DGO

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V.



DGO-Congress of Central and East European Studies

ceecon 26

October 8–9, 2026

Freie Universität Berlin

Co-organizers

OSTEUROPA INSTITUT

ZOIS Zentrum für Osteuropa- und Internationale Studien
Centre for East European and International Studies

a lot to cee...



Table of Contents

Welcome 5

ceecon26 7

Program

at Henry Ford Bau (HFB)

Plenary Sessions 8

Roundtables 12

at Osteuropa-Institut (OEI)

PhD Presentations 10

Ukraine: Civil Society 16

Ideology 18

Authoritarianism 20

Memory 22

Ukraine: Ecology & Future 24

South Caucasus 26

Technologies / Economy 28

Migration / Society / Democracy 30

at Otto-Suhr-Institut (OSI)

Security: Institutions and Borders 32

Soviet Union & Other Empires 34

Migration 36

Youth & Identity 38

at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Reception and Award Ceremony 40

at Theatre Pool

A Playback Theatre Performance 42

Organizers 44

Locations 52

Presenter Index 54



Ruprecht Polenz (© get-shot.de)

Welcome

To the third DGO-Congress of Central and East European Studies – ceecon26 – in Berlin. This year's Congress is themed around (Un)Certainties. We are living in an era of increasing uncertainty. The certainties that we have long taken for granted are fading. Political systems are eroding, social norms are changing radically, and economic developments are hard to predict. Some emerging trends in Eastern Europe can be analyzed as setting the tone for global developments, while at the same time global dynamics influence the regional context.

However, uncertainties are not merely the subject of academic research; they also influence scholarship itself. This is strikingly evident in the increasing attacks on academic freedom. Trends that we identified in Eastern Europe some time ago are now emerging in other regions as well. This makes it all the more important for ceecon to provide a platform for discussion about changes within academia itself, as well.

We would like to thank everyone who made this conference possible, particularly our partners: the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin – the host of the Congress – and the Centre for East European and International Studies. We wish you all a fruitful exchange.

Ruprecht Polenz
President, German Association for East European Studies



ceecon26

The DGO-Congress of Central and East European Studies is the largest multidisciplinary congress on Central and Eastern Europe in the German-speaking world. Established in 2022, the Congress is organised by the German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V. / DGO), the Institute for East European Studies (Osteuropa-Institut / OEI) at Freie Universität Berlin, and the Centre for East European and International Studies (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien / ZOiS).

ceecon brings together scholars from the international academic community whose research relates to Central and Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. This year's theme is (Un)Certainties, and ceecon26 will explore the social and geopolitical uncertainties shaped by regional conflicts and wars, global crises, and challenges to the international order. With a keynote lecture and more than 70 panels and round tables, the program provides interdisciplinary insights into the most pressing issues currently facing the region. A special time slot is reserved for the presentation of research projects by junior scholars.

Our goal is to promote international academic exchange between countries, disciplines and age groups. We encourage all participants to use ceecon as a platform for lively discussion and strengthening academic networks.

www.ceecon.de

ceecon26

Plenary Sessions

Thursday, October 8, 2026

10:00–10:30 | HFB/C

Opening

Günter M. Ziegler, President of Freie Universität Berlin
Gabriele Freitag, German Association for East European Studies (DGO)
Gwendolyn Sasse, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS)

10:30–11:30 | HFB/C

Keynote

Quo Vadis? Central and East European Studies after the End of History

Marci Shore (University of Toronto)

Friday, October 9, 2026

16:00–17:30 | HFB/C

Closing Panel

Risk as Resource and Commodity:
Critical Perspectives on the "Scholar at Risk" Ecosystem

Tania Arcimovich (University of Erfurt),
Nadiya Kiss (University of Erfurt),
Andrea Pető (Central European University),
Dina Gusejnova (London School of Economics),
Elena Trifan (University of Erfurt)

Chair: **Gabriele Freitag** (DGO)

PhD Presentations

Friday, October 9, 2026

11:00–12:30

Formal Institutions, Informal Networks in the (Post-)Soviet Region | OEI Auditorium A, 026
PROJECT PRESENTAION

Assignments to Towns of Provincial Importance: Labour Migration, Empire-Building and the Raspredelenie System in the late Societ Union
Daria Tashkinova (The Research Center for the History of Transformations, University of Vienna)
Pauline Foret (European University Viadrina)

Authoritarian Tech Support: Russian Laws and the Proliferation of Authoritarian Digital Policy in Eurasia
Ewan Thomas-Colquhoun (University of Potsdam)

Contesting Ukraine's EU Accession: Challenger Party Ideologies, Interests, and Imaginaries in France, Germany, and Poland (2021-2025)
Marius Heil (Aston University)

Chair: Laura Loew (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen)

Actors of Violence and their Representation in Times of Radical Change | OEI 105
PROJECT PRESENTATION

Contacts, Conflicts and Co-operation: German-Ukrainian Political Networks and their Actors between the First World War and the Early Years of the Federal Republic
Natalja Böhm (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich)

"Monopolising Violence? The Role of Private Security Companies in post-Soviet Russia's State-Building and Economy from 1991 to the Present"
Aymen Aulaiwi (University of Oxford)

Exhibiting the Ongoing War: Military Heritage-Making in Russian Historical Museums
Anastasiia Serikova (Bielefeld University)

Chair: Natalia Sobczuk (Junge DGO)

Bodies, Norms, and Control: Gender in Illiberal Societies | OEI 121
PROJECT PRESENTATION

Canon Slash Fanon: Adapting the Russian Classics on Ficbook.net
Julia Hackler (University of Bristol and University of Southampton)

Hijabs, Miniskirts, and State Morality: The Politics of Women's Dress and Conduct in Tajikistan
Farangis Davronova (University of Tsukuba)

Uncertain Intimate Citizenship: School-Based Sexual Education under Illiberal Governance in Hungary
Elizabeth Végh (Eötvös Loránd University)

Chair: Olha Norba (Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava)

