



SEMINAR

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15.00

”Transforming the Orient” - the Soviet discourses of ”culturalization” and ”emancipation of women” (1920s-1930s)

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My presentation is dedicated to the Soviet politics of “culturalization” and “emancipation” of non-Orthodox and non-Russian women of the former Russian empire (with focus on the Volga-Ural region) during 1920s-1930s. The discourse on bringing culture, emancipation and modernization “to the backward peripheries” was very significant for creating one of the important and still powerful in Russia myths confirming the greatness of the “Soviet past.” According to this discourse, the Soviet government and the Russian people kindly “helped” to the “backward nations” to become modern and, not least, seriously improved the situation of women in the “backwards societies” where woman was in the position of a slave. Applying decolonial theory approach to the analysis of the archive documents, early Soviet films and mass publications I explore how the “emancipation” and “culturalization” of women of “culturally backward nations” was practiced and presented for the mass Soviet audience. I also place the Soviet efforts on “emancipation” into a broader comparative perspective.

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