

## **International Workshop: The Game of the Peoples? Historical perspectives on football in Russia: politics, culture, economy**

### *Time and place*

13 - 14 June 2018

German Historical Institute Moscow, ul. Vorontsovskaya, 8b7, Moscow

### *Organizers*

Matthias Uhl, German Historical Institute (Moscow)

Manfred Zeller, Research Centre for East European Studies (Bremen)

Football was labeled “the game of the peoples” (*narodnaja igra*) in Russia and the Soviet Union. From the 1930s, it was the most popular sport and sources demonstrate that this label also dates back to that decade. Which “peoples” does it refer to though? What role did football serve with regard to political representation in the union of soviets? What were its socio-cultural implications and did it have a role in economic value creation? What is the legacy of Soviet football in the post-Soviet era?

Above all, the history of Russian football is a European history. British specialists introduced the game to the emerging industrial centers of Moscow and St. Petersburg in the late nineteenth century. After World War One, the Russian Revolution, and the Civil War, football was transformed into an urban mass event in the more open climate of the New Economic Policy. By the 1930s, an evermore professional Soviet sport began to reach beyond state borders via international friendlies and exhibition matches. Soviet sides used such games to measure their progress. This impulse towards global interaction is important, because – arguably – it contradicted the established premises underpinning Soviet order and foreign policy during the twentieth century.

However, the history of football in Russia and the Soviet Union also sheds light on the inner-history of multi-ethnic states. From the foundation of the Soviet football league in 1936, Moscow sides dominated the championship: these were Dinamo Moscow, the team of the NKVD and later the Ministry of Interior, CDKA (since 1960 CSKA), the team of the Red Army, and Spartak, initially a district team from Krasnaia Presnia. In the late Soviet period, however, the character of Soviet football changed, as successful teams from other Soviet republics – above all, Dinamo Kiev, Ararat Yerevan, Shakhtar Donetsk and Dinamo Tbilisi – rose to the challenge. Football evolved into a sphere in which citizens and functionaries could and did articulate intra-Soviet antagonisms through Soviet discourse.

This workshop will discuss the multitude of antagonisms and tensions that influenced the game at the international and intra-Soviet level, as well as the ways in which football’s history intersected with the Soviet Union’s political, socio-cultural and economic history. Historical research rarely combines these strands of analysis. How important were external impulses for the development of football as a spectator sport? How did football, as a cultural activity, translate into the complex multinational reality of Soviet society? Conversely, how did this reality shape perceptions of Soviet football – in the context of international competition and the Cold War – within the Eastern bloc and beyond? Finally, what is the legacy of Soviet football, “the game of the peoples”, the tremendous complexities of which are poorly concealed behind this term?

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### Wednesday, 13.06.

- 19:00 Welcome  
Nikolaus Katzer (Moscow)
- 19:10 Michail Prozumenshchikov (Moscow): Football as a mirror of Soviet reality
- 20:00 Reception

### Thursday, 14.06.

- 8:45 Welcome  
Matthias Uhl (Moscow)/Manfred Zeller (Bremen)

### Panel I – Origins: Football in Late Imperial Russia and the Early Soviet Union

- 09:00 Ekaterina Emeliantseva (Zürich): Sports culture in Revolutionary Russia: 1914-1922. From bourgeois elite recreation in late Tsarist Russia to patriotic mass militarization in the early Soviet Union
- 09:20 Robert Edelman (San Diego): Enterprise and Entertainment: Football in the Roaring Soviet Twenties
- 09:40 Discussant: Sergey Bondarenko (Moscow)

10:40 Coffee Break

### Panel II – Entanglement: Soviet Football within the Eastern Bloc

- 11:00 Matthias Uhl (Moscow): Between German-Soviet friendship and sporting competition - the football matches of the GDR against the Soviet Union
- 11:20 Richard Mills (Norwich): Visiting “Our Slavic Brothers” – Football Club Tours and Soviet-Yugoslav Relations in the Turbulent Cold War Years
- 11:40 Jutta Braun and Rene Wiese (Berlin): Sovietization in East German Football? Adaption and Transformation of Soviet Sport Structures
- 12:00 Discussant: Manfred Zeller (Bremen)

