

Workshop: The Last Soviet Famine, 1946/47: Mass Death across Ukraine, Moldova and Russia in War's Aftermath

Organisation: Klaus Gestwa/ Filip Slaveski

This project explores the most recent famine in Soviet and European History, which killed at around one million people in 1946-47, especially in Ukraine and Moldova, but about which we know very little. The Soviet state repressed news of the 1946/47 famine at the time, and it remains largely absent in English-language scholarship and relatively neglected in Russian and Ukrainian scholarship compared to the Holodomor of 1932/33. Our project operates from archival sources across the former Soviet space, primarily Ukraine and Moldova, to explore the interaction of numerous factors in understanding famine causation, duration, mortality, and its broader consequences, which endured for decades afterward.

We look forward to discussions with our German colleagues on themes of common interest. These include but are not limited to: contextualising this famine within the history of Soviet famine, the relationship between centre and periphery in Russian/Soviet History (especially between Russia and Ukraine), and in Soviet history and, more broadly, the long aftermath of WWII (including the Soviet occupation of Germany).

Programme:

Thursday 10 April: Session 1: 14.30-18.30

Welcome and Coffee: 14.00

Introduction to the Project – Filip Slaveski and Stephen Wheatcroft

Session 1: 14.30–18:00

Chair: Olga Nikonova

Paper 1: **Stephen Wheatcroft**: The 1946/47 Famine in Broader Perspective of the History of Russian and Soviet Famines, 1891-1947

Paper 2: **Filip Slaveski**: Causes, Operation and Consequences of the Last Soviet Famine, 1946/47

Paper 3: **Yuri Shapoval**: Kaganovich and Famine in Ukraine: Comparisons 1932/33 and 1946/47

Comment: Oleg Morozov

Dinner 19.00

Friday 11 April” Session 2: 10.00-12.30

Chair: Alexa von Winning

Immo Rebitschek: Relief impromptu and Autocratic Humanitarianism: The Lessons from 1891/2

Tanja Penter: Experiencing the 1946/47 Famine against the background of the Holodomor and the famine under German rule in occupied territory - Perspectives of entangled history

Klaus Gestwa: From Famine to Communism. Stalin's Great Plan for the Transformation of Nature as ambitious Prevention Practice'

Comment: Dietrich Beyrau

Lunch 12.30-13.30

Roundtable Discussion 13.30.-15.00

Chair: Alexa von Winning

Discuss key themes identified in day 1 – Possibilities for joint work/collaboration

10 participants