

Cracks in the Canon:

Modernism and Censorship in Eastern Europe

Université libre de Bruxelles. Département d'enseignement de Langues et Lettres,
ULB-Faculté de Lettres, Traduction et Communication.

Brussels, 5-6. September 2022

ULB, Campus du Solbosch, Building R42, Auditoire BERHEIM

Monday 5 September

9.15-9.45 Registration

9.45-10.20

Prof Petra James & Prof Dennis Ioffe:

- Welcome remarks. Presenting inauguration of a new interdisciplinary ULB research centre *MODERNITAS* (Maison des Sciences Humaines MSH-ULB) (focusing on interdisciplinary research of modernity and modernism).

Dr Kamila Kociałkowska: Censorship studies: an overview of the field

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10.20- 11.30

Panel 1: Eastern European Art History and political censorship

Chair Dennis Ioffe

1 - Molly Pucci (University of Dublin):

Culture and avant-garde in the communist movement in Czechoslovakia in the 1920s

2 - Kamila Kociałkowska (ULB):

Kazimir Malevich's Mimetic Resistance: Censorship as Spur to Suprematism.

11.30-11.50 Coffee Break

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11.50- 13.00

Panel II. Eastern European censorship at the crossroads

Chair Kamila Kociałkowska

3 - Györgyi Földes (Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute for Literary Studies, Hungary):

Double conflict, double repression – the story of the Hungarian Avant-garde and the communists.

4 - Andru Chiorean (New Europe College Institute for Advanced Studies, Bucharest):

Seeing Like a Communist Censor: Socialist Cultural Policy, Censorial Relations In Communist Romania, 1945-1989.

5 - Edina Eszenyi (HEI Pegaso International Malta, University of Kent Canterbury):

Fort Knox and the Angel: The Homecoming of the Holy Crown.

13:00 LUNCH

13:50 - 15.00

Panel III: Polish Modernism and censorship

Chair Evgeny Pavlov

6 - Robert Looby (Catholic University of Lublin):

Polish Modernism for the Foreign Market.

7 - Kajetan Mojsak (The Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw):

Censorship, modernism and the delusions of grandeur: The conflict and coexistence of cultural paradigms in the Polish culture of the 1950s and 60s.

8 - Krzysztof Boroda & Katarzyna Kościwicz (University of Białystok):

Persuasion and oppression. The early medieval beginnings of the Polish state in the historical policy of the People's Republic of Poland in the years 1945-1966.

15.00-15.20 Coffee break

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15:20 - 16.30

Panel IV: Eastern European Film and censorship

Chair Aude Merlin

9 - Claire Knight (University of Bristol):

Censoring Stalin: The Stalin Cult on Screen and Shelf.

12 - Alina Popescu (University of Bucharest):

Too Much and Not Enough: An Institutional Paradox of the Censorship of Foreign Films in Communist Romania.

10 - Oleksii Isakov (European University Viadrina Frankfurt Oder, Germany):

“Film Adaptation of Works not on the Topic of Soviet Reality”: New Forms of Representation of Pre-soviet Reality in the Ukrainian Poetic Cinema around 1960s.

16.30 - 17.00 Discussion.

18.30

Conference dinner TBC

Tuesday 6 September

10:00 - 11.10

“Roundtable: The Mechanisms of Censorship”.

Group discussion exploring the practicalities and procedures of historic censorship systems across different media.

Chair Kamila Kociałkowska

-Claire Knight (The University of Bristol): ‘Editor or Censor, Artist or Accountant? The Many Quandaries of Late Stalin-era Film Censorship’

-Judith Devlin (University College Dublin): ‘Artists and Censors under Stalin’

-Stefan Segi (The Institute for Czech Literature of the CAS) Writing a history of modern censorship

11.10 – 11.30 Coffee Break

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11.30 - 12.40

Panel V: Culture, musicology, and political repercussions

Chair Petra James

11 - Zuzana Rihová (Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS):

Censorship of Modernism in 1940s Czechoslovakia: The Story of Jiří Kolář and Milada Součková

12 - Libora Oates-Indruchova (University of Graz):

Censorship, Agency and Authorship in Czech Academia post-1968

13 - Elina Viljanen (University of Helsinki):

Modernist Political Strategies of Culture: the Case of Musicology and Soviet Censorship.

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12:40 Lunch

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13.30 - 15.00

Panel VI: Russian Avant-garde and censorship on the crossroads

Chair Dennis Ioffe

14 - Evgeny Pavlov (University of Canterbury):

Rhythm of the Time under Censorship: Key Concept of Andrei Bely's Anthroposophy in his Late Soviet Writings.

15 - Aljona Grigorasch (Independent scholar):

Alphabets for adults in the USSR and the problem of interpreting the alphabet by Sergei Merkurov (1931)

16 - Jesper Nyeng (University of Copenhagen): 'Censorship and interpretation: Andrei Bely's Petersburg'

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15.00-15.20 Coffee

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15.20 - 16.30

Panel VII: Systems of Art Censorship

Chair Kamila Kociałkowska

17 - Johana Lomová (Academy of Art Architecture and Design in Prague):

Art critic as censor and vis a versa. New censorship theory in a cultural field of actually existing socialisms.

18 - Arūnas Streikus (Vilnius University):

'Quiet Modernism'? On the particularities of the art censorship in the Soviet Baltic republics.

19 - Jakub Dąbrowski (Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw):

Producing aesthetics, producing subject. On selected aspects of censorship in visual arts during the "Thaw" in Poland.

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16: 30 Concluding remarks