

EXILE AS A FOREIGN BODY

International Conference • Programme

ORGANISERS

- Viktor Dimitriev (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université, PAUSE)
- Luba Jurgenson (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université)
- Ekaterina Rozova (Université Paris Nanterre, ISP, La Contemporaine, SAFE)
- Domenico Scagliusi (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université)

Wednesday, 2 December 2026

Campus Condorcet

Espace associatif et culturel (EAC)

15 cours des Humanités, 93322 Aubervilliers

09:00–09:30 | Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30–10:00 | Conference Opening (Viktor Dimitriev, Ekaterina Rozova)

10:00–11:40 | Panel 1 – **HOMO SACER AND UNDESIRABLE PERSONS**

How does a society come to designate certain individuals as foreigners or "undesirables"? This panel examines the legal and social construction of these categories, the mechanisms of exclusion they enable, and how they are experienced by those concerned.

Language: French

Chair: Luba Jurgenson (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université)

- Ralph Evêque (CHAD, Université Paris Nanterre) – The Roman Origins of Homo Sacer: The Creation of Otherness through Law
- Luca Taiariol (ISP, Université Paris Nanterre) – Purging Asylum: On the Mechanisms of Excluding the "Enemy" from Postwar Asylum (1945–1951)
- Juliette Masquelier (Sciences Po, Paris) – Controlling and Expelling "Undesirable" Migrant Women in 1930s Belgium
- Julia Lerner (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) – Citizenship in Migration: "Just a Paper" with Feelings and Morals Attached (in English)

11:40–11:55 | Break

11:55–13:10 | Panel 2 – **INHABITING EXILE**

What does it mean to inhabit a space perceived as temporary or foreign? This panel explores the spaces of exile as places apart, between refuge and estrangement, where the uncertainty of the present and the persistence of the past transform one's relationship to space and the very notion of home.

Language: English

Chair: Vanessa Castejon (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord)

- Valentina Parisi (Università di Macerata) – "Here, One Inevitably Starts Singing a Prison Song...": Valentin Parnakh and His Pension Maubert
- Veronika Sharova – The Hotel on the Outskirts as a Chronotope of Uncertainty: Displacement in Post-Imperial Europe in the 1920s
- Liliya Dyachenko (University of Geneva; Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université) – From Emigrant to Mouse. Parisian Lodgings in the Autobiographical Writings of Alexei Remizov

13:10–14:10 | Lunch break

14:10–15:25 | Panel 3 – **TRANSFORMATIONS OF INTIMACY**

How does exile transform intimate life? As social reference points and gender norms shift, ways of finding a partner and defining legitimate forms of intimacy are also called into question.

Language: English

Chair: Sofia Tchouikina (Université Paris 8)

- Liudmila Sharaya (Arizona State University) – "Mom, Why Does Leka Have Two Fathers?": The Evolution of Gender Norms in the Interwar Russian Diaspora in Bulgaria and France
- Pavel Golubev (University of Potsdam) – Cruising and Cottaging in Interwar Russian Paris: Konstantin Somov and His Friends
- Anna Temkina (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Larisa Shpakovskaya (University of Helsinki), and Maya Lavie-Ajayi (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) – Aging Sexuality in Migration: Body, Memory, and Vulnerability

15:25–15:55 | Coffee break

15:55–16:45 | Panel 4 – **DESIRE IN THE FACE OF EXILE**

How does desire transform one's relationship to oneself and the world in exile? This panel explores how love and erotic experience challenge the boundaries between intimacy and history, subject and object, and transform ways of defining oneself and perceiving the world.

Language: English

Chair: Julia Lerner (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

- Polina Barskova (UC Berkeley) – Bad Sex and Bad History in the Prose of the Second Wave of Russian Emigration
- Ilia Kalinin (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) – The Zoo of Things: Viktor Shklovsky, Elsa Triolet, and the Problematization of Subject-Object Relations

16:45–17:00 | Break

17:00–18:15 | Panel 5 – **THE BODY BETWEEN EMANCIPATION AND CONTROL**

What does it mean to have control over one's own body when social norms and institutions seek to determine how it may be used? This panel examines the tensions between aspirations for women's emancipation and the different forms of control exercised over the body.

Language: English

Chair: Juliette Masquelier (Sciences Po, Paris)

- Maya Lavrinovich (Tel Aviv University) – "A Right Over One's Body": Corporeality, Everyday Life, and the Limits of Emancipation for Western Women in the USSR (1930s)
- Ekaterina Shashlova (Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences) – The Female Body in Exile: Prostitution, Vulnerability, and Control among Russian Émigré Women in Interwar Czechoslovakia
- Anna Kuznetsova – Thrice Exiled: The Case of "Woman and Russia", the First Feminist Samizdat in the Leningrad Dissident Movement.

