

International Conference

European Elites and Revolutionary Change: 1789 – 1848 – 1917. The Aftermath

With the emergence of European modernity over the course of the “long” 19th century, the existing systems of power and social relations were not only challenged and renegotiated, they also underwent dramatic alterations – not once, but multiple times. Thus, looking back, it makes sense to locate the struggle to establish a nation-state governed by parliamentary democracy as part of the same historical process as the deposition and beheading of the French king and the murder of the Russian emperor and his family.

The era's revolutionary upheavals, which saw the participation of not only traditional political actors but also portions of the rural population, brought about wide-reaching changes in the political and social order. Revolutions established new institutions and practices, built new communities, and created alternative forms of identity. Nor did the consequences of these events stop at the borders of the countries or regions where they occurred. On the contrary: they contributed to the transregional circulation of ideas and they appreciably encouraged – indeed, even compelled – the movement of people across borders.

This conference looks at the revolutions of 1789, 1848 and 1917, focusing on the consequences for European elites in terms of their agency, their social status and community belonging, and their everyday lives and lifestyles in general. The organisers invite discussion of the dynamics of the social and cultural changes that accompanied these major revolutionary events.

The two-day conference aims to serve as a forum for an interdisciplinary discussion in which the local logic and characteristics of the French Revolution, the central European 1848 Revolution, and the Russian Revolution can be examined in the context of their transnational ramifications. Our hope is that this analysis will make it possible to arrive at a better understanding of the “European elite” - a socially heterogeneous formation that requires a more precise historical definition.

Further information is available at poeteleg.eu

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Conference Venue:

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Queen Mary University of London
Mile End Campus
Arts Two Building, School of History
Senior Common Room
London E1 4NS



International Conference

European Elites and Revolutionary Change: 1789 – 1848 – 1917. The Aftermath

Organised by Anna Ananieva and Andreas Schönle

London, 2 – 3 November 2017

Venue: QMUL, Mile End Campus
Arts Two Building, Senior Common Room



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Thursday, 2 November 2017

13:30

Welcome & Introduction: **Anna Ananieva & Andreas Schönle**

1789

Chair: **Professor Andreas Schönle** (QMUL)

14:00 – 14:45

Professor William Doyle (University of Bristol)

“The Limits of Legislation: Beliefs and Bloodlines”

14:45 – 15:30

Dr Friedemann Pestel (University of Freiburg)

“La France du dehors: French Émigrés and European Spaces of Political Exile”

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 16:45

Professor David Duff (QMUL)

“Experiments on the Public Mind:

Romantic Poetry and Revolutionary Trauma, 1789-1817”

16:45 – 17:30

Dr Alexandra Veselova (RAS, St Petersburg) &

Mikhail Miliutin (St Petersburg State University)

“The Russian ‘glorious revolution’ of 1762 and the French ‘bloodshed’ of 1789 in the assessment of a Russian provincial nobleman of the 18th century (according to the memoirs of A. T. Bolotov)”

Friday, 3 November 2017

1848

Chair: **Professor Christina von Hodenberg** (QMUL)

9:15 – 10:00

Professor Dr Heinrich Best (University of Jena)

“The Apprenticeship of Democratic Representation:

The Frankfurt and Paris National Assemblies in the Revolutions of 1848 – 1849”

10:00 – 10:45

Dr Jonathan Kwan (University of Nottingham)

“The Experience of the 1848-49 Revolutions and the Development of Liberalism in the Habsburg Monarchy”

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:00

Dr Denis Sdvizhkov (GHI Moscow)

“The Revolution that Did Not Happen: Russia and the Impact of 1848”

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

1917

Chair: **Professor Dr Klaus Gestwa** (University of Tübingen)

13:30 – 14:15

Professor Dr Dietrich Beyrau (University of Tübingen)

“Destruction, Dispersion and Survival of an Elite:

The Case of the Russian Empire 1917-1922”

14:15 – 15:00

Jane Pritchard MBE (V&A London)

“The Shock of the New:

The impact of Russian Revolutionary Theatre on the Ballets Russes and related companies”

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:15

Dr Markian Prokopovych (University of Birmingham)

“Transformation of Urban Spaces in Interwar Central Europe:

Continuities and Ruptures in Architecture and the Symbolic Politics of Space”

16:15 – 17:00

Dr Olga Sobolev & Dr Angus Wrenn (LSE)

“Interpreting the ‘Writing on the Eastern Wall of Europe’:

G. B. Shaw & H. G. Wells on the Russian Revolution”

17 – 18

Final Discussion