Roundtables

Thursday, October 8, 2026

12:00–13:30

Two Zeitenwenden, One Europe: Germany, Poland and the New Landscape of Uncertainty and Insecurity
| HFB Conference Room II
Jakub Bornio (University of Wrocław),
Stefan Garsztecki (TU Chemnitz),
Agnieszka Łada-Konefał (German Institute of Polish Affairs),
Iwona Reichardt (The College of Eastern Europe),
Bastian Sendhardt (German Institute of Polish Affairs)

Publishing on Eastern Europe and Eurasia in (Un)Certain Times: An Editors' Roundtable | HFB Conference Room III
Luca Anceschi (University of Glasgow),
Félix Krawatzek (Centre for East European and International Studies),
Katharina Kucher (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies),
Tomila Lankina (London School of Economics and Political Science),
Fabian Burkhardt (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies)

15:00–16:30

The Big Shift. Doing Historical Research in 'Eastern Europe' since 2022 | HFB Conference Room II

Maike Lehmann (Max Weber Network Eastern Europe),
Ruslana Bovhyria (Freie Universität Berlin),
Tamar Qeburia (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies),
Julia Lajus (Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies),
Masha Cerovic (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences)

Russophone Uncertainties. Studying post-2022 Russian-Speaking Communities in Global Contexts | HFB Conference Room III

Alessandro Achilli (University of Cagliari),
Alina Jašina-Schäfer (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz),
Marco Puleri (University of Bologna),
Jan Zeller (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg),
Miriam Finkelstein (University of Konstanz)

17:00–18:30

Ukrainian Society and Legacies of War: Challenges of Empirical Research | HFB Conference Room II

Viktoria Sereda (Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Studies),
Olga Onuch (University of Manchester),
Volodymyr Kulyk (Kyiv School of Economics),
Volodymyr Vakhitov (American University Kyiv),
Gwendolyn Sasse (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Anxieties of Ageing and Demographic Uncertainties in Southeastern Europe: A Conversation Across Disciplines | HFB Conference Room III

Attila Melegh (Corvinus University),
Dagmar Gramshammer-Hohl, Florian Bieber (University of Graz),
Ulf Brunnbauer (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies),
Galina Goncharova (University of Sofia),
Hannes Grandits (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Frday, October 9, 2026

9:00–10:30

Militarization and Indoctrination of Ukrainian Children by the Russian Federation | HFB Conference Room II
OSCE REPORT PRESENTATION

Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham)
Andrea Gawrich (Justus Liebig University Gießen)
Susan Stewart (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)
Andreas Wittkowsky (Center for International Peace Operations)

Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (Centre for East European and International Studies

Repression Without Borders: Transnational Authoritarian Practices and Diasporas from Russia, Belarus and Central Asia – A Länder-Analysen Roundtable | HFB Conference Room III
BOOK PRESENTATION

Elena Rusakova (Memorial International),
Vasily Naumov (Center for Advanced Internet Studies),
Khursand Kurramov (Independent Journalist),
Steve Swerdlov (University of Southern California)



©: Ole Witt

Ukraine: Civil Society

Thursday, October 8, 2026
| OEI Auditorium A, 026

12:00–13:30

Transformations of Social Capital under War, Displacement, and Decentralisation

PAPER SESSION

Changes in Social Capital of Ukrainians During Full-Scale War: The Effect of Internal Displacement, Age and Income
Tetiana Kostiuchenko (Freie Universität Berlin)

Social Capital and Cohesion: Lessons from Ukrainian Communities
Tetiana Lukeria (Kyiv School of Economics)

Bonding as a Bridge: Reevaluating Social Capital and Integration for Ukrainian War Refugees
Volodymyr Vakhitov (American University Kyiv)

Ukrainian Decentralization under Martial Law: Challenges for Regional and Local Self-Governance
Andrii Darkovich (Kyiv School of Economics)

Chair: Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina)

15:00–16:30

Civil Society and Resilience in Ukraine

PAPER SESSION

Horizontal Civil Society Networks and Post-War Reconstruction in Ukraine: Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery
Anna Romandash (Center for International Governance Innovation)

Impressing de Tocqueville? Exploring Interest Group Mobilization in War-Time and Democratizing Ukraine
Michael Dobbins (Leibniz University of Hannover)

Navigating the Seas of Uncertainties: Ukrainian School Teachers in Times of War
Kristina Kocyba (TU Dresden), Kateryna Buchko (Ukrainian Catholic University)

Social resilience amidst radical uncertainty: transforming war frames and civic practices in Ukraine
Olga Kutsenko (TU Berlin)

Burnout under (Un)Certainties: Three-Wave Evidence from Ukrainian Academic Staff during the Full-Scale War
Natalia Tsybuliak (Berdyansk State Pedagogical University)

Chair: NN

17:00–18:30

Thinking Locally, Acting Globally: Municipalities, Civil Society, and Diaspora in the War Response and Ukrainian Recovery

PAPER SESSION

Ukrainian Occupied Communities in Exile: Coping with a Crisis, Seeking to a new Partnership
Oksana Mikheieva (Kyiv School of Economics)

Swinging between Crisis Response and Innovations: Ukrainian Front-Line Cities in Developing Programs of Recovery
Yuliya Bidenko (Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute)

Multiple Visions of the Ukrainian Diaspora's Role in Post-War Recovery: The Experience of Civic Activists in Germany
Tetyana Panchenko (Karazin Kharkiv International University)

Chair: Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina)

Friday, October 9, 2026
| OEI Auditorium A, 026

9:00–10:30

Intermedial Presentation: Literary and Visual Analysis
INTERMEDIAL PRESENTATION

Khrystyna Nahorniak (Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University), Iryna Malyshivska (Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University)

11:00–12:30

Formal Institutions, Informal Networks in the (Post-)Soviet Region
PROJECT PRESENTATION

Assignments to Towns of Provincial Importance: Labour Migration, Empire-Building and the Raspredelenie System in the late Societ Union
Daria Tashkinova (The Research Center for the History of Transformations, University of Vienna)

Patronal Networks in Wartime Ukraine
Pauline Foret (European University Viadrina)

Authoritarian Tech Support: Russian Laws and the Proliferation of Authoritarian Digital Policy in Eurasia
Ewan Thomas-Colquhoun (University of Potsdam)

Contesting Ukraine's EU Accession: Challenger Party Ideologies, Interests, and Imaginaries in France, Germany, and Poland (2021-2025)
Marius Heil (Aston University)

Chair: Laura Loew (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen)

14:00–15:30

Resilience, Emergency Governance and Social Change in Wartime Ukraine
PAPER SESSION

Between Algorithms and Improvisation: Emergency Response Governance in Kyiv During the 2025–2026 Winter
Oleksandra Keudel (Kyiv School of Economics)

Collective Dimensions of Resilience and Scial Citizenship in Ukraine's Housing Crisis
Sophie Schmäing (Freie Universität Berlin)

Making Meaning of Resilience: A Relational Approach to Analysing Structures and Agency in Ukrainian Reconstruction Amidst War
Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina)

Chair: Oksana Mikheieva (Kyiv School of Economics)

Ideology

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 101

12:00–13:30

Russia Wartime Transformation through the Prism of Ideologization

PAPER SESSION

Coherence and Continuity in Wartime Putinism: The Operationalisation of Kremlin Political Rhetoric for Specific Audiences
Matthew Blackburn (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Different shades of Russia's Sovereignty: Productive Fantasies of State Welfarism in Public Education
Tatiana Romashko (University of Jyväskylä)

Entangled Statisms: Ideological Patterns of Utilizing Force in Russia's Strategic Culture of the 2020s
Ivan Fomin (Charles University)

Traditional Values as Wartime Ideology: Moral Panic and the Operationalisation of Gendered Governance in Russian Reality Television
Diana Planida (University of Bologna)

Chair: Katharina Bluhm (Freie Universität Berlin)

15:00–16:30

History, Ideology and Language

PAPER SESSION

Mobilizing the Past: School History Textbooks as a Legitimation Tool in Putin's Russia
Helge Blakkisrud (University of Oslo)

De-Russification and Its Discontents: Popular Perceptions of Language Processes in Wartime Ukraine
Volodymyr Kulyk (Kyiv School of Economics)

Governing Through Uncertainty: Authoritarian Ambiguity and Preventive Self-Censorship in Russian Publishing and Streaming
Veronika Danilova (Justus Liebig University of Gießen)

Many faces of conspiracy. Polyphonic political discourse on George Soros in Hungary
Tamas Dudlak (University of Pécs)

Chair: N.N.

17:00–18:30

The Glory Pipeline: War Myths, Education, and the Politics of Memory in Russia after 2022

PAPER SESSION

On War Myths and Identity Scripts: How Russian History Textbooks Reuse the "Great Patriotic War" to Frame the "Special Military Operation"
Olga Mennecke (University of Hildesheim)

From Sacred Victory to Justified Aggression: WWII Remembrance and the current war of Russia against Ukraine in Russian Museums
N.N.

Win, Serve, Save: How Russian Schools and Universities Use History for Statist Ideological Indoctrination
Ivan Formin (Charles University)

Discussant: Holger Kuße (TU Dresden)

Chair: Arseniy Kumankov (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 101

9:00–10:30

Antigender Politics as an Outcome of Populism

PAPER SESSION

From Feminist Activism to Moral Panic: Celebrity, Satire, and Antifeminist Discourse in the Sadowska Scandal (1923–1925)
Ewelina Woźniak-Wrzesińska (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe)

Human Rights and/or Identity? Discourses of Citizenship as the European Way in the Wartime Ukraine: A Comparative Analysis of Human Rights and LGBTQ-Movements
Aleksandr Kochekovskii (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe)

"Antigender narratives in Russian wartime propaganda and their influence on queer women"
Anna Eroshenko (Quarteera e. V.)

The Transnationalization of Anti-Gender Politics Through Social Media: Cross-Border Discourse Coalitions and Networked Framing
Jane Doe (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Chair: Heidi Hein-Kircher (Ruhr-University Bochum)

14:00–15:30

Media Practices and the Production of (Un)Certainty in Conflict Societies

PAPER SESSION

From reader diaries to comment threads: case-based evidence on reading as (un)certainty management
Anna Gerasimova (Ruhr-University Bochum)

Strategic Uncertainty as a Tool of Russian Narrative Power
Francisco Manuel Villegas Cara (University of Augsburg)

From Soviet Utopia to Putinist Telecracy: The Poetics of Television on the Stage of Russian Theater
Fabian Erlenmaier (University of Potsdam)

Chair: Roman Smirnov (Leibniz University Hannover)

Authoritarianism

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 105

12:00–13:30

Authoritarian Adaptation, Populism and Social Control

PAPER SESSION

Fear-Based Narratives and Authoritarian Resilience of Hungary's Orbán Regime
Márk Stégmayer (Johannes Kepler University Linz)

Perceived Government Actions and Public Intimacy among Sexual and Gender Minorities across Europe
Valerio Baćak (Rutgers University)

What has the Authoritarian Belarusian Government Learned from Internationally Supported Good Governance Promotion?
Tatsiana Chulitskaya (Vilnius University)

Legality and Populism: The pendulum between Perpetuating and Reducing Domination in and beyond Autocratizing Slovakia
Max Steuer (Comenius University Bratislava)

Chair: Maria Skóra (Institut für Europäische Politik)

15:00–16:30

Geopolitics and Governance in Central Asia

PAPER SESSION

Diplomatic and Geopolitical Aspects of US Strategy in Central Asia: The Case of Kazakhstan
Zakiyeva Zhanat (National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan)

Energy and Water as Instruments of Foreign Policy: Tajikistan's Strategic Cooperation in Central Asia
Botagoz Sariyeva (Bordeaux Institute of Political Science)

Chair: Richard Schmidt (Centre for East European and International Studies)

17:00–18:30

Return of the Enigmas? Studying Elite Politics in Closed Authoritarian Regimes

PAPER SESSION

Russia and China Experts and Their Networks
Franziska Barbara Keller (University of Bern)

Elite Factionalism and Circulation in Wartime Russia
Fabian Burkhardt (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies)

Sectoral Varieties of Brokerage: Russian Networks and the Adaptive Capacity of Authoritarian Regimes
Sebastian Hoppe (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Violence and Pacification in Russian Public Language
Jan Matti Dollbaum (University of Fribourg)

