



Project Summary

CEELBAS has organised over 50 network workshops to take forward its research agenda. As an example of the critical mass this has generated, CEELBAS can point to the series of interdisciplinary workshops at Warwick, Sheffield and Manchester under the themes of 'Doing Culture' (Jan – Oct 2008) and 'Situating Culture' (Dec 2009 – May 2010).

These workshops brought together academics, artistic producers and commentators concerned to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the slippery boundaries between cultural production and consumption, audience and artist, 'official' and 'unofficial' art, political engagement and disengagement, 'independent' and 'commercial' art, 'high' and 'popular' culture, and written and oral narratives.

'Doing Culture'

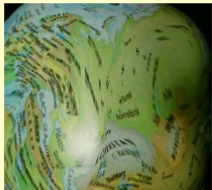
Whose culture? Exploring the active audience (Sheffield, May 2008)
Orality, Technology and the "Narratisation" of Everyday Life (Manchester, May 2008)
Transformative cultures: Politics, protest and punk (Warwick, September 2008)

'Situating Culture'

Cultures of the Margins (Warwick, December 2009)
Home Culture (Sheffield, January 2010)
Deterritorialized Culture (Manchester, May 2010)

A selection of the subjects of panels and presentations across the six workshops:

• Soviet youth in the 1950s • skinhead culture • Russian gay male pornography • ethnic revival movements • streetart • the Russian-speaking internet • Reality TV • tattoos • consumerism • graffiti • folklore • nostalgia • TV news reporting of violent conflict • punk • Post-Soviet television culture • youth groups in Moscow • working class male identity in Russia • homemaking and the consumption of domestic places • The post-Soviet urban apartment • Czech feminist filmmaker Věra Chytilová



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Aims and Objectives

- To further the *interdisciplinary research agenda* of CEELBAS and to allow a clear sense to emerge of where research areas and networks overlap and distinguish themselves.
- To make use of *open, jargon-free roundtable discussions, panels, presentations, and social networking events* to build a high level of discussion and research interaction.
- To engage collectively with various *theoretical, methodological and ethical challenges* within the study of culture in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia and to share experience and expertise with specialists from outside the area studies community.
- To involve *international participants* to explore the potential of comparative research both within and beyond the (post)socialist region.
- To develop *an inclusive atmosphere* that encourages universal participation in discussion regardless of stage of career or country of origin.

Outcomes and Impacts

The two workshop series have effectively established a number of overlapping interdisciplinary networks in cultural processes including scholars of Central and Eastern Europe and other parts of the world. The workshops drew together participants from a wide range of UK and international institutions, and included scholars across the full spectrum of career stages. Postgraduate students were present – and active – at all workshops and the cross-institutional links which the two series have created will undoubtedly help these young scholars integrate into the national REES community. The workshops have also provided a welcome opportunity for potential research students to engage informally with researchers at all levels and gain a taste of the research process. In this way the two series have contributed to developing a pool of future researchers.



Research Outputs

Russian Review, Volume 69, Issue 2, 2010:

Dan Healey 'Active, Passive, and Russian: The National Idea in Gay Men's Pornography';
Hilary Pilkington 'No longer "on parade": Style and the performance of skinhead in the Russian far north'
Forthcoming: Interdisciplinary special issue of the journal *Home Culture* edited by **Andres Kurg** (due 2012); Provisional agreement to publish articles in a special issue of the journal *Laboratorium*.



Research Interaction

The workshops have:

- Engaged closely Hilary Pilkington's £512,633 AHRC Research Grant on 'Post-Socialist Punk', including the CEELBAS-sponsored workshop and art performances *Rottenbeat* (May 2010).
- Facilitated Yngvar Steinholt's visiting fellowship at Warwick (January – July 2010).
- Led to the invitation of a number of participants to an international conference funded by the EU in Salford on 'Society and Lifestyles' (December 2008).
- Promoted the formation of a research network around Russian popular culture led by Rachel Platonov (Manchester), Vlad Strukov (Leeds) and Polly McMichael (Nottingham).
- Helped formulate an international collaborative research grant application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), and a collaborative EU grant application for a project on museum education.
- Played a key role in establishing a number of overlapping interdisciplinary networks including scholars of Central and Eastern Europe and other parts of the world. Current projects drawing on these networks include **MYPLACE**, the major €8 million FP7 EU grant awarded to Hilary Pilkington (Warwick) for an integrated project (including seven East European partners) on Youth Social Participation and Civic Engagement.



Consortium:
UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies



University of Birmingham Centre for Russian and East European Studies



University of Oxford Russian and East European Studies

Network of University Partners: Bath, Cambridge, Kent, Manchester, Sheffield, Warwick, SOAS



Funders:



Arts & Humanities Research Council