



Nkrita, Russian Samizdat and Photo Negatives of Soviet Unofficial Literature, Moscow, 2017, (Wikimedia Commons). https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Russian_samizdat_and_photo_negatives_of_unofficial_literature_in_the_USSR.jpg.

Transnational Book Diplomacy in the Cultural Cold War: Soft Power, Networks and Tamizdat

25 June 2026, 10.00-18.00

Sala B, Ca' Bernardo - Dorsoduro 3199

9.30 Institutional Greetings

Stefano PETRUNGARO (DSLCC Delegate for Research, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

9.45-10.45 Keynote speech by **Simo MIKKONEN** (University of Eastern Finland) *Circumventing Moscow: How Artists and Professionals Learned to Play the Game of Cultural Exchange*

11.00-12.00 I SESSION

Book Diplomacy and Human Rights Networks

Esmail HADDADIAN-MOGHADDAM (Independent scholar), *What Is Book Diplomacy and How to Study It*

Bent BOEL (Aalborg University), *Western Support for Soviet Bloc Dissidents during the Cold War: in Search of a Narrative?*

Birgitte BECK PRISTED (Aarhus University), *Intergenerational Justice Among Past, Present, and Future Dissidents: The Children's Book Publisher Samokat and Andrei Sakharov's Biography*

Chair & Discussant: **Duccio BASOSI** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

12.00-12.30 Discussion and Q&A

12.45-13.50 Lunch break

14.00-15.00 II SESSION

Tamizdat in Central and Eastern Europe

Brian GOODMAN (Arizona State University, Central European University), *From Behind a Star: Rita Klímová, Philip Roth, and the Story of a Tamizdat Novel*

Cristina PETRESCU (University of Bucharest), *Transnational Free Thinking in the Pre-Digital Era of the Cold War. A Romanian Tamizdat and Its Twisted Story*

Krystyna WIESZCZEK (University of Verona), *British Literature in Polish Tamizdat and Samizdat: Agents, Networks, and George Orwell*

Chair & Discussant: **Tiziana D'AMICO** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

15.00-15.30 Discussion and Q&A

16.00-17.00 III SESSION

Tamizdat in the Soviet Russia

Andrea GULLOTTA (University of Palermo), *Is This How It All Began? A Survey of Proto-Tamizdat*

Ann KOMAROMI (University of Toronto), *Robert Bernstein's Muse: Andrei Sakharov and the Publication of His Memoirs by Random House*

Stanislav SAVITSKII (University of Tübingen),

Andrei Bitov's Pushkin House Between Samizdat and Tamizdat

Chair & Discussant: **Ilaria SICARI** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

17.00-17.30 Discussion and Q&A

17.30-18.00 presentation of the forthcoming special issue **The Production, Circulation and Reception of Soviet Underground Culture in Italy from a Transnational Perspective** (Enthymema, No. 39, 2026), edited by Ilaria Sicari.

18.00 Conclusive remarks

19.30 Social dinner

Registration for online participation: [link](#)

Convener: **Ilaria Sicari** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

Scientific Committee: **Duccio Basosi, Evgeny Dobrenko, Stefano Petrungaro** and **Ilaria Sicari** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

Sponsors and Partnerships: **Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies** (DSLCC, Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and the **European Union** (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF, TAMIZDAT – 101109157).