

Perceptions of Society at the Top in East Central Europe, 1945-1981

Organizers: Muriel Blaive (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes)

Nicolas Maslowski (Centre of French Civilization in Warsaw)

Thea Favaloro (New York University Prague)

Venue: New York University, Prague

Richtrův dům, Malé náměstí 11, Prague 1 (1st floor, entrance from the arcade)

1-2 December 2016

Conference Program

Thursday 1 December 2016

13:30 Opening Statements: Zdeněk Hazdra, Director of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, and Jiří Pehe, Director of New York University Prague

14:00 Muriel Blaive (ISTR): Introduction

First Panel: From Postwar to Communism

Chair: Jiří Pehe (NYU)

14:10 Rosamund Johnston (NYU): To Create the Perfect Listener: Polling at the Czechoslovak Ministry of Information during the Third Republic, 1945-1948

14:30 Discussion

15:00 Muriel Blaive (ISTR): Perceptions of Society in Czechoslovak Politburo and Secret Police Archives, 1945-1956

15:20 Discussion

15:50 Nicolas Maslowski (Centre of French Civilization): The Emergence of Popular Opinion in Polish Politburo Archives, 1945-1956

16:10 Discussion

16:40 Coffee Break

Second Panel: Deeper Into Communism

Chair: Molly Pucci (Trinity College Dublin)

17:10 Marián Lóži (ISTR): Implementation and Results of Stalinist Legitimization Practices. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia at the Regional Level (1948-1952)

17:30 Discussion

18:00 Adrian Grama (CEU): "Fear of the Masses": Workers, Communists and the Question of Physical Violence in Postwar Romania (1945-1950)

18:20 Discussion

18:50 Break

Keynote Lecture

19:00 Sonia Combe (Centre Marc Bloch): Who Was Afraid of Whom? Cross Examination of Stasi Files and Records of the Writers' Union in the GDR (1961-1989)

20:00 Dinner

Friday 2 December 2016

Third Panel: From Stalinism to Real Existing Socialism

Chair: Ondřej Matějka (ISTR)

10:00 Molly Pucci (Trinity College Dublin): Perceptions of Society at the Top in East Central Europe, 1945-1981

10:20 Discussion

10:50 Christian Axboe Nielsen (Aarhus University): Enforcing Brotherhood and Unity: The Yugoslav State Security Service and Everyday Nationalism, 1945-1980

11:10 Discussion

11:40 Tomáš Sniegoň (Lund University): Novochoerkassk 1962. Social Riots of Soviet Workers Through the Eyes of the KGB Leadership

12:00 Discussion

12:30 Lunch Break

Fourth Panel: From Real Existing Socialism to the Beginning of the End

Chair Adéla Gjuričová (Institute of Contemporary History)

13:30 Machteld Venken (Vienna University): How Universal Was Communist Children's Television? Representing Borders in the Polish Series *Four Tank-Men and a Dog*

13:50 Discussion

14:20 Libora Oates-Indruchová (Graz University): From an Idea to a Manuscript: Gatekeeping and Negotiating in Czech Scholarly Publishing during Normalisation

14:40 Discussion

15:10 Mirosław Szumilo (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University/Institute of National Remembrance): Public Opinion and Decision-Making by the Communist Leadership in Poland, 1980-1981

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Coffee Break

Fifth Panel: From Failing to Predict the Future to Dealing with the Past

Chair: Muriel Blaive (ISTR)

16:30 Jill Massino (UNC Charlotte): 'With Tears in My Eyes, I Appeal to You, Comrade Elena Ceaușescu': Letters to the Communist Leadership in Late-Socialist Romania

16:50 Discussion

17:20 Martin Dimitrov (Tulane University): Anticipating Crises in Autocracies by Collecting Information on Levels of Popular Discontent

17:40 Discussion

18:10 Veronika Pehe (EUI Florence): Authenticating the Past: The Role of the Security Services Archives and the Figure of the Agent in Contemporary Representations of Socialism

18:30 Discussion

19:00 Nicolas Maslowski (Centre of French Civilization): Conclusions

19:30 Dinner

List of Participants

Muriel Blaive (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Prague)

Sonia Combe (Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin)

Adrian Grama (CEU Budapest)

Adéla Gjuričová (Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)

Rosamund Johnston (NYU New York)

Marián Lóži (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Prague)

Ondřej Matějka (Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, Prague)

Nicolas Maslowski (Centre of French Civilization, Warsaw)

Jill Massino (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

Christian Axboe Nielsen (Aarhus University, Denmark)

Libora Oates-Indruchová (Graz University, Austria)

Jiří Pehe (New York University Prague)

Veronika Pehe (European University Institute, Florence)

Molly Pucci (Trinity College Dublin)

Tomáš Sniegón (Lund University, Sweden)

Mirosław Szumilo (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin/Institute of National Remembrance)

Machteld Venken (Vienna University)