Chair: Sebastian Hoppe (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 105

9:00–10:30

Academic Freedom in Central Asia: Challenges and Perspectives

ROUND TABLE

Feruza Madaminova (International School of Finance Technology and Science), Assylzat Karabayeva (Kimep University), Dmitry Dubrovsky (Charles University)

11:00–12:30

Actors of Violence and their Representation in Times of Radical Change

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Contacts, Conflicts and Co-operation: German-Ukrainian Political Networks and their Actors between the First World War and the Early Years of the Federal Republic
Natalja Böhm (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich)

"Monopolising Violence? The Role of Private Security Companies in post-Soviet Russia's State-Building and Economy from 1991 to the Present"
Aymen Aulaiwi (University of Oxford)

Exhibiting the Ongoing War: Military Heritage-Making in Russian Historical Museums
Anastasiia Serikova (Bielefeld University)

Chair: Natalia Sobczuk (Junge DGO)

14:00–15:30

Die politischen Systeme im östlichen Europa

BOOK PRESENTION

Timm Beichelt (European University Viadrina), Sonja Priebus (European University Viadrina)

Memory

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 121

12:00–13:30

Diaspora, Memory and Contested Belonging

PAPER SESSION

Inter-Imperial Memory and Political Agency under Conditions of Uncertainty: The Belarusian Diaspora in Central and Eastern Europe
David Pergl (Charles University)

Imagining Crimea: Spatiality, Diaspora, and the Politics of Belonging among Crimean Tatars
Elmira Muratova (European Centre for Minority Issues)

Tatars Identity in Russian Propaganda Strategies after the Annexation of Crimea
Dominik Jakub Napiwodzki (Institute for Caucasica-, Tatarica- and Turkestan Studies)

Chair: Liena Galeja (Latvian Academy of Culture)

15:00–16:30

Security and Memory in the Baltics

PAPER SESSION

Extinguished Fire? Estonia's Fractured Mnemonic Landscape
Félix Krawatzek (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Borderland Narratives: Negotating Minority Memory in the Vilnius Region Museums
Violeta Davoliūtė (Vilnius University), Rūta Vyšniauskaitė (Vilnius University Institute of International Relations and Political Science)

Who's Welcome? Security, Soviet Memories, and the Estonian Refugee Dilemma
Hakob Matevosyan (Centre for East European and International Studies)

When Does Language Matter Politically? A Comparative Study of Multilingual Democracies
Olga Jerjomina (Witten/Herdecke University)

Chair: Matthew Blackburn (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

17:00–18:30

Memory under Construction: Narrating War in Real Time

PAPER SESSION

The Destructive Impact of Apoliticality: Representations of Political Indifference in Contemporary Ukrainian Fiction
Tetiana Grebeniuk (University of Warsaw)

Navigating Uncertainty in Wartime: Participatory Media Practices in the Russo-Ukrainian War
Olena Zinenko (Ruhr University Bochum)

Navigating Uncertainty in Wartime: Participatory Media Practices in the Russo-Ukrainian War
Mariia Rastvorova (University of Graz)

Narrating (Un)Certainty: Literature, Memory, and Meaning-Making in Wartime Ukraine
Liudmyla Harmash (Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University)

Chair: Ewa Sułek (Freie Universität Berlin)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 121

9:00–10:30

History Unearthed: The Memory of the Second World War as a Battleground after 2022
PAPER SESSION

The Role of AI in WWII-Related Memory Wars
Mykola Makhortykh (University of Bern)

Teaching History after February 24, 2022: Difficult Topics and Emotions
Svitlana Telukha (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

Gender and the Memory of the Second World War
Andrea Pető (Central European University)

Chair: Alexander Etkind (Central European University)

11:00–12:30

Bodies, Norms, and Control: Gender in Illiberal Societies
PROJECT PRESENTATION

Canon Slash Fanon: Adapting the Russian Classics on Ficbook.net
Julia Hackler (University of Bristol and University of Southampton)

Hijabs, Miniskirts, and State Morality: The Politics of Women's Dress and Conduct in Tajikistan
Farangis Davronova (University of Tsukuba)

Uncertain Intimate Citizenship: School-Based Sexual Education under Illiberal Governance in Hungary
Elizabeth Végh (Eötvös Loránd University)

Chair: Olha Norba (Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava)

14:00–15:30

Nation Building
PAPER SESSION

Nation-Building Without a Nation? Memory Politics and Identity Formation in Transnistria Since 1991
Felix Schmidtke (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Monuments and the Politics of (Un)Certainty: Embodying Regime Shifts and the Instrumentalization of the Past in Latvia
Liena Galeja (Latvian Academy of Culture), Ojars Stepens (University of Latvia)

Red Army Monuments in Poland after the Fall of Communism: Local Memory and Global Forces
Ewa Ochman (University of Manchester)

Building Identity in Times of Uncertainty: The Development of Ukrainian Memory Politics during the Full-Scale War
Marcin Jędrysiak (Centre for Eastern Studies Warsaw)

Chair: Viktoria Sereda (Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study)

Ukraine:

Ecology & Future

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 301

12:00–13:30

Coming to Terms with War Crimes as a Precondition for a Comprehensive and Lasting Peace in Ukraine

PAPER SESSION

Legal Reappraisal as a Key to Reconciliation
Rainer Wedde (RheinMain University of Applied Sciences and Arts)

War Crimes in the Focus of Criminal Justice: The Ukrainian Model and Legal Practices Gained
Yevhen Pysmenskyy (King Danylo University)

Modernisation of Ukrainian Criminal Procedure Law and the Framework for International Legal Cooperation to Improve the Prosecution of War Crimes
Tetiana Vilchyk (National Law University)

Chair: Lea Nina Sophia Pheiffer (University of Regensburg)

15:00–16:30

European Future for Ukraine: Enlargement Scenarios, Political Challenges and Societal Aspirations

PAPER SESSION

Dilemmas of Wartime Enlargement: Ukraine's EU Accession Scenarios
Oleksiy Kandyuk (University of Konstanz)

Democracy in Wartime Ukraine: Resilience, Constraints, and Transformation
Oleksii Kolesnykov (University of Tartu)

