

Theatre, globalisation and illiberal regimes after 1989

A workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

The war in the Ukraine has highlighted the globalising propensities of non-democratic states such as Russia, China and Iran. There is a strong sense that illiberal, global interconnections are being (re)forged. These alternative globalisations are reflected in the dynamics of specific theatre cultures and are rooted in the trans-continental links established during the Cold War.

Patterns developed since the 1970s have carried over into the post-1989 period. Western-guided globalisation has hardly been 'the only game in town' in recent decades. The workshop therefore raises the fundamental question of how to approach theatre history and non-Western-centric interconnectedness after 1989.

Practitioners and scholars will gather to discuss the relationship between global trajectories of illiberal regimes and their theatre cultures following the Cold War. The workshop engages with a variety of cases from the illiberal spectrum – from one-party states to theocracies and various forms of authoritarianism (competitive or one-person rule). The proceedings will focus on genealogies, commonalities and differences among various global engagements. We explore the role of theatre in the international configuration of illiberalisms in the post-Cold War world.

Image: Andreea Chiriță

Your participation is understood to imply consent to photographic and video recordings for internal purposes, scholarly communication and publicity. Should you have any concerns, please contact Sophie Eisenried at sophie.eisenried@lmu.de.

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Concept and organisation:
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**7-8
September
2023**

7 September

14:00 – 14:30 Registration

14:30 – 15:30 Introduction & keynote

Workshop introduction
Viviana Iacob (gd:c fellow)

Theatre and illiberal democracies:
institutional (dis)continuities
Christopher Balme (gd:c director)

15:30 – 16:10 Q&A

16:10 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Panel 1 Bridging socialist and illiberal theatre

First session
Independent theatre in China: a case study
Christoph Lepschy (Mozarteum University Salzburg)

Tamed voices in clash
Ziad Adwan (TANWEEN Company for Theatre and Dance)

17:10 – 17:20 Break

Second session
Comparing socialist and illiberal theatre policy
Róbert Takács (Institute of Political History, Budapest)

A bastion of Enlightenment between freedom and repression:
the Influence of illiberal forces on the independent
performing arts in Europe
Thomas Fabian Eder (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

18:00 – 18:40 Discussion

Moderator: *Nic Leonhardt (gd:c fellow)*

8 September

10:00 – 11:00 Panel 2 Theatre as counter-culture

Akram Khan in Hong Kong *via Zoom*
Rashna Darius Nicholson (The University of Hong Kong)

An enemy of culture: theatre and
Iran's Islamic Republic policies after 1989
Azadeh Ganjeh (University of Hildesheim)

The post-Cold War politics and aesthetics of Islamic theatre
in Turkey and its connected geographies
Gamze Tosun (Kadir Has University, Istanbul)

11:00 – 11:45 Discussion

Moderator: *Olya Petrakova (Exeter University)*

11:45 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Panel 3 Experiment and illiberal politics

Staging other Russias: reassessing the theatre laboratory
in Putin's regime
Bryan Brown (Exeter University)

Performing social and political criticism through metaphors
Andreea Chiriță (University of Bucharest)

Tracing the cultural economy of indigeneity: a case study
of the theatricalisation of an exorcism ritual *via Zoom*
Devika N Menon (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

14:00 – 14:45 Discussion

Moderator: *Róbert Takács (Institute of Political History,
Budapest)*

14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 16:00 Concluding remarks
Plans for the future