13:00 Lunch Break

### Panel III – Appropriation: Cultural Dimensions of Soviet Football

- 14:00 Ekaterina Glorizova (Brussels): Football Fandom in the late Soviet Union: a Subculture between Protest and Conformism
- 14:20 Sylvain Dufraisse (Nantes): Zvezdnaia Bolezn’ and Moral Crusades: What tells the Streltsov Scandal on what a Soviet football Player should be?
- 14:40 Anke Hilbrenner (Göttingen): Beyond Collaboration and Resistance – Football, Bread, and Survival in Kiev in 1942
- 15:00 Discussant: Yuri Slezkine (Berkeley)

16:00 Coffee Break

### Panel IV – Commercialization: Football between Socialism and Capitalism

- 16:20 Sandra Trapp (Herzogenaurach): „Three stripes for the Sbornaja”. How Adidas came to the Soviet Union
- 16:40 Manuel Veth (Vancouver): Selling the Peoples’ Games. Footballs Transition from Communism to Capitalism in the Soviet Union and its Successor States
- 17:00 Discussant: Matthias Uhl
- 18:00 Public Viewing (kick off: 18 h!)

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### Среда, 13.06.

- 19:00 Приветствие  
Николаус Катцер (Москва)
- 19:10 Михаил Прокуменщиков (Москва): Футбол как зеркало советской действительности
- 20:00 *Фуршет*

### Четверг, 14.06.

- 8:45 *Приветствие*  
Маттиас Уль (Москва)/Манфред Целлер (Бремен)

### Секция I – Зарождение: Футбол в позднеимперской России и в раннем Советском Союзе

- 09:00 Екатерина Емельянцева (Цюрих): Спортивная культура в революционной России: 1914-1922. От развлечения буржуазной элиты в поздней царской России к патриотической мобилизации масс в первые годы советской власти
- 09:20 Роберт Эдельман (Сан-Диего): Предприятие и развлечение: футбол в бурные 20-е гг. в Советском Союзе
- 09:40 Комментатор: Сергей Бондаренко (Москва)
- 10:40 *Кофе-брейк*

### Секция II – Усложнение: советский футбол в Восточном блоке

- 11:00 Маттиас Уль (Москва): Между германо-советской дружбой и спортивной конкуренцией – футбольные матчи ГДР против Советского Союза
- 11:20 Ричард Миллз (Норвич): Посещая «наших славянских братьев» – туры футбольных клубов и советско-югославские отношения в беспокойные годы Холодной войны
- 11:40 Ютта Браун и Рене Визе (Берлин): Советизация в футболе Восточной Германии? Адаптация и трансформация структур советского спорта
- 12:00 Комментатор: Манфред Целлер (Бремен)
- 13:00 *обед*

### Секция III – Присвоение: культурные измерения советского футбола

- 14:00 Екатерина Глориезова (Брюссель): Футбольные болельщики в позднем Советском Союзе: субкультура между протестом и конформизмом
- 14:20 Сильван Дюфрес (Нант): Звездная болезнь и моральные крестовые походы: что говорит дело Стрельцова о том, каким должен быть советский футболист?
- 14:40 Анке Хильбрэннер (Геттинген): За пределами коллаборации и сопротивления – футбол, хлеб и выживание в Киеве в 1942
- 15:00 Комментатор: Юрий Слёзкин (Беркли)
- 16:00 *Кофе-брейк*

### Panel IV – Коммерциализация: футбол между социализмом и капитализмом

- 16:20 Сандра Трапп (Херцогенаурах): «Три полоски для сборной». Как Адидас вошел в Советский Союз
- 16:40 Мануэль Вэт (Ванкувер): Торговля народными играми. Переход футбола из коммунизма в капитализм в Советском Союзе и его государствах-преемниках
- 17:00 Комментатор: Маттиас Уль
- 18:00 *наблик вьюинг (старт: 18:00!)*