

International Conference

“Latvia – A Work in Progress? 100 Years of State and Nation-building”

December 5-6, 2013

A quarter century after the formation of the Popular Front and a decade since joining the EU, processes of state and nation-building in Latvia are still on-going. Issues such as citizenship, language policy, minority rights, democratic legitimacy, economic stability and security all remain the object of vigorous public discussion. The current situation reflects in turn longer-standing debates over the course of the past century concerning the relationship between state, nation and sovereignty in the context of Latvian society and polity. By examining different aspects of this relationship this conference will seek to reveal both key turning points and continuities in its development and thereby help to inform current debates.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 5 December

UCRS Library, Third Floor, Gamla Torget 3, Uppsala

8.30 Registration and Coffee

9.30 Welcome

10.00-11.30 Panel 1. Birth of a Nation State

Chair

David Smith (Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies)

Andrejs Plakans (Iowa State University): ‘Death and Transfiguration: Reflections on World War I and the Birth of the Latvian State’

Matthew Kott (Uppsala University): ‘The Roots of Radicalism: Persistent Problems of Class and Ethnicity in Latvia’s Politics’

Marina Germane (Uppsala Forum Visiting Fellow): ‘Latvians as a Civic Nation – the Interwar Experiment’

11.30-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-14.30 Panel 2. Ideologies of Statehood

Chair

Matthew Kott (Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies)

Deniss Hanovs (Riga Stradiņš University): ‘Directing the Nation – Performing Community: The Nationalism Discourse of the Latvian Authoritarian Regime, 1934–1940’

Geoff Swain (University of Glasgow): ‘“Why Not Join the Party?”: The Limits of National Communism in 1959’

Irēna Saleniece (Daugavpils University): ‘“At first we missed our Latvia...”: Adapting to Soviet Reality in Late Socialism’

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-16.30 Panel 3. Re-Emergent Latvia

Chair

Li Bennich-Björkman (Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies)

Ieva Zaķe (Rowan University): ‘Latvians in Exile and Conceptions of Latvian State’

Una Bergmane (Sciences Po, Paris): ‘International Reactions to the Independence of the Baltic States: The French Example, 1989–1991’

Olga Procevska (University of Latvia): ‘Latvia: Mission, Vision and Values. The Perspective of Public Intellectuals in the Late 1980s – Early 1990s’

Friday, 6 December

UCRS Library, Third Floor, Gamla Torget 3, Uppsala

9.00-11.00 Panel 4. Post-Independence Transitions

Chair

Matthew Kott (Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies)

Svetlana Djačkova (Latvian Centre for Human Rights): ‘Accommodating Minorities within a Nationalising State: The Linguistic Aspect’

Geoffrey Pridham (University of Bristol): ‘Post-Soviet Latvia: A Consolidated Democracy in the Third Decade of Independence?’

Daina Eglītis (George Washington University): ‘Gender, Family, and Work: Key Trends After Independence’

Li Bennich-Björkman (Uppsala University): ‘Citizenship and Geopolitical Belonging (Title TBC)’

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-13.15 Panel 5. Convergence, Europeanisation, Globalisation

Chair

David Smith (Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies)

Aldis Purs (University of Washington): ‘The Unbearable Expectation of Convergence: Episodes in the Economic Development of Latvia’

Ammon Cheskin (University of Glasgow): ‘Identity and Integration of Russian-Speakers in Latvia: A Framework for Analysis’

Alf Vanags (Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies): ‘Latvia Joins the Euro: What Next?’

Pēteris Timofejevs Henriksson (Uppsala University) ‘The Europeanisation of Latvia’s Public Policy’

13.15-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-16.00 Panel 6. Concluding Roundtable of All Speakers

Chair

Li Bennich-Björkman (Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies)

16.00 Closing