

ESCAPES FROM MODERNITY PROJECT

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First International Summer School

# **Transformation of Modern Statehood: Sovereignty, Memory and Democracy**

*Kääriku, Valgamaa, Estonia*

*29 May – 4 June 2011*

This summer school will bring together an international team of students and teachers, who will gather at the Tartu University conference and training centre in the beautiful Otepää area to discuss the key aspects of the evolution and transformation of modern statehood.

Despite the attempts to declare national sovereignty obsolete in the age of globalisation, there is growing empirical evidence and theoretical support for its continued significance. We have seen the emergence of a number self-proclaimed states in Europe in recent decades. Each of them is an important empirical phenomenon in its own right, but also significant is the fact these communities most often are at the centre of heated debates about the future of international law and state sovereignty as its key principle.

One key feature of the current resurgence of nationalist politics is the heated debate about history and memory. In particular, we explore the recently intensified attempts to securitize the remembrance of World War II and the Soviet communist legacy, focusing on the interplay of different memory regimes and mnemonic communities in the twenty-first century Europe. Importantly, we conceptualize this rivalry also as a struggle to universalize a particular historical narrative and elevate it to the status of the ‘common memory of Europe’.

This is a crucial facet of the whole debate on national identity where it touches upon the issues of the universal. While the dominant western understanding of universality emphasizes liberal democracy and human rights, there are new increasingly powerful counter-hegemonic discourses that insist on sovereign autonomy as an irreducible component of universal values. We approach this phenomenon in two ways: firstly, by looking at the empirically existing challenges to liberal democratic universalism (such as Russia’s sovereign democracy or South American discourses of social justice) and secondly, by addressing the intricate relationship between cosmopolitanism, patriotism and the political in the contemporary world. In the final analysis, this brings up the question of the inherent fragmentation of the modern international system and the possibility of overcoming it. Is it possible and, indeed, desirable to look for a world community transcending the nation state, or must we concentrate on

finding better ways of accommodation between particularist national interests? Is world community conceivable as global democracy, or must the universal, as some theorists argue, be cleared of any positive predicates? And conversely, is it possible to devise theories of liberal national or patriotic loyalty which would be compatible with cosmopolitan commitments?

These questions will be discussed in the framework of the International summer school, with the participation of 15 students from Russia and 15 from Estonia. The School will take place in training center of Tartu University in Kääriku, 50km from Tartu, among the rolling hills, woods and lakes of Valgamaa region. The Center is equally equipped for sports, leisure and educational activities, with various conference halls, sports facilities and outdoor opportunities like swimming, hiking, running and cycling (bicycles are available from the center). Each day will begin with a swim in the lake, weather permitting, and in the evening sports events will be organized – running, hiking, football, etc. The School will thus live up to the ancient ideal of combining mental and physical training.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, 29 May. INTRODUCTION**

- 04:30 Moscow train arrives to Narva
- 05:00 Departure to Kääriku by bus
- 09:00 Arrival. Breakfast. Accommodation
- 13:00–14:00 Lunch
- 16:00–18:00 Introductions. Division into working groups
- 18:00–19:00 Dinner
- 19:00 – Get-together at the campfire
- 21:00–23:00 Sauna

### **Monday, 30 May. SOVEREIGNTY**

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00–10:30 Sovereignty: the debate around the concept  
*Eiki Berg*
- 11:00–12:30 Challenges to state sovereignty: integration, globalisation, fragmentation  
*Sergei Medvedev*
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:30 Group work
- 15:30–18:00 Free time/sports
- 18:00–19:00 Dinner
- 19:00 – Film screening: *Raja 1918*  
Discussion

## **Tuesday, 31 May. NATION**

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00–10:30 Nation state and empire  
*Viatcheslav Morozov*
- 11:00–12:30 Systemic transformations and the management of secessionist bids  
*Eiki Berg*
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:30 Group work
- 15:30–18:00 Free time/sports
- 18:00–19:00 Dinner
- 19:00 – Film screening: *Malev*  
Discussion

## **Wednesday, 1 June. MEMORY**

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00–10:30 History and memory and their significance for nation-building  
*Viatcheslav Morozov*
- 11:00–12:30 Cosmopolitanising the criminality of communism: competing securitisation of the Soviet legacy in Europe  
*Maria Mälksoo*
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:30 Group work
- 15:30–18:00 Free time/sports
- 18:00–19:00 Dinner
- 19:00 – Free time/sports
- 21:00–23:00 Sauna

## **Thursday, 2 June. SECURITY**

- 08:00–09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00–10:30 Security as the foundation for modern statehood  
*Viatcheslav Morozov*
- 11:00–12:30 New security concepts. Securitisation. Security and Identity  
*Viatcheslav Morozov*
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:30 Group work

15:30–18:00 Free time/sports  
18:00–19:00 Dinner  
19:00– Film screening: *All My Lenins*  
Discussion

**Friday, 3 June. DEMOCRACY**

08:00–09:00 Breakfast  
09:00–10:30 Sovereignty and democracy: an uneasy relationship  
*Sergei Medvedev*  
11:00–12:30 Varieties of cosmopolitan patriotism  
*Eva Piirimäe*  
12:30–13:30 Lunch  
13:30–17:00 Group project presentations. Close of the School. Awarding of diplomas  
18:00–19:00 Dinner  
19:00 – Farewell Campfire  
21:00–23:00 Sauna

**Saturday, 4 June. DEPARTURE**

08:00–09:00 Breakfast  
09:00–11:00 Packing up  
11:00 Departure to Tartu by bus  
12:00–13:00 Lunch in Tartu  
13:00–18:00 Tartu walking tour. Visit to the University  
18:00 Departure to Narva by bus  
21:40 Moscow train departs from Narva