

The Wider Arc of Revolution: The Global Impact of 1917

The conference, *The Wider Arc of Revolution: The Global Impact of 1917*, in commemoration of the hundred-year anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, will be held under the auspices of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, on October 26-27, 2017. The conference will feature two keynote speakers (Sheila Fitzpatrick and Lisa Kirschenbaum), and will consist of a series of panels convened over the course of two days in which we will discuss pre-circulated papers submitted by participants.

The essays will be published in three volumes by Slavica Press as part of the transnational project entitled *Russia's Great War and Revolution* (<http://russiasgreatwar.org/index.php>), as well as in a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary History*. The Slavica three-volume project on the global impact of the Russian Revolution rescues the history of the left from the history of Soviet communism. The revolution of 1917 brought not just the Bolshevik Party to power, but also made communism, a profoundly oppositional ideology, into an ideology of the state. The merging of state and revolution resulted in the hybrid political structure that was the Soviet Union, where the interests of the state, i.e. the consolidation of power, modernization, welfare, as well as the defense of geographical borders, collided with a universal ideology that aimed to represent all of humanity. As the Soviet state grew in power and the Communist International slowly subsumed independent left-wing organizations, the original impulses of anarchist, populist, feminist and socialist thought, revolutionary consciousness and behavior, and the emotional networks of sympathizers, donors, and fellow travelers that sustained the ecology of the left in the nineteenth and early twentieth century never really died, but went underground, emerging in different locales in different guises. The fight was a long and bitter one and in our conference the participants will consider the "the wider arc of revolution" in the twentieth century.

The conference has been organized by Mary Neuburger (University of Texas, Austin), Choi Chatterjee (California State University, Los Angeles), Steven Marks (Clemson University) and Steve Sabol (University of North Carolina, Charlotte).