Conservatism and Reaction in Contemporary Politics

New York City
February 11-12 2019

A conference organized by the Andrew Gagarin Center for Civil Society and Human Rights of St. Petersburg State University, the Bard College Center for Civic Engagement and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University

Monday, February 11th

Columbia University
International Affairs Building, Room 1512
420 West 118th Street

9:15-9:25 a.m. Welcome
Alexander Cooley, Director Harriman Institute
Jonathan Becker, Director Center for Civic Engagement

9:25–11:05 a.m. Comparative Conservatism I
Moderator: Alexander Cooley

- “Conservatism” in Russia and in Europe. Gaps and Overlaps – Marlene Laruelle, George Washington University

- Paranoia and Reaction in the Ex-Communist East and the Ex-Capitalist West: Some Thoughts – Sean McMeekin, Bard College

- Post-Communist Transition and the Conservative Turn in Russia and Hungary – Maria Snegovaya, University of Maryland

- Reaction to Reaction: the Russian “Vatniki” and the French “Yellow Vests” – Karine Clement, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

11:05-11:15 a.m. Coffee Break

11:15–1:00 p.m. Preserving What? Reacting Against What?
Moderator: Katerina Vrblikova, Columbia University

- Sources of Support of State Institutions in Russia – Aleksey Gilev, St. Petersburg State University


• A Decade of Protests in Kyrgyzstan: Conservative Turnarounds in Contentious Claim Making - Medet Tiulegenov, American University of Central Asia

1:00–2:30 p.m. Lunch Break

2:30–4:15 p.m. Conserving the Past
Moderator: Elise Giuliano, Columbia University

• “The Politics of Secondary Style: Re-action as Re-flex – Ilya Kalinin, St. Petersburg State University

• Political Conservatism and National Identity in Post-Communist Russia - Yitzhak Brudny, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

• Reaction as Reactive: History, Memory War, and Complementary Occlusions in the Baltic Region – Kevin Platt, University of Pennsylvania

• Perception of Stalinism in Contemporary Russia – Denis Skopin, St. Petersburg State University

Tuesday, February 12th
State University of New York Global Center
Global Classroom
116 East 55th St.

2:30–4:00 p.m. Conservatism Pro et Contra
Moderator: Samantha Hill, Bard College

• Ideological Hybridity in the North – Artemy Magun, European University at St. Petersburg

• Public Education: The Challenge of Educational Authority in a World Without Authority - Roger Berkowitz, Bard College

• Normalizing Fascism, and Why Many Workers Go Along – David Ost, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

4:00-4:15 p.m. Coffee Break
4:15–6:00 p.m.  Comparative Conservatism II  
Moderator: Malia Du Mont, Bard College

- *Nationalist Populism in Central Europe* – Szabolcs Pogonyi, Central European University
- *Populism and National Reproduction in the French Gay Marriage Debates* – Camille Robcis, Columbia University
- *Failed Promises, True Grievances: Comparing Trumpism across the Atlantic* – Boris Vormann, Bard College Berlin [via video-feed]

6:00-6:15 p.m.  Coffee Break

6:15–8:00 p.m.  Roundtable: Conservatism and Populism in Europe and Beyond  
Moderator: Kathleen Dowley, State University of New York New Paltz

- Ian Buruma, Bard College
- Walter Russell Mead, Bard College
- Adam Shatz, Bard College
- Allison Stanger, Middlebury College