

Conjunctural Geographies of Postsocialist and Postcolonial Conditions: Theory Thirty Years after 1989

**Supported by: Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe–Global Area” (EEGA)
14.-16. May 2020**

Workshop organisers: Mithilesh Kumar (Christ University, Bangalore,) Wladimir Sgibnev and Lela Rekhviashvili (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography),

Panel organisers: Nikolay Karkov (State University of New York (SUNY), USA); Ovidiu Tichindeleanu (IDEA Publishing House, Romania); Marina Gržinić (ZRC SAZU, Institute of Philosophy, Ljubljana, Slovenia /Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria); Zhivka Valiavicharska (Pratt Institute, New York, USA); Kasia Narkowicz, (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Keynotes: Madina Tlostanova (Linköping University), Steffi Marung (Leipzig University)

Number of all Attendees:

1. May 14, 2020: 53
2. May 15, 2020: 63
3. May 16, 2020: 51

In the light of COVID 19 the conjunctural geographies workshop was held online and stretched over three days to accommodate time differences between different participants. The workshop hosted planned six panels on, ‘Postcolonial and Postsocialist Conditions: Space, Time, and Subjectivities’, ‘Labour, State, Capital: Capitalism and its Neoliberal Aftermaths’, ‘Nation, Othering, and Populism’, ‘Gender, Sexuality, and Social Reproduction’, ‘Civil Society and Social Movements’ and ‘Informal Urbanism and Mobility Practices’. Due to this shift the organisational and coordination tasks increased yet were equally shared among all organisers. As an outcome almost all initially committed participants attended the workshop, and reflection session on Saturday illustrated high satisfaction of involved parties with the results of the workshop. Additional to thematic sessions on Saturday, May 16, the workshop also offered a book Presentation by Steffi Marrung ‘Alternative Globalizations: Encounters Between the Eastern Bloc and the Postcolonial World, eds. Mark, James, Artemy Kalinovsky, and Steffi Marung, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2020’ and an interactive workshop by Madina Tlostanova on ‘The postcolonial and postsocialist disjunctures and potential intersections’.

The merits of the workshop were reflected on the willingness of all involved parties - panel organisers and panel contributors - to continue working in the network, towards a next round of online meeting and ultimately a common publication that would accommodate large number (about 30) of contributors. At this point the contributors committed to submitting abstracts by the end of August and the next meeting to discuss submitted short (3000 word) papers should be held in Autumn. This meeting also will be accompanied by the keynote speech by Nivedita Menon, which will serve as a closure and summary of the project. The organisers still work on identifying suitable online outlet for common publication. The goal is

to publish free access, short pieces that will reflect overall discussions of the workshop and present the audience on the state of art on current research mostly focusing on Eastern Europe but drawing comparisons with post-colonial/ global south contexts and engaging with southern and post-/decolonial theory. The key goal of the publication will be to outline how engagement with East-to-South comparisons and mutual learning sheds a new light on academic analysis of post-socialism: a task advocated for last three decades but only emerging with the engagement of promising young scholars, activists and artists.

(Lela Rekhviashvili)