

# 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: Urban Communes in 1920s Russia and the Invention of a Socialist Lifestyle



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

## 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

/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 – 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  
Coordinating group: William Dixon, Brendan McGeever, Simon Pirani

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