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International Conference • Programme

Thursday, 3 December 2026

La Contemporaine

184 cours Nicole Dreyfus, 92000 Nanterre

09:00–09:30 | Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30–11:50 | Panel 6 – **EXILE WRITTEN INTO THE BODY**

Beyond geographical displacement, the condition of being a foreigner manifests itself in the most ordinary everyday gestures, but also through illness, which can revive the experience of uprooting. This panel explores the body as a site of memory, vulnerability, and the intersection of social and cultural norms, examining how exile continues to shape the relationship to the body, even after death.

Language: French

Chair: Ivan Napreenko

09:30–10:45 | First part

- Marina Chauliac (DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, CNRS–EHESS) – Using a Washcloth or Cotton Swabs: Washing One's Body in Exile
- Ksenia Fesenko (Université Paris 8) – The Immigrant's Teeth: Experiencing Otherness in Twentieth-Century Writers of Slavic Origin
- Justine Reynaud (University of Fribourg) – The General's Last Exile: The Transfer of Wrangel's Body and the Organisation of His Funeral within Russian Émigré Military Circles (1928–1929)

10:45–11:00 | Break

11:00–11:50 | Panel 6 continued

- Souha Yaakoubi (Groupement hospitalier Nord Essonne) – Exile Reactivated by Serious Illness: When Undocumented Migration Becomes Inscribed in the Flesh
- Lena Magnone (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université ; International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna) – A Foreign Body Within the American Psychoanalytic Institution: The Case of Ludwik Jekels

11:50–13:00 | Lunch Break

13:00–14:15 | Panel 7 – **STAGING EXILE: THE BODY AS PERFORMANCE**

How does exile transform the ways in which people express themselves through the body and language? Through theatrical practices and experiences of linguistic displacement, this panel examines how forms of artistic expression evolve in response to new audiences and cultural contexts.

Language: French

Chair : Maria Rubins (University College London)

- Marie-Christine Autant-Mathieu (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université) – Migrant Actors: Adaptation Strategies of Two Moscow Art Theatre Actors, Maria Germanova and Grigori Khmara
- Michèle Fornhoff-Levitt (Université libre de Bruxelles, Sorbonne Université) – The Foreign Body on Stage: Yiddish Theatre as a Heterotopia of Exile (Paris, 1919–1939)
- Pavel Arsenev (Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université) – Losing One's Language to Gain a Voice: Towards a Media Theory of Exile

14:15–14:45 | Coffee Break

14:45–16:00 | Panel 8 – **OVERLAPPING WORLDS**

Does exile mean living between several worlds, or inventing new ones? This panel explores how spaces, temporalities, and identities overlap in the experience of exile, between a doubling of the self and the coexistence of different realities.

Language: English

Chair : Liliya Dyachenko (University of Geneva; Eur'ORBEM, Sorbonne Université)

- Michèle Baussant (Centre Norbert Elias, CNRS/AMU/Université d'Avignon) – The "Broken Language" of Exiles: The Case of Egyptian Jews
- Elena Zemskova (Tel Aviv University) – The Red Migrant's Two Bodies: An Unpublished Novel by Edward Falkowski
- Roman Utkin (Wesleyan University) – Marc Chagall's Queer Worlds of Exile

16:00–16:15 | Break

16:15–17:15 | **CLOSING ROUNDTABLE – LIVING AND THINKING EXILE**

Language: French

- Luba Jurgenson (Sorbonne Université)
- Vanessa Castejon (Université Sorbonne Paris Nord)
- Viktor Dimitriev (Sorbonne Université)
- Ekaterina Rozova (Université Paris Nanterre)

17:15–19:00 | **CLOSING RECEPTION**

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

- Université Paris Nanterre
- Institut des sciences sociales du politique (ISP, UMR 7220)
- Campus Condorcet – UXIL (Université en exil)
- Cultures et sociétés d'Europe orientale, balkanique et médiane (Eur'ORBEM, UMR 8224)
- Sorbonne Université
- La Contemporaine



Détail du Dessin collectif, 1940–1941, de Victor Brauner, André Breton, Óscar Domínguez, Jacques Hérold, Wifredo Lam, Jacqueline Lamba. Encre de Chine, crayons de couleur et collages sur papier.