A series of talks: “Social histories of the Russian revolution”

Last Thursday of the month (usually), 6.30 pm, for a year from October 2016
Dreyfus Room (2.02), Birkbeck, University of London, 28 Russell Square,
London WC1B 5DQ (5 mins Russell Sq tube, 12 mins Holborn tube)

2016
Oct 27 – Steve Smith (University of Oxford): The Social History of the
Russian Revolution and Civil War, 1917-1921
Nov 24 – Brendan McGeever (Birkbeck): Antisemitism and the Russian
Revolution
Dec 15 – Andy Willimott (Reading University): Living the Revolution:
Communes in 1920s Russia and the Invention of a Socialist Lifestyle

2017
Jan 26 – Sarah Badcock (Nottingham University): Kaleidoscopes of
revolution: Russia’s 1917 revolutions in regional perspective
Feb 23 – Katy Turton (Queens University, Belfast): Women in Revolt: the
female experience of the 1917 revolutions
March 16 – George Gilbert (Southampton University): The Radical Right and
the Russian Revolution
March 30 – Dmitry Tolkatsch (University of Freiburg, Germany): The
Ukrainian Peasant Insurgency in the Revolutionary Period

April 27 – Chris Read (Warwick University): The Social History of the
Revolutionary Period
May 25 – Barbara Allen (La Salle University, USA): Alexander Shlyapnikov
and the Russian Metalworkers in 1917
June 29 – Don Filtzer (University of East London): The Working Class and the
First Five-year Plan, 1928-32
Sep 28 – Wendy Goldman (Carnegie Mellon University, USA): Taking Power:
Remaking the Family, Levelling Wages, Planning the Economy
Oct 12 – Lara Cook (University of York): Local Soviets in 1917-18 and their
Relations with the Central Executive Committee
Oct 26 – Debate on the broader issues. (Speakers TBC, including Simon
Pirani (author of The Russian Revolution in Retreat 1920-1924))
Nov 23 – Gleb Albert (University of Zurich): Early Soviet Society and World
Revolution, 1917-27

All are welcome to this monthly series of discussion meetings, timed to take
place during the run-up to the centenary of Russia’s revolutions of 1917.
Each discussion will be opened by historians, scholars working in academia who have spent many years studying the revolution in the Russian archives. But these are not academic seminars – they are open to all who share our interest in the history of the Russian revolution as a landmark struggle for social liberation. At each discussion there will be an opening talk of about 30 minutes, followed by open debate.

The emphasis in the discussion meetings will be on the social histories of
the revolution – that is, how it was experienced by the mass of working people who participated.

By taking this approach we aim not to brush aside the role of political leaders, and their disputes and decisions, but rather to move beyond these well-known debates and reach a deeper understanding of the revolution as the active participation of millions of people in changing history.

We hope that by developing our theme over a year of meetings, we will be able collectively to engage in serious thinking and re-thinking about the revolution and its significance for our past and present.

Organised by the Russian History Study Group
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