Call for Papers

Cold War Internationalism and Its Afterlives: Emotions, Everyday Labour, and Transnational Encounters

9-10 September 2027 – Monash University – Prato Campus, Italy

Proposals due: 1 December 2026

This interdisciplinary workshop invites scholars to reconsider Cold War internationalism through the lens of the history of emotions. Recent studies have drawn attention to the varied range of encounters behind and across the Iron Curtain, demonstrating the complex and multidirectional entanglements across what were then called the First, Second, and Third Worlds. Of late, scholars have turned toward the everyday practices that sustained international exchange across political divides. Expanding on what historian Sudha Rajagopalan recently (*Kritika* 2026) described as 'the everyday labour of the Cold War', this workshop explores how emotional practices, interpersonal relationships, and affective communities shaped international encounters during and beyond the Cold War.

The history of emotions offers an underutilised lens for understanding how internationalism was experienced, enacted, and remembered by those who lived it. Scientists, physicians, artists, students, athletes, engineers, teachers, and citizen diplomats (e.g., Sister City campaigners) forged connections that crossed ideological and national boundaries. These encounters demanded emotional labour: cultivating trust, negotiating suspicion, expressing solidarity, managing differences, and sustaining enduring ties. The ideal of 'socialist solidarity' drew on the hope and revolutionary enthusiasm of decolonisation, while states mobilised fear, anxiety, and suspicion to police boundaries, regulate contact, and encourage ideological vigilance. Through international exchanges and encounters, individuals formed emotional communities that could both reinforce and challenge official discourses.

We welcome papers that examine cultural, scientific, medical, and person-to-person encounters during and beyond the Cold War. We are especially interested in work that illuminates the emotional dimensions of international cooperation, exchange, and conflict, whether through institutions, professional networks, grassroots organisations, or personal relationships.

The workshop is equally concerned with the afterlives of Cold War internationalism. How did relationships forged during the Cold War endure, evolve, or dissolve following the collapse of state socialism in Eastern Europe? Which networks survived ideological transformation, and which disappeared? How did individuals and institutions reinterpret earlier commitments in a dramatically altered political landscape? What emotional legacies—hope, nostalgia, disappointment, solidarity, or mistrust—shaped post-Cold War collaborations and memories of international engagement? How were specific emotions, such as fraternal love, reconfigured or silenced after 1989/1991? What emotional legacies, e.g., socialist nostalgia or residual mistrust, continue to shape post-Cold War collaborations and global memory politics?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Cultural diplomacy and artistic exchange
- Scientific and medical internationalism
- Educational exchange, student mobility, and academic collaboration
- International development and technical assistance
- Public health, humanitarianism, and global health cooperation

Australian Government
Australian Research Council
MONASH University
INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES
Faculty of Social Sciences
Charles University

- Friendship societies and transnational social movements
- Sport, tourism, and people-to-people diplomacy
- International organisations and non-state actors
- Decolonisation, non-alignment, and South–South cooperation
- Gender, race, and the emotional politics of international encounter
- Memory, nostalgia, and the afterlives of Cold War internationalism
- Changing histories of specific emotions (e.g., anxiety, hope)

The workshop welcomes contributions from historians, as well as scholars working in anthropology, sociology, political science, science and technology studies, cultural studies, and related disciplines. We encourage comparative, transnational, and interdisciplinary approaches that connect local experiences to broader global processes.

Scholars interested in participating should, by 1 December 2026, submit a proposal consisting of an abstract of no more than 300 words together with a brief biographical statement (100 words). Authors of accepted proposals will be expected to prepare a full paper (6000-8000 words) for circulation to all participants prior to the workshop. Details regarding submission deadlines and publication opportunities will be announced separately.

Proposals should be emailed to Dr Abraham Trejo-Terreros at AbrahamTrejo.TrejoTerreros@monash.edu

The workshop will be held 9-10 Sept 2027 in a hybrid format, bringing together participants both online and in person at Monash University's Prato Campus in Prato, Italy. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and internationally accessible forum that enables participation from scholars across different regions and career stages. Limited funding for transportation and accommodation will be available to assist participants who wish to attend the workshop in person at Prato.

This workshop is supported by the Australian Research Council Discovery Project DP240100601 Medical Internationalism: Cuba and Eastern Europe (Chief Investigator, Prof Paula Michaels, Monash University; Partner Investigator, Dr Ema Hrešanová, Charles University; Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Abraham Trejo Terreros, Monash University).

Questions? Please contact AbrahamTrejo.TrejoTerreros@monash.edu