ORIENTALISM, COLONIAL THINKING
AND THE FORMER SOVIET PERIPHERY

Exploring Bias and Stereotype Representations of Eastern and Central Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia

Vilnius University
August 27-29, 2015

With the support of:
Thursday, August 27th

Morning programme

08:00 – 10:30 Registration and welcoming coffee
10:30 – 11:15 Welcoming speech from Dr. Valdas Jaskunas and VU rector; Technical details from administrative coordinator
11:15 – 12:30 Opening keynote roundtable: “Can small actors be heard? Experiences of former peripheries in the international arena and academia”
   • Dr. Violeta Davoliute, Vilnius University;
   • Dr. Anton Shekhovtsov, Legatum Institute/University College London
   • Farrukh Irrazarov, Central Asian Analytical Network
   • Dr. Irina Morozova, University of Regensburg
   • Jaba Devdariani, Austrian Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Moderates: Fabio Belafatti, Vilnius University

12:30 – 13:30 Free time for lunch

Afternoon programme

13:30 – 15:05 Parallel panel sessions

Ukraine’s choices: between and beyond the traps of imperial thinking
Moderator: Roman Horbyk, Sodertorn university
   • Dr. Maryna Romanets, University of Northern British Columbia
      Russian neo-imperial Fantasies: Constructing the “Near Orient” of Ukraine’s Political Body.
   • Dr. Nadia Bureiko, University of St. Gallen
      Shaking the frontier: Ukraine moves West?

Eastern Europe and Europeans in public and self-perceptions
Moderator: Dr. Dariya Oriova, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
   • Ruth McKenna, PhD candidate, University of Glasgow
      Central and Eastern Europe in the British Imagination
   • Dr. Irina Novikova, University of Latvia
      Imagining Russia/nness in post-Soviet Latvian media
   • Philipp Lottholz, PhD candidate, University of Birmingham/American Univ. of Central Asia, and Dr. Polina Manolova, University of Birmingham
      No escape from ideology? A comparison of political and moral orientations in the former Soviet periphery

Ukrainian cultural spaces and symbols: finding post-colonial identities? (Part I)
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University
• Dr. Natalia Koltakova, Army Academy named after Hetman Petro Sahaydachnyi
  A Cultural Stereotype as a Text of Culture in the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature

• Daria Semenova, PhD candidate, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
  Southern and Eastern Soviet periphery as exoticized adventure landscape: how are the potentially disinterested Ukrainian narratives biased by the imperialist discourse stereotypes?

Colonial and Orientalist narratives in literature and cinema in the former Periphery
Moderator: Dr. Rasa Balockaitė, Associate Professor, Vytautas Magnus University

• Dr. Enis Sulstarova, University of Tirana
  Constructing Albanian Communist and Post-Communist Identities Through Literature: Orientalism in the Works of Ismail Kadare

• Dr. Rasa Balockaitė, Associate Professor, Vytautas Magnus University
  Colonial Narratives in the Soviet Cinema: “Kidnapping, Caucasian style” (1967)

• Katrin Staudinger, Independent cultural anthropologist
  Free Nomads, Noble Robbers and Unscrupulous Slave Raiders: The Turkmen Test Case for Orientalism on the Russian Imperial Periphery

15:05 – 15:35 Coffee break

15:35 – 16:30 Plenary lecture: Dr. John Heathershaw, University of Exeter
Rising Powers and Post-Western International Relations: a research prospectus for Central Asian Studies

16:30 – 17:40 Parallel panel sessions

Ukrainian cultural spaces and symbols: finding post-colonial identities? (Part II)
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

• Dr. Iryna Borysiuk, Associate Professor, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University
  Between Silence and Speaking: Representation of National Identity in the Poetry by Oksana Zabuzhko

• Nataliya Bezborodova, Graduate student, University of Alberta
  The “New Year’s Tree” of the Maidan as a Mediator of Decolonization Discourse in Ukraine

(Re-)Negotiating colonial and centre-periphery relationships in the former Communist world
Moderator: Dr. Uku Lember, Tallinn University

• Dr. Vilius Ivanauskas, Lithuanian Institute of History
  Ethnic Particularism in Soviet peripheries: Local intellectuals as the mediators creating Soviet “West”, Soviet “Exotic” and Soviet “East”

