

A b s t r a c t s

Transfer Histories Periphery and Centre in Europe

Monica Rütters

The *Marlboro Man* in the Kremlin

SotsArt, Anti-Advertising, and Russian Memory Culture

In Russian advertising, motifs from the tsarist era and the Soviet period are in great demand. Such advertising plays not only with clichés and places of memory, it also borrows from SotsArt's creative interaction with official pictures and slogans. In this way, advertising, like the new genre of anti-advertising, attends to the nostalgia for great power status of many people and simultaneously attacks it with irony.

Viktor Isaev

Precarious Friendship

Moscow, Weimar and the OGPU

The 1920s play a prominent roll in relations between Germany and Russia. The Rapallo Treaty intensified co-operation. But the activities of the Comintern and the Soviet secret service OGPU to promote Communist revolution in Germany led to confrontation. The climax came in 1925 with the "Cheka Trial" against an unmasked agent in Leipzig. Moscow promptly reacted: Three Berlin students sojourning in the Soviet Union became "terrorists", were indicted for espionage in a show-trial, and condemned to death. The case is an instructive example for the absurd rationality of fabricated court proceedings.

Susanne Marten-Finnis, Igor Duchan

Transnational Public in Russian Berlin

The Avant-Garde Revue *Veshch* – *Gegenstand* – *Object* in 1922

Of the Russian avant-garde revues that came and went in the 1920s, *Veshch* was one of the most spectacular. Published in Russian, German, and French by El Lissitzky and Ilia Ehrenburg, it sounded an international rallying call to avant-garde artists who had been scattered by the Great War. Conceived as a forum for exchange between Soviet avant-garde artists and their West European colleagues with the aim of transcending national borders, *Veshch* was unique among Berlin's other Russian émigré or Yiddish publications. It deliberately contrasted with the former's nostalgic tone, while refraining from identifying with the latter's striving for a new style.

Mark Meerovich

Apartments as an Instrument of Power

Soviet Apartment Policy 1921–41

The myth persists even after the collapse of the Soviet Union: In the first two decades after the October Revolution, the Bol'sheviks pursued an apartment policy oriented along the lines of the population's needs. In fact, however, the highest principle was the rational organisation of society according to technical administrative principles that aimed to strengthen the power of the state. Whatever the upheavals of domestic policy – War Communism (1917–1921), the New Economic Policy (1921–1928), industrialisation and collectivisation (1928–1941) – the basic relationship between state power and the population as well as the organisation and content of apartment policy did not change.

Sören Urbansky

Obliterated and Refurbished

Russian Harbin's Architectural Heritage

The city of Harbin, located on the East China Railroad, was once a symbol of the Russian Empire's expansion to the Far East. In the 1920s, the city – which was known as the Paris of the East due to its architecture – developed into a centre of Russian emigration. The occupation of Manchuria by Japan and the region's incorporation into the People's Republic of China brought an end to Russian Harbin. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Harbin became a typical Chinese industrial city. After decades of decline, the historical heart of Harbin has been undergoing a renaissance since the 1990s. But the maintenance of the architectural ensemble serves primarily the tourism industry's interests. Imitations and kitsch dominate.

Andrea Zink

Aggressively Anti-War

Yugoslavia's Collapse as Reflected in Literature

Post-Yugoslav fiction marginalises the real acts of war that occurred in the 1990s and nonetheless takes a position on war. The stories by Dalibor Šimpraga and Miljenko Jergović do not deal with victims or perpetrators, they arouse no pity. Šimpraga and Jergović expose instead the everyday, state-ordered language of violence, into which ethnic cleansing and mass murder are subtly embedded. Their cycles of stories can be read as allegorical forms of criticism of the war but also as doubts about what is essentially human in human beings.

Anna Veronika Wendland

Stories from the Periphery?

East European Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Shared History

The recent developments of Cultural transfer history and shared history focus in particular on border regions and cultural interference. With that, it enters the field of East European History. If both jointly challenge the understanding of Eastern Europe as

historical periphery, the usual distinction between “general” (west-) European history, on the one hand, and peripheral and special histories of certain regions, on the other, can be overcome. More recent works are already drafting a complementary history of Europe that uses East European examples.

Gertrud Pickhan

Translation, Inter-Cultural Activity, Contacts

Themes of East European Jewish History

Not only in Eastern and East-Central Europe is history increasingly being used again to bolster national self-assurance. This largely suppresses plurality and cultural differences. By contrast, the historical Jewish lifeworlds of Europe's east allow other categories than a national master narrative to come to the fore: These were characterized by multilingualism, migration, and cultural contacts, which merged with permanent processes of translation. In this, they already corresponded to the post-modern mentality of our day.

Ekaterina Emeliantseva

Eastern Europe and Historical Anthropology

Impulse, Dimensions, Perspectives

The term “lifeworld” has become a central concept in historical-anthropological research. However, it is often used without reflection. There can be no talk of a consensual definition of lifeworld, given the concept's very complex origins and diversity. It is productive to work with individual lifeworlds.

Dietlind Hüchtker

Two Types of Backwardness?

Gender History and East European History

Gender History and East European History are instruments of knowledge. Both disciplines are distinguished by their criticism of normative master narratives. But to keep from reducing these narratives to their essentials, ambiguities should be used for their analytical potential.

Daniel Ursprung

The Periphery as Centre

Perspectives for a Cultural History of the Political

East European History has hardly contributed to the formation of theory and definition in general history. Too often, it has limited itself to applying concepts and methods that were derived from West European cases. A comparative analysis of fascism in Eastern Europe, the public, and the legitimisation of rule in socialist societies shows that East European History can make original contributions to a cultural history of the political.