

## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGES, SPACES, AND TIMES

The event is organised as a cooperation between a Germany/Austria-based research network “Ambivalences of the Soviet: Diaspora Nationalities between Collective Experiences of Discrimination and Individual Normalization, 1953-2023” and the Ilia State University. During the event we intend to critically address the memories of the socialist pasts and their transformations; migration, spatial change and minority belonging; as well as the topic of decolonisation of knowledges from perspectives of the “peripheries”. The workshop is intended for students and researchers of social sciences and humanities working on the topic of (post-)socialism from different perspectives.

### ORGANISERS:

ALINA JAŠINA-SCHÄFER  
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### HOSTED BY:

ILIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,  
GIORGI TSERETELI STREET 3, TBILISI

# Ambivalences of the Soviet

JUNE 7-10, 2023



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# Programme



## Wednesday, June 7th of 2023

12:00 - 14:00

**City Tour** "Topographies of Terror" with Irakli Khvadagiani (Ilia State University). Starting location: Liberty Square

16:00 - 16:30

**Welcoming Address.** Venue: T102  
Nino Mataradze (Ilia State University)  
Joachim Tauber (IKGN Lüneburg)  
Anke Hilbrenner (University of Düsseldorf)

16:30 - 18:00

**Opening Roundtable: Decolonising Knowledges and Histories.**  
Venue: T102  
Alima Bissenova (Nazarbayev University),  
Evgeniya Pruskaya (Ilia State University),  
Oliver Reisner (Ilia State University),  
Tetiana Vodotyka (University of Göttingen).  
Chair: Hans-Christian Petersen (BKGE, Oldenburg)

18:30

Dinner (for workshop speakers only)

## Thursday, June 8th of 2023

10:00 - 11:30

**Urban Assemblage** in Tbilisi with Ketevan Gurchiani (Ilia State University). Starting Location: Goethe Institut, Mikheil Zandukeli St 16

13:00 - 14:30

**Working Group I: Soviet Memories and Instrumentalization of the Past.** Venue: Austrian Centre Hall S507

Anton Vatcharadze (IDFI Tbilisi): Remembrance of the Victims of Soviet Terror in Georgia

Daniel Gebel (BKGE Oldenburg): "And in 41 the war began": Russian Memory Politics and Post-Soviet Migration in Germany  
Ira Peter (Freelance Journalist): How Russia is using the Soviet past for its new future

Tetiana Vodotyka (University of Göttingen): Blackening Tailoring. The Image of Entrepreneurs in Soviet Narratives  
Chair: Dmytro Myeshkov (IKGN Lüneburg)

14:30 - 15:30

Lunch Break at Unifood

15:30 - 17:00

**Working Group II: Migration, Changing Spaces, and Meanings.**  
Venue: Austrian Centre Hall S507

Franziska Exeler (FU Berlin): Trajectories of Soviet Migration. Some General Thoughts and the Case of the 1944-46 Soviet-Polish Population Exchange

Alima Bissenova (Nazarbayev State University): The process of creating agglomerations in Kazakhstan: how is it different from suburbanization?

Nino Aivazishvili-Gehne (University of Vienna): Tales of / from the "Good Neighborhood": The Schinkel District in Osnabrück  
Jennifer Frank (University of Göttingen): Reconstructing Gastronomic Landscapes of Soviet Caucasus and Central Asia  
Alina Jašina-Schäfer (BKGE Oldenburg/ University of Mainz): "We are wounded birds. But birds need to fly": Practicing womanhood in migration

Chair: Jannis Panagiotidis (RECET, University of Vienna)

17:00 - 18:00

Coffee Break. Venue: T102

18:00 - 19:30

**The Making of Film "Repentance/ Pokajanie"**: Discussion between Screenwriter Nana Janelidze and Oliver Reisner (Ilia State University). Venue: T102

Reception

## Friday, June 9th of 2023

10:00 - 12:00

**Tour of the Soviet Occupation Exhibition, the National Museum**, incl. discussion with Ana Lolua (Ilia State University/ University of Göttingen)

12:00 - 13:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30

**Working Group III: Knowledge Forums and Forms**. Venue: Austrian Centre Hall S507

Ana Lolua (Ilia State University/ University of Göttingen): Conducting historical and ethnographic research at Georgian state museum: reflections of an engaged outsider  
Dmitrii Sporov (Cultural Connection Foundation, Georgia): "Normality" in the Brezhnev era: a post-factum view of witnesses  
Yulia Oreshina (GAU Tbilisi): Researching the late Soviet Jewish experience in Georgia: challenges and encounters  
Ulrike Huhn (University of Göttingen): Between the Academy and "living room seminars". Jewish Studies in the late Soviet Union  
Chair: Viktor Dönninghaus (IKGN Lüneburg)

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break. Venue: T102

16:00 - 17:30

**Closing Roundtable: "Reworking Socialist Pasts: Perspectives at the Periphery"**. Venue: T102

David Jishkariani (Ilia State University),  
Guido Hausmann (University of Regensburg),  
Tamar Keburia (University of Göttingen),  
Chair: Anke Hilbrenner (University of Düsseldorf)

18:30

Dinner (for workshop speakers only)



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# Saturday, June 10th of 2023

## Trip to Asureti, Bolnisi

**09:00**

Departure from Hotel RAMADA BY WYNDHAM TBILISI OLD CITY

**10:30**

Visit of the regional museum in Bolnisi

**12:00**

Exploring the "German District of Bolnisi"

**13:30**

Lunch in "Deutsche Mühle" (German Mill)

**15:00**

Departure to Asureti

**16:00**

Visit to the cemetery, the church and selected houses in Asureti

**18:00**

Dinner in Asureti

**19:30**

Return to Tbilisi



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