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An international workshop of the Institute of Culture Studies and Theatre History (IKT) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) in cooperation with the Institute for East European History of the University of Vienna

Supporters:
TRANSLATING THE RUSSIAN
Roles and Functions of the “Russian” after the Breakdown of the Soviet Union

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the breakdown of the Soviet Union in December 1991 represented the end of the Warsaw Pact and led to processes of renationalization and the need for new self-definitions in the post-socialist states. This period indicated for Russia not only a traumatic loss of power, but also the end of its cultural and moral authority. The new geographic, social, economic and cultural circumstances surrounding dissolution motivated reinterpretations and revaluations of Russian hegemony.

The workshop “Translating the Russian” aims to trace transformations and translations of the role, representation and characterization of the “Russian” in states of the former Soviet Union and its satellite nations after 1989. What is the societal and cultural heritage of the Soviet Union with regard to images of the “Russian”? Which influences of older representations of the “Russian” can still be found? Which new roles are ascribed to Russia and the Russians in the new political, social and cultural context? How are these roles narrated and staged? And finally, what are the functions of these representations?

By bringing together young academics from different nations and disciplines, the workshop aims to offer a differentiated view on translations of the “Russian” as a transdisciplinary and transnational phenomenon. The objective of the workshop is to focus on different forms of staging and narrating the “Russian” and their functions for constructions of collective identity and memory.

Date: 8th & 9th November 2013
Location: Room 2R EG 07
Institute for East European History
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 3 (Campus)
1090 Vienna