

Graduate Student Conference in Slavic Studies  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
April 15-16, 2016  
Bevier Hall Commons (Bevier Hall 249)

**Decentering Russia: Challenging the Boundaries**  
with Keynote Lecture by Prof. Maria Todorova of the History Dept. at UIUC

*Dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague Scott K. Maltby*

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**Friday, April 15**

11-11:30: Brunch

11:30-11:40: Opening Remarks

**11:45-1:35 – Panel 1: Conceptions of the Body: The Unruly, the Profane & the Feminine**

Chair: Stephanie Chung (UIUC)

Discussant: Valeria Sobol

Queering the Boundaries of Toilet: Debating Dichotomies and Gender Anxiety in Milan Kundera's  
*Unbearable Lightness of Being* and Georgi Gospodinov's *Natural Novel*

Nadia Hoppe (UIUC)

The Law and the Dying Body: On Brzozowski's Reading of Kant

Dag Alexander Lindskog (UIC)

Wife, Mother, Adulteress: Narrating the Female Body in *Anna Karenina*

Serenity Stanton (UIUC)

The Twins: Breasts and Homicide in Leskov's "Lady Macbeth"

Leianna Hamel (UIUC)

**1:45-2:45 – Panel 2: Drunken Discourses: Identity and Meaning through Addiction**

Chair: Diana Sacilowski (UIUC)

Discussant: George Gasyna (UIUC)

A Drunk Journey from 'Truth' to 'Authenticity': The Recent History of Polish Gonzo Writing

Andrzej Brylak (UIC)

Alcoholism, Writing Therapy and Search for Identity: Jerzy Pilch's *The Mighty Angel*

Andrei Gorkovoi (UIC)

2:45-3:10: Coffee break

3:10-4:35 – **Panel 3: Ways of Remembering: Memories and Conceptualizations of World War II and the Holocaust**

Chair: Nadia Hoppe (UIUC)

Discussant: Harriet Murav (UIUC)

The Touch of the Thaw: Memory and Haptic Visuality in Marlen Khutsiev's *I am Twenty* and Larisa Sheptiko's *Wings*

Tanya Efremova (UIUC)

The Missing Signifier: The "Jew" in Contemporary Polish Literature

Diana Sacilowski (UIUC)

Poland's *persona non grata*: The Creation of the Non-Witness and the State of Exception

Alexandra van Doren (UIUC)

4:45-6:15: **Keynote Lecture**

Decentering Russia? Accommodating Bulgarian Social Democracy within the Socialist International

Maria Todorova (UIUC)

7-9pm: Banquet at Bread Company on Goodwin Ave.

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**Saturday, April 16**

9-9:30: Breakfast

9:30-11 – **Panel 4: Translating Cultures: Transformative Encounters**

Chair: Morgan Shafter (UIUC)

Discussant: David Cooper (UIUC)

Integrating and Disintegrating: East European Student Cultural Organizations of the University of Illinois, 1867 to 1967

Salvatore V. De Sando, UIUC

The Future of a Nation: Constructing a Ukrainian Groupness in the Chicago Diaspora

Danielle Morrissette (UIC)

Poland through Brodsky's Eyes

Anna Borovskaya-Ellis (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

11:10-1 – **Panel 5: Revolutions & New Visions: Rewriting Narratives in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Russia**

Chair: Serenity Stanton (UIUC)

Discussant: Kristin Romberg (UIUC)

Russian History on Stage: *Tsar Fyodor* (1898) and the Beginnings of Moscow Art Theatre

Irina Avkhimovich (UIUC)

The Futurists' 1913-1914 Publicity Tour: Infusing Performance with the Aesthetics of Revolution

Emily Lipira (UIUC)

The Art as Such: Kazimir Malevich's Contributions to Futurist Poetry

Leigh Wilson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

A More Perfect Vision: Machines, Marxism, and the Human in Dziga Vertov's *Man with a Movie Camera*

Alejandra Pires, UIUC

1-2: Lunch

2-3:25 – **Panel 6: Political & Social Challenges of the Post-Soviet Space**

Chair: Tyler Dolan (UIUC)

Discussant: Cynthia Buckley (UIUC)

EU-Russia Interdependence and Common Security Challenges

Marine Sargsyan (Leiden University)

Building Development Capacity with Local Governance Initiatives on Russian Rural Territories

Iya Kazakevich (Brandeis University)

Georgia's Security Challenges and Russia

Maia Manchkhvili (Tbilisi State University), Meri Gbedava (Sokhumi State University)

3:35-5 – **Panel 7: The Transhuman, the Nonhuman & the Natural World**

Chair: Irina Avkhimovich (UIUC)

Discussant: Richard Tempest (UIUC)

Another Green World: *Zelenii Svít* and the Struggle for the Ukrainian Environment

Emma Claire Foley (Harvard University)

Face Swap and Identity Switch: Medical and Social Transhumanism in Josef Nesvadba's Sci-fi Story *Ztracená tvář* and its 1965 Film Adaptation

Václav Zheng (McGill University)

8pm: Please join us for drinks at the Blind Pig Brewery on Neil St. in Downtown Champaign