

Concept and Organisation:
Elena Fratto / Riccardo Nicolosi

The Human Body



and the Environment
in Russian
and Soviet
Literature
and Culture
(19th – 21st Centuries)

June 9-10
2022

Venue:
Seidlvilla

Nikolaipplatz 1b,
Munich



The embeddedness of the human body in the surrounding environment, a major topic in both the medical and the environmental humanities today, has been addressed in Russian literature and the arts since the nineteenth century. Sometimes on the basis of scientific, sociological, and economic theories, sometimes independently, writers have staged the human body as porous to the natural and physical environment—water, soil, landscape, nonhuman animals, outer space—as well as to the social environment, urban and architectural layouts, the workspace and machinery, economic models, systems of values, and the circulation of goods and ideas. The conference explores these complex connections and mutual exchanges in Russian and Soviet literature and the arts of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries.

Program

—— Friday, June 10

9:00–10:00

Texture and Ornament: Haptic and Affective Engagement with *Kustar'* Revival Interiors

Colleen McQuillen

10:00–11:00

Fossil Work: Imagining Human Sediments in Soviet Prose around 1930 (Shaginyan, Paustovsky, Prishvin)

Philipp Kohl

11:00 Coffee break

11:30–12:30

Man and Earth Change Their SKIN: Ecological Imagery in Bruno Jasieński's Construction Novel from 1932

Susanne Frank

12:30 Lunch break

14:00–15:00

Metabolic Modernities: Energy Transformations Across the Human-Nonhuman Divide in Early Soviet Prose

Elena Fratto

15:00–16:00

What is Russian Cli-Fi?

Mika Perkiömäki

16:00 Coffee break

16:30–17:30

Invasive Species: The Reach and Limit of Human Agency in Contemporary Outbreak Narratives

Julia Vaingurt

—— Thursday, June 9

9:30–9:45

Welcome Remarks

Elena Fratto / Riccardo Nicolosi

9:45–10:45

Embedded Bodies in Tolstoy's *War and Peace*

Melissa Miller

10:45 Coffee break

11:15–12:15

Slumming Moscow

Riccardo Nicolosi

12:15 Lunch break

14:00–15:00

The Environments of *Sakhalin Island*

Matthew Mangold

15:00–16:00

Making Kith in *The Tragic Menagerie*

Alec Brookes

16:00 Coffee break

16:30–17:45 / keynote

The Body's Place in Cosmic Space: Harmonizing Movement and Nature in Early-Twentieth-Century Russia

Irina Sirotkina