

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.

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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International Summer School

Eigen-Sinn

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

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



01.-08. May 2022 in Dresden

Organizer: Department of Slavic Literatures at the TU Dresden, Prof. Dr. Klavdia Smola, Dr. Annelie Bachmaier, Dr. Tatiana Vaizer

Program

Sunday, 1 May

Arrival of participants

Monday, 2 May - Introduction

• 10:00-10:30

Klavdia Smola, Christian Prunitsch & Holger Kuße

Welcome and introduction

10:30-11:00 

• 11:00-12:30 Lecture with discussion

Klavdia Smola

The social turn in contemporary Russian art

12:30-14:00 

• 14:00-15:30 Lecture

Anastasiya Osipova

The case of DOXA and the performative public practices of coping with confinement

15:30-16:00 

• 16:00-17:30 Lecture with discussion

Vera Dubina

History of everyday life and microhistory: tracking the diversity of people/state relation under socialism

19.30  

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 

• 11:00-12:30 Seminar

Ilya Kukulkin

Perspectives of anti-authoritarian reconsideration of Russian culture and responsibility of intellectuals (Part I).

12:30-14:00 

• 14:00-15:30 Seminar

Ilya Kukulkin

Perspectives of anti-authoritarian reconsideration of Russian culture and responsibility of intellectuals (Part II).

15:30-16:00 

• 16:00-19.30 Workshop (lecture)

Evelina Rudenko

Animated cartoons as a way to work on difficult past: experience of International Memorial

18:00-18:30 

• 18.30-19.30 Workshop (presentations)

Evelina Rudenko

Presentations of the results of working in groups

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 

• 11:00-12:30 Seminar

Timur Atnashev

In the hobbles of the general party line: double-think, Aesopian language and theoretical innovations in the late USSR

12:30-14:00 

• 14:00-15:30 Seminar

Lyubov Bugaeva

Negotiating the system: Narratives of the alternative and the subaltern in Post-Soviet Russian cinema (Part I)

15:30-16:00 

• 16:00-17:30 Seminar

Lyubov Bugaeva

Negotiating the system: Narratives of the alternative and the subaltern in contemporary Russian cinema (Part II)

17:30-18:00 

• 18:00-19:30 Key note

Thomas Lindenberger

Neither Consent nor Opposition: Eigen-Sinn. About Compliance and Self-Assertion under Autocratic Rule

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 

• 11:00-12:30 Lecture

Valery Vyugin

Art, Eigen-Sinn and Conformism in Russia: the Early Thaw (1953 – 1954)

12:30-14:00 

• 14:00-15:30 Lecture with discussion

Valery Vyugin

Resistance of the Genre: The Post-Soviet Spy Comedy in Russia (1990s – 2010s)

15:30-16:00 

• 16:00-17:30 Lecture

Ilya Budraitskis

Earning for the state: The political strategies of Moscow Actionism from the 1990s to 2010s

17:30-18:00 

• 18:00-19:30 Lecture-Performance

Pavel Arsenev

Propaganda by deeds, or linguo-pragmatic software of resistance

Friday, 6 May

10:00-11:30 Excursion in Dresden old town

11:00-12:00 Free time

12:00-19:00 Excursion to Saxon Switzerland

Saturday, 7 May - Citizen and state: Individual and collective ("soft") protest

• 9:00-10:30 Lecture Presentation with an activity (writing scenario)

Selby Durdyeva

When Protest Starts from Ourselves: Finding

Voice through Language and Action

10.30-11.00 

• 11:00-12:00 Concluding Round Table

Klavdia Smola, Vera Dubina, Ilya Budraitskis, Ilya Kukulkin, Pavel Arsenev and others

Pluralizing Eigen-Sinn in Today's Eastern Europe

• 12:00-13:00 Final discussion

Evaluation of summer school

13:00-14:00 

14:00-18:00 Visiting Dresden museums

Sunday, 8 May

Departure of participants