International Conference

Images and Languages of Despair and Violence
Representations of Eastern Europe after the Great War

Regensburg (IOS, Landshuter Str. 4)
11–12 October 2018

Organizers
Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, IOS (Regensburg)
Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe – Institute of the Leibniz Association (Marburg)

In Co-operation with
Bavarian State Library (Munich)

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Conference Abstract

When armistices were concluded in 1918, the Great War was not over in Eastern Europe: in some of its parts, armed conflict continued until the early 1920s; in newly occupied territories, armed bands would fight the new rulers; and all over the region, social despair and humanitarian crisis marred the rearranged political landscape. Millions of veterans, of war invalids, of orphans and widows, and of refugees had to be provided for by feeble states. The Bolshevik revolution added a further dose of fear – but for many, also of hopes for a new and better world.

This conference – the first of two – discusses the question which images of despair and misery, of violence and political disruption were produced and disseminated after the collapse of empire and the formal end of war. We are interested in the dynamics of media events, their production of meanings as well as their reception in national and in transnational contexts. Which iconographies of turmoil and revolution were produced? How did different actors use evocative images for rallying support for their agendas, targeting domestic but also international audiences? The conference employs a broad understanding of image and language in order to capture the full range of representational techniques, and a variety of actors.

It appears that post-war Eastern Europe was not only the “crisis zone of Europe” (Ivan Berend) but also an area where new modes and practices of representing postwar conditions and their multifold disruptions emerged. Post-imperial, national, and international actors produced images and languages of political rupture, of misery and violence that would shape patterns of representation throughout the 20th century.

A second conference, to take place in Marburg in 2019, will look into representations of crisis during the Depression in Eastern Europe after 1929.
Programme

Thursday, October 11

15.00–16.15  Opening and First Keynote
Ulf Brunnbauer (IOS Regensburg), Peter Haslinger (Herder-Institute, Marburg): Opening words

Heidemarie Uhl (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Neue Sichtachsen. Visuelle Repräsentation von Gesellschaft nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg in Zentraleuropa

16.30–19.00  Representations of Violence and Despair
Mariy Zoryk (Bamberg): Fotografische Darstellungen des Ukraine-Konflikts in den deutschen Printmedien: ein Vergleich mit den visuellen Narrativen der Oktoberrevolution 1917

Karl Kaser (University of Graz): The wars from 1912 to 1922 and the first visual revolution in the Balkans

Elisabeth Haid (University of Vienna): “Der polnische Pogromorkan”: Representations of anti-Jewish violence 1918

Maciej Górny (German Historical Institute, Warszawa): Moral Panic in the Service of the Nation: Poland, Ukraine, and Russia

Friday, October 12

9.00–10.00  Second Keynote
Friederike Kind-Kovács (Hannah Arendt Institute, Dresden): Picturing the Postwar: Children’s Destitution and Humanitarian Relief in Budapest

10.15–12.15  Navigating the Post-War
Anca Cretu (Graduate Institute, Geneva): “Politics of Vulnerability” and Humanitarian Assistance in Romania during the Great War

Tamara Scheer (University of Vienna): If there is no homecoming: return experience of Austro-Hungarian soldiers from the First World War Theaters

Jeremias Schmidt (IOS Regensburg): Between continuity, myth and denial: Remembrance of violence in the German post-war Literature on the Eastern Front
13.00–15.00  The Power of the Visual for and Propaganda

Peter Haslinger (Herder-Institute, Marburg): Representations of Utopia and Anxiety. Maps as Political Tools 1918/19–1925


Rudolf Jaworski (Kiel): Deutsche und polnische Propagandapostkarten Anfang der 1920er Jahre zu den Abstimmungskämpfen in Oberschlesien

15.15–17.00  Propaganda in the Russian Civil War

Presentation of Digitized Pictures from Gen. Wrangel’s Legacy, by the Bavarian State Library (Dr. Gudrun Wirtz)

Contextualization: Guido Hausmann (IOS, Regensburg)

Final Discussion