



Not Rifles But Books

The Tamizdat in the Cultural Cold War and Beyond

24-25 June, 2026
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

24 June 2026, 10.00-13.00

Aula Berengo, Ca' Foscari - Dorsoduro 3246, Venezia

Workshop

Collecting, Structuring and Visualizing Data: New Horizons of Slavic DH

Ilaria SICARI (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *Mapping the Topography of Cold War Culture: Sources, Methods and Outcomes*

Valeriia KOROTKOVA (Stanford University), *From Physical Object to Structured Data*

Georgii KOROTKOV (Stanford University), *Beyond the Box: Reading the Visual Grammar of the Soviet Journal Page*

Chair: **Franz FISCHER** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

13.10-14.45 Lunch break

24 June 2026, 15.00-18.00

Sala B, Ca' Bernardo - Dorsoduro 3199, Venezia

Round table and vernissage

The Biennale of Cultural Dissent (Venice, 1977).

Non-Conformist Soviet, Central and Eastern European Visual Arts, Cinema, Music and Literature

15.00-17.30 round table

Matteo BERTELE (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *Soviet and Eastern European Visual Arts*

Giulia DE FLORIO (University of Parma), *Soviet and Eastern European Music*

Stefano PISU (University of Cagliari), *Soviet and Eastern European Cinema*

Ilaria SICARI (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *Soviet and Eastern European Literature*

17.30-18.00 vernissage

Opening of **Tamizdat@Ca'Foscari**

An interactive and digital exhibition curated by **Ilaria Sicari** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) in collaboration with **Valeriia Korotkova** (Stanford University), **Georgii Korotkov** (Stanford University), the **University Library of Foreign Languages and Literatures** (BALI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice), the **Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies** (DSLCC, Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and the **Venice Centre for Digital and Public**

Humanities (VeDPH, Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

18.30 Visit to the exhibition at Ca' Foscari Zattere (Dorsoduro 1392, Fondamenta Zattere, Venezia)

19.00 Spritz & Cicchetti

25 June 2026, 10.00-18.00

Sala B, Ca' Bernardo - Dorsoduro 3199, Venezia

International Conference

Transnational Book Diplomacy in the Cultural Cold War:

Soft Power, Networks and Tamizdat

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, Franz Fischer, 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), **University Library of Foreign Languages and Literatures** (BALI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice), **Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities** (VeDPH, Ca' Foscari University of Venice), **Association of Italian Slavists (AIS)** and the **European Union** (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF, TAMIZDAT – 101109157).