

NEWS LETTER

The latest news and updates from the Kollektiv



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IS THIS THE END?

Will we bury our Kollektiv?

by C. Wagenaar

Dear members of the Kollektiv,

COURSES ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

We have tried to find a way around the limitations that are still in place in Moscow; with the help of our friends at the embassy, we thought it might work if the institutions and people we want to visit would be willing to receive us even though they would still be officially denied the possibility to do so. All this cost a bit of time, but now the sad news is that we will have to postpone our plan to physically visit Moscow to next year – our people in Moscow advised against attempts to pick a week in September: Dear Cor, as we observe, organisations keep postponing their events from Autumn further. So it could be that September is still close to plan an international delegation visit. (You would have been ranked as an ‘international delegation’ – how about that...)

It goes without saying that this is deeply disappointing for all of us, not in the least for my colleagues and me (everybody wanted to join), but especially for you. For me it was a super pleasant surprise to learn that so many of you were interested in visiting what is undoubtedly one of the world's most fascinating cities (and one in which the course of much of twentieth century history was decided). In terms of art and architecture, there are very few cities that can beat Moscow, and roaming the streets of this miraculous metropolis, once set afire to get rid of Napoleon's troops after they had been allowed to enter (read Tolstoy's War and Peace) is undoubtedly one of the most impressive experiences one can have – and you can keep on walking: the city has the same energizing power as its American counterpart, New York. Alas, this year we will not be able to go.

Is this the end of it? Will we bury our Kollektiv, celebrate a funerary mass of sorts and let it go? We will do no such thing.

With the help of Anastassia, whom some of you have met, the people at Strelka and the Higher School of Economics, and of course the embassy, we will set a new date, which will be sometime between the second half of June and the first week of July

Those of you who are going to finish their studies but still want to be on the list of people who will join us will have priority over those who are not yet on the list – if you're interested, give us the email address that allows us to contact you (your student address will expire)

Prior to the trip, the series of meetings that also evaporated because of the corona measures here in Groningen will take place on a regular basis. We will show movies, hope to have somebody talk about Russian literature, invite people to enlighten us on the art scene, etc. And, of course, we will have our vodka

Apart from that, I decided to dedicate a larger share of our courses to Central and Eastern Europe – the part that got cut off during a Cold War that only lasted forty years, with effects on historiography that have become semi-permanent – something we need to address.

This is a very sad note, and I postponed it hoping that more positive options would present themselves – but they didn't.

For now: all those who want to stay on board, please contact Nicky.

Enjoy the summer, hope to see you in real life – and if there are any questions or remarks, don't hesitate to contact us: c.wagenaar@rug.nl, n.bouma.4@student.rug.nl

C
