

Steven Harris (U of Mary Washington), Air Perestroika: Aeroflot's Breakup and the Rise of Russia's Regional Airlines

Moderator: Alisa Lozhkina (ZZF)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 RELIGIOUS PRACTICES ON THE EDGE

Kateryna Budz (Edinburgh), On the Path to Legalisation: The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church during Perestroika

Abigail Scripka (ZZF), "Men Kommunistka Boldym": How Long Perestroika Shaped the Lives of Baqsylar in Kazakhstan

Moderator: Veronika Pehe (Czech Academy of Sciences)

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 DISCUSSION PANEL: PERESTROIKA AS DECOLONISATION?

Faruh Kuziev (Centre for Information Resilience), Sharora Earthquake: A Soviet Pompeii. Natural Disasters, Decolonisation, and Nationalism in Tajikistan during Long Perestroika

Asel Doolotkeldieva (U of Potsdam) / **Elmira Nogoibaeva** (Research Center Esimde), "Sudden" Activism During Perestroika in Kyrgyzstan: Logical Yet Surprising?

Stefanie Eisenhuth (ZZF), Reading Empire from Below: Coloniality in Letters to the People's Movement of Ukraine, 1989

Ksenia Robbe (U of Groningen/Goethe U Frankfurt), The "Peripheral 1990s" and their Slow Violence in Contemporary Russian Autofiction

Jeff Sahadeo (Carleton U), Rivers as Terrains of Contest in Georgia's Perestroika

Moderator: Franziska Davies (ZZF)

18:00 Dinner at Camba Bavaria
(Gewerbering 3, 83370 Seeon-Seebruck)

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An international workshop on the "Long Perestroika" (c. 1980s–2000) that centers the "peripheries" and perspectives from outside the main sites of power across the socialist and postsocialist world, held **June 1–3, 2026** at **Kloster Seeon, Bavaria**.

Recent scholarship has returned to Perestroika as a key to understanding present-day postimperial wars, political polarization, and widening inequalities, yet research has often remained anchored in high politics and familiar centers; this workshop shifts the lens toward local actors, marginalized groups, minorities, and regional initiatives. This is the third and final meeting in the Long Perestroika conference series, following two previous workshops in Prague and Washington, DC.

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Street sweepers, Kyiv 1986 / © Karsten Brüggemann

The Long Perestroika from Afar: Making Peripheries Central

Programme

June 1–3, 2026

Kloster Seeon

Klosterweg 1

83370 Seeon, Bavaria



MONDAY, JUNE 1

15:00 Welcome

15:30 – 17:00 OUT OF CENTRE: MEDIA-MAKING IN AND ABOUT PERIPHERIES

Andrii Pykalo (U of Toronto), Kharkiv Amateur Television and Perestroika (1985–1991): Media Practices and Everyday Experiences of Change

Eva Eglāja-Kristsons (U of Latvia), From “Cīņa” to “Neatkarīgā Cīņa”: Media Transformation, Marketization, and the Long Perestroika in Latvia

Sandra Plaskonova (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Revolution from Below: the Birth of Slovakia’s Independent Culture

Moderator: Kelly Smith (Georgetown U)

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 – 19:00 DISCUSSION PANEL: WAS THERE A PERESTROIKA FOR WOMEN?

Timothy Nunan (U of Regensburg), Contested Modernities: Azerbaijani Women’s Magazines and the Geopolitics of Gender and Sexuality, 1985–1997

Ella Rossman (GWZO, Leipzig), Between Waves: Women’s Organising and Feminist Politics in the Long Perestroika

Liāna Ivete Žilde (Art Academy of Latvia), Domestic Peripheries: Intimate Family Spaces during Perestroika in the Work of Latvian Photographers Ina Stūre and Inta Ruka

Moderator: Dina Fainberg (U of London)

19:30 Dinner at the Monastery

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

9:30 – 11:00 PERESTROIKA IN THE VILLAGE

Kateryna Malaia (U of Utah/Kharkiv School of Architecture), Perebudova (ukr. for perestroika) in Rural Homes

Violeta Davoliūtė (Lithuanian Institute of History), From the Long Thaw to the Long Perestroika: Justinas Marcinkevičius, Algirdas Brazauskas, and the Defense of the Post-Soviet Village

Nathalie Moine (Centre Marc Bloch), State Farm in Ruins, Disrupted Lives: The Perestroika in the Double Periphery of a Moldovan Village

Moderator: Francis Kirk (ZZF)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 EMPOWERMENT OF THE MARGINALS?

Maria Cristina Galmarini (William & Mary), Dissenting Invalids: A Disability History of the Long Perestroika

Jennifer Ramme (U of Graz), From Image to Action: Women, Queers, and Black & People of Colour Performing Alternatives in Unofficial Music Scenes during Late State Socialism in Poland

Jekatyerina Dunajeva (Corvinus U of Budapest), Narrating Transformation: Roma Experiences of the Last Socialist Decade and Regime Change

Moderator: Bradley Gorski (Georgetown U)

13:00 – 14:45 Lunch Break

14:45 – 16:45 PROFESSIONAL PERESTROIKAS: CONTINUITY AND RUPTURE AT THE WORKPLACE

Polina Gundarina (U of Leipzig), Working with Socialist Fun: Organising Leisure in Soviet Doma kul’tury Before and After 1991

Elene Nabakhteveli (Ilia State U), Lived Perestroika: Georgian Physicists at the Margin of the Soviet Scientific System

Iuliia Skubytska (ZZF), “Pioneer Organization is Outdated!”: Children Demanding Change Within Perestroika’s Framework

Moderator: Irina Gordeeva (ZZF)

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee Break

17:15 – 18:45 DISCUSSION PANEL: PERESTROIKA OF (FOR) THE SOUL?

Choi Chatterjee (California State U), Vedanta in Late Perestroika and Post-Soviet Russia

Nadezhda Beliakova (U of Bielefeld), Faith on the Margins: Reassembling Religious Minority Communities during Perestroika in Kazakhstan and the Volga Region

Anca Mândru (Lucian Blaga U of Sibiu), Etatisation of Time vs. Churchification of Space: Secular and Religious Ritual during the Long Perestroika

Alexandra Kolesnik (Bielefeld U), Singing Perestroika from the Margins: Vernacular Memorials to Viktor Tsoi and Emotional Communities Beyond the Centres in the 1990s

Moderator: Juliane Fürst (ZZF/CEU)

19:00 Dinner at Zum Alten Wirt (Altenmarkter Str. 10, 83370 Seeon-Seebruck)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

9:00 – 10:30 NEW COMMUNITIES – OLD VALUES

Alexandra Koroleva (Sciences Po), Akademgorodok in Novosibirsk and the Transformations of Local “Pamyat”: “Hidden” Actors, Commonalities and Conflicts in the 1980s

Marina Aptekman (Tufts U), “Comrades, Let’s Remember Afghan:” Veteran Unions of the Soviet–Afghan War in Peripheral Industrial Cities in the 1990s

Moderator: Corinna Kuhr-Korolev (ZZF)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 DISCUSSION PANEL: COMMERCIALISATION AND TRANSNATIONALISM

Siobhán Hearne (U of Manchester), Perestroika and the Reconfiguration of Soviet Humanitarianism: The Soviet Red Cross between Reform and Disaster

Jules Siran (U of Geneva), Foreign Students in Hungary during the Long Perestroika: Marketization of Student Mobility and Experiences of Exclusion (1980s–1990s)

Alexa von Winning (U of Tübingen), Seeds of the Market: The Soros Foundation’s Support for Regional Economic Change in Belarus