

## Program

### Sunday, March 11, 2007

3.00-3.30 pm	Coffee
3.30-4.00 pm	Opening BIRGIT MENZEL, University of Mainz/Germersheim, Slavist CATHARINE NEPOMNYASHCHY, Harriman-Institute, New York
<b>PANEL 1</b>	<b>Historical Roots of the Occult and the Paranormal in 20th Century Russia</b> Chair: Birgit Menzel
4.00-4.30 pm	<b>Occultism in Fashion: A Historical Perspective</b> Key note Speech by BERNICE ROSENTHAL, Fordham University, New York, Historian
4.30-4.45 pm	<b>Russkaia Antroposofia vchera i segodnia</b> RENATA VON MAYDELL, University of Bochum/Heidelberg, Slavist
4.45-5.00 pm	<b>Parapsychology in Early Soviet Union: Physiologist Leonid Vasilev (1891-1966) and his 'Experiments in Mental Suggestion' – A Scientific Legacy</b> EBERHARD BAUER, Institute for Border Areas of Psychology and Mental Hygiene, Freiburg, Psychologist
5.00-6.30 pm	Discussion
7.00 pm	Dinner
8.00-9.00 pm	Films

### Monday, March 12, 2007

<b>PANEL 2</b>	<b>Esoteric Aspects of Soviet Intelligentsia I. (Ideology, Art and Politics)</b> Chair: Michael Hagemeister
9.00-9.15 am	<b>Maternye korni sovetskogo materialisma</b> MIKHAIL EPSTEIN, Emory University, Atlanta, Literature and Cultural Scholar
9.15-9.30 am	<b>Soul and Spirit: The Case of Bakhtin</b> MICHAEL ESKIN, Harriman-Institute, New York, Slavist
9.30-10.30 am	Discussion
10.30-11.00 am	Coffee

11.00-11.15 am **From Synarchy to Shambala. Political Occultism and Social Messianism in the Dealings of Nicolai Roerich**

11.15-11.30 am MARKUS OSTERRIEDER, Munich, Historian  
**Nachalo okkul'tnogo i paranormal'nogo proekta OGPU: Dekabr' 1924 – avgust 1925 goda i ego otgolosok**

OLEG SHISHKIN, Moscow, Journalist

11.30 am Discussion

12.30-2.00 pm Lunch

**PANEL 3**  
**Esoteric Aspects of Soviet Intelligentsia II. (Science, Fiction and Philosophy)**  
Chair: Catherine Nepomnyashchy

2.00-2.15 pm **The Occult Roots of Soviet Space Travel**  
MICHAEL HAGEMEISTER, University of Basel, Historian

2.15-2.30 pm **Guests from Outer Space. Science Fiction in the Thaw and its Impact on the Post-Soviet Present**  
MATTHIAS SCHWARTZ, Free University Berlin, Slavist

2.30-3.30 pm Discussion

3.30-4.00 pm Coffee

4.00-4.15 pm **Metafizicheskaia zhazha i sovetskoe nauchnoe soobscchestvo - Mirovozzrenie uchennykh kak antiteza nauchnogo mirovozzreniia. Na primere paleopsichologicheskikh postroenii B. F. Porshneva**

ANNETT JUBARA, University of Mainz/Germersheim, Philosopher  
**Magical Discourses in Soviet Literature to the Thaw**  
REBECCA JANE STANTON, Columbia University, New York, Slavist

4.15-4.30 pm

4.30-5.00 pm Discussion

6.00 pm Dinner

### Tuesday, March 13, 2007

**PANEL 4**  
**Religion and the Occult in Late Soviet Intelligentsia**  
Chair: Julia Mannherz

9.00-9.15 am **Sekty i esotericheskie kruzhki na ogrady Pravoslavnoi Tserkvi**

9.15-9.30 am VALENTIN NIKITIN, Moscow, Theologist  
**Gurzhievskoe dvizhenie v Rossii 1960-kh i 1970-kh – vospominaniia i refleksii uchastnika**  
ARKADY ROVNER, Moscow, Writer

9.30-10.30 am Discussion

10.30-11.00 am Coffee

**PANEL 5**  
**The Occult in Post Soviet Russia I. (Psychology and Popular Culture)**  
Chair: Marlene Laruelle

11.00-11.15 am **Transpersonal Approach in Russia and in the West**  
TATYANA MEIRA-KOCHETKOVA, University of Nijmegen, Philosopher

11.15-11.30 am **Occultism in Late Tsarist Popular Culture**  
JULIA MANNHERZ, University of Göttingen, Historian

11.30 am Discussion

12.30-2.00 pm Lunch

**PANEL 6**  
**The Occult in Post Soviet Russia II. (Politics, Neopaganism, Shamanism)**  
Chair: Birgit Menzel

2.00-2.15 pm **Soviet Dissident Culture under Putin: Alexander Dugin**  
MARK SEDGWICK, American University, Cairo, Historian of Religion

2.15-2.30 pm **Occultism in the Russian Neo-Pagan Movements: in Search of a National and a Natural Spirituality**  
MARLENE LARUELLE, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, Historian

2.30-3.30 pm Discussion

3.30-4.00 pm Coffee

4.00-4.15 pm	<b>Shamanism v srede rossiiskoi intelligentsii (postsovetskoe vremia i prostranstvo)</b> NATALIA ZHUKOVSKAIA, RAN, Moscow, Anthropologist and Ethnologist
4.15-4.30 pm	Discussant: WOUTER HANEGRAAFF, Historian of Hermetic Philosophy, University of Amsterdam
4.30-5.45 pm	Plenary Discussion Podium: BIRGIT MENZEL CATHARINE NEPOMNYASHCHY WOUTER HANEGRAAFF
5.45-6.00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> CATHARINE NEPOMNYASHCHY, Harriman-Institute, New York, Slavist
6:00 pm	End of the Conference

**The German Association for East European Studies (DGO – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V.)** is one of the most important institutions in Germany engaged in research on East European affairs.

Ever since its foundation in 1913, the DGO has been a respected forum for discussion of political, economic, and cultural developments in Europe's East and for the promotion of dialogue between East and West. Through its publications and the events it organizes, the DGO provides information about current developments and trends in Eastern Europe. The DGO's members are important multipliers in the worlds of scholarship and politics, in economic affairs, and in cultural life.

DGO is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation based in Berlin. The association is a member of the International Council for Central and Eastern European Studies.

Essential aspects of the DGO's work are:

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- Ad-hoc symposiums and talks designed to react swiftly to new developments in Eastern Europe;
- A nation-wide network of 23 branch offices that contribute to the public awareness of international and East European issues by organizing lectures, discussions and other events;
- The coordination of a network of contacts and experts. Over 800 scholars, journalists, politicians, economic specialists, and others, with their know-how and specialized knowledge, are brought together under the auspices of the DGO. The head office arranges contacts, provides information, and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

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Managing Director: Dr. Heike Dörrenbächer

## Program

**Conference of the DGO-working group 'Russian and East Europe Culture'**

**The Occult in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Russia /  
Оккультизм в России  
Metaphysical Roots  
of Soviet Civilisation**

**In Cooperation with  
The Harriman Institut  
Russian, Eurasian,  
and Eastern Europe  
Studies at Columbia**

**Berlin,  
March 11-13, 2007,**

**Conference venue:**  
Europäische Akademie Berlin,  
Bismarckallee 46/48, 14193 Berlin

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*English / Russian*

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