

## **Report of Viktoriya Sukovata about attending ALMS conference 2019 in Berlin**

From June 27 to June 29, 2019 thanks to the bursary of the German State Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (Stiftung “Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft”) I have attended the conference “ALMS 2019 Berlin” which was hosted in the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.

It was the grandiose academic and public event where took part the participants from all world – scholars, activists of LGBTQ communities, librarians and archivists.

The conference was supported by Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft in partnership with FFBIZ – das feministische Archiv, Forschungsstelle Kulturgeschichte der Sexualität at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Initiative Queer Nations, Lili-Elbe-Archiv, Schwules Museum, and Spinnboden Lesbenarchiv, and other foundations and academic centers, which made that conference informative rich and very exciting.

The conference time included six simultaneously streams devoted to various aspects of Queer culture and LGBTQ activism, Queer studies of literature, mythology, cinema, political life, to opportunities to preserve, to share and to research LGBTQ archives and libraries as a way to resist homophobia in all forms.

I investigate gender and queer studies more twenty years, and I was one of the first scholars who started to teach gender courses in Ukraine on base of Kharkiv National University since 1998-1999s. Since than I have published more 35 papers on gender, feminist, masculinity, post-gender and queer themes in academic journals of Ukraine, Russia, Byelorussia, Poland, Kazakhstan, and Sweden, and that is why participation in “ALMS 2019 Berlin” conference was extremely important and interesting for me. I discovered many helpful materials and ideas about queer collections and archives during “ALMS 2019 Berlin” conference.

I made my presentation “Queer Bodies in the Soviet and Contemporary Ukrainian Culture” on 28 June in the session “Central and Eastern Europe. Soviet and Post-Soviet” Subjectivities”, and I answered many questions during the discussion after my presentation.

I was happy that after the sessions I had opportunity to make new contacts with the scholars and activists from different countries to discuss some aspects of queer images informally.

I attended all sessions and presentations which where interesting for me, especially I was impressed by the presentations in the sessions “Visual Memories: Queer Photographic Observes of the 20th Century”, “Black Queer Arts as Archive”, “Filmmakers and Documentaries about Queer Documentation”, and so on.

Some participants came from the Eastern Europe where queer and gay studies still discriminated and it was kindly that the organizing committee invited the people from the post-socialistic countries as well. The atmosphere of the conference was exceptionally friendly and tolerant!

Among many merits of the conference were its very good logistic at all levels too (accommodation, trip, food, technical equipment). There were many volunteers who could did advice or explanation in any working situation.

The space of the conference was effectively structured and there were several halls for presentations, conversations, media and photography showing and I would like to thank to the organizing team and to the conference volunteers for such good accepting!

In particular, I thank to Mr Andreas Pretzel with whom I communicated by email before the conference and who was very polite and mindful. He and his colleagues Ms Kate Davison and Ms Sophie Richter was answering quickly my letters and explained the details clear.

I want to express my big and sincere gratitude for the opportunity to be the participant of the “ALMS 2019 Berlin” conference and I would like to continue my cooperation with ALMS in future!