

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE**HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM****REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING****CALL FOR PARTICIPATION****THE SOVIET IN EVERYDAY LIFE****Participants' Eligibility:**

Disciplines: Anthropology, History, Sociology, Cultural Studies (Film/Literature), Area Studies, Communication/Media Studies, Geography, Political Science

Target Region: All the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltics) and Mongolia.

Academic standing/level/prerequisites: Enrollment in a kandidatskaia or Ph.D. program, or completion of either degree no earlier than 2005.

Time commitment: Summer 2010-Spring 2013

Other criteria: Reading and listening proficiency in both English and Russian; desire to develop a course or evidence of teaching a course on this topic; desire to develop research or evidence of publishing research on a related topic.

Application information:

To request an application, write to: [soviet.reset\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:soviet.reset(at)gmail.com) or [click here](#) to download

Deadline: 22 March 2010

This three-year project is aimed at young faculty and scholars who are interested in investigating the Soviet in everyday life, and bringing this knowledge into their teaching. This Regional Seminar for Excellence in Teaching (ReSET), like others, involves a group of about 25 younger faculty from the region -- in this case, the former Soviet Union and Mongolia -- and a group of resource faculty who work together over three years. We will meet for two weeks each summer, and for several days in another meeting each year, probably in the spring, and interact in other ways through the rest of the three-year period. The goal is to pursue activities which will strengthen university-level teaching. For more information on the ReSET program, see <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/reset>

The focus of this ReSET project is the Soviet in everyday life, past and present. Undergraduate curricula throughout the former Soviet Union vary both by country and by discipline when it comes to how they deal with "the Soviet." We invite young faculty to consider curricula of higher education in their home countries in terms of how the study of the Soviet is represented there, and through their own research and the further development of courses related to the Soviet in everyday life. In some countries, social science textbooks and the lecturers who use them tend to avoid discussing the period entirely in order to avoid making a political misstep. When social science and philosophy courses do deal with the Soviet period, it is sometimes in simplistic and politicized terms ("empire," "totalitarian" and "gulag" or conversely "modernization" and "integration with the world through Russian culture"). In many places, there is not enough discussion of how the recent Soviet past can be studied for its influence on the present and some scholars have the attitude that that Soviet legacy is transparently understandable and has no need of further research or scholarly analysis. This can also be seen in the rejection of theoretical approaches such as post-colonialism and post-socialism in scholarly

debates, where the consensus seems to be that each country had its own Soviet experience that is amenable neither to theorizing nor to comparison.

To contribute to the global scholarship on this topic and its incorporation in contemporary undergraduate education, we will explore the following questions: what are the effects that "the Soviet" continues to produce in the realms of meaning, material culture, organizational form, style of interaction, and so on? What do people identify as Soviet and how do they position themselves in relation to the Soviet, as connected/disconnected, longing/rejecting? What kinds of things are not necessarily recognized as Soviet legacies, but which must be understood as constituting socially significant continuity with Soviet social order? What are some ways that we can make the actual experiences of the late Soviet period more accessible to students so that they can think critically about social change in their own societies?

The theoretical focus of this project is on exploring the diversity of experiences of the Soviet in the post-Soviet periphery, and on complicating an overly politicized understanding of the Soviet. These aims will be met through our choice of participants from different parts of post-Soviet space, and our choice of methods, which will allow a fine-grained exploration of everyday life: ethnography, oral history, document and archival analysis, visual anthropology, and the analysis of pedagogy in higher education today. Scholars involved in this project will meet twice per year (two weeks in summer and up to five days in early spring) for sharing of theory knowledge as well as for discussing of their activities. During intersession time participants will work on individual research and curriculum development projects that will contribute to the state of knowledge about the Soviet in everyday life throughout the former Soviet Union and across the supposed historical divide of 1991. The activities of the project will be directed to producing a special issue of a journal and a reader (for which we will seek additional funding) in both Russian and English that can be used in different disciplines and in different countries.

Here you can download the outline of the project (in Russian).

Provisions for participants:

Costs related to the ReSET project, including travel expenses, accommodation, meals and reading materials will be covered by the ReSET by means of a grant from the Open Society Institute's Higher Education Support Program. With the OSI grant, we are able to support full costs of participation only in the case of participants from the target region. However, participation may be possible for a small number of "non-regional" participants with support from other sources (especially if you can find your own support for transportation to the contact sessions).

Application procedure:

All applications and accompanying documents must be sent in electronic format. The application itself is a MS Word file that we will send you upon request (write to: [soviet.reset\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:soviet.reset(at)gmail.com)) or [click here](#) to download.

