

WORKSHOP
JANUARY 18-19, 2027 | LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

“THE SOVIET LEGACY: POLITICAL ECONOMY, CONFLICT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE”

MONDAY, 18 JANUARY 2027

08:30 Registration and coffee

09:00 Welcome by the organizers

Session 1: State Repression and the Hidden Costs of Soviet Authoritarianism

Chair: Alexey Makarin

09:15 - **Viktor Veterinarov** (Sciences Po) – Under Soviet State Repression: The Lasting Impact on Inventive Output
Discussant: Nikita Zakharov (University of Freiburg)

09:55 - **Kampui Tsang** (Hong Kong Baptist University) – Hidden Soviet Military-Industrial Contamination Shaped Long-Run Health Outcomes
Discussant: Olga Shemyakina (Georgia Institute of Technology)

10:35 - 10:55 - Coffee Break

10:55 - **Keynote: Volha Charnysh** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) – Title to be announced
Chair: Alexey Makarin

11:55 - 13:00 - Lunch

Session 2: Beliefs and Values: Legacies of Repression and Transition

Chair: Jean-François Maystadt

13:00 - **Daniil Starikov** (University of Chicago, Harris School) – The Threat of Faith: The Determinants and Legacies of Soviet Anti-Religious Repression
Discussant: Amma Panin (UCLouvain)

13:40 - **William Pyle** (Middlebury College) – Russian Society, Democratic Values, and the Legacy of the Early-1990s Economic Shock
Discussant: Natalya Naumenko (GMU)

14:20 - 14:40 - Coffee Break

Session 3: Institutions and State-Building after the Soviet Collapse

Chair: Natalya Naumenko

14:40 - **Leonid Polishchuk** (Indiana University) – Post-Communist Transition as Critical Juncture: Theory and Empirical Evidence
Discussant: William Pyle (Middlebury College)

15:20 - **Berkeren Büyükeren** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) – Remaking the State from Below: Local Government Formation in Ukraine
Discussant: Anders Olofsgård (Stockholm School of Economics, SITE)

16:00 - 16:20 - Coffee Break

Session 4: Conflict: National Identity and the Economic Costs of War

Chair: Jean-François Maystadt

16:20 - **Serhii Abramenko** (Rome Economics Doctorate) – War and Nation-Building: Evidence from Ukraine
Discussant: Roya Talibova (Harvard Kennedy School)

17:00 - **Timo Wochner** (KOF, ETH Zurich) – Economic Development in the Shadow of War
Discussant: Andrey Tkachenko (Nazarbayev University)

19:00 - Workshop dinner (Table L) - (Upon invitation)

TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2027

09:00 - 09:20 - coffee

Session 5: Media, Propaganda and Disinformation

Chair: Jean-François Maystadt

09:20 - **Yaroslav Prokhorsky** (ESSEC Business School) – Transmitting Terror: Radio and Repression in Stalin's Soviet Union
Discussant: Maria Petrova (Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Barcelona School of Economics)

10:00 - **Anders Olofsgård** (Stockholm School of Economics, SITE) – Countering Disinformation in a Geopolitical Battleground: Experimental Evidence on Information, Civic Appeals, and Source Credibility in Moldova
Discussant: Alexey Makarin (MIT)

10:40 - 11:00 - Coffee Break

11:00 - **Keynote: Maria Petrova** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Barcelona School of Economics) – Title to be announced
Chair: Natalya Naumenko

12:00 - 13:00 - Lunch

Session 6: Aggression, Sanctions and Geoeconomic Tools

Chair: Alexey Makarin

13:00 - **Alena Corbuntsova** (University of Chicago) – The Domestic Political Economy of War: Evidence from Russia
Discussant: Lorenzo Trimarchi (University of Namur)

13:40 - **Andrey Tkachenko** (Nazarbayev University) – Speaking the Aggressor's Language: Identity and Sanctions Evasion
Discussant: Konstantin Egorov (University of Antwerp)

14:20 - 14:30 - Closing remarks