• Estelle Bunout, PhD candidate, University of Lorraine
  Recognition as an incentive for revision of possessive conceptions of Eastern Europe in Poland and Germany after 1945? Realizations and limits on the basis of the Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (PISM) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP).
Knowledge regimes, subaltern voices and New Area Studies
Moderator: Dr. John Heathershaw, University of Exeter
• Dr. Claus Bech Hansen, University of Bonn
  Subaltern voices from the post-Soviet periphery: The translation of western epistemic cultures in Central Asia
• Dr. Markus Kaiser, University of Bonn
  Migration in Eurasia

Soviet Asia through the lenses of cinema: orientalising “the East” in the 1920ies and 1930ies
Moderator: Dr. Rasa Balockaite, Associate Professor, Vytautas Magnus University
• Caroline Damiens, PhD candidate, National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations
  The Soviet cine-expeditions in the 1920-30s: modernizing/sovietising Siberia Indigenous peoples through film
• Dr. Cloé Drieu, French National Centre for Scientific Research
  Bolshevik imperialism, nationalist agencies and Socialist realism in Uzbek films: the birth of a new Soviet orientalism (1924-1938)

17:40 – 18:00 Coffee break
18:00 – 18:55 Teleconferenced plenary address: Prof. Alexander J. Motyl, Rutgers University
  The Life and Inevitable Death of the Russian Imperial Narrative
18:55 – 19:00 Technical details for the following day
Friday, August 28th

Morning programme

08:00 – 09:00 Registration for newcomers
09:00 – 09:05 Technical details and general announcements
09:05 – 10:00 Plenary lecture: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College
  The Orient in Soviet Thought, or the Curious Career of a Concept
10:00 – 11:10 Parallel panel sessions
  Constructing new identities and national myths: personality cults and new textbooks
  Moderator: Dr. John Heathershaw, University of Exeter
  • Dr. Rasa Cepaitiene, Lithuanian Institute of History
    Post-Soviet Paternalism: the Formation of the Cult of Personality of Presidents in Former Republics of the USSR, its Functions and Forms of Expression
  • Rafi Beykhanov, PhD candidate, Tel Aviv University
    Shaping the Azerbaijani National Pantheon in post-Soviet Azerbaijan Textbooks

Phantom memories: Orientalism and mediated representations of Ukraine (Part I)
  Moderator: Roman Horbyk, Sodertorn university
  • Dr. Yuliya Yurchuk, Sodertorn university
    Narratives of the Second World War: Contesting the “hierarchy of historical narratives” from the East and the West
  • Niklas Bernsand, PhD candidate, Lund university
    Ukraine as a site of Orientalist projections: perceptions of Ukraine-Russia crisis in Sweden

De-territorialization and colonial thinking: migrants and exiles from the former “periphery” (Part I)
  Moderator: Prof. Vytais Ciubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University/Vilnius University
  • Klaudia Ordzowiały-Grzegorczyk, PhD candidate, Jagellonian University
    Images of the Russian Empire. Polish exiles in the Caucasus during the 19th century
  • Masha Averbuch and Matan Sandler, Grad. students, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
    Uses of Soviet Imperialist Narratives for National Assimilation: the Case of the “Russian” Veterans in Israel

11:10 – 11:40 Coffee break
11:40 – 13:15 Parallel panel sessions
  Phantom memories: Orientalism and mediated representations of Ukraine (Part II)
  Moderator: Roman Horbyk, Sodertorn university
  • Dr. Dariya Orlova, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
Ukraine as ‘Not-Yet-Europe’: Self-Orientalism in the Mediatised Discourse of Ukrainian Political Elites

• **Roman Horbyk**, PhD candidate, Sodertorn university
  “Ukraine can not!”: Orientalist discourses in the coverage of Ukraine in British and Russian press before the Ukraine-Russia crisis, 2009 – 2013

• **Dr. Julia Sushytska**, CREPHAC, University of Strasbourg
  Europe on the Edges of Europe: Confronting Internalized Oppression

De-territorialization and colonial thinking: migrants and exiles from the former “periphery” (Part II)
Moderator: Prof. Vytilis Ciubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University/Vilnius University

