

SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET IDENTITIES

Since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, questions of identity have dominated the culture not only of Russia, but of all the countries of the former Soviet bloc. This timely collection examines the ways in which cultural activities such as fiction, TV, cinema, architecture and exhibitions have addressed these questions, and also describes other cultural flashpoints, from attitudes to language to the use of passports. It discusses definitions of political and cultural nationalism, as well as the myths, institutions and practices that moulded and expressed national identity. From post-Soviet recollections of food shortages to the attempts by officials to control popular religion, it analyses a variety of unexpected and compelling topics to offer fresh insights into this key area of world culture. Illustrated with numerous photographs, it presents the results of recent research in an accessible and lively way.

MARK BASSIN is Research Professor in the History of Ideas, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University, Stockholm.

CATRIONA KELLY is Professor of Russian at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of New College, Oxford.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-63197-3 — Soviet and Post-Soviet Identities
Edited by Mark Bassin , Catriona Kelly
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET IDENTITIES

EDITED BY
MARK BASSIN
AND
CATRIONA KELLY



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-316-63197-3 — Soviet and Post-Soviet Identities
 Edited by Mark Bassin, Catriona Kelly
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316631973

© Cambridge University Press 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

First paperback edition 2016

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Soviet and post-Soviet identities / edited by Mark Bassin and Catriona Kelly.
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-01117-5

1. Russia (Federation) – Civilization. 2. Popular culture – Russia (Federation)
3. Group identity – Russia (Federation) 4. Nationalism – Russia (Federation)
- I. Bassin, Mark. II. Kelly, Catriona.

DK32.S688 2012

947–dc23

2011040511

ISBN 978-1-107-01117-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-63197-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of tables</i>	x
<i>List of contributors</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
 PART I THE STATUS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY	 I
Introduction: national subjects	
MARK BASSIN AND CATRIONA KELLY	3
1 The contradictions of identity: being Soviet and national in the USSR and after	
RONALD GRIGOR SUNY	17
2 Tales told by nationalists	
NANCY CONDEE	37
 PART II INSTITUTIONS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY	 53
3 National identity through visions of the past: contemporary Russian cinema	
BIRGIT BEUMERS	55
4 Archaizing culture: the Museum of Ethnography	
DMITRY BARANOV	73
5 Rituals of identity: the Soviet passport	
ALBERT BAIBURIN	91

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
PART III	MYTHS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY	III
6	‘If the war comes tomorrow’: patriotic education in the Soviet and post-Soviet primary school VITALY BEZROGOV	113
7	Conquering space: the cult of Yuri Gagarin ANDREW JENKS	129
8	Nation-construction in post-Soviet Central Asia SERGEI ABASHIN	150
PART IV	SPACES OF NATIONAL IDENTITY	169
9	Soviet and post-Soviet Moscow: literary reality or nightmare? DINA KHAPAEVA	171
10	From the USSR to the Orient: national and ethnic symbols in the city text of Elista ELZA-BAIR GUCHINOVA	191
11	The place(s) of Islam in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia VICTORIA ARNOLD	212
PART V	LANGUAGES OF NATIONAL IDENTITY	235
12	Language culture and identity in post-Soviet Russia: the economies of <i>mat</i> MICHAEL GORHAM	237
13	Policies and practices of language education in post-Soviet Central Asia: between ethnic identity and civic consciousness OLIVIER FERRANDO	254
14	Surviving in the time of deficit: the narrative construction of a ‘Soviet identity’ ANNA KUSHKOVA	278

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-63197-3 — Soviet and Post-Soviet Identities
Edited by Mark Bassin , Catriona Kelly
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

<i>Contents</i>	vii
PART VI CREEDS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY	297
15 Competing orthodoxies: identity and religious belief in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia CATRIONA KELLY	299
16 ‘Popular Orthodoxy’ and identity in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia: ideology, consumption and competition ALEXANDER PANCHENKO	321
17 Religious affiliation and the politics of post-Soviet identity: the case of Belarus GALINA MIAZHEVICH	341
<i>Index</i>	362

