Symposium in Memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchy
Soviet, Post-Soviet, and Emigré Culture
April 8th, Columbia University
702 Hamilton Hall

Please join us as we celebrate Cathy Nepomnyashchy’s contribution to the study of Soviet, post-Soviet, and emigré culture. Presenting will be her fellow students at Brown and Columbia, her colleagues throughout the field, her students over the years—who all became her friends and interlocutors for life. This is to continue the conversation.

This symposium is sponsored by the Harriman Institute and hosted by the Columbia Slavic Department.

8:30-9:00 coffee and welcome

9:00-10:15: Expanding Modes of Soviet Culture. Chair: Lynn Garafola (Barnard)
Lauren Ninoshvili (Columbia), “Talking Pictures for Polyglots: Soviet Georgian Film in Translation”
David Goldfarb, “The Temporality of Architecture: the Building of Kataev’s Factory”
Holly Myers (Columbia), “Journalists Beyond Journalism: Svetlana Alexievich and Artem Borovik on Afghanistan”

10:15-11:15: Literary Responses to Conflict and Trauma. Chair: Cathy Popkin (Columbia)
Anita Tarnai (Columbia), “The Effects of War Trauma in Viktor Shklovsky’s Sentimental Journey: Dissociation and Formal Experimentation”
Ani Kokobobo (Kansas), “Grossman, the ‘Gray Zone,’ and the Ethics of Witnessing”
Rory Finnin (Cambridge), “‘A Bridge Between Us’: Literature in the Ukrainian-Crimean Tatar Encounter”

11:15-11:30: short break

11:30-1:00 Nabokov: Friends and Enemies. Chair: Valentina Izmirlieva (Columbia)
Brendan Nieuburt (Columbia), “Telephones in Mandelshtam and Nabokov”
Robyn Jensen (Columbia), “Inconclusive Evidence: Photography and Self-Fashioning in Nabokov's Speak, Memory”
Gina Kovarsky (Virginia Commonwealth University), "The Stone Was as Warm as Flesh: Mystical Subtexts in Nabokov’s 'Spring in Fialta'"
Carol Ueland (Drew), “Alexei Zver’ev’s Biography of Nabokov”
Emma Lieber (Rutgers), “Nabokov and Freud: A Conversation with Cathy”

1:00-1:45: lunch

1:45-3:00: Representing Remarkable Russian Selves for a New Era. Chair: Richard Wortman (Columbia)
Milla Trigos (Columbia), "Of Myths and Monuments: The Decembrists in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Landscape"
Nicole Svobodny (Washington University), “Vaslav Nijinsky’s Feeling, or How an Émigré Dancer Digested the Russian Literary Classics”
Christopher Harwood (Columbia), “Sinyavsky’s Good Night”

3:00-4:15: Regenerating Russian Genres. Chair: Irina Reyfman (Columbia)
Rebecca Stanton (Columbia), “The Strugatsky Brothers’ Revolutionary Fairy Tales”
Ross Ufberg (Columbia), “Vladimir Vysotsky: Literary Visitors in Life Without Sleep”
Rebecca Pyatkevich (Lewis & Clark), “Lev Loseff’s Poetry: Military Metaphors as Ironic Gestures of Authority”
Arlene Forman (Oberlin), “Of Wolves and Women and Writing: The Creative World of Bella Ulanovskaya”

4:15-4:30: short break

4:30-5:45: Post-Soviet Cultural Critique: Spectacle, Page, and Screen. Chair: Alexander Cooley (Barnard and Harriman Institute)
Tatiana Smoliarova (University of Toronto), “Theater and Spectacle in Putin’s Russian: Pussy Riot, a Case Study”
Ellen Chances (Princeton) "Life in the 2014 Film 'Leviathan': Andrei Zviagintsev's 'Conversation' with Past and Present Russian Culture."
Emily Johnson (Oklahoma), “Femen’s International Sextremism and Post-Soviet Nostalgia.”
Jamey Gambrell (Austin, Texas), “Sorokin’s Russia”

5:45-6:15: Nancy Condee (Pittsburgh), “Closing Comments”
Anna Frajlich, “Senność (Pamięci Cathy Nepomnyashchya) / “Sleep” (In Memory of Cathy Nepomnyashchya)