• **Matan Sandler**, Graduate student, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
  “Refusinks”- How a National Myth Conforms to Imperial Discourse

• **Farrukh Irnazarov**, PhD candidate, University of Groningen
  Mass Media as a Source of Xenophobia and Violence against “Gastarbeaters” in Russia

• **Masha Averbuch**, Graduate student, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
  The Soviet Conundrum: Imperial Narratives Interchange in Israel Postcolonial Discourse

From Czarist to (Post-)Soviet Orientalism: forms, problems and critiques
Moderator: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College

• **Prof. Michael Kemper**, University of Amsterdam
  Soviet Critiques of Soviet Orientalism

• **Dr. Masha Kirasirova**, New York University Abu Dhabi
  “The Eastern International”: Between Soviet Orientalism and Anti-Colonialism

• **Dr. Kevork Oskanian**, University of Birmingham
  Czars, Commissars, and Siloviki: Russian Empire between East and West

Orientalizing the *other*: ethnic minorities and “alien” invaders in Ukraine, Georgia and Central Asia
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

• **Mehmonsho Sharifov**, PhD candidate, University of Bergen
  Colonial inheritance of the failed State: self-orientalization or “politics of anti-politics” in Tajikistan

• **Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas**, Vilnius University
  Between the “Russian World” and “Yellow Peril”: (Re-)Presentations of Russia’s Non-Slavic Fighters in Eastern Ukraine

• **Dr. Salome Dundua**, Associate Professor, Tbilisi State University
  Muslim Georgians and Integration Process: from Czarist Russia’s Politics until Today

13:15 – 14:15  Free time for lunch
Afternoon programme

14:15 – 15:10  Plenary lecture: Dr. Nick Megoran, Newcastle University

Central Asia as Oriental: discourses of danger in policy, the academy, and popular culture

15:10 – 16:15  Parallel panel sessions

Colonial thinking and contemporary policies in the Caucasus and beyond
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

- Dr. Yordan Lyutskanov, Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
  Balkanism, self-colonisation, economy of gratitude, non-prestigious neighbours: Towards understanding (quasi)colonial experience in the wider Black Sea region as multilateral structure

- Danilo Mandic, PhD candidate, Harvard University
  Secession within the Periphery: Separatist Movements, the State, and Organized Crime in Serbia and Georgia, 1989-2012

Teleconferenced address

- Prof. Emeritus Ronald G. Suny, University of Michigan, University of Chicago
  The Armenian Genocide and its historical interpretations

Public discussion: Energy strategies in the FSU as a form of imperialization and de-imperialization policy
Moderator: Greta Monika Tuckute, Centre for Geopolitical Studies

Participants:

- Mikhail Krutikhin, Head, RusEnergy think-tank
- Arvydas Sekmokas, former Minister of Energy of Lithuania, member of Vilnius Council, independent energy expert.

16:15 – 16:45  Coffee break

16:45 – 18:20  Parallel panel sessions

Postcolonial patterns and interpretations in Baltic literature: between literary work and politics
Moderator: Dr. Giedre Pranaityte, Vytautas Magnus University

- Dr. Laura Laurusaite, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore
  The Burden and Advantage of Internal Colonization: Lithuanian and Latvian Émigré Novels

- Dr. Benedikts Kalnacs, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia
  Representations of Postcolonial/Postimperial Space in Contemporary Baltic Literatures: Competing Narrative Patterns

- Dr. Giedre Pranaityte, Vytautas Magnus University
  Tragic Memories about the Massive Exile of Lithuanians to Siberia in 1941: at the Intersection of Politics, History and Literature

Local actors as agents beyond patronizing attitudes: Eastern Europe, Central Asia
Moderator: Dr. Nick Megoran, Newcastle University

- Dr. Fabio Indeo, external research fellow, University of Camerino
Post-soviet Central Asia: focusing on the regional dimension

- **Dr. Jens Boysen**, German Historical Institute Warsaw
  *Historical lecturing and political alarmism: Poland’s efforts at influencing EU strategic attitudes towards Russia and the post-Soviet space*

- **Vassiliy Lakhonin**, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
  *The importance of ‘listening to people’ when studying international aid and development: A case study of the rural aid-recipients in Kyrgyzstan*

**Mongolia, Xinjiang, China proper: imperial history and colonial stereotypes from the “Far East” to Europe**
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

