

The Emergence of New States in Eastern Europe after the First World War: Lessons for all of Europe

Debate and exhibition

DATE: 3rd of October 2019

VENUE: Satakunta museum, Hallituskatu 11, Pori, Finland

PROGRAM (for guests)

Wednesday 2nd October

18:30 Dinner in restaurant Borg (near the cinema)

20:00 Film screening in local cinema: They Shall Not Grow Old (Peter Jackson, 2018, 1 h 40 min)

Thursday 3rd October

10:00 Departure to Noormakku Works from the Satakunta Museum (Map)

10:15 Guided tour in Noormarkku Works with theme "Year 1918" (Map)

12:00 Lunch in Noormarkku Works Club

14:00 – 18:00 The event in Satakunta Museum

14:00 Opening words: Niilo Rinne, Project coordinator

14:05 Welcoming words: Juhani Ruohonen, Head of the Satakunta Museum

14:20 Keynote: Pertti Grönholm

15:30 Discussion

15:45 Opening of the exhibition: Adam Balcer, WiseEuropa

15:50 Coffee break

16:15 The Panel "*Culture, Propaganda and the Emergence of New States in Eastern Europe After the First World War*"*

17:45 Discussion

18:00 Drinks and snacks

19:00 Dinner in restaurant Raatihuoneen kellari (right next to the museum)

Friday 4th October

Recommendation to visit the Pori Art Museum

PANEL:

Chair:

Anna Sivula (University of Turku)

Panelists:

Iwona Reichardt (New Eastern Europe (journal), Poland)

Monika Kareniauskaitė (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania)

Ilva Skulte (Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia)

Vlad Vernygora (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia)

Ville Soimetsä (University of Turku, Finland)

* Culture, Propaganda and the Emergence of New States in Eastern Europe After the First World War

The Pori event of the project TENSE focuses on the cultural aspects of the emergence of new states in Eastern Europe after the First World War and discusses topics that are relevant also today in attempts to understand the relations between culture and politics. What kind of "soft" methods have been used in trying to control the historical narrative during the First World War, right after it, during the 20th century and today, and in what sense can different acts be defined as propaganda? What were the semiotic conflicts, artistic battlegrounds and attempts to influence narratives? What can this past teach us about the current day's forms of propaganda?

The First World War ended officially on 11th of November 1918, but the stability of Europe remained uncertain. When guns and war propaganda had quietened down, culture, arts, science, humanities and especially media continued to be used to influence the people's mind and the course of cultural and political history at both the national and international levels. The dislocation of Austro-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, the Bolshevik Revolution together with the border changes of the Treaty of Versailles led to the emergence of new states but also to a situation where borders were in flux and identities looked for directions to develop. These political divisions played internationally but also in societies economically devastated, scarred by the physical damage of the war, and psychologically traumatized.

In Eastern Europe, where new states like Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland were emerging, the effects of the Russian Civil War were felt until the mid-1920's. Geopolitical uncertainties dominated the region as nobody knew how the the situation would unfold in the falling empire. The media and different culture political acts played a crucial role in defining national entities, their friends, allies and enemies. National communities were defined as well as ways in which a new war could be prevented by domestic and foreign policies. Symbols were created by artists ready to create new aesthetics for people to imagine the past and the future of their emerging state. On what sort of myths and histories were the new national identities and international narratives built? Who were the agents defining these narratives, and in which way would they do so?