This International Summer School is organized by the Department of Slavic Literatures at the TU Dresden and supported by the Volkswagen Stiftung. The Organizers are Prof. Dr. Klavdia Smola, Dr. Annelie Bachmaier and Dr. Tatiana Vaizer.

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01.-08. May 2022 in Dresden

Venues

Main Venue: Deutsches Hygienemuseum Dresden, Lingnerplatz 1, 01069 Dresden - Marta-Fraenkel-Saal
Saturday, May 7: TU Dresden, Wiener Strasse 48, 01219 Dresden - Room 004

International Summer School

Eigen-Sinn
Citizen Empowerment and “Soft” Protest in the Soviet and post-Soviet World

Even in the countries with a harsh system of state surveillance, as in today’s Russia or Belarus, there is still space for individual freedom and for a rather consistent resistance to power. This space can be found by considering not only textbook approaches to political agency of citizens, such as participation in elections and protest demonstrations, but also diverse opportunities of other, more local and less spectacular ways of dissident dealing with power. The choice of the topic for our summer school reacts to the recently growing number of studies dealing with the relationship between power and people, state system and individual in the context of political non-freedom. In order to describe and explore multifaceted, often non-confrontative practices and patterns of resistance in the (post)Soviet world from the late Soviet era to the present, we update and contextualize the notion of Eigen-Sinn, a term coined by the German historians Alf Lüdtke and Thomas Lindenberger at the beginning of the 1990s. „Eigen-Sinn” draws on the polysemous meaning of the German expression, meaning both stubbornness or obstinacy and one’s own sense or meaning. The concept allows for an interdisciplinary approach to the issue of civil resistance in different contexts and from different perspectives of sociology, political science as well as cultural and literary studies.
Program

Sunday, 1 May
Arrival of participants

Monday, 2 May - Introduction
• 10:00-10:30 Klavdia Smola, Christian Prunitsch & Holger Kuše
Welcome and introduction
10:30-11.00

Tuesday, 3 May - Eigen-Sinn as a perspective and strategy
• 9:00-10:30 Lecture Timur Atnashev
Discipline, Eigen-Sinn and inner freedom in the USSR and Germany in the XX century
10:30-11.00

Wednesday, 4 May - (Em)power(ment) in Philosophy, Language and Cinema
• 9.00-10.30 Seminar Tatiana Levina:
Women-Philosophers in the USSR: Academic Activism, Dissidence and Feminism?
10.30-11.00

Thursday, 5 May - Artistic Eigen-Sinn
• 9:00-10:30 Lecture Annelie Bachmaier
Humor as a weapon: The case of “Grazhdanin poet”
10:30-11.00

Friday, 6 May
10.00-11.30 Excursion in Dresden old town
11.00-12.00 Free time
12.00-18.00 Visiting Dresden museums

Saturday, 7 May
Citizen and state: Individual and collective (“soft”) protest
• 9:00-10:30 Lecture Annelie Bachmaier
Humor as a weapon: The case of “Grazhdanin poet”
10:30-11.00

Sunday, 8 May
Departure of participants