

Workshop

Queer Urban Underworlds in European State Socialism

The Parliamentary Library and The Archives of the Chamber of Deputies
Komunardů 1634/44, 170 00 Praha 7 Holešovice

Programme

September 17

13:30 – 14:30 Registration

14:30 – 15:00 Welcome & Opening

15:00 – 16:30

Literary Representations and Social Commentary

Discussant: Thomas Heise, Penn State Abington

- > **Martyna Miernecka, University of Warsaw:** *The economics of wastelands in Miron Białoszewski's 1970s diary entries from the perspective of queer ecology*
- > **Kata Benedek, Free University of Berlin:** *György Mol-dova – Life is Sin... Roma crime! Queer crime? A literary addition to late-socialist Hungarian urban queer lives*
- > **Natalija Stepanović, University College London:** *The Other Yugoslavs*

16:30 – 17:30 Discussion/Break

17:30 – 19:00

Keynote

- > **Dan Healey, University of Oxford:** *The Unbearable Lightness of Being Queer in State Socialism*

September 18

10:00 – 11:00

Gender, Queerness, and Everyday Life

Discussant: Mark Cornwall, University of Southampton

- > **Marie Koval, Charles University, Prague:** *'Your eternally hungry heart.'* – Gender expression, resistance, and prison culture of women political prisoners in Socialist Czechoslovakia 1948–1968
- > **Ladislav Jackson, Brno University of Technology:** *„Behind Stalin, there were bushes where there used to be dark.“* – Negotiating queer spaces under the state socialism in Czechoslovakia

11:00 – 11:30 Discussion/Break

11:30 – 13:00

Mapping Queer Histories and Identities

Discussant: Kateřina Kolářová, Charles University, Prague

- > **Adriana Kovacheva, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań:** *Queer Shores – Burgas and Nessebar on the state socialist map of homoerotic desire in the 1950s and the early 1960s*
- > **Jaromír Mrňka, German Historical Institute Warsaw, Prague Branch:** *Negotiating Boundaries – Homosexuality, Surveillance, and Urban Life in 1980s Prague*

- > **Magda Wlostowska, Leipzig University:** *Creating Spaces for Gay and Lesbian Activism within the Polish People's Republic*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Print Culture and Activism

Discussant: Anna Dobrowolska, University of Warsaw

- > **Tery Žeželj, Darko Ilin, University of Nova Gorica:** *"I am all up for free male love" – Blueprints of Ljubljana's Queer Underworlds in the (maga)zines Viks, Gayzine, Revolver, and Kekec*
- > **Błażej Warnocki, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań:** *Beyond the Center – Urban space, print and queer Counterpublics in the People's Republic of Poland*
- > **Madeline Adams, University of Chicago:** *Transnational Networking in East German LGBTQ Communities, 1982–1998*

15:30 – 16:00 Discussion / Break

16:00 – 17:30

Brainstorming (ASEEES Annual Convention 2025, Edited Volume)

17:30 – 19:00

Guided tour of the Archive and Library of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

September 19

10:00 – 11:30

Subversive Urban Cultures and State Interference

Discussant: Kate Davison, University of Edinburgh

- > **Slavcho Dimitrov, Research Center for Cultures, Politics and Identities, Belgrade:** *Not Right / Not Quite – The Politics of Punk and Alternative Aesthetics in Slovenia in the Early 80s*
- > **Christiane Brenner, Collegium Carolinum, Munich:** *Scripting Sex as a Means of Investigation – Foreigners, Prostitution, and the Imagination of State Security in Czechoslovak Interhotels*
- > **Franko Dota:** *Yugoslav Queer Voices – the "Queen" and Her World*

11:30 – 12:30 Final Discussion

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch