

Many Wests Under Eastern Eyes

International workshop

organized by Maxime Decout (Sorbonne University), Clara Royer (Sorbonne University), Josef Šebek (Charles University, Prague) & Danuta Sosnowska (University of Warsaw)

Thursday, November 20th, 2025

Institut d'études slaves, 9 rue Michelet, 75006 Paris

Chair: Maxime Decout

9:00 – 9:45

Przemysław Czapliński (UAM, Poznań) – From non-East to non-West. On the legacy of Kundera's essay *The West Kidnapped* and the changing geography of Central Europe

9:45 – 10:30

Danuta Sosnowska (University of Warsaw) – Musical/verbal portraits – Different Images of the West in Josef Škvorecký's *Scherzo Capriccioso*: Veselý sen o Dvořákovì

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 11:45

Josef Hrdlička (Charles University) – Images of the West in the Poetry of Czech and Eastern European Exile Poets

11:45 – 12:30

Kamila Schewczuková (Charles University) – Ghosts in the Garden: East–West Dynamics in the Eastern Carpathian Border Area

12:30 – 2:00

Lunch break

Chair: Josef Šebek

2:00 – 2:45

Clara Royer (Sorbonne University) – Antal Szerb's *A History of World Literature*: Repairing the West in a Moment of Danger

2:45 – 3:30

Maxime Decout (Sorbonne University) – Reinventing the French Literary Canon: The Contribution of Jewish Writers in the Twentieth Century

3:30 – 4:15

Mihai Duma (Sorbonne university) – Westward Visions: Surrealist Dialogues between Bucharest and Paris (1945–1947)

Friday, November 21, 2025

Sorbonne, Salle des actes, 191 rue Saint Jacques, 75005 Paris

Chair: Danuta Sosnowska

9:00 – 9:45

Maciej Falski (university of Warsaw) – Literary Practices in Yugoslavia of the 1980s: When the Border with the West Did Not (Yet) Exist

9:45 – 10:30

Anton Romanenko (Charles University) – Locative and Deictic Expressions in Translingual Poetry: Mapping the West as a Translingual Terrain

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00-11h45

Josef Šebek (Charles University) – Queer East Writes the West: A Comparative Approach to the Imagination of Western Queerness in East Central European Literatures

11:45 – 12:00

Libuše Heczková (Charles University) – The Gendered West in Journalistic and Reportage Writing by Czech Female Authors

12:00- 13:00

Lunch break

Chair: Clara Royer

13:00 – 13:45

Eglė Kačkutė (Vilnius university) – Western (or French) Gender Norms Under Baltic Women's Eyes and Pens

13:45 – 14:30

Kamil Dwornik (university of Warsaw) – The West Through the Eyes of Women: Gender and Postcolonial Narratives in Ukrainian Female Prose (1998–2023)

14:30- 15:00

Closing Round Table – Crossing Borders: Rethinking East–West Imaginaries through Gender, Language, and Translation

