YCIE

Summer School

Constructing Soviet Difference: Culture and Society

June 29–July 8, 2026
Gyumri, Armenia

PROGRAM

WEEK 1
June 29–July 5

WEEK 2
July 6–8

WEEK 1 (JUNE 29–JULY 5)

DAY 1 / 29.06.2026 / MONDAY

14:00–15:30	Welcome and Introductions
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:30	Session 1. Lecture **Michael Kunichika – Early Soviet Cinema and the Moment of Anti-Imperialism**
18:00	Dinner

DAY 2 / 30.06.2026 / TUESDAY

09:30–11:00	Session 1. Lecture **Mollie Arbuthnot – Revolutionary Property: Objects and Ownership in Russia and Central Asia, 1917–24**
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–13:00	Session 2. Seminar **Michael Kunichika – Cinematic Dimensions of the Nationalities Question**
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Session 3. Lecture **Serguei Oushakine – I. "Factories Want to Be Beautiful, Too": How Soviet Workers Discovered Aesthetics After Stalin**

15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:30	Session 4. Seminar **Mollie Arbuthnot – Revolutionary Property: Objects and Ownership in Russia and Central Asia, 1917–24**
18:00–19:30	Travel to Gyumri
19:30–20:00	Check-In
20:00	Dinner

DAY 3 / 01.07.2026 / WEDNESDAY

09:30–11:00	Session 1. Seminar **Serguei Oushakine – II. Material Attachments and Long-Term Things**
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–13:00	Session 2. **Introduction to student projects I**
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Session 3. **Introduction to student projects II**
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–19:00	Session 4. Lecture + City Walkthrough **Gayane Shagoyan – Can Subalterns Make Jokes? Laughter Culture in Modern Cities: The Case of Gyumri**

19:30	Welcome Dinner

DAY 4 / 02.07.2026 / THURSDAY

09:30–11:00	Session 1. Lecture **Rebecca Reich – The Many Languages of Soviet Dissent**
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–13:00	Session 2. **Reading Time**
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Session 3. Seminar **Rebecca Reich – Psychiatric Diagnosis and Dissident Language**
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:30	Session 4. Seminar **Masha Salazkina – Transnational Approaches to (post)socialist Culture**
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Film Screening **Ali-Baba and Forty Thieves (India/USSR, Umesh Mehra and Latif Faziev, 1980)**

DAY 5 / 03.07.2026 / FRIDAY

09:30–11:00	Session 1. Lecture **Kevin Platt – Global Cultural Exchange in the Age of Three Worlds: Art and Arbitrage from Mexico to Moscow**
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–13:00	Session 2. Seminar **Masha Salazkina – Film (Co)Productions and Music Cultures of Late Global Socialism: Ali-Baba and Forty Thieves (India/USSR, Umesh Mehra and Latif Faziev, 1980)**
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Session 3. Seminar **Kevin Platt – Cultural Arbitrage in Action**
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:30	Session 4. Lecture **Bradley Gorski – Soviet Subcultures and the Discourse Trap**
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Film Screening **Stilyagi, Valery Todorovsky, 2008**

DAY 6 / 04.07.2026 / SATURDAY

09:30–11:00	Session 1. Lecture **Oleg Kharkhordin – The History of the Concept of Society (Obshchestvo) in Russian**
11:00–11:30	Coffee Break
11:30–13:00	Session 2. Seminar **Bradley Gorski – Soviet Subcultures and the Post-Soviet Subject**
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:30	Session 3. Seminar **Oleg Kharkhordin – What Happened to Soviet Individualization Practices During the Last 30 Years?**
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:30	Session 4. Lecture **Jochen Hellbeck – Ilya Ehrenburg and the Making of Sovietness**
19:00	Barbecue party

DAY OFF / 05.07.2026 / SUNDAY

19:00	Dinner

WEEK 2 (JULY 6-8)

DAY 8 / 06.07.2026 / MONDAY

09:30-11:00	Session 1. Seminar **Jochen Hellbeck - "Ilya in Alabama": Revisiting Ehrenburg's 1946 trip to the United States**
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Session 2. **Reading Time**
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Session 3. Lecture **Jeanne Kormina - Dead Bodies and Living Sovereignty: The Politics of Soviet Afterlives**
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:30	Session 4. Lecture **Ekaterina Melnikova - Soviet Alarms: Infrastructures of Danger and Rescue in the Late USSR**
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Film Screening **Private Chronicles. Monologue, Vitaly Mansky, 1999**

DAY 9 / 07.07.2026 / TUESDAY

09:30-11:00	Session 1. Seminar **Jeanne Kormina - Who Owns the Dead? or Competing Epistemologies of (Post-Soviet) Truth**
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Session 2. Lecture **Yulia Antonyan - Intermediary Elites: Armenian Provincial Intelligentsia and the Construction of Soviet Cultural Difference**
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Session 3. Seminar **Ekaterina Melnikova - Sounding the Alarm: Rescue and Preservation**
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:30	Session 4. Round-up Workshop **The Future of the Field**
19:00	Farewell Dinner

DAY 10 / 08.07.2026 / WEDNESDAY

10:00-11:00	Closing Ceremony
11:00-12:00	Packing and Check Out
12:00-13:30	Return to Yerevan

YCIE

Photo Credit: Soviet Mosaics in Armenia by Armenian Explorer.

3 Aram Khachatryan,
0033 Yerevan, Armenia

Tel: +374 55 31 05 22
info@yerevancenter.org

© 2026 Yerevan Center for International Education