



Universität  
Basel

Philosophisch-Historische  
Fakultät



# Workshop Reinventing Religion: The Rise of Religious Sensibility in the late Soviet Union (1960s–80s)

Basel University  
June 10–12, 2021



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

# June 10: Day 1

All times are CET (GMT+1)

13:30 Introduction

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## 14:00 **Panel 1: Religion on the Edge of Legality**

**Johannes Dyck** (Bibelseminar Bonn) – «The Boundaries of Legal as an Approach to the Study of Soviet Religious Policy»

**Volodymyr Moroz** (Ukrainian Catholic University) – «'My friends, I'll not give up so easy...': Religious and daily life of catacomb Basilian monks in the Ukrainian Zakarpattia region during the 1960–1980s»

Discussant: Thomas Bremer

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## 15:15 **Panel 2: Religious Underground and the Cold War**

**Tatiana Vagramenko** (University of Barcelona) – «Dissent in the Centre: Revising Marginal Religion and the Religious Underground in Soviet Ukraine»

**Arunas Streikus** (Vilnius University) – «Catholic underground in Lithuania: offspring or obstacle of Vatican's Ostpolitik?»

Discussant: Stéphanie Roulin

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16:15 Coffee break

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## 16:45 **Panel 3: Western support to Religious Dissent in the USSR**

**Christopher Campbell** (University of Glasgow) – «'Are we doing enough?' US foreign policy and religious believers in the Soviet Union, 1977-1988»

**Wallace Daniel** (Mercer University) – «Fr. Gleb Yakunin, Henry Dakin, and the Defense of Religious Believers During the Cold War»

**Emily Baran** (Middle Tennessee State University) – «Christian Human Rights Activism in the Late Cold War»

Discussant: Nadezhda Beliakova

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## 17:30 **Keynote lecture**

**Miriam Dobson** (University of Sheffield)

**«The ambiguities of the religious resurgence and the increased visibility of the 'believer' in the late Soviet Union»**

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19:30 Virtual cocktail on the platform *Wonder.me* for informal socializing

# June 11: Day 2

## 09:30 **Panel 4: Religious Life on the Edge of the Soviet Empire**

**Jerzy Rohoziński** (Pilecki Institute) – «'Underground' Catholicism in Soviet Kazakhstan»

**Maria Kaspina** (Russian State University for Humanities) – «Jewish Religious Life in the Soviet town Rybnitsa (1960s–1980s)» (in Russian)

**Tamar Demurishvili** (University of Bern) – «Religiosity in Soviet and post-Soviet Georgia: Change, Continuity and the Post-Soviet Nostalgia»

Discussant: Barbara Martin

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11:00 Coffee break

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## 11:30 **Panel 5: Spiritual Searches**

**Alexander Panchenko** (European University of Saint-Petersburg) – «'Spiritual trajectories': life stories and conversion narratives in the Last testament church»

**Eva Rogaar** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) – «Early Life Experiences of Ethnic Russian Converts to Islam: The Search for Guidance and Spirituality in the Late Soviet Period»

Discussant: Miriam Dobso

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12:30 Lunch break

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## 14:00 **Panel 6: Popular Religiosity and Rituals**

**Inese Runce** (University of Latvia) – «Religious and spiritual practices of children and young adults in the late era of Soviet Latvia»

**Natalia Shlikhta** (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy) – «Religious Ritual in Front of Socialist Modernity: the Case of the Russian Orthodox Church in Soviet Ukraine in the 1960s»

**Svetlana Riazanova** (Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences) – «Православная народная религиозность в провинции в 1960–1980 гг. (опыт западного Урала)»

Discussant: Victoria Smolkin

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## 15:45 **Panel 7: The Religious Revival in Soviet Culture**

**Oksana Nesterenko** (NYU Jordan Center) – «Spiritual Renaissance Among Nonconformist Composers in the Late Soviet Union»

**Iurii Zakhvataev** (Theologische Hochschule Friedensau) – «'Бедная религия', как новая форма религиозности в СССР в период 1970–80-х годов, и ее отражение в рассказе 'Капля' из повествования Виктора Астафьева 'Царь-рыба'»

Discussant: Christian Zehnder

# June 12: Day 3

## 09:30 **Panel 8: Religious Activism**

**Anna Sidorevich** (Sciences Po Paris) – «A religious feminism in the USSR? A historical overview of the phenomenon of the women's club 'Maria' in Leningrad (1980-1982)»

**Nadezhda Beliakova** (Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences) – «Gender specificity of protest activism in religious groups in the Soviet Union during the 1970s»

**Very Kliueva** (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences) – «Activism of Soviet Pentecostals in the 1960s–1980s»

Discussant: Magali Delaloye

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11:00 Coffee break

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## 11:30 **Panel 9: Mystic Underground**

**Anna Tessmann** (University of Mainz) – «Astrological samizdat in the post-Soviet Period: Genres, Actors, Production, and Distribution»

**Boris Falikov** (Russian State University for the Humanities) – «Mystical underground in the USSR (1970s–1980s)»

**Solveiga Krumina-Konkova** (University of Latvia) – «The Entry of Indian Spiritual Movements into the Cultural Space of Soviet Latvia in 1970–80 and Their impact on 'Soviet spirituality'»

Discussant: Jean-François Mayer

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13:00 Concluding remarks

### Cover page

Painting excerpts: Yuri Raksha, «Conversation about the future», 1979, State Gallery Tretiakov, Moscow

Background photography: Barbara Martin