

After years of isolation and division during the late Stalinist period, the so-called 'Thaw' in the cultural politics of socialist Eastern Europe in the second half of the 1950s enabled a broadening of horizons. This also entailed the physical opening up of borders. Not only were foreign journalists, cultural delegations, festival visitors, and travel groups allowed to visit the world behind the Iron Curtain, but, vice versa, a host of reporters, writers, and artists set out to travel to capitalist foreign countries—especially to countries engaged in the struggle for independence from their colonisers. Travel literature became one of the most popular genres of the 1960s and 70s. These texts paved the way for the emergence of a new global consciousness, distinguished from and influenced at the same time by the 'imperial gaze' of the capitalist West. 'Writing the world' meant striving to find a socialist understanding of a 'Red Globe' and constructing a new, post-Stalinist subjectivity.

The conference will be held in cooperation with the projects "(Post-)Soviet Literary Cosmopolis" and "Writing Berlin" of the Cluster of Excellence 2020 "Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective".

Organisation

Susanne Frank (EXC 2020/HU Berlin),
Clemens Günther (FU Berlin), Matthias Schwartz (ZfL)

Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung,
Schützenstr. 18, 10117 Berlin, staircase B, 3rd floor

EXC 2020 "Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective"



The Red Globe

Writing the World in Eastern European Travel Literature of the Cold War

International Conference
Berlin, ZfL, 1–3 June 2022

Wednesday, 1 June 2022

14:00 Introduction

Susi K. Frank, Matthias Schwartz, Clemens Günther

14:30 Panel 1 – After War: Travelogues and Decolonization

War Veterans' Travel: Daniil Granin and Viktor Nekrasov

Lyudmila Parts, McGill University, Montreal

The Told and Untold Stories of Decolonization:

Polish Socialist Travelogues from Vietnam

Thuc Linh Nguyen Vu, University of Vienna

**16:15 Panel 2 – Socialist Internationalism:
Appropriating the World**

Vasilii Zakharchenko: Introducing the World to the Soviet Youth

Olga Nechaeva, University of Pennsylvania

“... these Clever, Educated Girls Are Going to Rebel Against the Old-Slave-Woman Life.”: Depictions of Women's Lives in the Global South by Hungarian Women 1960s–1980s

Réka Krizmanics, University of Leipzig

18:00 Keynote 1

Writing Between the Colonial and the Anti-Colonial in Socialist Eastern Europe, 1949–1989

James Mark, University of Exeter

Thursday, 2 June 2022

**10:00 Panel 3 – Writing the Foreign:
Road Novels and Travel Prose**

Go West: Exploring the origins of the polish “road novel” (at the example of some early travelogues by Waldemar Łysiak)

Kris van Heuckelom, KU Leuven

Around the World on a Tatra Car: The Adventures of Miroslav Zikmund and Jiří Hanzelka

Dobrota Pucherová, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

**12:00 Panel 4 – Experiencing the Socialist Self:
New Aesthetics of Travel Reportages**

A Country without Dreams: Julia Hartwig's Reportages about the United States

Anja Burghardt, LMU Munich

The aesthetics of experience in Ryszard Kapuściński's Latin American writings

Joanna Moszczyńska, University of Regensburg

**15:00 Panel 5 – Writing Europe:
Perspectives on the Continent from the East**

Beyond the Cold War Gaze

Danijela Lugarić Vukas, University of Zagreb

(Dis-)Inheriting/(Dis-)Possessing the West: Zbigniew Herbert's Descent into the Depths of Europe

Alexander Holt, Northwestern University, Evanston

Writing Berlin, Narrating Europe: Travelogue as Reflections

Nishant K. Narayanan, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

18:00 Keynote 2

Traveling When Borders are Closed: The Case of the Soviet Union at Mid-20th Century

Eleonory Gilburd, University of Chicago

Friday, 3 June 2022

**10:00 Panel 6 – Conditioning the World for One's Home:
Political Travelogues**

Makosch's travelogues from the 1950s–1970s

George Bodie; University of Cambridge, UK

Constructing the World for the Country: Ország-Világ Travelogues in Socialist Hungary

Milán Pap; National University of Public Service, Hungary

**12:00 Panel 7 – Narrating Globality:
Imagined Geographies and Cultural Encounters**

Encountering Africa: Tibor Sekelj's “Caravan of Friendship”

Tatjana Petzer, MLU Halle-Wittenberg

Blind People Around the Globe: Disability, Travel Writing, and the Imagined Geographies of the Cold War

Maria Galmarini, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg

**14:30 Panel 8 – Beyond the Political Lines:
Gazes from the Periphery to the Periphery**

Writers in Arms: Yugoslav Non-Aligned Travelogues

Nataša Kovačević; Eastern Michigan University, USA

Kapuściński and the Global 50s: Literary Reportage in and beyond the Soviet Model

Marla Zubel; Western Kentucky University, USA

**16:30 Panel 9 – Socialists Sailing the Seas:
The Ship as a Model for Globality**

War and Peace: The Image of the Second World War in Travelogues of the Early Thaw

Alexey Kotelvas, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences

“Dear Mummy in Heringsdorf: It's Summer Here!”. Annelie and Andrew Thorndike's Sea Voyage to India

Jan Schaldach, University of Leipzig

18:00 Concluding Remarks
