



St. Petersburg Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences  
European University at St. Petersburg

Rutgers University

Russian State Scientific Foundation

# History and Subjectivity in Russia (late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

International Colloquium, St. Petersburg, June 7-10, 2010

The International St. Petersburg colloquium in Russian history, organized by historians from Russia, the United States, and Western Europe, is held every three years. The goal of the 2010 conference is to engage with historical processes through the analytical lens of the self. It will examine presuppositions about human behavior and ideals of “personality” and humanity on the part of state and cultural authorities from the late Imperial period to the breakup of the Soviet Union; it will follow how these notions were set into motion over the course of a long century of war and revolution; and it will study their effects on the lives, personal horizons, and self-understandings of individuals.

These questions have not yet been investigated in any sustained or comprehensive fashion. The conference sets out to do this, using insights from historians, anthropologists, literary scholars, philosophers, political scientists, and art historians. Beyond its scholarly goals, the proposed collective inquiry into the standing of the “personality” in modern Russian history carries obvious significance for an understanding of political and cultural processes in Russia today.

The conference program was created from a pool of nearly 200 submissions received from Russian, European, and American Scholars in response to an earlier call for papers.

Organizers: Jochen Hellbeck (Rutgers University), Nikolay Mikhailov (St. Petersburg Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences)

## **Program**

### **Monday, 7 June**

**9.30 – 10.15** Registration

**10.15 – 10.45** Welcoming Remarks

**10:45 – 13.30** Morning session (break from 12.00 – 12.15):

### **Concepts of the Individual and the Self (*lichnost'*) in Russian History**

Chair: Nikolay Smirnov (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN)

Grigory Pomerants (Moscow), *My Life and Engagement with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Notions of Selfhood* (Keynote Address)

Nikolay Plotnikov (University of Bochum, Germany), *A Russian Begriffsgeschichte of the State and the Self*

Alexander Senyavsky (Institute of Russian History, RAN Moscow), *Models of Personal Behavior amidst the Transformations of Russian Society (late 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries)*

Rainer Goldt (University of Mainz, Germany), *The Self and the Ethos of Science in the Late Soviet Union*

Commentators: Jochen Hellbeck (Rutgers University), Oleg Kharkhordin (European University at St. Petersburg)

**13.30 – 14.30** Lunch

**14.30 – 17.30** Afternoon session (break from 16.00 – 16.15):

### **Political Revolutions and Individual Self-Definition (Late 19th Century-1920s)**

Chair: Gennady Sobolev (St. Petersburg State University)

Alexander Polunov (Moscow State University), *The Personality Against the Foil of Empire: Konstantin Pobedonostsev in the Eyes of the Contemporary Russian Intelligentsia*

Konstantin Morozov (Memorial Society, Moscow), *Self-Practices of the Revolutionary Subculture in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Elena Levkieskaya (Institute of Slavonic Studies, RAN, Moscow), *The Child and the Revolution: Personality Formation in an Era of Political Crisis*

Vladimir Buldakov (Institute of Russian History, RAN, Moscow), *The Destruction of the Revolutionary Self, 1924-1926*

Maria Ferretti (University of Viterbo, Italy), *Vasily Lyulin, Worker from Yaroslavl: a Microhistory of the Genesis of Stalinism*

Commentators: Vladimir Cherniaev (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN), Daniel Orlovsky (Southern Methodist University)

**17.45 – 20.00:** Reception

## **Tuesday, 8 June**

**10.00 – 13.00** Morning session (break from 11.30 – 11.45):

### **Social Contexts of Subjectivity (late 19<sup>th</sup> Century – 1920s)**

Chair: William Rosenberg (University of Michigan)

Barbara Engel (University of Colorado), *Married Women and the Rights of the Person*

Mark Steinberg (University of Illinois), *The Deformed and Decadent Modern Self: Public Discourse on the Urban Self in Russia, 1906-1916*

Boris Kolonitsky (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN), *The Representation of Power and its Social Perceptions during WW I and the Revolution*

Oleg Usenko (Tver State University), *Models of Selfhood in Russian Cinema, 1908-1919*

Olga Velikanova (University of North Texas), *The Formation of a Peasant Identity: Modernizing Discourses during the 1920s*

Commentators: Laura Engelstein (Yale University), Anatolii Ivanov (Institute of Russian History, RAN, Moscow)

**13.00 – 14.30** Lunch

**14.30 – 17.30** Afternoon session (break from 16.00 – 16.15):

### **Self-Definition in the Face of an Other**

Chair: Natalya Lebina (St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance)

Laurie Manchester (Arizona State University), *Bearers of Pre-Revolutionary Traditions Become Soviet Citizens: the Self-fashioning of Postwar Returnees from China*

