



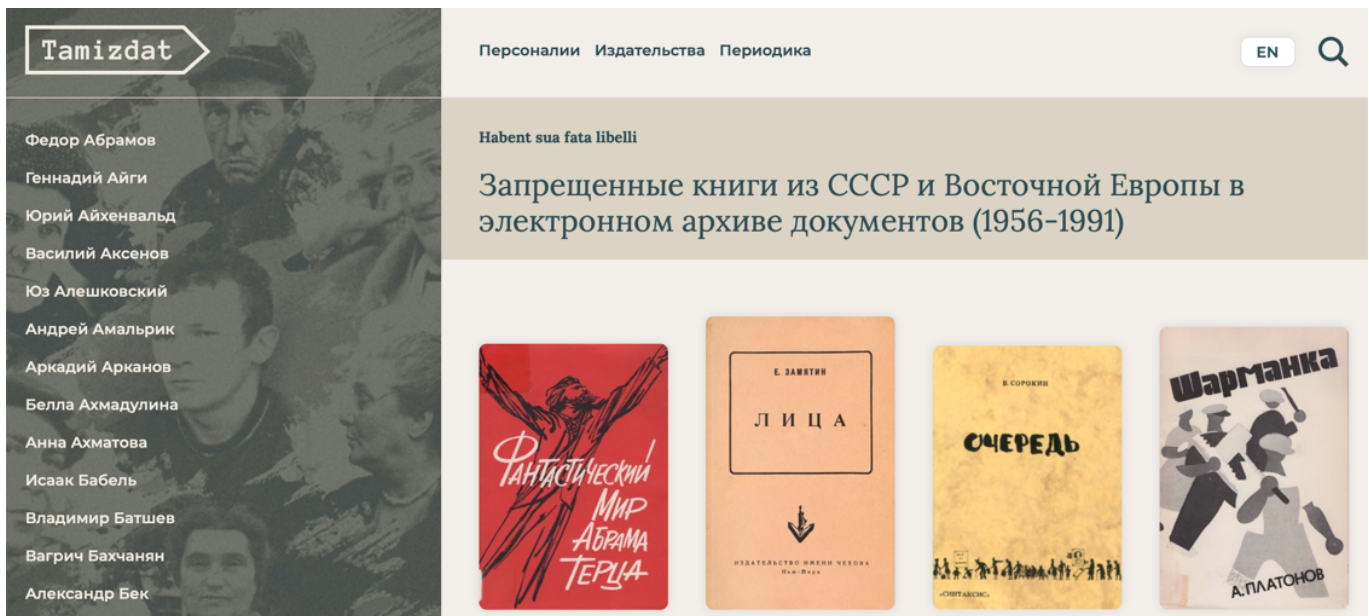
The Department of Russian and Slavic Studies (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) invites you to the guest lecture

“Tamizdat as a Literary Practice and Political Institution”

by Yasha Klots (Hunter College of the City University of New York)

Monday, January 16, 2022, 13:00-14:30

Mt. Scopus, Library, Media 32



The term tamizdat, coined as a derivative of samizdat (self-publishing) and gosizdat (state publishing), refers to the publishing industry “over there,” or abroad. It stands for the corpus of manuscripts rejected, censored or never submitted for publication at home but smuggled through various channels across the Iron Curtain and printed elsewhere, with or without the authors’ knowledge or consent. Tamizdat was a weapon on the cultural fronts of the Cold War and remained as symbolic of the Soviet era as its more familiar and better researched domestic counterparts, samizdat and gosizdat, until Perestroika, when the Curtain began to rust. Each publication of these first editions of contraband literature from Russia and Eastern Europe has its own history, making tamizdat a literary practice and a political institution of the Soviet era. Yasha Klots, director of Tamizdat Project, will speak about the history of tamizdat as a historical phenomenon, as well as about its relevance today, when censorship and political persecution in Putin’s Russia is back.



Professor Klots teaches at Hunter College of the City University of New York. His research interests are book history, Russian and East European émigré literature and culture, urbanism and representation of cityscapes, Gulag narratives (particularly Varlam Shalamov). He is a specialist on tamizdat and the director of [Tamizdat Project](#), a public scholarship initiative devoted to the first publications, circulation, and reception of banned books from Russia and Eastern Europe abroad during the Cold War.