

The Collapse of the Empire

The (Post-)Soviet Nationalities during Perestroika
and the Transformation, 1985–2004

Thursday–Friday, 29–30 October 2026 ♦ Nordost-Institut (IKGN e.V.), Lüneburg

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS 9:30–9:45 am

Kirsten Bönker (IKGN) and **Lars Fredrik Stöcker** (IKGN)

PANEL 1 9:45–11:45 am

The “Russian Germans” between National Mobilisation and Emigration

Chair: Paula Oppermann (HiKo Berlin)

Phillip Dreiling (University of Cologne): The Dream of Restoring the Volga Republic. National Mobilisation among “Russian Germans” between Plans for Autonomy and Mass Emigration during Perestroika

Kirsten Bönker (IKGN): Between Mobilisation and Exclusion: Russian Germans in the late 1980s and early 1990s

Victor Khroul (independent researcher): Ethnical Communities Revival in Lithuania in the late 1980s

♦ 11:45 am–1:00 pm **Lunch break**

PANEL 2 1:00–3:00 pm

The Emergence of Civil Society

Chair: Una Bergmane (University of Helsinki)

Corinna Kuhr-Korolev (ZZF Potsdam): The Latvian Branch of the Soviet Cultural Fund as an Agent of Change

Lars Fredrik Stöcker (IKGN): Saving the Baltic Sea: Perestroika and Transnational Environmentalism

Paula Oppermann (HiKo Berlin): Between Cooperation and Estrangement. Jewish Latvian Activists in the Perestroika Movement and 1990s Latvia

♦ 3:00–3:30 pm **Coffee break**

PANEL 3 3:30–5:30 pm

Memory and History Politics

Chair: Lars Fredrik Stöcker (IKGN)

Josephine Eckert (University of Greifswald): A Day for Everyone? European Debates on 23 August as a Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Communism, Nazism and Totalitarianism **ONLINE**

Ieva Šimanauskaitė (Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius): Perestroika Breaks the Silence: Lithuanian Protest Against Compulsory Military Service in the Soviet Army

Una Bergmane (University of Helsinki): Networks of Contestation: Cross-Republic Cooperation and the Disintegration of the USSR

♦ 7:00 pm **Dinner** (location tba)

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

PANEL 4 9:30–11:30 am

Cross-border Dynamics in the Long Perestroika

Chair: Corinna Kuhr-Korolev (ZZF Potsdam)

Odetta Rudling (University of Bern): “Ethnic Tourism” and Postwar Displacement: Soviet Lithuanian Periphery as a Contact Zone between East and West, 1945–1990

Vello Pettai (ECMI): The Citizens Committees in Estonia and Latvia: Bumbling Radicals or Long-term Victors?

Daria Tashkinova (Research Center for the History of Transformations, University of Vienna): Specialists for the Republic: Perestroika in Higher Education in Soviet Latvia and Estonia, 1985–1991

♦ 11:30 am–12:00 pm **Coffee break**

CLOSING SESSION 12:00–12:45 pm

More
information:



VENUE

Nordost-Institut (IKGN e.V.)
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