Illustrations

3.1 A scene from <i>Hipsters</i> (<i>Stiliagi</i> , Valerii Todorovskii, 2009). (Courtesy of Red Arrow Production Company.)	page 64
4.1 'Red Tea-House', from the exhibition 'Uzbeks in the Past and the Present', 1935. (Courtesy of the Russian Ethnographical Museum, St Petersburg.)	78
4.2 'Collective Farm Worker's House', from the exhibition 'Russians of the Central Black-Earth Region', 1936. (Courtesy of the Russian Ethnographical Museum, St Petersburg.)	78
7.1 One of the many thousands of leaflets dropped from aeroplanes over Soviet cities after Gagarin's flight. (Courtesy of the Unified Gagarin Memorial Museum Complex, city of Gagarin.)	131
7.2 Gagarin as the son and brother so many had lost during the war. (Courtesy of the Unified Gagarin Memorial Museum Complex, city of Gagarin.)	138
7.3 Model of a proposed palace to be built on the site where Gagarin landed just outside Saratov. (Courtesy of the Gagarin Memorial Museum, Saratov, 2007. Photograph by Andrew Jenks.)	145
9.1 Yuri Pimenov, <i>New Moscow</i> (1937). (Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow.)	173
9.2 'Glory to You, Invincible Moscow', poster for the 800th anniversary of the founding of Moscow, 1947. (Dina Khapaeva.)	175
9.3 Contrasting faces of post-Soviet Moscow. (Photographed in 2008 by Catriona Kelly.)	180
10.1 Golden Gates, Elista. (Photograph by Elza-Bair Guchinova.)	195

	<i>List of illustrations</i>	ix
10.2	The Golden Hermitage of Buddha Shakyamuni, Elista. (Photograph by Elza-Bair Guchinova.)	197
10.3	Great Patriotic War memorial ('To the Fallen Heroes'), Elista. (Photograph by Elza-Bair Guchinova.)	198
11.1	The Blue Cathedral Mosque in Kazan, under restoration. (Photographed in 2010 by Catriona Kelly.)	213
11.2	The Cathedral Mosque in Perm. (Photographed in 2009 by Victoria Arnold.)	220
11.3	The Kul Sharif Cathedral Mosque in Kazan, rebuilt in 2005. (Photographed in 2010 by Catriona Kelly.)	226
14.1	An instant meal of tinned braised meat and tinned peas. <i>Kniga o vkusnoi i zdorovoi pishche</i> [The book of tasty and nutritious food], Moscow, 1964. (Catriona Kelly.)	287
14.2	Tins of sprats and pike-perch. <i>Kniga o vkusnoi i zdorovoi pishche</i> [The book of tasty and nutritious food], Moscow, 1964. (Catriona Kelly.)	290
15.1	Still life from a closed church: an icon and smashed window-frame in the Smol'nyi Cathedral. (Photographed by the Leningrad State Restoration Workshops, 1924. Courtesy of the Institute of the History of Material Culture, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg.)	301
15.2	Church of the Trinity. (Photographed c.1937. Courtesy of the Central State Archive, St Petersburg.)	302
15.3	Church of St Anna of Kashino, St Petersburg. (Photographed by Catriona Kelly, 2008.)	310
Map 1	The Ferghana Valley	256

Tables

13.1	Ethnic distribution of the population and schoolchildren and university students per tuition language in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	<i>page</i> 259
13.2	Schools and pupils by language of education in Uzbekistan	262
13.3	Schools and pupils of Spitamen district according to language of education	267
13.4	Population ethnic distribution and school languages in Andarak (Leylek district) and Uch-Korgon (Kadamzhai district)	270
17.1	Interview sample	348

Contributors

MARK BASSIN is Research Professor of the History of Ideas at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University, Sweden. His co-edited book, *Space, Place and Power in Modern Russia: Essays in the New Spatial History*, came out in 2010.

