

COSMIC ENTHUSIASM

The cultural impact of space exploration on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since the 1950s



Program (preliminary), January 22-24, 2009.

Conference venue: University of Basel, Historisches Seminar, Hirschgässlein 21, 4051 Basel

Day 1 Thursday, Jan 22, 2009		
	9.30	Welcome and Introduction (Organizers)
	10.00	I. Spaces of thought - historical, theoretical and visual approaches
		Rise and Fall of Cosmic Millenarianism in Russia: Dmitry Shlapentokh (Indiana University)
		Limited or Infinite? Concepts of Space in Geometry and Semiotics of Literature: Andrea Zink / Christof Weber (University of Basel)
	11.00	Short coffee break
		Spaceflight as a visual programme for the apprehension of knowledge and worldviews: Eva Binder (University of Innsbruck)
		Commentary and discussion
	12.30	Lunch break
	14.00	II. Representations of Soviet spaceflight from the 1950s to the 1970s
		A Dream Come True. Close Encounters with Outer Space in Soviet Popular Scientific Journals of the 1950's and 60's: Matthias Schwartz, (FU Berlin)
		Visualizing Spaceflight: The Films of Pavel Klushantsev: Cathleen Lewis (Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.)
		Utopian Representations of Space": Iina Kohonen (University of Design and Art, Helsinki)
	15.30	Coffee break
		Empty/Void space and the cybernetic God: Kosmos in the works of Stanisław Lem and the Strugatsky brothers: Thomas Grob (University of Basel)
		Cosmic enthusiasm in Russian regions (case study of the Krasnodar Territory): Anna Eremeeva (Krasnodar State University of Culture and Arts)
	17.30	Commentary and discussion
		Evening program: Soviet space movies from the 1950s to the 1980s

Day 2 Friday, Jan 23, 2009		
	9.30	III. Space, children/youth and utopia
		<i>Я хочу в космос.</i> Cosmos and space exploration in Soviet children's books: Eva Hausbacher (University of Salzburg)
		'Let's Find Out Where the Cosmonaut School Is': Soviet Girls and Cosmic Visions in the Aftermath of Tereshkova": Roshanna Sylvester (DePaul University, Chicago)
	10.30	Coffee break
	11.00	Kosmos and Cosmology: Space exploration and atheist education in the late Soviet period": Victoria Smolkin (University of California, Berkeley)
		Commentary and discussion
	12.00	Lunch break
	13.30	IV. Spaceflight as popular culture and cultural export
		Soviet cosmonauts and American astronauts in Yugoslavia - Who did the Yugoslavs love more?: Radina Vučetić (University of Belgrade)
		Unresolved Tensions: Mass Culture and Secrecy in the Soviet Space Program: Asif A. Siddiqi (Fordham University; New York)
		Space Exploration in Western and Soviet Popular Culture: Wishful Thinking vs Conspiracy Theories: Andrei Rogatchevskii (University of Glasgow)
	15.00	Commentary and discussion
	15.30	Coffee break
	16.00	V. Space memories
		Memories of Space and the Spaces of Memory: Remembering the Soviet Space Age: Slava Gerovitch (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
		Publicity of historical and cultural legacy of cosmonautics - the experience of Russian regional public organizations": Vladimir Sadym (Krasnodar)
		The presentation of the first spaceflight and the generation of 60-s in the contemporary Russian historical museums: Anna Lyubivaya (Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw)
	17.30	Commentary and discussion

Day 3 Saturday, Jan 24, 2009		
	9.30	VI: Space heroes and heroines
		Columbus of Outer Space: The Hero-Myth of Iurii Gagarin, First Cosmonaut and New Soviet Man: Trevor Rockwell (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada)
		Two Images of a Spaceman in Estonian Art: The Missing Myth of a Hero and the Fable of Failure: Anneli Porri (Tallinn / Estonia)
		Laika: First cosmonaut and space hero: Roman Marek (University of Paderborn)
	11.00	Coffee break
	11.30	Valentina Tereshkova and the transcontinental battle of the sexes: Julia Richers (University of Basel)
		Commentary / Discussion
	12.30	Final Discussion

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