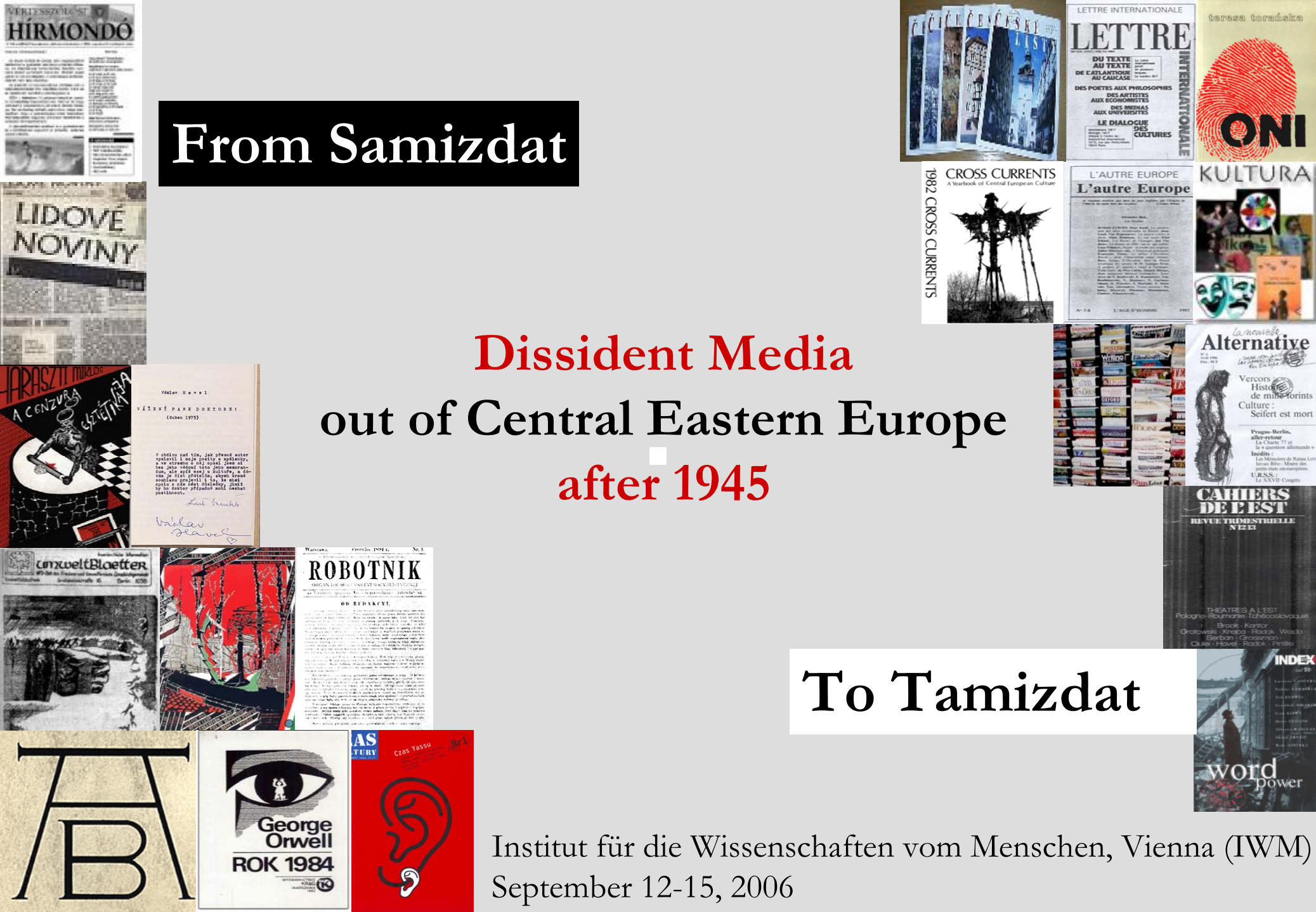


From Samizdat

Dissident Media out of Central Eastern Europe after 1945

To Tamizdat

Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna (IWM)
September 12-15, 2006



Drawing from the disciplines of history, literature, political science, anthropology, sociology, and media studies, this conference takes as a starting point the **movement of printed material between Eastern and Western Europe** (as well as across the Atlantic) during the Cold War. One of the underlying arguments of this project is that **cross-border communication** in the late Cold War in its various forms made a major contribution to the **rapprochement between Eastern and Western societies** through the Iron Curtain by re-creating “a common market of the mind” in Europe. **Cultural initiatives crossing ideologically divided societies** and aiming at the promotion of non-official culture/literature in communist countries helped to counteract the ever increasing division between the intellectual communities in East and West.

An analysis of the **unofficial literary exchanges** between East and West will initiate a discussion of transnational communication after 1945 that has not yet been fully explored. Beyond taking a closer look at the **cultural transfer between East and West**, we are seeking primarily contributions that focus on the impact of censorship on media and the ensuing emergence of dissident/underground media. The project will deliberately **expand the definition of samizdat and tamizdat** and use it as a **marker of cultural transfer** for the analysis of a broad variety of cultural projects that cross ideological, political or cultural borders. In order to establish a **link to today's media**, we propose to compare underground circulation of uncensored texts during the Cold War with evolving forms of journalism after 1989, looking at **new media** and new forms of **underground or unofficial communication today**.

Questions to address:

- o What forces texts/media or culture into the **unofficial sphere** or **across national borders**?
- o How does **censorship cause media to operate** underground or **across borders**?
- o How do we **perceive media differently** when they are produced under these conditions?
- o What **mediating agents** (individuals, informal networks and/or institutions) made the transmission of texts and media across borders possible?
- o What is the legacy of this form of **transnational communication**?
- o Are **samizdat and tamizdat produced** in any form **today** (print, broadcast, or new media)?

This conference is inviting especially **doctoral candidates and post-doctoral scholars** to submit original research papers that discuss any aspect of underground and cross-border initiatives, including but not limited to the following themes

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- o Samizdat/Tamizdat: new **Theoretical Approaches**
- o Underground and exilic media **throughout time**: Comparative Views
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat and **Censorship**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat as (cultural/political/literary) **Dissidence**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat as Political and **Societal Protest**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat through the Eyes of the **Officials**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat in its Material Existence: an **Aesthetic Approach**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat: a **Gender Perspective**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat as **Alternative Culture**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat as **Belles-lettres**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat and other Dissident Media: **Broadcast, Music, Arts**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat and **Transnational Discourses**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat and Publishing during the **Cultural Cold War**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat as a **Cross-Border Social Network**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat and **(Literary) Exile**
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat as a **Social Practice** Beyond Borders
- o Samizdat/Tamizdat and its **Public/Private Spheres**
- o New forms of Samizdat/Tamizdat: **Underground and Cross-border (new) media after 1989**

Inspired by the concept of “Histoire croisée” we strongly encourage **cross-cultural, cross-national and multi-disciplinary approaches**. The conference will bring together junior scholars and senior commentators with keynote speakers from dissident publishing backgrounds to present a manifold perspective on the topic.

Travel and accommodation **costs will be covered**. Selected papers will be considered for a publication to appear in the following year.

Please send **1-2 page abstracts** and full contact details (email, Telephone, Postal Address) to samizdat.tamizdat@gmail.com before **May 15, 2006**.

Papers of 5000-7000 words must be submitted before **August 15** for precirculation. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes in length, and must be in English. For more information please see www.samizdatportal.org, the platform of the newly founded *International Samizdat Research Association [ISRA]* or contact one of the organizers below: