

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

Last Thursday of the month (usually), 6.30 pm. University of London, (check socialhistories1917.wordpress.com for details of rooms)

This month’s talk. Thursday February 23 – Katy Turton

(Queens University, Belfast): Women in Revolt: the female experience of the 1917 revolutions

Room LG04, 26 Bedford Way, University College London (UCL), London WC1H 0AP.



Russia 1917. "If woman is a slave, there will be no freedom. Long live the equality of women"

And coming up. 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

/PTO for more dates

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 – Gleb Albert (University of Zurich): Early Soviet Society and World Revolution, 1917-27

Oct 12 – Lara Cook (University of York): Local Soviets in 1917-18 and their Relations with the Central Executive Committee

Oct 26 – 1917 A Century On: A Debate. Speakers TBC, including Steve Smith (University of Oxford) and Simon Pirani (author of The Russian Revolution in Retreat 1920-1924)

Nov 30 – Wendy Goldman (Carnegie Mellon University, USA): The Family, Free Love, and the Russian Revolution

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 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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Updates, and recordings of past talks: socialhistories1917.wordpress.com/