Natalya Timofeeva (Central Branch of the Russian Academy of Jurisprudence; Center for Oral History, Voronezh), *Exposed to Germany: the Self-Definition of Members of the Soviet Military Administration of Germany (1945-1949)*

Alexander Chistikov (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN), *Soviet Tourists Abroad in the 1950s and 1960s*

Dina Fainberg (Rutgers University), *In Search of a Socialist Soul: Soviet International Correspondents in the United States, 1950-1985*

Commentators: Mikhail Khodiakov (St. Petersburg State University), Benjamin Nathans (University of Pennsylvania)

## **Wednesday, 9 June**

**10.00 – 13.00** Morning session (break from 11.30 – 11.45):

### **Constructing the Human Soul: The Stalin Period**

Chair: Ziva Galili (Rutgers University)

Yves Cohen (EHESS Paris), *Comparing Subjectivity Regimes in the Interwar Period: the Soviet Union and France*

Galina Orlova (Southern Federal University, Rostov-Don), *Between Iron Will and Irresolution: The Discursive Production of Will during the Stalin Period*

Andrei Shcherbenok (University of Sheffield), *The Screened Self: Stalinist Cinema and Its Implied Spectator*

Franziska Thun-Hohenstein (Zentrum für Literaturforschung Berlin), *Inside the Laboratory of Soviet Biography: the "Lives of Extraordinary People" Book Series (1933-1941)*

Anna Eremeeva (Krasnodar State University of Culture and the Arts), *In the Genre of Hagiography: Constructing the Biographies of Russian Scientists during Late Stalinism*

Commentators: Igal Halfin (Tel Aviv University), Viktor Paneiakh (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN)

**13.00 – 14.30** Lunch

**14.30 – 19.00** Excursion

## Thursday, June 10

**10.00 – 13.00** Morning session (break from 11.30 – 11.45):

### Selfhood and War: 1914-1918, 1941-1945

Chair: Mark Steinberg (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Alexandre Sumpf (University of Strasbourg, France), *Political Mobilization and the Military Demobilization of Russian WW I Veterans (1914-1921)*

Emily Van Buskirk (Rutgers University), *Lydia Ginzburg and the Post-Individualist Self*

Alexis Peri (University of California, Berkeley), *Identity under Siege: Reformulating and Recreating the Self inside the Leningrad Blockade*

Polina Barskova (Hampshire College), *Self-Portrait with Siege: A Study in Traumatic Ekphrasis*

Commentators: Nikita Lomagin (European University at St. Petersburg), Irena Saleniece (Daugavpils University, Latvia)

**13.00 – 14.30** Lunch

**14.30 – 17.30** Afternoon session (break from 16.00 – 16.15):

### The Revival and Decline of the Socialist Personality – from the Thaw to Perestroika and Beyond

Chair: Vladimir Noskov (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN)

Mikhail Rozhansky (Center for Independent Social Research and Education, Irkutsk), *The Euphoria of Collectivism: "Shock-Work" Construction Brigades and their Tales*

Anatoly Pinsky (Columbia University), *The Conscience of a Communist: The Making of Fedor Abramov, 1953-1958*

Nikolay Mitrokhin (University of Bremen), *Soviet Religious Scholars, Atheism, and the Communist Central Committee Apparatus (1960s-1980s)*

Sergei Pankratov (Volgograd State University), *The Transformation of the Imperial Self in the Consciousness of My Generation, or: how the Generation of Today's Forty-year Olds Looks Back at the 1980s and 1990s*

Commentators: Serguei Oushakine (Princeton University), Alexandr Vakser (St. Petersburg Institute of History, RAN)

**17.45 – 18.30** Concluding Discussion

**18.30 – 20.00** Farewell Reception

**Conference location** – European University at St. Petersburg, Aktovyi zal, Gagarin Street 3 (Metro "Chernyshevskaya")



### **Protocol**

The conference language is Russian. Papers will not be read at the conference; participants are asked to read all papers ahead of time. They can be downloaded from the websites of the St. Petersburg Institute of History (<http://www.spbiiran.nw.ru>) and the Rutgers University History Department (<http://history.rutgers.edu>)

Time limits for presentations, questions, and commentaries:

Panelists presenting their papers: 10 minutes each

Panelists responding to individual questions: 5 minutes

Commentators: 12 minutes

Other participants: 10 minutes

Please try to limit yourself to short questions and commentaries.

All panel discussions will be tape-recorded; the stenographic protocol of the discussion will be included in the published conference volume. The Organizers ask all discussion participants to step forward and speak into the microphone in the front of the room.