European Values and Political Orientations in Ukrainian Society
Inna Volosevych (InfoSapiens)

Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges in Ukraine: striking a balance between independence and control
Lidiia Moskvych (Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University)

Chair: Yuliya Bidenko (Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute)

17:00–18:30

The Role of Occupied "New Regions" in Wartime Ideologization of Russia and Ukraine

PAPER SESSION

The Ideological Foundations of Institutional Development in the Donbas before and after its Annexation by Russia
Tatiana Malyarenko (Odesa Law University)

3D-Ukraine: Decommunization-Decolonization-Derussification, Ukraine 2005-2025
Georgiy Kasianov (University of Lublin)

Challenging Ukrainian Exceptionalism: A Comparative Analysis of Post-Revolutionary Societies at War
Volodymyr Ishchenko (Freie Universität Berlin)

Chair: Matthew Blackburn (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 301

9:00–10:30

Stories of War and Nature: Narrating Ecocide during the Russian War against Ukraine

PAPER SESSION

Urban Ecocide and Postwar Renewal: from Green Microdistrict to Anthropocenic Landscape in Northern Saltivka (Kharkiv, Ukraine)
Anastasiia Bozhenko (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

The Application of Environmental Narratives in Telegram Channels of Occupied Mariupol: Chronology and Structure
Olena Pavlova (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Violence Against Nature in the Russian War Against Ukraine: Narrative Strategies for Children
Tetiana Perga (TU Berlin)

Chair: Olena Korzun (National Agrarian Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

14:00–15:30

Food Systems and the Environment after Russia's full-scale Invasion of Ukraine: Disruptions and Strategies

PAPER SESSION

Russia, Ukraine and Natural Resources in an Era of Mercantilist Geopolitics
Jiayi Zhou (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

Changing Priorities in Environmental and Climate Politicies in Russia following the full-scale Invasion of Ukraine
Angelina Davydova (Institute for Global Reconstitution)

Community Agriculture as a Response to Food Insecurity and Environmental Stress in Wartime Ukraine
Tetiana Grabovska (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture)

Environmentally Safe Technologies for Converting Organic Residues and Raw Materials into Resources
Olha Tertychna (National Academy of Agrarian Sciences)

Chair: Mihai Varga (Freie Universität Berlin)

South Caucasus

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 302A

12:00–13:30

Small State Responses (to Uncertainty) in the South Caucasus

PAPER SESSION

Europe Yes, Brussels No: Strategic Norm Contestation and the Re-Framing of Europeanness in Georgia
David Matsaberidze (Tbilisi State University), Doris Wydra (University of Salzburg)

Resilience Through Digitalisation? Opposition Party Strategies in Georgia's Emerging Autocratization
Kornely Kakachia (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University),
Sandro Tabatadze (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University),
Nika Gigauri (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University)

Chair: Veronika Pfeilschifter (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

15:00–16:30

Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus

PAPER SESSION

Ontological Security and Identity Transformations in Georgian and Armenian Foreign Policy
Maximilian Ohle (Independent Researcher)

Transformation Underway? Armenia's Russian and Western Policy after the 2020 War in Nagorno-Karabakh
Erik Davtyan(Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Making Hedging (Un)Successful: Secondary State Strategies in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia
Bidzina Lebanidze (Friedrich Schiller University Jena),
Kornely Kakachia (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University)

Chair: Tamar Taralashvili (Ilia State University)

17:00–18:30

Social Movements and Political Traditions in Times of Uncertainty: Historical and Contemporary Interrogations from the South Caucasus

PAPER SESSION

Mobilizing Under Constraint: The Politics of Uncertainty in Late-Soviet Georgia
Katie Sartania (Leibniz Center Modern Orient)

Decentralizing Dissent: Revising the Role of Civil Society under Consolidating Authoritarianism in Georgia
Tamar Qeburia (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies)

Georgia's Left in Times of Shifting Geopolitics and Changing Global Order
Veronika Pfeilschifter (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Chair: Zaal Andronikashvili (Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 302A

9:00–10:30

Film Discussion: Dolma Diaries & Caucasian Blues

FILM DISCUSSION

Oliver Müser

Technologies / Economy

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 302B

12:00–13:30

Tech, Media, and Control of the Digital Sphere

PAPER SESSION

Authoritarian Stability in the Age of AI: Digital Surveillance and Contestation of the Liberal Script in Central Asia
Nozima Saidova

Chair: Ewan Thomas-Colquhoun (University of Potsdam)

15:00–16:30

New technologies of the Souls. Russian Corruption of the Public Sphere in the Age of AI

PAPER SESSION

The Development of Russian Influencing in the Last Decade
Ulrich Schmid (University of St. Gallen)

The Technology of the Ideological Corruption of LLMs and AI
Julius Schulte (University of St. Gallen)

Pro-Russian Narratives in LLMs of Different National Origin
Sophie Harper (University of St. Gallen)

Constructing Power in Transition: A Constructivist and Computational Analysis of Russia's Identity, Status, and Role in Russian Far East vis-à-vis China since the 2022 Special Military Operation
Miras Tolepbergen (University of Oslo)

Chair: Jan Matti Dollbaum (University of Fribourg)

17:00–18:30

Political Economy in Wartime Eurasia: Changing Alignments, Dependencies and Models

PAPER SESSION

Islands or Alliance? China-Russia Approaches to Economic and Technological Sovereignty
Jiayi Zhou (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

Authoritarianism without Ilsolation: Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy Vectorism Revisited
Maja Savevska (Nazarbayev University)

Run on Resources: State Strategy and Transnational De-Risking in the Black Sea and Caspian Area
Mihai Varga (Freie Universität Berlin)

Beneficiaries and Losers of Russia's Wartime Economy: An Empirical Analysis
Ilya Matveev (University of Bremen)

Chair: Katharina Bluhm (Freie Universität Berlin)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 302B

9:00–10:30

The Geoeconomics of Conflict

PAPER SESSION

From Headlines to Hard Data: Mapping the Uneven Impact of Geopolitical Risk in Europe
Matteo Falagiarda (European Central Bank)

Sanctions, Substitution, and the Informal Margin: Geoeconomic Spillovers in Eastern Europe
Ceyhun Elgin (Bogazici University)

