

INTRODUCTION

Partnerships for Reflection on the Soviet and Post-Soviet Periods / *Parcerias para refletir sobre o soviético e o pós-soviético*

The theme “The Soviet and the Post-Soviet in Dialogue with (Post-/De-)Colonial Studies: An Introduction” was proposed to *Bakhtiniana. Journal of Discourse Studies* [*Bakhtiniana. Revista de Estudos do Discurso*] by Pietro Restaneo, researcher at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Istituto del Lessico Intellettuale Europeo e Storia delle Idee (ILIESI), Rome, Italy, and by Laura Gherlone, professor and researcher at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA), Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Buenos Aires, and researcher at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Argentina. Recognized for its national and international relevance and topicality, the proposal was accepted by those responsible for the journal, including members of the Editorial Team and the Executive Editors. Throughout the process, they provided guidance and support through a continuous, intense, and highly productive dialogue, explaining the procedures required for the preparation of an issue of *Bakhtiniana*, a bilingual journal that operates in accordance with Open Science principles and adheres to the rigorous standards established by SciELO, Scopus, and Web of Science.

The results can be seen in volume 21, number 1 (2026), now published. An editorial and seven articles demonstrate the productivity of the topic, the rigor of the research, and the depth and originality of the discussions carried out by the authors and *ad hoc* editors. In the very first paragraph, the *ad hoc* editors make this clear to the reader:

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in authors, theories, schools of thought, and ideas that originated in the Soviet Union, particularly in the field of linguistics and literary studies. As time distances us more and more from that era, which for many is still emotionally resonant, memory gradually gives way to the analytic eye of historical inquiry. What once seemed, especially “from the outside,” like a unitary block appears at a closer analysis as a fragmented and heterogeneous “semiosphere” (Lotman, 1984). This shift in perspective suggests that, bustled behind the numerous barriers imposed on the

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Soviet Union from within and without, exists a plethora of texts and sources whose relevance to our contemporary world remains largely untested. In this regard, it is worth clarifying that when we refer to a Soviet author, idea, or text, we are not implying an alignment with an official “Soviet canon.” Instead, we are referring to something born out of the “Soviet semiosphere”: something that did not necessarily coincide with the official ideology yet was compelled to confront it (Restaneo; Guerlone, 2026, e74381e).

Before describing the perspective and importance of each article to the approach intended by this issue, the *ad hoc* editors state with regard to this issue 21.1:

The final result is a thematic issue that [...] will enrich the contemporary discussion around key notions such as Orientalism, imperialism, universalism, identity, and minorities, while adding complexity, both retrospective and prospective, to historical readings of the former Soviet Union – a “ghostly” yet pulsating geopolitical entity today. The volume is a tribute to interdisciplinary and polyphonic reflection that, through seven articles, explores different bi- and multi-way processes between the Soviet and the colonial, taking on different disciplinary approaches (philology, history of ideas, literature, history of linguistics, cultural studies, and critical theory). (Restaneo; Guerlone, 2026, e74381e).

Highlighting that this issue brings together seven articles authored by nine scholars—five with international affiliations (Argentina, Italy, and the United Kingdom) and four with national affiliations—we reaffirm our ethical commitment to high-quality scientific production and invite all readers, authors, and collaborators to engage actively with the texts by incorporating them into their research and disseminating them among peers and interested audiences more broadly.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for the invaluable support, assistance, and recognition provided by CNPq/CAPES; the CNPq/CAPES Call for Proposals [Chamada CNPq/CAPES]; and the PUC-SP/PUC-PESQUISA/Pub Pesquisa Call for Proposals 07/2026 for the Publication of Journals (PubPer-PUC-SP) [PUC-SP/PUC-PESQUISA/ EDITAL Puc Pesquisa 07/2026/ PUBLICAÇÃO DE PERIÓDICOS (PubPer-PUC-SP)], 1st semester of 2026.

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