



### Organised by

Ca' Foscari University of Venice and the  
University of Sheffield, with generous financial  
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### Organizing Committee

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The conference is part of the activities of the  
research group "Ideas, Languages, Politics:  
Metamorphoses in Space and Time" within the  
"Progetto di Eccellenza" of the Department  
of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies  
of Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

Vitaly Komar and Alexander Malamid. Yalta Conference  
(From the Nostalgic Socialist Realism series, 1982)

International conference

# COMPARATIVE AESTHETICS OF DICTATORSHIPS

**5-6 September 2024**

Aula Mario Baratto, Ca' Foscari  
University of Venice Dorsoduro 3246

## 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

10.00-12.30

### Institutional Greetings

#### Panel 1. Aesthetic Regimes

Moderator: **Evgeny Dobrenko**

**Boris Groys** (European Graduate School, Saas-Fee, Switzerland), *Richard Wagner's Gesamtkunstwerk as Celebration of the Death of the Dictator*

**Simonetta Falasca Zamponi** (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA), *Revisiting Aesthetic Politics: Italian Fascism and Beyond*

**António Costa Pinto** (University of Lisbon, Portugal), *Dictators and the Aesthetics of "Organic Representation" in the Era of Fascism*

12.30-14.00 Lunch

#### 14.00-16.00 Panel 2. Between Image and Symbol

Moderator: **Henk de Berg**

**Alessandra Antola Swan** (Royal Holloway, University of London, UK), *Dictators Made in the Darkroom: The Artful Construction of Mussolini and Hitler's Images – Regime Aesthetics in Propaganda Photographs*

**Jae-Cheon Lim** (Korea University, Sejong, Republic of Korea), *Political Power Aestheticized in the Mount Paektu Symbol in North Korea*

**Xudong Zhang** (New York University, USA), *Transforming the Human Sphere: The Political Ontology and Aesthetic Strategies of Cultural Production of Mao's China (and Before and After)*

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

#### 16.30-18.30 Panel 3. Populism and Media

Moderator: **Alessandro Farsetti**

**Henk de Berg** (University of Sheffield, UK), *Populist Rallies and How They Work: On the Relation between Politics, Entertainment, Community, and Faux Empowerment*

**Anna Camaiti Hostert** (Tor Vergata University of Rome), *Trump and Mussolini: Ideology, Propaganda, Media*

**Marco Morini** (Sapienza University of Rome), *Trump, Berlusconi, and the Media*

19.00 Conference Dinner

## 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

10.00-12.30 **Panel 4. Sites**

Moderator: **Henk de Berg**

**Francesca Billiani** (University of Manchester, UK), *Fascist Architecture as a Methodological and Theoretical Space*

**Antonio Cazorla-Sanchez** (Trent University, Peterborough, Canada), *The Aesthetics of Utopia in Franco's Model Villages, 1939-1975*

**David Imhoof** (Susquehanna University of Pennsylvania, Selinsgrove, USA), *The Local Dictatorship: How Culture Built Nazism in One German City between the World Wars*

**Xosé-M. Núñez Seixas** (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain), *How to Deal with the Body of the Tyrant: Mausoleums and the Cult of Dead Dictators in Post-1945 Europe*

12.30-14.00 Lunch

#### 14.00-16.30 Panel 5. Performances

Moderator: **Alessandro Farsetti**

**Wolfram Pyta** (University of Stuttgart, Germany), *Hindenburg and Hitler: Two Types of Charismatic Leadership*

**Evgeny Dobrenko** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *Stalin: Legitimacy, Ceremony, and the Rhetoric of the Communist Ruler (Towards a Diachronic Aesthetics)*

**Mark Lipovetsky** (Columbia University, USA), *Motley but Deadly: Aesthetics of Putin Era's Neoliberal Neototalitarianism*

**Victoria Clement** (Marine Corps University, Quantico, USA), *Farewell Lenin: Dangerous Discourses and Extravagant Expressions of Power in Eurasia*

### Concluding Remarks