

EXC 2020 “Temporal Communities:  
Doing Literature in a Global Perspective”

# The Red Globe

## Writing the World in Eastern European Travel Literature of the Cold War

International Conference  
1–3 June 2022

Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung  
Schützenstr. 18, 10117 Berlin, staircase B, 3rd floor



Photograph from the Jiří Hanzelka  
© Museum (Převládání Moravy ve Zlínském území)  
(Southeast Moravian Museum in Zlín)

After years of isolation and division during the late Stalinist period, the so-called ‘Thaw’ in the cultural politics of socialist Eastern Europe in the second half of the 1950s enabled a broadening of horizons. This also entailed the physical opening up of borders. Not only were foreign journalists, cultural delegations, festival visitors, and travel groups allowed to visit the world behind the Iron Curtain, but, vice versa, a host of reporters, writers, and artists set out to travel to capitalist foreign countries—especially to countries engaged in the struggle for independence from their colonisers. Travel literature became one of the most popular genres of the 1960s and 70s. These texts paved the way for the emergence of a new global consciousness, distinguished from and influenced at the same time by the ‘imperial gaze’ of the capitalist West. ‘Writing the world’ meant striving to find a socialist understanding of a ‘Red Globe’ and constructing a new, post-Stalinist subjectivity.

### Wednesday, 1 June 2022

#### 14:00 Introduction

Susi K. Frank, Matthias Schwartz, Clemens Günther

#### 14:30 Panel 1 – After War: Travelogues and Decolonization

**War Veterans’ Travel: Daniil Granin and Viktor Nekrasov**  
Lyudmila Parts, McGill University, Montreal

**The Told and Untold Stories of Decolonization: Polish Socialist Travelogues from Vietnam**  
Thuc Linh Nguyen Vu, University of Vienna

#### 16:15 Panel 2 – Socialist Internationalism: Appropriating the World

**Vasilii Zakharchenko: Introducing the World to the Soviet Youth**  
Olga Nechaeva, University of Pennsylvania

**“... these Clever, Educated Girls Are Going to Rebel Against the Old-Slave-Woman Life.”: Depictions of Women’s Lives in the Global South by Hungarian Women 1960s–1980s**  
Réka Krizmanics, University of Leipzig

#### 18:00 Keynote 1

**Writing Between the Colonial and the Anti-Colonial in Socialist Eastern Europe, 1949–1989**  
James Mark, University of Exeter

### Thursday, 2 June 2022

#### 10:00 Panel 3 – Writing the Foreign: Road Novels and Travel Prose

**Go West: Exploring the origins of the Polish “road novel” (at the example of some early travelogues by Waldemar Łysiak)**  
Kris van Heuckelom, KU Leuven

**Around the World on a Tatra Car: The Adventures of Miroslav Zikmund and Jiří Hanzelka**  
Dobrota Pucherová, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

#### 12:00 Panel 4 – Experiencing the Socialist Self: New Aesthetics of Travel Reportages

**A Country without Dreams: Julia Hartwig’s Reportages about the United States**  
Anja Burghardt, LMU Munich

**The aesthetics of experience in Ryszard Kapuściński’s Latin American writings**  
Joanna Moszczynska, University of Regensburg

#### 15:00 Panel 5 – Writing Europe: Perspectives on the Continent from the East

**Beyond the Cold War Gaze**  
Danijela Lugiarić Vukas, University of Zagreb

**(Dis-)Inheriting/(Dis-)Possessing the West: Zbigniew Herbert’s Descent into the Depths of Europe**  
Alexander Holt, Northwestern University, Evanston

**Writing Berlin, Narrating Europe: Travelogue as Reflections**  
Nishant K. Narayanan, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

#### 18:00 Keynote 2

**Traveling When Borders are Closed: The Case of the Soviet Union at Mid-20th Century**  
Eleonory Gilburd, University of Chicago

The conference will be held in cooperation with the projects “(Post-) Soviet Literary Cosmopolis” and “Writing Berlin” of the Cluster of Excellence 2020 “Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective”.

### Friday, 3 June 2022

#### 10:00 Panel 6 – Conditioning the World for One’s Home: Political Travelogues

**Makosch’s travelogues from the 1950s–1970s**  
George Bodie, University of Cambridge, UK

**Constructing the World for the Country: Ország-Világ Travelogues in Socialist Hungary**  
Milán Pap, National University of Public Service, Hungary

#### 12:00 Panel 7 – Narrating Globality: Imagined Geographies and Cultural Encounters

**Encountering Africa: Tibor Sekelj’s “Caravan of Friendship”**  
Tatjana Petzer, MLU Halle-Wittenberg

**Blind People Around the Globe: Disability, Travel Writing, and the Imagined Geographies of the Cold War**  
Maria Galmarini, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg

#### 14:30 Panel 8 – Beyond the Political Lines: Gazes from the Periphery to the Periphery

**Writers in Arms: Yugoslav Non-Aligned Travelogues**  
Nataša Kovačević, Eastern Michigan University, USA

**Kapuściński and the Global 50s: Literary Reportage in and beyond the Soviet Model**  
Marla Zubeł, Western Kentucky University, USA

#### 16:30 Panel 9 – Socialists Sailing the Seas: The Ship as a Model for Globality

**War and Peace: The Image of the Second World War in Travelogues of the Early Thaw**  
Alexey Kotelvas, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences

**“Dear Mummy in Heringsdorf: It’s Summer Here!”  
Annelie and Andrew Thorndike’s Sea Voyage to India**  
Jan Schaldach, University of Leipzig

#### 18:00 Concluding Remarks

**Organisation:** Susanne Frank (EXC 2020/HU Berlin), Clemens Günther (FU Berlin), Matthias Schwartz (ZfL)  
**Venue:** Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Schützenstr. 18, 10117 Berlin, staircase B, 3rd floor

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