

International Exploratory Workshop

Cultures of secrecy in Soviet life, 25.-27.1.2017

Organization:

Ekaterina Emeliantseva Koller (main applicant)

Nada Boskovska

Julia Richers

Preliminary programme

Tuesday, January 24

Afternoon/Evening: Arrival of overseas speakers

Wednesday, January 25

9:00-9:45

Workshop registration and welcome address

Nada Boskovska (Zurich U, CH)

9:45-10:30

Introduction by Ekaterina Emeliantseva Koller (Zurich U, CH) and
Julia Richers (Bern U, CH)

11:30-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00-13:00

Panel I: Secrecy regimes and experts' cultures

Chair: Jeronim Perovic (Zurich U, CH)

Asif Siddiqi (Fordham U, USA)

Secrecy, Science, and the Soviet State

Mark Harrison (University of Warwick, UK)

What price Soviet secrecy? The benefits and costs of conspiratorial government

Sergei I. Zhuk (Ball State U, USA)

“Soviet Americana”: Knowledge Production in Two Soviet “Secret” Cities, Dnepropetrovsk
and Kuibyshev

Discussant: Kate Brown (University of Maryland, USA)

13:00-15:00

Lunch Break

15:00-16:30

Panel II: Secrecy regimes, environment, and knowledge production

Chair: Carmen Scheide (U of Bern/U of St. Gallen, CH)

Kate Brown (University of Maryland, USA)
The World's Worst-Kept Secret: Chernobyl and the Failure of Truth even when True

Paul Josephson (Colby College, USA)
Heroism and Secrecy Across the Arctic: Building Industry in the Dark and Cold

Discussant: Klaus Gestwa (U of Tübingen, D)

16:30-17:00

Coffee Break

17:30-18:30

Evening lecture: Survival Cell - Territory - Dreamland. The Bunker in Cold War Switzerland and beyond by Silvia Berger (Zurich U, CH)

19:30 **Dinner**

Thursday, January 26

8:30-10:30

Panel III: Secrecy practice, censorship, and cultural production

Chair: Ulrich Schmid (U of St. Gallen, CH)

Samantha Sherry (Oxford U, UK)
Keeping Party Secrets: Censorship and the Culture of Secrecy

Isabel Lane (Yale U, USA)
"Genre and the Missile Gap: Western Realisms and Soviet Science Fictions"

Alexander Markin (Zurich U, Switzerland)
The Cult of Intelligence in late Soviet Film Production

Discussant: Assif Siddiqi (Fordham U, USA)

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00-13:00

Panel IV: Secrecy, space, and community in closed cities

Chair: Nada Boskovska (Zurich U, CH)

Laura Sembritzki, (Heidelberg U, D)
White Spots on the Soviet Map: Perceptions of Closed Areas around the Secret City Chel-
yabinsk-40 in the Southern Urals

Ekaterina Emeliantseva Koller (Zurich U, CH)
Urban planning, secrecy, and community cohesion in a closed city:
The case of Severodvinsk

Roman Khandozhko (RANEPA/Moscow, RUS)
Community-Building under Conditions of Nuclear Secrecy: Communist Party Membership and Corporative Culture of Soviet Atomshchiki, 1968–1991

Discussant: Stefan Guth (Bern U, CH)

13:00-15:00

Lunch Break

15:00-17:30

Panel V: Secrecy rituals and Cold War encounters

Chair: Ekaterina Emeliantseva Koller (Zurich U, CH)

Julia Richers (Bern U, CH): Censored Cosmos. Visualisation Strategies in the Early Soviet Space Program

Andrew Jenks (California State U, USA)
The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project and Regimes of Secrecy and Openness

Stefan Guth (Bern U, Switzerland)
,Eventually, we stopped lying...‘ Soviet regimes of secrecy and nuclear technodiplomacy across the Iron Curtain, 1965–1991

Tarik Cyril Amar (Colombia U, USA)
Cold War narratives and representations of spying, secrecy, and multiple identities

Discussant: Sergei I. Zhuk (Ball State U, USA)

19:00 **Dinner**

Friday, January 27

9:00-10.30

Panel VI: Secrecy regimes, rumours, and everyday

Chair: Mark Harrison (University of Warwick, UK)

Steven Harris (National Air and Space Museum; U of Mary Washington, USA)
Not Knowing Before Going: The Culture of Secrecy and the Passenger Experience in Soviet Civil Aviation

Fabian Lüscher (Bern U, CH): "Did you hear about the nuclear aircraft?" Secrecy, bluff and the dosage of facts about Soviet nuclear propulsion projects (1957–1977)

Discussant: Olga Shevchenko (Williams College, USA)

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00-13:00

Panel VII: Secrecy and Memory in Soviet and post-Soviet personal Narratives

Chair: Paul Josephson (Colby College, USA)

Galina Orlova (Rostov-on-Don U/RANEPA, Moscow, Russia)

Romance with Secrecy: How to Perform and to Exotize Up the Soviet Nuclear Science
During and After Research Interview (the case of the Obninsk project)

Slava Gerovitch (MIT, USA)

That-Which-Must-Not-Be-Named: Remembering Secrecy in the Soviet Space Program

Discussant: Ekaterina Emeliantseva Koller (Zurich U, CH)

13:00-13:30

General discussion and future cooperation

14:00

Lunch and end of workshop

Saturday, January 28

Morning: Departure of overseas speakers