Deadline: 22 March 2010

Applications to be sent to: [soviet.reset\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:soviet.reset(at)gmail.com)

Stage one: By the 22 March deadline, applicants should send a completed application form along with a CV, a personal statement, a writing sample, a syllabus, a letter of

support and a description of English and Russian ability (see the application for more details).

Stage two: Those applicants who pass through the initial screening will be interviewed by telephone by one of the core faculty members in order to assess their English and Russian ability. The final decision on participant selection will be made by 1 May 2010.

Program Information

Project years: 2010–2013

Host institution: Aigine Cultural Research Center, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (www.aigine.kg)

Co-directors: Laura Adams, Lecturer on Sociology, Harvard University
Aida Alymbaeva, Senior Researcher, Aigine Cultural Research Center
Gulnara Aitpaeva, Director, Aigine Cultural Research Center

Working languages: English and Russian (proficiency in both required)

Core faculty: Laura Adams, Lecturer, Harvard University
Gulnara Aitpaeva, Director, Aigine Cultural Research Center
Serguei Oushakine, Assistant Professor, Princeton University
John Schoeberlein, Lecturer, Harvard University

Other faculty: Galina Orlova, Rostov State University
Anvarbek Mokeev, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University
Tsypylma Darieva, Humboldt University

<http://www.aigine.kg/Articles/ViewSection.aspx?ArticleID=339>

ПРИГЛАШЕНИЕ К УЧАСТИЮ

в региональном семинаре по улучшению преподавания (ReSET)

«СОВЕТСКАЯ ПОВСЕДНЕВНОСТЬ»

(при поддержке Института Открытого общества, OSI- HESP)

<http://www.aigine.kg/Articles/ViewSection.aspx?ArticleID=339>

В центре внимания данного семинара — советская повседневность, её прошлое и её настоящее. В отличие от исторически-ориентированных исследований советского быта, семинар «Советская повседневность» заинтересован в том, чтобы понять, как «советское» продолжает сохранять своё присутствие в таких разных областях, как материальная культура, организационные формы, стили взаимоотношений, эстетические и этические нормы и т.п. Как складываются взаимоотношения с «советским» сегодня? Как воспринимается, реанимируется, сохраняется, воспроизводится и/ли уничтожается «советское» на территории бывшего СССР? В сущности, семинар нацелен на археологию советского быта в постсоветском обществе, на понимание того, в какой степени советское материальное и идейное наследие продолжает проявлять себя на уровне практик и институтов.

Трехлетний семинар «Советская повседневность» ориентирован на молодых преподавателей и исследователей, заинтересованных в изучении советского быта. Одним из основных критериев отбора участников является их желание и способность использовать полученные знания в собственных курсах и программах обучения.

Как и все региональные семинары, участники семинара «Советская повседневность» будут отобраны в ходе открытого конкурса заявок. Предполагается, что группа будет состоять из 25 молодых кандидатов наук и аспирантов из бывшего Советского Союза и Монголии, а также нескольких преподавателей из университетов США и Евразии. Семинар рассчитан на три года и будет включать в себя двухнедельные летние сессии (ежегодно), краткосрочные весенние встречи-консультации (ежегодно), и дистанционное общение (в течение всего проекта). Первая летняя сессия пройдет в Кыргызстане, последующие сессии и встречи будут проведены в разных университетах стран бывшего Советского Союза. Педагогической целью семинара является стремление способствовать формированию академических связей между исследователями и совершенствованию университетского преподавания. Подробнее о программе см.

<http://www.aigine.kg/Articles/ViewSection.aspx?ArticleID=339>

Условия конкурса:

Академический уровень:

К конкурсу приглашаются аспиранты и кандидаты наук, защитившиеся не ранее 2005 г.

Целевой регион: страны бывшего Советского Союза (за исключением стран Балтии) и Монголия.

Дисциплины: семинар ориентирован на специалистов следующих дисциплин:

антропология, история, социология, культурология (включаются исследования кино, телевидения, и литературы), региональные исследования, география, политология, коммуникационные технологии и средства массовой информации.

Сроки участия: лето 2010-весна 2013.

Дополнительные критерии: кандидаты

— должны владеть английским и русским языками (достаточным для чтения литературы и участия в семинарах и лекциях);

— иметь опыт преподавания курсов по данной тематике или желание подготовить курс по данной тематике;

— продемонстрировать наличие публикаций и исследований в области повседневности или желание провести исследование в этой области.

Для получения формы заявки обращайтесь по адресу: soviet.reset@gmail.com

Окончательный срок подачи документов: 22 марта 2010

Подробнее о программе см. <http://www.aigine.kg/Articles/ViewSection.aspx?ArticleID=339>