

## The Eastern Bloc Censorship Research Group

**Date:** January 26, 2026

**Time:** 19:00–20:30 CET

**Location:** Online via Teams

(if you are interested in attending, please write to  
anna.wisniewska-grabarczyk@filologia.uni.lodz.pl)



### Invitation to a Lecture

Dear All,

You are warmly invited to join the upcoming meeting of **the Eastern Bloc Censorship Research Group**. The event will take place online via Microsoft Teams on **January 26, 2026**, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CET.

Our guest speaker will be **Galina Miazhevich**, who will deliver a lecture on **cultural mediation, dissent, and resistance in wartime Russia, drawing on examples of figures previously known as cultural elites, such as the 74-year-old cult pop artist Alla Pugacheva** (more information about the speaker and the lecture can be found below).

If you are interested in attending, please let me know by replying to this email. I will be happy to send you further details and the meeting link. **Please note that due to technical limitations, the number of participants is limited.**

Best regards,

Anna Wiśniewska-Grabarczyk

Head of the Eastern Bloc Censorship Research Group

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*The Eastern Bloc Censorship Research Group brings together scholars and people interested in censorship, publishing control, and cultural circulation in Communist Central and Eastern Europe and the former Yugoslavia. Our aim is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and support new research in the field of censorship studies.*

*Our website (currently under construction): <https://www.uni.lodz.pl/censorship-research-group>*

**Galina Miazhevich**

Cardiff University, UK

## **The Dual Architecture of Dissent: Top-Down Elite Mediation and Bottom-Up Grassroots Resistance in Wartime Russia**

This presentation will foreground and problematise the role of cultural mediators of public views during an ongoing full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. It argues that the phenomenon of resistance and the type of resisting actor need to be revised considering Russian context in which both online and offline spaces are becoming increasingly unsafe. This presentation investigates top-down and bottom-up mediators whose role is indispensable in the context of the stringent media regulation and state-supported misinformation. The presentation starts by focusing on the figures previously known as cultural elites and claims that they constitute an exceptional type of post-Soviet cultural intermediary. The key personality is the 74-year-old cult pop artist Alla Pugacheva currently residing outside of Russia. After an insight into Pugacheva's anti-war communication (2022–2024), the presentation touches upon a bottom-up resistance using a case of a wartime feminist publication *Zhenskaiia Pravda* (Women's Truth), established by the Feminist Anti-War Resistance (FAR) in Russia in 2022 and aimed at raising awareness about the war in Ukraine. The analysis of 41 available issues of *Zhenskaiia Pravda* (2022–2024) shows, amongst other things, that it is as a contemporary version of Soviet samizdat, which also draws on contemporary activist media products, such as zines. Importantly, its editorial team has to navigate the dilemmas of visibility within the war-time media ecologies.

**Galina Miazhevich** is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Journalism, Media, and Culture at Cardiff University, UK. Galina worked on several projects dealing with media representations of Islam and multiculturalism in Europe; democracy in post-communist Europe; gender, media and emergent forms of post-Soviet identity. Galina has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored several monographs. Galina led an AHRC Leadership Fellowship (2018–2020) exploring media representations of non-heteronormative sexuality in Russia. Galina organised several international events including a series of Gorbachev Press Freedom lectures. Galina was on the Executive and then Advisory Board of European Communication Research Education Association (ECREA).