

“Legacies of Cultural Resistance in Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe”

10-11 June, 2023

Trinity College Dublin

Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute

Public discourse about Central and Eastern Europe in the wake of the approaching 35th anniversary of the collapse of communism is largely overshadowed by war, economic instabilities, growing social problems and the erosion of democratic values. Such topics have provoked significant scholarly attention in recent years. At the same time, there is an increasing academic interest in forms of resistance, opposition and social protest – past and present. The topic of cultural opposition has remained relatively marginal in such discussions, despite the crucial role culture played in forging intellectual dissent to communist rule in the late socialist period.

The aim of the conference is to explore the legacy of cultural forms of resistance, opposition and dissent in Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism in 1989/91. It aims to investigate the extent to which modes, patterns and strategies of cultural resistance in the late-socialist period informed (or continue to inform) dissident visual art, literature or music in recent decades. What kind of continuities and discontinuities can be observed in cultural forms of protest across the 1989 divide? How did the consolidation of democratic regimes in the 1990s affect critical forms of artistic expression? Did the authoritarian turn of the mid-2010s result in the revival (in a modified form) of practices that characterised the non-conformist cultural sphere of late socialism? What forms of cultural innovation can be identified in contemporary oppositionist art and what are its main sources of inspiration? What role do horizontal, cross-border, and transnational entanglements and connections play in the development of cultural forms of resistance? How did the hierarchy of the modes of self-expression change (the decreasing significance of literature and the rise of social media) in the past three decades? How has the role of gender as a constitutive element of identity changed in protests happening over that period?

IARCEES members are welcome to submit presentations addressing the above questions, as well as papers discussing different time periods or broader trajectories of resistance, protest, and dissidence from historical, social-scientific, or cultural perspectives.

Paper proposals of max. 500 words should be submitted before **10 January 2024** to aporb@tcd.ie

The conference is organised jointly by the Trinity Centre for Resistance Studies, the Trinity Long Room Hub and the Irish Association for Russian, Central and East European Studies.

Registration fee: €50

Post-graduate registration fee: €35