Trading Democracy for Peace(ocracy)? Rise of Authoritarianism amid Conflict
Yahor Azarkevich (University of Warwick)

Chair: Jiayi Zhou (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

14:00–15:30

Russian Political Technology and Foreign Interference

PAPER SESSION

Everyday Life under Countermeasures to Foreign Interference: Russian-Speaking Communities in Narva (Estonia) and Daugavpils (Latvia)
Tomáš Hoch (University of Ostrava), Andrea Peinhopf (University of Ostrava)

Human Rights under Permanent Emergency: Resilience as a Technology of Rule in Russia
Sophie Stammler (University of Lapland)

Being "Russian" Abroad in the Midst of a Geopolitical Rupture: Transnational Senses of Belonging among Migrant Generations
Sophia Winkler, Felix Krawatzek (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Chair: Sophie Harper (University of St. Gallen)

Migration Society Democracy

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OEI 323

12:00–13:30

Russian Wartime Migrants Uncertainties: Between Integration and Isolation

PAPER SESSION

Political Engagement under Uncertainty: Leadership and Protest among Russian Wartime Migrants in Exile (Case of Armenia)
Margarita Zavadskaya (Finnish Institute of International Affairs),
Sophie Jaeger (Central European University)

Deservingness and Belonging: the "Good Russians" in Latvia's Securitized Contexts
Inta Mierina (University of Latvia)

Researching Russian Migration: Navigating Mnemonic (Un)Certainties Across Spaces and Actors
Laura Innocenti (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)

Russian Wartime migrants' uncertainty in Georgia: Russian-Georgian (dis)encounters in Tbilisi
Tsypylma Darieva (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Discussant: Hakob Matevosyan (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (Centre for East European and International Studies)

15:00–16:30

Russian Society's Responses to the War

PANEL

Political Capital of "SMO Veterans": Analyzing the Electoral Data
Dmitrii Kozmin (University of Bologna)

Relational Politics in Unsettled Times: Russian Antiwar Petitions and the Meaning of Protest during the 2022 Invasion of Ukraine
Guillaume Sauvé (University of Montreal)

Managing Spoiled Russian Identity: Geopolitical Stigma, Empire and Masculine Subject Positioning during the Russia-Ukraine War
Marina Yusupova-Ryder (Edinburgh Napier University)

The Middle Class in Wartime Russia: New Patriotism, New Grievances
Ilya Matveev (University of Bremen),
Oleg Zhuravlev (TU Dresden)

Chair: Roman Smirnov (Leibniz University Hannover)

17:00–18:30

Protecting Academia at Risk: Reflexions, Qualitative Fieldwork and Podcast

INFOSESSION

Elena Triffan (University of Erfurt)

Tania Arcimovich (University of Erfurt | The Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin)

Nadya Kiss (University of Erfurt)

Chair: Andrea Pető (Central European University)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OEI 323

9:00–10:30

The EU and its Neigboring Countries

PAPER SESSION

European Identity Beyond the EU: The impact of the European Commission Youth Mobility Programs on the Sense of European Identity among Ukrainians, Moldovans and Georgians
Aleksandre Sakhechidze (Freie Universität Berlin)

Protest and Resilience in Serbia and Georgia - Domestic Challenges in the Course of EU Enlargement
Claudia Matthes (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Governing (Un)Certainties: Scenario Planning as a Resilience and Adaptation Tool in Ukraine's Climate-Neutral Recovery
Swati Kulashri (TU Dresden)

From External Incentives to Domestic Policy Preferences: Explaining Formal Convergence between the Candidate Countries and the EU Acquis in the Area of Social Policy
Levan Kakhishvili (ETH Zurich)

Chair: David Matsaberidze (Tbilisi State University)

14:00–15:30

Democratic Backsliding

PAPER SESSION

Democratic Twilight and Patronal Continuities: Rethinking Democratisation and Autocratisation through the Case of Georgia
Oliver Reisner (Ilia State University Tbilisi)

Uncertain Definitions: Soviet Dissent, Its History, and Its Contemporary Political Uses
Tatsiana Astrouskaya (Harvard University)

The resilience of human rights organizations in Russia in the struggle for human rights amid the strengthening of dictatorship in the 2000s and 2010s
N.N.

Cycles of Power in Ukraine: The Struggle for Democratic Resilience
Michael Kuznetsov (Karazin Kharkiv National University)

Disinformation, Source Credibility, and Civic Identity Under Conditions of Geopolitical Uncertainty: Evidence from Moldova
Raj Desai (Georgetown University)

Chair: Chair: Denis Shedov (University of Helsinki)

Security: Institutions and Borders

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OSI UG1

12:00–13:30

Alliance Politics and Public Opinion in Times of War: NATO's Evolving Role in Central and Eastern Europe

PAPER SESSION

Better with Friends? Personal Concerns about Global Conflict and Support for Hosting NATO Troops
Ángel Torres-Adán (Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava)

Preferences for Military Spending and NATO: Experimental Evidence from Lithuania
Denis Ivanov (University of Vilnius)

Promises vs. Performance: Explaining the Gap Between Planned and Realized Military Spending in NATO
Jan Kofroň (Charles University)

Chair: Vytautas Kuokštis (Vilnius University)

15:00–16:30

The Field of Military History of Eastern Europe: Concepts, Methods, and Perspectives

PAPER SESSION

The Field of Military History of Eastern Europe: Concepts, Methods, and Perspectives
Markus Wien (American University in Bulgaria)

Landscapes of Violence in Belarus: War, Space, and Memory in the Work of Leonid M. Levin
Kristin Janeke (Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr)

'Marxist Military Science' in Soviet Russia, 1927-1932
Sofya Anisimova (University College Dublin)

German Perceptions of Military Culture in Tsarist Russia
Luisa Eckert (Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr)

Ukrainian Independence and the Breakup of the Soviet Military-Industrial Complex
Friedrich Asschenfeldt (Hoover Institution)

Chair: Markus Wien (American University in Bulgaria)

17:00–18:30

Security Cooperation in Setting of Protracted Conflicts: the EU, OSCE, and the Future of Confidence Building

