



**Cold War Research Group
Lecture and Seminar Series**

8-9/10/2018



FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University



**Institute for the Study
of Strategic Regions**
Charles University

CWRG | Cold War Research Group
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About CWRG

Cold War Research Group (CWRG) was established in January 2017 as a part of the Institute for the Study of Strategic Regions that is a Charles university platform for an excellent transdisciplinary research. CWRG explores the role of Czechoslovakia and other former Eastern Bloc countries in the Cold War with the special emphasis on Czechoslovak activities in the “Third World”. It works with the newest trends and approaches in the Cold War history research using primary sources from recently opened archives.

Research Activities

In the past two decades, new approaches have emerged in Cold War research, which have chosen a different viewpoint on this conflict of over 40 years, whose impacts still have significant influence on the character and development of our modern world. The earlier developed international history, transnational history or global history was joined especially by the New Cold War History, which in its methods uses documents from former Eastern Bloc and other socialist countries. With these documents, some aspects of the Cold War conflict are being re-assessed and re-interpreted. This makes it very different from the older approaches that portrayed the Cold War almost exclusively through the lens of the bipolar relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union, in which the other actors did not play a significant part.

The CWRG is based on the above-mentioned trends in current research of the Cold War and focuses on different level of relations between the socialist countries and their foreign policy in a global perspective of the Cold War (special emphasis will be on Czechoslovakia and its activities in the “Third World”). The research group will continue its cooperation with foreign research centres, especially with the Cold War International History Project (CWHP) at the Wilson Center in the United States and Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU). The aim of the research activity will be the preparation of grant projects, which would help further expand the group’s activities (organizing workshops and conferences) and develop international cooperation.



**Cold War Cultural Lines:
The Congress for Cultural Freedom,
the Obor Foundation, and the Cam-
paign to Create a Liberal Public
Sphere in SE Asia**

Giles Scott-Smith (Leiden University)

8/10/2018

Cold War Cultural Lines: The Congress for Cultural Freedom, the Obor Foundation, and the Campaign to Create a Liberal Public Sphere in SE Asia

The seminar will cover the campaign of the Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF) to establish a global liberal intellectual community as part of the Cold War contest of ideas with the communist world. A central part of this campaign were the many journals set up or supported by the CCF around the world, some of which still exist today. The seminar will discuss the research on those journals from the recent book, *Campaigning Culture and the Global Cold War*, and then look in detail at one of the most interesting developments that came out of the CCF campaign – the Obor Foundation of Ivan Katz, and the attempt to pursue the CCF agenda by other means in SE Asia from the 1970s onwards.

Venue: room P302a (main building of the Faculty of Arts, Nam. Jana Palacha 2)

Date: 8 October, 5 p.m.



**Looking for Lagonia: On “Imaginary
Bridges” and Cold War Boundaries**

Giles Scott-Smith (Leiden University)

9/10/2018

Looking for Lagonia: On ‘Imaginary Bridges’ and Cold War Boundaries

On 28 May 1987 the West German teenager Matthias Rust took off in his single-engined Cessna from Helsinki’s Malmi airport and headed out over the Gulf of Finland. Within half an hour he changed course, heading instead for the Estonian coast. Several hours later he landed his plane on Red Square, the centre of Moscow. His escapade caused a sensation and had major political ramifications in the Soviet Union. This lecture looks at Rust’s background, his motivation, and how we might interpret its meaning within Europe’s experience of the Cold War.

Venue: room P301 (main building of the Faculty of Arts, Nam. Jana Palacha 2)

Date: 9 October, 9:15 a.m.,

Prof. Giles Scott-Smith holds the Ernst van der Beugel Chair in Transatlantic Diplomatic History during the 20th Century at Leiden University, and is the Academic Director of the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies in Middelburg, The Netherlands. From 2013-2016 he was Chair of the Transatlantic Studies Association. In 2017, as one of the organisers of the New Diplomatic History network (<http://www.newdiplomatichistory.com>), he became one of the founding editors of *Diplomatica: A Journal of Diplomacy and Society* published with Brill. He is co-editor for the Key Studies in Diplomacy book series with Manchester University Press. His most recent publications include *Campaigning Culture and the Global Cold War: The Journals of the Congress for Cultural Freedom* (ed. with Charlotte Lerg), Palgrave, 2017, *Global Exchanges: Scholarships and Transnational Circulations in the Modern World* (ed. with Ludovic Tournes), Berghahn, 2017, and *Global Perspectives on the Bretton Woods Conference and the Post-War World Order* (ed. with J. Simon Rofe), Palgrave, 2017.

