spaces. Each presenter will have 5-7 minutes to briefly introduce the issue. Visual materials and brief PowerPoint presentations that help visualize the problem are welcome. These presentations will serve as an introduction to the general discussion we will have within this roundtable.]

Moderator: Zuzanna Bogumił (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology University of Warsaw)

Margaret Comer (Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London), *Comparison, Conflict, Comprehension: Heritage Studies Approaches to the Holocaust and Soviet Repression*

Joanna Cieczot (writer) *Silence over the Steppe: Kazakhstan and the Memory of Russia*

Guillaume Tiberghien (University of Glasgow), TBC

Ketevan Gurchiani (Ilia State University, Georgia) , *Loud Spaces, Quiet Stories: Layers of Tbilisi Courtyards*

Tuya Shagdar (Mongolian National University), *What happened to the Museum of Political Repression? How does the city remember purges?*

15.30 – 16.00 coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 3rd Roundtable **Open discussion**

[In this discussion concluding the first day of our workshop, we aim to address the convergences and differences in the memories and remembrances of Soviet repressions across various post-Soviet spaces.]

18.30 - dinner

24 September 2024

10.00 – 12.00 4th Roundtable **How to approach Memory of Soviet Repressions in post-Soviet spaces?**

[The main goal of this roundtable discussion is to agree on the research tasks for the project. We will revisit Zuzanna Bogumił's project objectives presented during her opening speech on September 21st and discuss whether these goals are achievable, and if so, how we plan to accomplish them. What theoretical frameworks and categories will we apply in our research? Which theoretical approaches might be problematic, and why? Which cases will we select to investigate, and why?]

12.00 – 13.00 – lunch

13.00 – 14.30 5th Roundtable **Concluding discussions**

[During this final roundtable, we will assess our progress after three days of the workshop. We will also discuss organizational issues and agree on the next steps. How should we organize our online seminars to make them as productive as possible for everyone?]

15.00 – transfer from Wyszaków to Warsaw