PAPER SESSION

Institutional Drift in the OSCE, 1994–2021
Andrea Gawrich (Justus Liebig University Gießen)

Trade, Trust, and Contested Statehood: Rethinking Trade-Based Confidence Building in the Moldova–Transnistria Conflict
Sabine von Löwis (Centre for East European and International Studies),
Julia Langbein (Centre for East European and International Studies)

The DCFTA as Quiet Diplomacy: How Trade Reoriented Transnistria but Failed to Build Lasting Trust
Jean-Robert Jouanny (University of Birmingham)

Chair: Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OSI UG1

9:00–10:30

Contested Spaces, Haunted Industries, and Sovereign Policies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Polish Borderlands

PAPER SESSION

Border Memory and Conflict in Space: Remembering Socialism at the German-Polish Border
Veronika Warzycha (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)

Haunted Factories: Post-Industrial Nostalgia on the Czech Periphery
Karina Hoření (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Standardisation vs. Sovereignty: The Challenges of EU Border Policy
Maraike Vandergrift (Philipps University Marburg)

Chair: NN

14:00–15:30

Cold War Border Regimes, Spaces, and Cases

ROUND TABLE

Alison Lewis (The University of Melbourne),
Valentina Glajar (Texas State University),
Douglas Selvage (Stasi Records Archive),
Axel Hildebrandt (Moravian University),
Corina Petrescu (The University of Mississippi)

Soviet Union & Other Empires

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OSI UG2

15:00–16:30

Nationalism and Nation Building

PAPER SESSION

What Makes Protests Violent? Opportunity Structures and Violent Protests in Bohemia in the First Half of the 20th Century
David Smrček (Czech Academy of Sciences)

Czech and Finns, Adaptation of New Ideas by Reflecting on the Experiences of other National Movement
Tomáš Masař (Charles University)

Schooling and Nationalism in Czechoslovakia (1918-1938)
Mikuláš Zvánovec (University of Hradec Králové)

Cecylia Niewiadomska and Nationalist Historical Policy as a Weapon against the Uncertainty of Modernity
Claudia Snochowska Gonzalez (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Chair: NN

17:00–18:30

Experiences of War, Revolution and Change in the 20th Century

PAPER SESSION

Preserving an identity in uncertain times. Russian monarchists in exile, 1918-1945
Vydra Zbyněk (University of Pardubice)

Growing Old in Uncertain Times: Older Adults' Activism in the Twentieth Century
Maren Hachmeister (TU Dresden)

Holocaust Memory and Debate in the Ukrainian Diaspora, 1945–1991
Yaroslav Zhuravlov (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Negotiating (Un)Certainty: The Disabled Soldier and the State in Revolutionary Russia, 1917-1918
Olga Okhotnikova (Ludwig-Maximilians-University)

Chair: Robert Kindler (Freie Universität Berlin)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OSI UG2

9:00–10:30

Late SU/Transformation

PAPER SESSION

Late Soviet Peripherality: Connecting Temporal, Spatial, and Relational Meanings
Evgeny Manzhurin (Independent Scholar)

Believing in the Democratic Transition? Germany's Russia Policy in the 1990s
Susanne Maslanka (Collegium Carolinum)

“Accidental Sovereignty”: Managing Identity Uncertainties and the Search for a “Useable Past” in the Newly Born Slovak Republic (1993–2004)
Filip Koźmiński (Jagiellonian University)

“Accidental Sovereignty”: Managing Identity Uncertainties and the Search for a “Useable Past” in the Newly Born Slovak Republic (1993–2004)
Mikołaj Poślada (Jagiellonian University)

“Men Kommunistka Boldym”: How Long Perestroika Shaped the Lives of Baqsylar in Kazakhstan
Abigail Scripka (The Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)

Marijuana Legalization Debates as a Lens on Post-Socialist (Un)Certainties: The Latvian Case
Andrejs Sirmais (Independent Scholar)

Chair: Tobias Rupprecht (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

14:00–15:30

Fear and Loathing in Transition: Markets, Opportunity, and the Search for Order (1985–1995)

PAPER SESSION

The “Civil War” Idiom and the Collapse of the Soviet Order (1988–1995)
Alexander V. Reznik (Institute for the Culture and History of Germans in Northeast Europe)

Raising Fish in the Steppe: A History of Aquaculture and Economic Opportunities in Late Soviet Kazakhstan
Anna Safronova (Leibniz Center Modern Orient)

“An American Dream on Domestic Soil”: Microcomputers, Entrepreneurship and the Fight for “Normal” Capitalism in Early Post-Soviet Russia
Gleb J. Albert (University of Lucerne)

Chair: Anna Ivanova (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Migration

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OSI UG3

12:00–13:30

War, Migration, and Living with (Un)Certainty

PAPER SESSION

Negotiating (Un)Certainties between Origin and Destination Contexts: Political Culture and (Re-)Socialization among Post-Soviet Migrants in Germany
Kseniya Dziatlouskaya (University of Cologne)

Seeking Stability in Unstable Places: The Double Challenge of Uncertainty in War-Driven Migration from Russia
Irina Meyer Olimpieva (George Washington University)

Living with (Un)Certainty: Effects of the War in Ukraine on Moldovan Border Communities
Katharina Kleynmans (Osnabrück University)

Negotiating Temporary Protection – how Russia's aggression war shaped migration diplomacy between the EU, Ukraine and Moldova
Isabel Hoffmann (Osnabrück University)

Chair: Tatiana Golova (Freie Universität Berlin)

15:00–16:30

Migration and War

PAPER SESSION

Young Russian Emigrants in Tbilisi and Batumi: Navigating Liminality and Everyday Uncertainties
Marina Perglová (Charles University)

Displacement as Mobility: Rethinking Academic Migration in the Shadow of War
Nadiya Ivanenko (University of Oxford)

Behind Closed Doors: Private Hosting, Power Dynamics, and Uncertainties in Polish Homes during the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis
Klaudia Kosicińska (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań)

Internally Displaced in Ukraine, from 2014 to 2026: Patterns of (Mutual?) Exclusion and Inclusion
Yulia Abibok (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Chair: NN

