ABSTRACT

EAST MEETS WEST: CO-OPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND WESTERN RESEARCHERS DEALING WITH FEMINIST, WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

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My contribution is based upon my research-in-progress on co-operation between Russian and so-called ‘Western’ (e. g. US-American, British, German, Finnish) researchers in the sphere of Feminist, Women’s and Gender Studies since the late 80ies, viewed from a Social Studies of Science perspective. The focus of the study is put upon the mutual perception of researchers from different cultures; upon differences and hierarchies that may have influence on the practice and success of joint research activities (conferences, projects, publications etc.) of Russian and ,Western’ researchers. The uses and meanings of the terms ,East’ and ,West’ in this context are subject to special scrutiny. In my opinion, it is crucial to take into account the perspectives of either side on the respective Other, whereas the sides Russia/,East’ and ,West’ must be regarded as inhomogeneous and differentiated in themselves. Tentative findings drawing upon the analysis of literature and interviews with researchers involved in ,East’-,West’ research co-operation shall be presented.