

Call for Papers

Russia's 1990s: Global Perspectives

In general, narratives about the end of the USSR focus on domestic dimensions of the disintegration of the Soviet Union or discuss reasons and consequences of the Soviet decline in the context of Cold War history.

Both perspectives are highly relevant for an interpretation of the events of 1991 and their consequences. Nevertheless, they too often obscure the view on other essential international and global perspectives.

The post-Soviet states, and Russia in particular, could not escape global and transnational processes. Their responses to global challenges and opportunities developed under the complex conditions of post-imperial transformation processes of politics, economy, society, and culture. At the same time, they had to take international models or role models into account. In Russia, the 1990s revealed tensions between historical, imperial legacies and traditions, hopes for new, democratic concepts and cooperation, and pressing transformation problems.

Meanwhile, the outside world discussed future roles of the Russian state, Russian society, economy and culture in all spheres of further international relations. For some governments and societies, the demise of the USSR had eliminated a constant source of unrest and danger. Others bemoaned the loss of a fundamental, socialist alternative to global concepts of parliamentary democracy of the West European and North Atlantic variety and of a liberal world economy. The former were hoping to integrate new Russia into given international relations, while the latter were looking for Russian support for alternative concepts of globalization.

The workshop will address these complex international relations of Russia in the post-Soviet period of upheaval on the basis of relevant thematic fields of global history. In doing so, it aims to bring together research on Russian and global history and to encourage a more intensive cross-fertilization between Eastern European and global history.

Research Questions

- The end of the Soviet empire: Western, Eastern European and Soviet perspectives
- Post-imperial rivalries: Russia and its post-Soviet neighbors, e.g.
 - o in regional organizations
 - o economic relations
 - o political and social visions
 - o international relations
- on the road to a free-market economy and free world trade, e.g.
 - o Russian relations with the European Union and the World Trade Organization
 - o Russia and the international gas and oil business
 - o Russian relations with the Global South
- Russia and the international climate regime
- Russia and international environmental politics
- Russia and emerging countries, incl. China
- Russia in international crises of the 1990s, e.g. Yugoslavia, Iraq, Rwanda, Kosovo
- Russia and international society, e.g.
 - o Russian NGOs
 - o human rights discourses
- Russia and international organizations, e.g. UN, CIS, OSCE
- Russia and migration, e.g. visa problems, brain drain, migrant workers

The workshop will take place on 28-29 October 2021. Working languages will be English and Russian (with simultaneous translation).

We do hope that the workshop can take place in Moscow. Given the uncertainties of travel and meeting possibilities in October, we might be compelled to switch to a hybrid or online format on the same date.

Please send your proposals of no more than 400 words with brief biographical details to Russias1990s@dhi-moskau.org by **2 May 2021**.

We will inform you about the acceptance by 31 May 2021.

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