

SCIENTIFIC

UTOPIAS

IN THE SOVIET UNION



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PARIS

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2016

Organization: Grégory Dufaud (CNRS/CERMES3), Ioulia Podoroga (Geneva University), Alexei Yurchak (University of California, Berkeley), Larissa Zakharova (EHESS/CERCEC)

Scientific committee: Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden), Korine Amacher (Geneva University), Catherine Depretto (University Paris-IV), Leonid Heller (Lausanne University), Alexei Kojevnikov (University of British Columbia), Nikolai Kremontsov (University of Toronto), Valérie Pozner (CNRS/ARIAS), Egle Rindzeviciute (Kingston University London), Alexandr Dmitriev (Higher School of Economics - Moscow)

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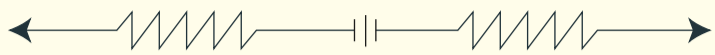


PROGRAMME ACCES

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SCIENTIFIC UTOPIAS IN THE SOVIET UNION

FICTION, SCIENCE, AND POWER (1917-1991)



SEPTEMBER 22. EHESS

18.30-18.50. Welcoming remarks by Grégory Dufaud (CNRS/CERMES3), Ioulia Podoroga (Geneva University), Alexei Yurchak (University of California, Berkeley), Larissa Zakharova (EHESS/CERCEC)

18.50-19.35. Inaugural lecture by Nikolai Kremmentsov (University of Toronto), *The Valley of New Life* (1928): Between Science and Fiction

19.35-20.00. Discussion

SEPTEMBER 23. INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES OF PARIS

POWER AND AMBIVALENCE OF SCIENCE (09.00-10.50)

Chair: *Françoise Daucé (EHESS/CERCEC/IUF)*

09.00-09.20. Daniela Steila (University of Turin): Statistics and the Utopia of a Global Control

09.20-09.40. Leonid Heller (Lausanne University): The Total Body of a New Man: Projected, Prosthetic and Trained Organs

09.40-10.00. Annick Morard (Geneva University): Physical Monstrosities and Utopia(s) in Alexandre Beliaev's Novels

10.00-10.20. Discussant: Egle Rindzeviciute (Kingston University London)

10.20-10.50. Discussion

10.50-11.10. *Coffee break*

THE ENERGY OF SOCIALISM (11.10-13.00)

Chair: *Alexei Kojevnikov (University of British Columbia)*

11.10-11.30. Il'ia Kalinin (Saint-Petersburg State University): Energy and Socialism: between Electrification and 'Electrofiction'

11.30-11.50. Anindita Banerjee (Cornell University): Red Allah's Oil: Petroutopia in the Shadow of Empire

11.50-12.10. Discussant: Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden)

12.10-12.30. Discussion

12.30-14.00. *Lunch*

THE QUEST FOR IMMORTALITY (14.00-16.20)

Chair: *Catherine Depretto (University Paris-IV)*

14.00-14.20. Alexei Yurchak (UC Berkeley): Dead Cyborg: Lenin's Body between Art and Biology

14.20-14.40. Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja (S. Freud University, Wien): Individual and Collective Immortality at the Junction of Utopia and Ideology in the USSR

14.40-15.00. Joy Neumeyer (UC Berkeley): Faces of Death: Soviet Immortality in Plaster

15.00-15.20. Anya Bernstein (Harvard University): The Gates of Immortality: Life Extension and Space Exploration in the Soviet Science and Fiction (1960s-1980s)

15.20-15.40. Discussant: Nikolai Kremmentsov (University of Toronto)

15.40-16.20. Discussion

16.20-16.40. *Coffee break*

PROFESSIONAL MILIEUS OF UTOPIA (16.40-18.40)

Chair: *Alexandr Dmitriev (Higher School of Economics, Moscow)*

16.40-17.00. Matthias Schwartz (Center for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin): A New Poetics of Science. On the Establishment of "Scientific-Artistic Literature" in the Late Stalin Period


17.00-17.20. Thomas William McLenachan (UCL SSEES, London): Nuclear Utopias in Cold War Culture. The Representation of the Physicist in Soviet Film (1962-1972)




17.20-17.40. Slava Gerovitch (Massachusetts Institute of Technology): Will Mathematics Save the World? The Strugatsky Brothers and the Ethos of the Soviet Mathematics Community in the 1970s


17.40-18.00. Discussant: Alexei Kojevnikov (University of British Columbia)

18.00-18.30. Discussion

19.30. *Dinner*

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190-198 Avenue de France, 75013 PARIS
 METRO L.6 « Quai de la gare »

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 METRO L.1 « Saint-Paul »
 METRO L.4 « Cité »
 METRO L.7 « Sully-Morland »

BULAC
65 Rue des Grands Moulins, 75013 PARIS
 METRO L.14 « Bibliotheque François Mitterrand »

SEPTEMBER 24. BULAC

UTOPIAN HUMAN SCIENCES AND DIDACTIC FICTION (09.30-12.00)

Chair: *Ioulia Podoroga (Geneva University)*

09.30-09.50. Steven Lee (UC Berkeley): The Ethnic Utopias of Nikolai Marr and the Soviet Avant-Garde

09.50-10.10. Mieka Erley (Colgate University, Hamilton NY, USA): Soviet Paleoanthropology in Vladimir Obruchev's Lost Worlds

10.10-10.30. Robert Bird (University of Chicago): Model Objects: Scale Models in Soviet Film of the 1930s

10.30-10.50. Mikhail Roshchin (Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences). Scientific Utopia and Reality in Iurii Dolgushin's Novel *Generator of miracles*

10.50-11.10. Discussant: Aleksandr Dmitriev (Higher School of Economics, Moscow)

11.10-11.50. Discussion

11.50-13.10. *Lunch*

NEW WORLDS, NEW FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE (13.10-15.00)

Chair: *Alexei Yurchak (University of California, Berkeley)*

13.10-13.30. Lyubov Bugaeva (St. Petersburg State University, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies): The Underwater World of Soviet Utopia

13.30-13.50. Evgeny Vodichev (Novosibirsk State Technical and National Research Tomsk State Universities), Ekaterina Zhimuleva (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk): 'Siberian New Atlantis':

How Utopia Blossomed and Faded

13.50-14.10. Ksenia Tatarchenko (Geneva University): 'Right to Be Wrong': Transgression, Gaming, and Programming in Kon-tiki: A Path to the Earth (1985-1986)

14.10-14.30. Discussant: Valérie Pozner (CNRS/ARIAS)

14.30-15.00. Discussion

15.00-15.20. *Coffee break*

15.00-15.20. *Coffee break*

SOCIALIST UTOPIAS GO GLOBAL (15.20-17.10)

Chair: *Nikolai Kremmentsov (University of Toronto)*

15.20-15.40. Oliver Sukrow (Institute for European Art History, University of Heidelberg): Networks: On the Utopian Qualities of Technology, Cybernetics, and Participation in the GDR of the late 1960s

15.40-16.00. Lisa Sang Mi Min (UC Berkeley): Non-Aligned: Art, Science, and the Alternative Utopia of North Korean Socialism

16.00-16.20. Rafael Pedemonte (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): Influence beyond the Ocean: Utopian Future and Historic Optimism in Cuban Science-Fiction Literature (1961-1984).

16.20-16.40. Discussant: Leonid Heller (Lausanne University)

16.40-17.10. Discussion

17.10-17.40. Concluding remarks