- **Lina Bartuseviciute**, Graduate student, Shanghai Fudan University
  *Being “ex-Soviet” in China: the difficulties of re-branding Lithuania as an independent political entity*

- **Dr. Bartosz Kowalski**, University of Łódź
  *Creating a Soviet sphere of influence in the Republic of China. Xinjiang under Sheng Shicai 1933-1942*

- **Sachi Leith**, New York University Abu Dhabi
  *Unsettling Nomadism: becoming minor in Galan Tschinag’s Die Rückkehr*

**Conflict of narratives and narratives of conflict: Ukrainian VS Russian perspectives on Euromaidan**
Moderator: Dr. Vilius Ivanauskas, Lithuanian Institute of History

- *(Teleconferenced)* **Dr. Svitlana Potapenko**, Nat. Academy of Sciences, Ukraine
  *Does Ukraine Have Elites? Russian Narrative vs. Ukrainian History*

- **Liliia Usik**, PhD Candidate, University of Potsdam
  *The Conflict of Narratives in Russian vs. Ukrainian Social Media*

- **Dr. Oksana Myshlovska**, Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
  *Taking the grief to the international level: Ukraine and the Russian Federation debates on the ongoing crisis in Ukraine at the Geneva-based human rights protection bodies*

18:20 – 18:30 Technical details for the following day
Saturday, August 29th

Morning programme

08:00 – 09:00  Registration for newcomers
09:00 – 09:05  Technical details and general announcements
09:05 – 10:00  Plenary lecture: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
               Re-inventing Eurasia: On the applicability of (post)colonial approaches to the study of (post)communist countries
10:00 – 11:10  Parallel panel sessions

Kazakh-Russian Relations: Soviet Visions and post-Soviet Revisions (Part I)
Moderator: Dr. Zbigniew Wojnowski, Nazarbayev University

- Dr. Gabriel McGuire, Associate Professor, Nazarbayev University
  Abai Zholy as Socialist Realism and as National Romance
- Christopher Baker, PhD candidate, Indiana University; Associate Professor, American Univ. of Central Asia
  At play in the Soviet Library: history, texts and power in the late Soviet era

Applying Post-colonial approaches to the FSU: useful practice or intellectual divertissement? (Part I)
Moderator: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

- Giorgia Zino, Graduate student, University of Bologna
  Soviet Union As an Internal Colonization Experience? Nation-based internal colonialism in Russian-Lithuanian Relationships
- Dr. Sergei I. Zhuk, Associate Professor, Ball State University
  Ukrainian Maidan as the Last Anti-Soviet Revolution: Subaltern Studies and Epistemological Dangers of Soviet Nostalgia for Writing Soviet and Post-Soviet History

Travelogues to and from the Empire's Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part I)
Moderator: TBC

- Anastasia Tserkovna, PhD candidate, Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University
  Multiculturalism as an Artistic Component of Imagological Liminality of the Ethnoimage of Ukraine in English Travel Journals of the Romantic Period
- Roman Horbyk, PhD candidate, Sodertorn university
  "Heliotropismus geheimer Art": Walter Benjamin's trips to the East and Orientalist confusions of the European left

11:10 – 11:40  Coffee break
11:40 – 13:15  Parallel panel sessions

Kazakh-Russian Relations: Soviet Visions and post-Soviet Revisions (Part II)
Moderator: Dr. Zbigniew Wojnowski, Nazarbayev University
• Dr. Aziz Burkhanov, Associate Professor, Nazarbayev University
  Kazakh- and Russian-language Newspapers of Kazakhstan: Discourse on Language Policy in the late Soviet and post-independence Era

• Dr. Dina Sharipova, Associate Professor, KIMEP University
  Ethnic Nationalism in Kazakhstan through post-colonial theory

• Aray Rakhimzhanova, Graduate student, University of Roehampton
  Traditional culture vs Colonial legacy: Case study of the dance Qara Jora

Applying Post-colonial approaches to the FSU: useful practice or intellectual divertissement? (Part II)
Moderator: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

• Jaroslava Barbieri, University of Oxford/London School of Economics
  Ukrainian barricades: the last ‘times Europae’? Euromaidan as a challenge to Europe and Russia’s conception of borders

• Dr. Uku Lember, Tallinn University
  Soviet era Estonian-Russian intermarriages as non-colonial encounters?

