



WORKSHOP

PROTECT AND CONTROL

The Politics of Uncertainty and Danger in the Soviet Union

Organised by

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16-17 april 2026



Maison française d'Oxford
2-10 Norham Rd
Oxford OX2 6S



www.uphf.fr

PROGRAM

Thursday, 16 April 2026

09:00–09:15 | Welcome

Welcome by the organisers

Introduction to the workshop format

(15 minutes presentation + c. 20 minutes discussion per paper; papers pre-circulated)

Panel 1 – Governing health and risk in late socialism

09:15–12:15

Ekaterina Suverina (University of Konstanz)

Performative Biopolitics: HIV Surveillance and African Students in the Late Soviet Union

Roman Gilmintinovn (European University Sankt Petersburg)

“We Are Talking about the Very Existence of the City as a Social Unit”: Public Health and the Limits of Economic Reason in Environmental Investments, 1970s–1980s

Viola Lászlófi (Central European University)

Mapping Health Risks from Below? Socialist Everyday Life and Empirical Sociology in 1970s–80s Hungary

12:15–13:45 | Lunch and relaxing walk in nearby park

Panel 2 – Civil Defence, Care, and Social Order

13:45–15:45

Grégory Dufaud (Université polytechnique Hauts-de-France)

Defending the Fatherland, Mobilising the Population: The Establishment of Civil Defence in Soviet Latvia in the Early 1960s

Siobhán Hearne (University of Manchester)

The Soviet Red Cross and the Civil Defence Movement in the Post-Stalin USSR

15:45–16:00 | Coffee break

Panel 3 – Pollution, Expertise, and Technological Responses

16:00–19:00

Nicholas Seay (The Ohio State University)

Striking with a Sword: Pesticides, Pests, and Ecology in Soviet Tajikistan

Anna Helena Liiv (University of Tartu)

Industrial Disaster and Microbial Life: The Politics of Bioremediation in Late Socialist Estonia

Marc Elie (CERCEC, CNRS)

Toxic Storm Warning: Forecasting, Prevention, and the Naturalization of Pollution in Soviet Meteorology, 1970s–1990s

19:30 | Conference Dinner

PROGRAM

Friday, 17 April 2026

Panel 4 – Nuclear Threats, Disasters, and Public Mobilisation
09:30–12:30

Dmitrii Sidorov (California State University)
Atomic Urbanisms: Soviet Cold War “Defensive Dispersal”

Dylan Hebert (University of Oxford)
Rebuilding Socialism: The 1966 Tashkent Earthquake and the Cold War Politics of Disaster

Nicholas Morrison (University of Maryland)
Shielding the Steppe: The Nevada–Semipalatinsk Movement and Environmental Concern in Soviet and Post-Soviet Kazakhstan

11:30–12:30 | Concluding Discussion
Synthesis and perspectives for publication

12:30 | End of workshop

