

From Destalinization to the Global Sixties: The Baltic Union Republics in the 1950s–1960s

International Workshop

24–25 November 2018

Tartu, Estonia

Call for Papers

Baltic history writing of the contemporary period has largely been focused on World War II and postwar Stalinism whereas internationally research on the Soviet Union has moved towards the 1950s–1960s. Destalinization, normalization and the phenomena of the Global Sixties have increasingly come into the spotlight. Since some developments started already during Stalinism, the early 1950s are the best starting point. During the 1950s–1960s the USSR changed enormously from a terroristic and extremely poor dictatorship into an authoritarian regime with modest social guarantees attempting to create a consumer society. This profound change has largely escaped the attention of Baltic scholars. The three Baltic republics offer a fine opportunity to research those developments in detail. The workshop aims at bringing together scholars and PhD-students working on the history of the region during the 1950s–1960s and to overcome the isolation of national historiography. Fields to be covered might be:

- Political History
- Social and Economic History
- Culture & Media
- Dissidence
- Impact of the Different Reforms
- International Contacts
- Legacy of the 1950s–1960s in the Region

A preliminary version of the paper should be distributed to all participants in advance. During the workshop the major themes of the paper should be presented in 20 minutes. Time will be left for extensive discussion. It is the intent of the organizers of the workshop to publish a selection of the papers afterwards. The workshop will be held at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Board and accommodation and part of the travel expenses will be covered for all paper presenters. We encourage especially PhD-students to propose papers.

The workshop is organized by the Institute of History and Archaeology of the University of Tartu, Estonia, and supported by basic funding of the University of Tartu.

Please send your proposal for a paper (250–300 words) and a short CV no later than 1 August 2018, by e-mail, to the organizers Dr Olaf Mertelsmann (omertelsmann@yahoo.co.uk) and Dr Kaarel Piirimäe (kaarel.piirimae@ut.ee).