• Prof. Vladislav Inozemtsev, Moscow Higher School of Economics/Centre for Post-Industrial Studies
  Colonies vs. Dependencies: An Invitation to a Discourse

Travelogues to and from the Empire’s Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part II)
Moderator: TBC

• Agnieszka Sadecka, PhD candidate, University of Tuebingen
  Orientalising/Orientalised? - a Polish Reporter’s Travel to the Former Empire

• Prof. Zahid Anwar, University of Peshawar
  Afghan depiction in Victorian travelogues during the Great Game

• Ibrahim Mirzayev, Humboldt University, Berlin
  An Oriental in Occident? Letters of Rashid bek Ahundov from Brussels

Constructing an orientalised historical knowledge of Central Asia: comparative perspectives
Moderated by: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College

• Dr. Svetlana Gorshenina, University of Lausanne
  “Natives” and the birth of archeology in Russian Turkestan: transitioning from “invisible” to “subordinate”

• Kunduz Niiazova, Graduate student, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
  Russian Academic Thinking on Turkestan and Palestine

• Michael Erdman, PhD candidate, School of Oriental and African Studies
  Central Asians as the Good Other to the Corrupted Ottomans: An Examination of the Portrayal of Pre-Islamic Central Asia in the Turkish History Thesis

13:15 – 14:15 Free time for lunch
**Afternoon programme**

14:15 – 15:10  
**Plenary lecture:** Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy  
Becoming ‘Oriental’ to Justify Hegemony: The Imperial Purpose of Self-Orientalization in Russian Eurasianism

15:10 – 16:15  
**Parallel panel sessions**

**Travelogues to and from the Empire’s Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part III)**  
Moderator: **TBC**
- Dr. Duccio Colombo, Associate Professor, University of Palermo  
  *Carrying the Red Man’s Burden: Pavel Luknickii, or Kipling in the Soviet Pamir*
- Fabio Belafatti, Vilnius University  
  *A communist orientalist? Joshua Kunitz’s “Dawn over Samarkand” as a travelogue*

**The Rusyn minority: searching for a new, post-colonial position in Ukraine’s security equation**  
Moderator: (TBC)
- Dr. Sandor Foldvari, Debrecen University  
  *Ethnic Identity and The “Carpathian Card” — Rusyns in the security policies of Ukraine and Its European Neighbours*
- Serge Gurbich, Graduate student, Kyiv-Mohila Academy  
  *Carpathian Rusyns in both east-European and Soviet and post-Soviet discourses*

**Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part I)**  
Moderator: Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- Dr. Giovanni Savino, Sholokhov Moscow State University  
  *Title to be confirmed*
- Dr. Anton Shekhovtsov, Legatum Institute/University College London  
  *Neo-Eurasianism and the Russian-Ukrainian war*

16:15 – 16:45  
**Coffee break**

16:45 – 18:20  
**Parallel panel sessions**

**Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part II)**  
Moderator: Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- Dr. Natalia Kovalchuk, Ukrainian Catholic University  
  *Russian Pan Slavism revisited*
- Magda Dolinska-Rydzak, PhD candidate, Justus-Liebig University in Giessen  
  *Russian Civilization in the Fight with the Western Antichrist: Elements of the Imperial Discourse in post-Soviet Russia*
- Konstantyn Fedorenko, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation  
  *New “Holy Alliance”: Russian Reply to European Orientalism*

**Women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: between “orientalist” stereotypes and new identities**  
Moderator: Dr. Irina Novikova, University of Latvia
• **Ewa Polak**, independent scholar  
  *Women, Nation and Anti-Sovietism; Pop-culture in the service of O'zbekchilik*

• **Dr. Feruza Shermatova**, International Ataturk-Ala Too university  
  *Paradoxes in defining women identity in Kyrgyzstan: veil versus traditional clothing*

• **Ruta Skriptaite**, graduate student, University College London  
  *The misrepresentation of Eastern and South-eastern European women in the popular culture and media as a result of the acceptance of imposition of “the other” paradigm on them*

18:20 – 18:45  Conclusive remarks: Fabio Belafatti, Dr. Valdas Jaskunas