

THE DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC AND BALTIC STUDIES, FINNISH, DUTCH AND GERMAN PRESENTS AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Stockholm University

DARK LEGACIES VIOLENCE AND AESTHETICS IN CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN CULTURE

Thursday 28 May & Friday 29 May 2026
Spelbomskan, Aula Magna
Frescativägen 6, 114 18 Stockholm

RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DARK LEGACIES: VIOLENCE AND AESTHETICS IN CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN CULTURE

DAY I // THURSDAY MAY 28

09:30-10:00 arrival & coffee

10:00-10:15 opening

10:15-11:20 **KEYNOTE: ELIOT BORENSTEIN, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**
"Sledgehammer and Sickle: Violent Subjectivity and Russia's Long 20th Century"

moderator: **TORA CEDERSTRÖM LANE, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY**

11.30-12:30 break for lunch

12:45-14:15 panel 1 // moderator: **SOFIA SOROKINA, SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY**

YULIA SINEOKAYA, INSTITUT DE PHILOSOPHIE INDÉPENDANT
"The Dark Logos of the New Russian Sovereign Philosophy"

IRINA ANISIMOVA, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN
"From Sobornost' to Skrepy: Transformation of Collective Concepts in Russian Cultural Thought"

TINE ROESEN, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
"The Power of the Powerless: Russian-Language Literary Responses to the War against Ukraine"

14:15-14:30 break

14:30-15:30 panel 2 // moderator: **JULIA GERDNER, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY**

INGUNN LUNDE, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN
"Metamorphoses of Terror: The Search for a New Language in Sergei Lebedev's Novel *Belaia dama*"

JULIE HANSEN, UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
"Resistance to Violence in Essays by Russian Exile Writers After 2022"

15:30-16:00 Swedish fika

16:00-16:45 **SOFIA SOROKINA & YULIYA SINEOKAYA**
presentation of the Independent Institute of Philosophy

DAY II // MAY 29

09:45-11:20 panel 3 // moderator: **MATTIAS ÅGREN, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY**

ILYA KALININ, HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY
"A Journey from 'St. Petersburg' (1990s) to 'Moscow' (2000-2020s), or On the Normalization of Violence"

TOMAS ČENYS, VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
"Violence as a Means of Self-Identification in Mikhail Elizarov's Novel *Pasternak*"

DIRK UFFELMANN, JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY GIESSEN
"Metonymies of Russian Violence in Russophone Poetry (Boris Khersonskii)"

11:30-12:30 break for lunch

12:45-13:45 panel 4 // moderator: **ALEXANDER LINDSKOG, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY**

MORRIS WIKSTRÖM, LUND UNIVERSITY
"Metamodernist Poetry of War: A Reading of Aleksandr Pelevin's *Pod Muzyku Vagnera* (2023)"

TORA CEDERSTRÖM LANE, STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY
"Imagining the Human after the Collapse of Society: Violence, Sadistic Desires and Fragments of Love in Selected Works of Contemporary Russian Fiction"

13:45-14:00 break

14:00-15:30 panel 5 // moderator: **JOSEFINA LUNDBLAD-JANJIC, IRES AT UPPSALA UNIVERSITY**

JOHANNA LINDBLADH, LUND UNIVERSITY
"The Aesthetics of State Violence in *Two Prosecutors* by Sergei Loznitsa"

MATTHIAS SCHWARTZ, LEIBNIZ CENTER FOR LITERARY AND CULTURAL RESEARCH (ZFL), BERLIN

"Summer Will End: Aesopian Aesthetics of Brutality in Contemporary Popular Movies and TV Series"

SERGEY SHERSHNEV, JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKOW

"Between Heroism and Brutality: The Dual Nature of Masculinity in Yuri Bykov's Cinema"

15:30-16:00 Swedish fika

16:00-16:30 concluding discussion