

Call for Paper Proposals:

**The Era of the Russian Civil War:
Life in a Time of Social Experimentation and Violence**

International colloquium
St. Petersburg, 10-14 June 2019

The international colloquium on Russian history in St. Petersburg, organized by a group of historians from Russia, the United States, and western Europe for the past thirty years, announces its forthcoming colloquium on the Era of the Russian Civil War.

The 2019 colloquium will focus on the Civil War era, seeking new approaches and knowledge about human experience during these times of upheaval, violence, ideological contestation, and social experimentation. This orientation toward “lived experience” by no means excludes explorations of political institutions, social organizations, ideologies, and other more “traditional topics” – on the contrary, it is impossible to separate human experience (even at the level of subjectivity and emotions) from material, political, and social conditions. The Organizing Committee seeks papers that consider both conceptual, methodological, and theoretical problems and that explore new historical evidence.

The organisers of the colloquium ask that submissions offer original theoretical approaches and/or present new sources, either new archival documents or materials that have traditionally been neglected by those working in the discipline of history.

The conference has a broad remit, but is particularly interested in the following overarching and often overlapping themes:

- Projects for social change from all political points of view
- Ideologies and big ideas and their real-life applications
- Regional and microhistories, and professional, national and confessional stories.
- imperial dimensions of the civil war era, including struggles to create new forms of post-imperial society, politics, and culture
- The decentralization and dissemination of power
- The dispersal of power and the attempts to establish authority beyond the simple binary of Red and White, including the efforts of Greens, partisans, hetmen, and local protests
- The “dictatorship of the proletariat” and the fate of workers’ democracy, including the history of labour protest.
- Symbolic space and language, including military symbols, rituals and folklore and symbolic representations of the enemy
- The individual in politics, including lived experiences at the front and the rear; the actions of soldiers, leaders and rank-and-file activists, and representatives of

different organisations and parties including the Komsomol, national organisations, trade unions, cooperatives, factory committees, women's sections, soviets, etc.

- The practices and experiences of violence, including political terror, military action, pogroms, sexual violence, banditry and hooliganism
- Individual and collective strategies and practices of everyday life
- Hunger, cold, and epidemics; refugees, and the physical, medical and psychological consequences of war; military psychiatry
- Emotional perceptions of life during these times, including fear, courage, anger, hatred, cowardice, hope, and happiness
- Experiences of war and social experiments expressed in letters, diaries, memoirs, poetry and prose, music, photography, and art
- Gender and sexuality, including how men and women experienced life during these years, struggles to transform sexual and gender relations, sexual life in a time of violence, gendered constructions of power and ideology, masculinity and femininity, and gendered representations of combat and the military
- Historical memory and legacies, as expressed, for example, in holidays and celebrations, museums and archives, literature, cinema, stamps, postcards, maps, and naming practices (in Soviet Russia, the USSR, and abroad)

The Organizational Committee invites proposals for other topics to the extent they bring new and fresh approaches to the general themes of the colloquium. Interdisciplinary approaches are especially welcome.

Participants in the colloquium may be researchers in any discipline who are conducting historically-informed scholarship, including historians, archivists, museum staff, sociologists, anthropologists, literary scholars, art historians, film and theater historians, and others. The participation of graduate students is welcome.

Organizational information

The colloquium will be held 10-14 June 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia, and is a cooperative project of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the European University at St. Petersburg, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The organizers hope to be able to pay for travel and accommodation for all international participants—however we ask you to apply to your universities for conference travel when this is available.

Proposals, in either Russian or English, should be sent to civil_war_russia@mail.ru. They should include the applicant's email address, main place of employment, and title and short description (up to 500 words) of the proposed paper. The deadline for the submission of

proposals is 20 September 2018. We will seek to make decisions on participation by the end of September.

Participants accepted by the organizing committee for the colloquium will submit a paper (up to 40,000 characters including spaces and footnotes) as an emailed attachment no later than 1 April 2019.

The working language of the conference will be Russian. The organizing committee can offer help in the translation of papers from European languages into Russian.

Presenters at the conference will not present the full text of their papers as papers will be pre-circulated among participants. Presenters will give short 5-10 minute introductions to their main arguments and evidence, which will be followed by commentary and open discussion.

After the colloquium, authors will have the opportunity to prepare their papers for publication in a volume that will include both papers and commentary, with an expected publication date of 2020.

Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee

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