



Crime without punishment: How Soviet past determines Russia's present

GUEST LECTURE BY AUTHOR SERGEI LEBEDEV

Time: 14 March 2025, 10:15-12:00

Venue: Aarhus University Conference Center, M2 Building 1427-246, Frederik Nielsens Vej 2-4

During the "perestroika" period and later, Soviet state terror and violence were acknowledged but not penalized in any way. Civil society focused on commemorating the victims, leaving aside the question of responsibility and perpetrators.

Today, Russia is waging a brutal war of aggression against Ukraine while attempting to gradually erase the memory of Soviet crimes. How could the impunity of the Soviet/Russian state be challenged, and what role could literature play?

About the author:

Sergei Lebedev was born in Moscow in 1981. His parents were both geologists. Following in their footsteps at the age of fifteen, Lebedev spent eight years as a field worker on geological expeditions. Since 2010 Lebedev has written six novels and a collection of short stories about the hidden Soviet past, the impact of Stalin's repressions and persecutions and their repercussions in modern Russian life. Lebedev's books have been translated into 24 languages and have been shortlisted for major book prizes. He has lived in Potsdam, Germany since 2018.

This event is organized by Global studies dep, School of Culture & Society, and is open to all interested students and staff at the university.

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