



Conference of Political Historians of the Post-War Soviet Union

8th – 10th June 2022

**Central and East European Studies
University of Glasgow**

Room 253, Gilbert Scott Building, University Cloisters

**Conference Organiser – Dr. Mike Loader
Commentary by Professor Ronald Grigor Suny**

Programme

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 8th June

Room 253, Gilbert Scott Building, University Cloisters

09:00 Opening Remarks and Welcome

- Conference Organiser Mike Loader, University of Glasgow
- Professor David Smith, Alec Nove Chair, Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow

09:15 Panel I – National Communism and Political Purges

Chair: Yoram Gorlizki

Geoffrey Swain, University of Glasgow

The Komsomol and Rediscovering Latvia's Revolutionary Heritage, 1957–1959

Daina Bleiere, Latvian Institute of History

National Communism and the Latvian Komsomol

William Prigge, South Dakota State University

The Latvian Purges and the Fate of two Moldavian Secretaries: Dmitrii Tkach and Evgheni Postovoi

11:00 Morning coffee break

11:30 Panel II – Shadows of Russia's War on Ukraine: Political Behaviour, Energy, and Foreign Policy, then and now

Chair: David Smith

Susanne Schattenberg, University of Bremen

Red Gas for West Germany: How the Soviet Union Conquered the European Energy Market, 1966-1970

Alexander Titov, Queen's Belfast University

The Relationship between Domestic and Foreign Policy in the Soviet Union and Russia

Martin Wagner, Humboldt University of Berlin

Comparative Communism, Comparative Authoritarianism. Towards a Histoire croisée of Russia and China post-2022

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Panel III – Political Struggles in the Periphery under Khrushchev

Chair: Natalya Chernyshova

Timothy Blauvelt, Ilia State University, Georgia

The Ukrainian Gambit: The Sacking of L.G. Melnikov and the Post-Stalin Succession

Orysia Kulick, University of Manitoba

Decolonizing the Canon: Ukraine and the Transformation of Soviet Politics under Khrushchev

Jeremy Smith, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

From Disorder to Order: Soviet Georgia under Vasil Mzhavanadze

16:00 Afternoon coffee break

16:30 Panel IV – Towards ‘Developed Socialism’: Political Development and Conflict under Brezhnev

Chair: Alex Marshall

Robert Hornsby, University of Leeds

Building the Future: Komsomol Construction Work under Khrushchev and Brezhnev

Tomas Sniegon, Lund University, Sweden

A Coup d’état, Komsomol style? A New Look at the Conflict between Political Generations within the Soviet leadership during the Early Brezhnev Era

Natalya Chernyshova, University of Winchester

The Politics of Modernisation in Late Soviet Belarus (1965–1980)

18:15 Close of Day 1

19:30 Dinner for presenters at *The Bothy* (11 Ruthven Lane, G12 9BG)

PROGRAMME

Thursday 9th June

Room 253, Gilbert Scott Building, University Cloisters

09:15 Panel V – Between Centre and Periphery: Perestroika, the Republics, and the National Question

Chair: Orysia Kulick

Nataliya Kibita, University of Edinburgh

The Politics of Perestroika in Ukraine

Riccardo Cucciolla, University of Naples L'Orientale

The Turkmen Front: Rethinking the 1989 Inter-Ethnic Clashes in Ashgabat and Nebit-Dag

Carolina de Stefano, LUISS Guido Carli Rome

Debating the National Question at the RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies: Majority-Minority Relations from the Soviet Union to Russia (1990-1993)

11:00 Morning coffee break

11:30 Panel VI – The Concerns and Lives of Apparatchiks

Chair: Susanne Schattenberg

Mike Loader, University of Glasgow

The Shadows of Old Square: Was there an Anti-Khrushchev 'Deep State' in the Central Committee Apparatus?

Saulius Grybkauskas, Lithuanian Institute of History

Soviet Nomenklatura Letters to Moscow: Content and Issues

Nikolay Mitrokhin, University of Bremen

A Social History of the Soviet Apparatchiks (1953–1985): Mobilisation and Demobilisation of a Soviet Political Class

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Panel VII – Creating Order: Stalinist Sovietisation and Khrushchev-era Reform

Chair: Alexander Titov

Igor Cașu, National Agency for the Archives of Moldova/State University of Moldova

The Climate, Hierarchies of Consumption, and the Local Economy. How can we Explain the Regional Variations of the Post-War Famine in Soviet Moldavia, 1946–1947?

Alex Marshall, University of Glasgow

Bolshevizing the Borderlands: M.A. Suslov in Lithuania, 1944–1946

Pietro Shakarian, American University of Armenia, Yerevan

Yerevan 1954: Anastas Mikoyan and Nationality Policy Reform in the Soviet Union, 1954–1964

Yoram Gorlizki, University of Manchester

After the 20th Party Congress: Liberalization and the Problem of Social Order

16:30 Afternoon coffee break

17:00–17:45 Commentary by Ronald Grigor Suny, University of Michigan

Chair: Mike Loader

19:00 Dinner for presenters at *Chaakoo* (61 Ruthven Lane, G12 9BG)

Friday 10th June

Room 253, Gilbert Scott Building, University Cloisters

09:00–11:00 Working Breakfast: The Status of the Field

Chair: Mike Loader

- Notices (Jeremy Smith; Saulius Grybkauskas; Igor Cașu)
- Discussion topics: How to attract more scholars (women; emerging scholars) to the field? Where is the field going (have we reached ‘peak archives’? a Stalin saturation point)? What does the future hold for Soviet political history?

Contact Details of Conference Participants

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