

Histories of Museum Assets and Ownership in the Eastern Bloc (Online, 13 Jun 25)

Södertörn University / online, Jun 13, 2025

Maria Silina, Montreal

The workshop focuses on museums and collections from the Communist-era regimes in Poland, East Germany, as well as in Slovenia and Croatia, representing cases from historical Yugoslavia. It also examines collections in Uzbekistan and Georgia, considered from a broader historical perspective that includes their incorporation into the Russian Empire and, later, the Soviet Union. Across these contexts, the presentations explore how political regimes transformed cultural property through mass nationalization, the alienation of private collections, state confiscations, sales of seized assets, and subsequent restitution efforts.

Programme:

14.00 Nino Simonishvili, Institute of Art History and Theory at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia:

The Value of Collecting, Preserving and Displaying Artifacts in Georgia's Changing Political Context.

14:50 Ewa Manikowska, Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw:

Taking the Property of "the Others". Explaining Nationalisations of Cultural Assets in Poland.

15:30 Tanja Trška, University of Zagreb:

Transformations, alienation and reappraisal of art collections in former Yugoslavia: case studies and research perspectives in Slovenia and Croatia.

16:10 Julia Kretzschmann, Technische Universität Berlin:

Expropriation and Utilization for Foreign Currency: The Acquisition of Cultural Property in the GDR.

16:50 Svetlana Gorshenina, EUR'ORBEM, CNRS, Paris:

The Genesis of Central Asian Collections and the Politics of Restitution: Blind Spots in Contemporary Debates in Uzbekistan.

To register for Zoom attendance please follow the link:

https://uqam.zoom.us/meeting/register/H_avCA9lQ-yR98aSNq5KKw

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Reference:

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