



## Frost, Ice, and Snow

### Cold Climate in Russian History

German Historical Institute (DHI Moscow)

& Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC)

#### Conveners:

Julia Herzberg (Rachel Carson Center), Ingrid Schierle (DHI Moscow)

Andreas Renner (University of Tübingen) & Klaus Gestwa (University of Tübingen)

Russia was and remains especially associated with cold. The discourses about the Russian cold stem from existential experiences. Due to its geographical location, cold was a constant cultural challenge, a phenomenon that influenced actions, everyday experiences, and mentalities, and determined both external and self-perceptions. Focusing on the factor of climate, this conference will discuss and connect new approaches to Russian environmental history.

**Rachel  
Carson  
Center**  
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY



## Thursday, February 16

10:00 - 10:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Nikolaus Katzer (DHI Moscow), Julia Herzberg (RCC Munich)

10:30 - 13:30 **Session1: Mundane and Exceptional Times**

Chair: Andreas Renner (Tübingen)

Svetlana A. Rafikova (Krasnoiarsk)

Siberian Frosts and the Everyday Adaptation Practices of City Dwellers

Katarzyna Chimiak (Warsaw)

Challenging Crisis: Human Strategies of Adaptation and Survival during the Winter of 1946/1947 in Dnepropetrovsk, Łódź, Essen, and Manchester

Discussion

### Coffee break

Anthony J. Heywood (Aberdeen)

Transport for War in a Cold Climate: Russia's Railways, July 1914 - March 1917

Aleksandr L. Kuz'minykh (Vologda)

The *Wehrmacht* and the Russian Winter: the Influence of Climate on German Servicemen on the Front and in Soviet Captivity (1941-1956)

Discussion

13:30 - 15:00 **Lunch**

15:30 - 18:00 **Session 2: Coping with Cold**

Chair: Erki Tammiksaar (Tartu)

Andy Bruno (Urbana-Champaign)

Tumbling Snow: Avalanches in the Soviet North

Marc Elie (Paris)

Winter Sports, Ice Sciences, and Avalanches in Soviet Central Asia, 1950s-1980s

Discussion

### Coffee break

Aleksandr V. Anan'ev (Moscow)

Heroes of the Ice: Two Masculine Identity Scripts of the Soviet Era—Hockey Player and Polar Explorer—and their Actualization at the Start of the Twenty-First Century

Aleksei D. Popov (Simferopol')

Winter Tourism in the Soviet Union: School of Courage, Competitive Brand, National Pastime

Discussion

18:00

**Conference dinner**

## Friday, February 17

09:30 - 12:30 **Session 3: Changing Climates**

Chair: Carolin F. Roeder (Harvard)

Julia Lajus (St. Petersburg), Sverker Sörlin (Stockholm)  
Cryo-Connections, Political Friendship and the Prospects of an Ice-Free Arctic, 1928–1955

Paul Josephson (Waterville)  
Soviet Efforts to Transform Nature in the Russian Northwest (Arkhangelsk and Murmansk provinces, Karelian Republic)

Discussion

### Coffee break

Jonathan Oldfield (Glasgow)  
Conceptualisations of Climate Change amongst Soviet Geographers from ca. 1945 to the early 1970s

Denis J. B. Shaw (Birmingham)  
*The Subarctic: A Classic Study of the Tundra*

Discussion

12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 - 17:50 **Session 4: Civilizing Coldness**

Chair: Marc Elie (Paris)

Ekaterina A. Degal'tseva (Biisk)  
Sibirsk as a Concentrated Concept of Russian Cold (a Case Study of the Nineteenth Century)

Nataliia N. Rodigina (Novosibirsk)  
*From the Country of Cold and Darkness to the Promised Land: the Role of the Climate in the Construction of Siberia's Image in the Russian Magazine Press of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*

Ian W. Campbell (Davis, CA)  
The Nomad Who Came in from the Cold: *Zhut* and Civilizational Difference in the Late Nineteenth Century

Discussion

### Coffee break

David Saunders (Newcastle)  
Commerce and Technology in the Development of the Russian Arctic (1862-1921)

Erki Tammiksaar (Tartu)  
Russian South Pole Expedition in the Context of Political Interests of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union

Discussion

### Coffee break

17:50 - 19:00 **Session 5: Imagining Coldness**

Chair: Julia Herzberg (Munich)

Oksana Bulgakova (Mainz)  
Global Warming

Roman Mauer (Mainz)  
The Aesthetics of Cold and National Trauma in Film: Escape from a Siberian POW Camp

Discussion

**Saturday, February 18**

09:30 - 11:30 **Session 6: Metaphors and Narratives**

Chair: Roman Mauer (Mainz)

Anna A. Kotomina (Moscow)  
Presenting the Theme of Cold Climate to a Popular Audience in Public Readings, 1890-1910

Susanne Frank (Berlin)  
Permafrost as a Metaphor of Memory in Russian GULAG Literature (Pavel Florenskii, Varlam Shalamov)

J. P. Schovanec (Alfortville)  
Frost as a Spiritual Experience: Written Accounts of Foreign Detainees in Stalinist Camps

Discussion

**Coffee break**

11:30 - 12:40 **Session 7: Representations Between Science and Politics**

Chair: Paul Josephson (Waterville)

Pey-Yi Chu (Princeton)  
Mapping Permafrost Country: Visualizations of Frozen Earth in Russian History

Carolin F. Roeder (Harvard)  
A Creature of the Cold War: Soviet Science and the Snowman

Discussion

12:40 - 13:30 **Concluding Session**

Klaus Gestwa (Tübingen)  
Concluding Remarks

Discussion

13:30 **Lunch**

**Venue:** Moscow, Nakhimovskii prospekt 51/21 (INION)  
German Historical Institute

**Directions:**



**Transport:** The GHI Moscow is in the building of the Institute of Scientific Information, Russian Academy of Science (INION RAN). It is located in the south of the city – directly at the orange line metro station Profsoyuznaya (Профсоюзная). If you're coming from the center of the city, please choose the front exit to the Nakhimovsky Prospekt (Нахимовский Проспект) and then turn left.