Everyday Life in the Soviet Union

TEACHER WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

August 7–9, 2012

Center for Government and International Studies
Knafel Building (CGIS North), Room K262
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts
WHAT ARE SOME COMMONLY HELD BELIEFS about Soviet life and culture?
How do our stereotypes about Communist society match with reality?
What visions of everyday life inspired the Bolshevik Revolution? What did Soviet citizens believe about their own regime and why? How were these beliefs constructed?
Day 1

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

8:30–9:30  Welcome and Introductions
Cris Martin, Davis Center
Anna Mudd, Davis Center

Pre-Learning Activator: Examining Stereotypes
In small groups, teachers will discuss common stereotypes associated with
Soviet people and culture, particularly based on stereotypes their own students
hold. Participants will also engage in a pre-learning activator activity by
engaging with questions that will encourage an exploration of the assumptions
about the relationship between government and citizenry.

9:30–11:00  Film Viewing and Discussion: Three Songs of Lenin
Cynthia Hooper, Department of History, College of the Holy Cross

11:00–11:15  Break

and Culture”
Robyn Angley, Davis Center, Harvard University

12:45–1:30  Lunch (Provided)

1:30–3:00  Lecture: “A Socialist Education: Creating the New Soviet Man and Woman”
Cris Martin, Davis Center, Harvard University

3:00–3:15  Break

3:15–4:45  How Did Terror, the Gulag, and Security Organs Penetrate Everyday Life in the
USSR?
Cathy Frierson, Department of History, University of New Hampshire

4:45–5:30  Material Culture: Close Looking at Soviet Artifacts
Anna Mudd, Digital Projects Coordinator, Davis Center
WHAT ROLE DID IDEOLOGY AND REPRESSION PLAY in the post-Stalin era? How prescribed was daily life in the USSR during the 1960s and 70s? Were people free to chart their own careers or make their own choices about where and how to live? Just how controlling was the Soviet regime over small daily decisions? Did citizens think of themselves as “unfree”? What can material objects and cultural products tell us about lived experiences?
Day 2  Wednesday, August 8, 2012

8:30–9:15  Discussion of Workshop Pre-Reading

9:15–10:45  Lecture: “Gender Equality and the Role of Women in the Later Soviet Period”
Elizabeth Wood, Department of History, MIT

10:45–11:00  Break

11:00–12:15  Micro-Talks on Soviet History, Life and Culture
Each participant will be given 5 minutes to present the research they conducted on “the small stuff” of Soviet history. Each individual should show 3-5 slides and hand out a list of the resource material they used to develop their slides. Ten participants will present their micro-talks on Soviet life and culture.

12:15–12:45  Lunch (Provided)

Alexis Peri, Department of History, Middlebury College

2:15–2:30  Break

2:30–5:30  Film Viewing (Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears) and Pedagogy (Using Graphic Organizers to Aid in Teaching Film and History)
What were the limits on freedom of expression in the late-Soviet period? How strong was censorship? What were the constraints on popular culture? How was ‘the West’ portrayed? Are Soviet newspapers a good source for learning about real life in the USSR? If the Cold War was a competition about values as well as weapons, in what ways did the Soviet system claim superiority to the American one?
Day 3

Thursday, August 9, 2012

8:30–10:30  **Soviet Stability or Stagnation? A Comparison of *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears* and *The Fur Hat***
Cynthia Hooper, Department of History, College of the Holy Cross

10:30–11:30  **Micro-Talks: The Minutiae of Soviet History**
Each participant will be given 5 minutes to present the research they conducted on “the small stuff” of Soviet history. Each individual should show 3-5 slides and hand out a list of the resource material they used to develop their slides. Ten participants will present their micro-talks on Soviet life and culture.

11:30–1:00  **Lecture: “Beyond Moscow: Everyday Life in Soviet Central Asia”**
Laura Adams, Davis Center, Harvard University

1:00–1:45  **Lunch**

1:45–2:30  **Lecture: “Soviet Youth Culture in the 1980s”**
Jeff Adelson, Rising Senior, The Bromfield School

2:30–2:45  **Break**

2:45–4:15  **Resource Session**
Cris Martin, Davis Center, Harvard University
Anna Mudd, Davis Center, Harvard University
Hugh Truslow, Davis Center Librarian, Harvard University

4:15–4:45  **Final Discussion: Putting it All Together**
Participants will engage in a Socratic seminar to share both their conclusions regarding their learning goals as well as how they plan to use their newly acquired knowledge and materials in their classrooms.

4:45–5:00  **Evaluations**
Laura Adams is Director of the Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus at the Davis Center, Harvard University. Laura got her Ph.D. in sociology from UC Berkeley. Her research has focused on issues of culture and the performing arts, state-society relations, and the politics of ethnic and national identity in post-Soviet Central Asia. Her book *The Spectacular State: Culture and National Identity in Uzbekistan* (2010) has won awards from the Central Eurasian Studies Society and the Sociology of Culture section of ASA. She has published papers on theater, globalization of culture, and qualitative methodology. Her current research explores the utility of different theoretical lenses (such as postcolonialism, authoritarianism, postsocialism, globalization, etc.) in understanding contemporary social change in post-Soviet space.

