Discussion published by Jan Surman on Monday, December 13, 2021

The virtual platform HPS.CESEE is proud to present the global book talk "The Cult of Unity: The Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature in Czechoslovakia, 1948-1964". Stephen Brain (Mississippi State University) and Arnošt Štanzel (The Bavarian State Library) will join with Doubravka Olšáková (Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences) and Jiří Janáč (Institute of Global History, Charles University Prague) to discuss their recently published book "The Cult of Unity: The Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature in Czechoslovakia, 1948-1964" (Prague 2021) [1], in a discussion moderated by Jan Surman (Prague). It is part of a series of open zoom events aiming to foster the discussion of new books and approaches within the history of science and scholarship (broadly understood) in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Wednesday, January 5, 18:00-20:00 Central European Time (CET) / 20:00-22:00 MSK/ 12:00-14:00 EST

The meeting is free and open to the public. To receive the link, please register here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/global-book-talk-the-stalin-plan-for-the-transformation-of-... or write to hps.cesee@gmail.com.


Participants:

Stephen Brain is an associate professor of history at Mississippi State University. His first book, Song of the Forest, was published in 2011. He is working on the environmental history of Soviet collectivization, and the Soviet effort to build artificial environments in space. From 2019, he serves as co-editor of the journal Environmental History.

Doubravka Olšáková is senior researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague, where she leads the working group on contemporary environmental history. Her research is oriented towards the intersection of the history of science, environmental history and recently she has started to work on relations between the environment and health in the post-war Soviet bloc.

Jiří Janáč works at the Institute of World History at Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic and at the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague. He works on environmental history, history of water, and urban history of post-socialism. His
most recent project was entitled Hydrosocialism: Water, environment and the socialist rule in Czechoslovakia.

Arnošt Štanzel is Research Associate at the Bavarian State Library in Munich. From December 2012 to June 2016 he was doctoral candidate at the Graduate School for East and Southeast-European Studies with the project on environmental history of water management in Romania and Czechoslovakia during State Socialism.