

Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS

presents

Forum in Literary Studies

Cold War Print Cultures II: Jessie Labov in conversation with Piotr Wciślik about Transatlantic Central Europe

Jessie Labov (Central European University)

Piotr Wciślik (Centrum Humanistyki Cyfrowej IBL PAN)

In lieu of a lecture, Jessie Labov will be interviewed by Piotr Wciślik about her recently published book *Transatlantic Central Europe: Contesting Geography and Redefining Culture beyond the Nation* (CEU press, 2019). This book discusses the transnational set of practices connecting journals with other media in the mid-1980s that disseminated the idea of Central Europe simultaneously in East and West. Proponents of a distinct cultural profile of this group of countries—all now involved in the process of Transatlantic integration—used “Central European” as an alternative for the geo-political label of Eastern Europe. What happened to the philosophy that “Central Europe” once evoked? In the early years of the transition era, the liberal humanist perspective shared by Havel, Konrád, Kundera, and Michnik was quickly replaced by an economic liberalism that evolved into neoliberal policies and practices. The author follows the trajectories of the concept into the present day, identifying its material and intellectual traces in the postcommunist landscape. She explores how the current usage of transnational, web-based media follows the logic and practice of an earlier, “dissident” generation of writers.

13. 4. 2021 17:00

Online

— meet.google.com/yiz-zjum-kvx, live stream: [YouTube channel ICL](#)