Jeffrey Adelson is a rising senior at the Bromfield School in the town of Harvard, MA. He has served as an intern at the Davis Center during the 2011 and 2012 summers. He has completed many of the smaller tasks to prepare for this workshop and will be available to provide assistance throughout. He plans to major in Russian Studies in college beginning in the fall of 2013.

Robyn Angley is Research Programs Coordinator at the Davis Center, Harvard University. She received her Ph.D. in International Relations and History from Boston University. Her research follows contemporary political developments in the post-Soviet space, including Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Dr. Angley was a Research Fellow at Boston University’s Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy before becoming the Research Programs Coordinator at Harvard University. She works closely with Harvard’s Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus to bring region-related programming to Harvard. Dr. Angley’s dissertation explored the role of NGOs in Georgia's Rose Revolution; her current research analyzes opposition political tactics in Georgia.

Cathy Frierson (PhD Harvard, 1985) is Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire. After focusing in her research and publications on late Imperial Russia, she has devoted the last decade to topics related to victims of Soviet political repression. Her most recent book is *children of the Gulag* (Yale University Press, 2010). She has held research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, the Davis Center, and IREX to support the research.

Cris Martin has served as the Outreach Director at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies since 2006. Prior to her work at Harvard, Cris administered academic and volunteer exchange programs for student and scholars from Eurasia at IREX, a non-governmental organization based in Washington, DC. She holds a Bachelors degree in History from Carnegie Mellon University and a Masters degree in International Education Policy from Harvard.

Anna Mudd is Digital and Curricular Projects Coordinator at the Davis Center, Harvard University. Anna received her BA in Religion from Haverford College and earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2009 with a concentration in the Program in Religious Studies and Education. Anna has taught 5th - 8th grade social studies and comparative religion in Dorchester, MA and completed her student teaching in 8th grade social studies in Arlington, MA while at Harvard. Anna currently develops digital/curricular projects for both the Davis Center and the Center for Middle East Studies at Harvard.

Alexis Peri is Assistant Professor, Department of History, Middlebury College. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, she received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in Late Modern European History. She specializes in Russian and Soviet History, and has strong interests in the history of modern warfare, terror and terrorism, private life, and the relationship between literature and history. She is currently conducting a research project on diaries of the Leningrad Blockade. She is the recipient of grants from the Fulbright Program, the International Research & Exchanges Board, the Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund, Phi Beta Kappa, the Foreign Language & Area Studies Program (US Department of Education), the Office of the Chancellor (UC Berkeley).

Hugh Truslow is Librarian for the Davis Center Collection at Harvard University’s Fung Library. In supporting the mission of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, his responsibilities include building the collection’s diverse holdings of books, archives, and special-collections materials, as well as providing research and instruction support in Slavic Studies to the Davis Center community. Working closely with the Slavic Division of Widener Library, he also serves as Library
Liaison to the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures in Harvard’s Faculty of Arts & Sciences. In a previous career, he worked for The New York Times newspaper in New York and Washington, beginning with their bi-weekly Russian-language “Nedel’noe Obozrenie” in 1992. Mr. Truslow holds a B.A. in Russian Language from the University of Vermont, and an MSLIS from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archival Management. He studied Russian language at the Middlebury College Summer Language School, and also spent a year at Moscow State University in 1989-1990.

**ELIZABETH WOOD** is a Professor in the Department of History at MIT. She is the author of Performing Justice: Agitation Trials in Early Soviet Russia (Cornell University Press, 2005) and From Baba to Comrade: gender and Politics in Revolutionary Russia (Indiana University Press, 1997). She received her PhD from the University of Michigan in 1991 in the field of Soviet History. She has also published articles on prostitution, trade union organizing of women, and revolutionary theater trials. She has been Program Chair for the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), she serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER). She is currently working on what she is calling “The Performance of Power” under Putin the Russia today. In spring 2009 she received a grant from the Alumni Class Funds for a project entitled, “Bringing Russian and Soviet History into the Digital Age.”

*Interested educators can earn 2 graduate teaching credits from Framingham State College at an additional cost. Instructor of record: Cris Martin, DCRES*
Participants

Adam Turner, Canton High School, Canton, MA
Amanda Camelio, Arlington High School, Arlington, MA
Barbara Mee, Londonderry High School, Londonderry, NH
Carrie Dodson, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Cambridge, MA
Christina McCullough, New Milford High School, New Milford, MA
Courtney Cofone, Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham, MA
David Walsh, Masconomet Regional High School, Masconomet, MA
Eleni Lampadarios, Friends School of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
Heidi Huntley, Episcopal High School, Washington, DC
James Estey, Bryant University, Smithfield, RI
Jeff Rosen, Spotswood High School, Spotswood, NJ
Jennifer Hanaghan, Brookline High School, Brookline, MA
Laura Krenicki, William J. Johnston Middle School, Colchester, CT
Katherine Murphy, Lexington High School, Lexington, MA
Mary Grady, West Roxbury Academy, West Roxbury, MA
Philip Buckley, North River Collaborative, Rockland, MA
Rachel Otty, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Cambridge, MA
Richard Donnelly, Bedford High School, Bedford, MA
Sean Turley, Cape Elizabeth High School, Cape Elizabeth, ME
Shannon Fernald, Portsmouth High School, Portsmouth, NH
Stephanie Hunt, Brookline High School, Brookline, MA
Susan Corcoran, Framingham High School, Framingham, MA
Tova Kornfeld, Bedford High School, Bedford, MA