CATRIONA KELLY is Professor of Russian at the University of Oxford and author of many works on Russian cultural history. She is currently working on *St Petersburg: Shadows of the Past*.

RONALD GRIGOR SUNY is the Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History at the University of Michigan. His many works include *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States* (1998/2011).

NANCY CONDEE is Professor at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh. Her publications on Russian culture include *The Imperial Trace: Recent Russian Cinema* (2009).

BIRGIT BEUMERS is Reader in Russian at the University of Bristol. Her many works on Russian cinema include *A History of Russian Cinema* (2009).

DMITRY BARANOV is Curator at the Russian Ethnographical Museum, St Petersburg, and works on the history of Russian ethnography and the Ethnographical Museum.

ALBERT BAIBURIN is Malkhaz Abdushelishvili Professor of Anthropology at the European University, St Petersburg. He is currently completing a study of the Soviet passport.

VITALY BEZROGOV is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Pedagogical Theory and History, Russian Academy of Education, Moscow. He specializes in the history of education and history of childhood.

ANDREW JENKS is Associate Professor of History at California State University Long Beach. He is the author of *Russia in a Box: Art and*

Identity in an Age of Revolution (2005). His biography of the first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, is to be published in 2012.

SERGEI ABASHIN is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. He is the author of *Nationalisms in Central Asia: In Search of Identity* (2007, in Russian).

DINA KHAPAEVA is a researcher at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. She has published widely on historical memory and in the field of cultural studies. The English translation of her latest book, *Nightmare: From Literary Experiments to Cultural Project*, will appear in 2012.

ELZA-BAIR GUCHINOVA is Fellow of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, and the author of many works, including *The Kalmyks* (2006, in English).

VICTORIA ARNOLD is a cultural geographer who is completing her DPhil degree, 'The Experience of Sacred Space in Post-Soviet Russia: A Geography of Orthodoxy and Islam in Perm' Krai', at Hertford College, Oxford.

MICHAEL GORHAM is Associate Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Florida and the author of *Speaking in Soviet Tongues: Language Culture and the Politics of Voice in Revolutionary Russia* (2003).

OLIVIER FERRANDO is a political sociologist at Sciences Po, Paris/CERI. He works on ethnic minorities in Central Asia (e.g. 'Manipulating the Census: Ethnic Minorities in the Nationalizing States of Central Asia').

ANNA KUSHKOVA holds a candidate's degree in anthropology at the European University, St Petersburg, and is currently a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). Her study of *salat Oliv'e* (Russian salad) appeared in the leading Moscow journal *New Literary Observer* in 2005.

ALEXANDER PANCHENKO is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Russian Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences. His books include *Khristovshchina and Skopchestvo: The Folklore and Traditional Culture of Russian Mystical Sects* (2002).

GALINA MIAZHEVICH is the Gorbachev Media Research Fellow at Christ Church, Oxford. She is working on a project examining the relationship between grass-roots xenophobia and state media in the Belarusian nation-building project.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the University of Oxford and New College, Oxford, for sponsoring the research on which a number of the contributions here draw, ‘National Identity in Russia from 1961: Traditions and Deterritorialisation’, and our collaborators on the project, in particular Andy Byford, Hilary Pilkington, Elena Omelchenko, Josephine von Zitzewitz, Victoria Donovan, Rowenna Baldwin, and Edmund Griffiths, for their lively and stimulating contributions to the debates. Helpful discussions also took place at two international conferences, ‘National Identity in Eurasia I: Identities & Traditions’, and ‘National Identity in Eurasia II: Migrancy & Diaspora’, held at New College and at Wolfson College, Oxford, in 2009, and attended by scholars from all over the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, as well as the US, Australia, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK. We are also grateful to our anonymous readers for their guidance, and to the staff at Cambridge University Press, above all Linda Bree and Maartje Scheltens, for their invaluable support during the editorial and production process.

Library of Congress transliteration is used throughout the text, except in the cases of individual words and names where an alternative transliteration has become established (glasnost, Yeltsin, Ilyumzhinov etc.).