

*A Leap from the Temple of Culture into the Abyss:*  
**Decadence in Central and Eastern Europe**

*Thursday, March 15*

**6 p.m.**

**Victor Erofejev**, “Russian Decadence Is My Literary Motherland”

*Julius Held Auditorium, Barnard Hall, Barnard College*

*Reception*

*Friday, March 16*

*Philosophy 301, Columbia University*

**9-10 a.m.** *Breakfast*

**10-11:30 a.m.**

**Precursors of Decadence**

Chair/Discussant: **Jonathan Stone**, University of California, Berkeley

- **David Goldfarb**, Barnard College, “Sacher-Masoch: Between the Romantic and the Decadent Sublime”
- **Elizabeth Valkenier**, Columbia University, “Russian Realist Painters on Decadence: The Xenophobic Factor”
- **Michael Wachtel**, Princeton University, “Vladimir Solovyov on Symbolism and Decadence”

**11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.**

**Decadent Music and Drama**

Chair/Discussant: **Christopher Harwood**, Columbia University

- **Steve Downes**, University of Surrey, “On Polish Musical Decadence”
- **Anastassiya Andrianova**, CUNY Graduate Center, “The Dionysian Lyre in Lesya Ukrainka’s *Orgiya*”
- **Julia Przybos**, Hunter College, CUNY, “Leopold Staff’s *Igrzysko (Game)* in the European Context.”

*Lunch Break*

**2:15-4:15 p.m.**

**History and Modernity**

Chair/Discussant: **Bernice Rosenthal**, Fordham University

- **Kevin M. F. Platt**, University of Pennsylvania, “Russian History and Decadent Temporality”
- **John McCole**, University of Oregon, “Georg Simmel and the Central European Culture of Decadence”
- **Michael du Plessis**, University of Southern California, “Decadent Commodities and Narrative Objects in Gustav Meyrink’s ‘Strange Tales’ (*Sonderbare Geschichte*)”

- **Evgenii Bershtein**, Reed College, “Why is Larion Shtrup an Englishman? Mikhail Kuzmin’s *Wings* and European Decadence”

**4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**The Visual and Performing Arts**

Chair/Discussant: **Catharine T. Nepomnyashchy**, The Harriman Institute and Barnard College

- **J. Trygve Has-Ellison**, University of Texas at Dallas, “Janus-faced Decadents: Nobles and the Fine Arts in Fin-de-Siècle Germany”
- **Otto M. Urban**, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, “In Morbid Colors (Part II): The Idea of Decadence and Art in the Bohemian Lands, 1880-1914”
- **Lynn Garafola**, Barnard College, “Decadence and the Iconography of the Male Body in Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes”
- **Olga Matich**, University of California, Berkeley, “Decadence and Dance: Synesthesia, Hysteria, Hybridity”

*Saturday, March 17*

*Philosophy 301, Columbia University*

**9-10 a.m.** *Breakfast*

**10-11:30 a.m.**

**The 1890s**

Chair/Discussant: **Kirsten Lodge**, The Harriman Institute, Columbia University

- **John Malmstad**, Harvard University, “Breviary of Decadence: The Early Verse of Valery Briusov”
- **Don La Coss**, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, “Przybyszewski’s Psychic Naturalism, Berlin/Kraków 1894-1901”
- **Neil Stewart**, University of Bonn, “The Czech Journal *Moderní revue* and the Aesthetics of Decadence: The Uses and Usefulness of a Controversial Concept”

**11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.**

**The Legacy of Decadence**

Chair/Discussant: **Carol Ueland**, Drew University

- **George Gasyna**, University of Illinois, “When Decadence Met the Avant-Garde: Witkacy, the Dwudziestolecie, and the Atrocity Museum”
- **Irene Masing-Delic**, The Ohio State University, “Soviet Sophiology: Pil’niak’s ‘Trotskyite’ Struggle with Decadence”
- **Polina Barskova**, Hampshire College, “Against the Grain of Leningrad: Writing Decadent Petersburg of the 1930s”

*This conference is sponsored by:*

The Harriman Institute of Columbia University  
 The Department of Slavic Languages of Columbia University  
 The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures  
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and The Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
at the University of California, Berkeley

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