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Perestroika, originally associated with top-down reforms led by Mikhail Gorbachev, unfolded as an era characterised by diverse voices, intense emotions, and economic struggles. Extending beyond the realms of politics and economics, Perestroika permeated every aspect of society, culture, and intellectual thought. This workshop intends to transcend the conventional boundaries—both geographic and temporal—of our typical understanding of Perestroika as well as aspires to bring forth fresh perspectives on the period spanning Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Eurasia.

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Re-Constructing Perestroika(s)

In Search of a New Vocabulary for
the Transformation of Central and
Eastern Europe and Eurasia



Foto: Juliane Fürst

Workshop Programme

Vila Lanna Conference Centre of the
Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague
March 14-15, 2024

Organized by the Institute of Contemporary History,
Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague;
Georgetown University, Washington DC;
Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

9:00-9:30 Welcome and Introduction9:30-11:00 Panel 1: Perestroika as a Local and Professional Community Event

Chair: **Kelly Smith**, Georgetown University, Washington DC

Victoria Musvik (University of Oxford)
De-Centralizing Perestroika: Local Russian Photographic Communities, Alternative Socialism and Unbroken Memory

Margarita Pavlova (Justus Liebig University Giessen / Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam)
Grassroots Groups and Ambiguities of Perestroika in Leningrad

Karolina Koziura (European University Institute, Florence)
Holodomor Unveiled: The Emergence of Grassroot Memory of Famine in Ukraine under Perestroika

Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Panel 2: Perestroika as an Expression of Artistic Non-Conformism

Chair: **Martin Babička**, Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

Ilya Kalinin (Humboldt University, Berlin)
Universal (Non-/Anti-)Soviet Lexicon: Between Deconstruction and Affirmation

Kateryna Yeremieieva (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich)
Without Words: The Speaking Process in Perestroika Caricatures

Ondřej Daniel (Institute of World History, Charles University, Prague)
Black Celebration in Red Prague: Concert of Depeche Mode in March 1988

Lunch

14:00-15:45 Panel 3: Perestroika as a Moral Debate

Chair: **Václav Rameš**, Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

Anna Ivanova (Humboldt University, Berlin)
"If Cooperatives Win – We All Win!": Discussions of Private Enterprise and Social Justice in the Soviet Union during Perestroika

Matej Ivančík (Comenius University, Bratislava)
Markets in the Name of Morality. Economic Thought and Democracy in Post-Socialist Slovakia

Jogilė Ulinskaitė (Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University)
Negotiated and Justified Stories about the Post-Communist Transformation in Lithuania

Annina Gagyiova (Institute of History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)
Moving from Risk to Risky: Hungary's Second Economy and its Transition to Market after 1989

Coffee Break

16:15-17:15 Keynote Roundtable Discussion "How to Speak about Perestroika Now?"

Chair: **Bradley Gorski**, Georgetown University, Washington DC

Epp Annus (Tallinn University / Ohio State University)
Stefanie Eisenhuth (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam)

Juliane Fürst (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam)

Matěj Spurný (Institute of Economic and Social History, Charles University, Prague)

Veronika Pehe (Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)

19:00 - Dinner: **Restaurace na Slamníku, Wolkerova 12, 160 00, Praha 6**

9:30-11:15 Panel 4: Perestroika as a Transnational Event

Chair: **Irina Gordeeva**, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

Kirsten Bönker (University of Cologne)
Building a "Common European Home"? Town Twinning between Soviet, West and East German Cities during Perestroika

Emma Friedlander (Harvard University)
The Soviet New Age: A Pop Culture Chronology of Soviet Collapse, 1975-2000

Vlad Strukov (University of Leeds)
Queer Exchanges: Re-Inventing Sexualities during and after Perestroika

Tetiana Perga (Institute of World History, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine / Heidelberg University)
"External Factor": The Role of the Diaspora in the Development of the Environmental Movement in Ukraine during the Period of Perestroika

Coffee Break

11:45-13:15 Panel 5: Perestroika Outside Time and Place

Chair: **Corinna Kuhr-Korolev**, Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

Isaac Scarborough (Leiden University)
Perestroika Did Not End – Perestroika is Ongoing: The Extended Reform and Collapse of the USSR across the Soviet Divide

Tamar Qeburia (Georg-August University Göttingen / Ilia State University)
Pre-Perestroika Dynamics in a Georgian Factory

Isabel Jacobs (Queen Mary University of London) and **Katerina Pavlidi** (University College Dublin)
Late Soviet Temporalities and the Myth of Stagnation

Lunch

14:15-15:30 Panel 6: Perestroika in the Mind

Chair: **Marie Černá**, Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

Courtney Doucette (State University of New York, Oswego)
Perestroika: The Last Attempt to Create the New Soviet Person

Hubert Guzik (Czech Technical University, Prague)
What Can Historians of Perestroika Learn from Opinion Polls?

Jonáš Jánský (Central European University, Vienna)
"Islands of Positive Deviation" in Slovakia

Final Discussion