17:00–18:30

Care Work, Migration and Families

PAPER SESSION

Wrinkles on the Face of War: Care Practices of Senior Citizens during Uncertain Times
Oleksandra Kokhan (Centre for East European and International Studies)

Doing Family under Everyday (Un)Certainty: War-Induced Transnational Family Practices among Displaced Ukrainians
Tetiana Havlin (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg), Mariya Shcherbyna (Polytechnic University of Turin)

Family Separation in the Russia–Ukraine Conflict through the Lens of Human Security
Maria B. (Independent Researcher)

Chair: NN

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OSI UG3

9:00–10:30

Negotiating Diasporic Identity: Cultural Productions and Narratives in Exile after 2020-2022

PAPER SESSION

Shifting Stages: Narratives, Identities, and Political Engagement in the Belarusian Theatre and Performance Scene in Exile
Tania Arcimovich (University of Erfurt | The Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin)

Uprooted Scenes. Belarusian Music in Exile
Pavel Niakhayeu (Jagiellonian University)

From Commemoration to Mobilization: The "Night of the Executed Poets" and the Belarusian Diaspora after 2020
Ulyana Veryna (University of Bremen)

Chair: Nina Weller (Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin)

14:00–15:30

Uncertain Futures, Institutional Responses: Post-War Care, Welfare, and the "Problem" of Children in Central and Eastern Europe

PAPER SESSION

Care and Prejudice: Abandoned and Orphaned Children of Germans and Volksdeutsche in Poland after 1945
Maria Buko (University of Konstanz)

Orphaned and Abandoned Children in the Italo–Yugoslav Border Region after the Second World War
Ana Cergol Paradiž (University of Ljubljana)

Between Care and Exclusion: Displaced Unaccompanied Children and Humanitarian Regimes after 1945
Raphaela Bollwein (University of Vienna)

Reshaping life Uncertainty: Orphans' Violent Experiences in the Ghettoes of Transnistria as appearing in their diaries, memoirs, testimonies and letters
Sylvia Hershcovitz (Bar Ilan University)

Chair: NN

Youth & Identity

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | OSI UG4

12:00–13:30

Youth Mobilization
PAPER SESSION

Liberal Democratic Attitude Formation: The Case of Czechia
Vera Beloshitzkaya (University of Salzburg)

Mobilising Under Threat: Youth Protest and Civic Engagement in Peripheral Georgia
Tamari Taralashvili (Ilia State University)

'I Slashed My Mom's Car Tires So We Wouldn't Have to Go Back to Germany': (Non)Belonging and Mobility Among Descendants of Poles in Germany
Ewa Cichocka (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlinof Berlin)

Young People's Vulnerability in Times of War and Uncertainty
Svitlana Shevchenko (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

Chair: Olga Masłowska (Independent Researcher)

15:00–16:30

The Logistics, Psychology, and Defense of Protest Movements
PAPER SESSION

Ingroup Leniency for Protest Violence under Polarization: Evidence from Hungary
Endre Borbáth (Heidelberg University)

Logistics of Protest Camps under Autocracy
Anna Fruhstorfer (Freie Universität Berlin)

The Political Psychology of Protest Maintainance in the Serbian Student led Protests
Ismael Benkrama (Freie Universität Berlin)

Chair: NN

17:00–18:30

Transnational Practices of Identity and Resilience
PAPER SESSION

Living Between Worlds: Interethnic Families and the Everyday Management of (Un)Certainties in Southern Kazakhstan
Nazira Abdinassir (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University)

Queer Ukrainian Refugees in Germany: Navigating Uncertainties, Negotiating Belonging
Eugenia Seleznova (Central European University)

Political Exile, Poetics of Translation and Geopolitics of the Body in Julia Cimafiejeva's Poetry
Marina Casado Guerrero (Central European University)

Responsibilities, Obligations, Duties? – Germany's Role in tackling Transnational Repression by the Russian Federation
Fabian Krause (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Chair: Denis Shedov (University of Helsinki)

Friday, October 9, 2026 | OSI UG4

9:00–10:30

Belonging in Conflict: Narratives of Memory, Space, and Identity

PAPER SESSION

No Hope in the Village: Pessimism and Rural Discontent in Eastern Europe
Flavia Gheţu (Justus Liebig University Gießen)

Unstable Sympathies: Conflict and Reconciliation in the Northeast Caucasus in the Works of Russian Writers during the Perestroika
Elisa Mucciarelli (University of Regensburg)

Literary Expressions of Uncertainty of the Slovene Minority in Austrian Carinthia
Monika Podlogar (University of Ljubljana)

Chair: Marija Petrovic (University of Fine Arts Hamburg)

14:00–15:30

Erasure and Belonging. Identity, Exclusion, and Memory

PAPER SESSION

Language and Identity under Russian Occupation: Colonial Erasure and Linguistic Violence
Liudmyla Pidkuimukha (National University of Kyiv)

Making Identity Certain: Philology, Culture, and Education in Post-Soviet Moldova
Catalina Catana (University of Manchester)

Managing Uncertainty: Jewish Otherness and Ideological Coherence in the Late Soviet Union
Marija Petrovic (University of Fine Arts Hamburg)

"self-portrait without mirror from memory": Socialist Realist Portrays from the Gulag (1937-1945)
Adrienn Kácsor (University of Weimar)

Chair: Marina Sivak (Freie Universität Berlin)

Reception and Award Ceremony

Thursday, October 8, 2026 | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Senate Hall, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin

19:30

We invite active congress participants to an evening reception and award ceremony at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Bringing together researchers from across disciplines and countries, the reception offers an opportunity to step away from the program, continue conversations, and connect in a more informal setting.

The evening will celebrate the work of emerging researchers and graduates whose contributions engage with current questions in Central and Eastern European studies. **Julia von Blumenthal,** President of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and member of the Berlin University Alliance's board of directors, will address the guests.

The following awards will be presented:
- **ceecon Best Paper Award for Young Researchers**
- **University of New Europe MA Wartime MA Thesis Prize**

The reception marks an important moment of the congress: an occasion to recognize new research and the people contributing to the field, while bringing together the ceecon26 community beyond the individual sessions and discussions.

PLEASE NOTE: Participation in the reception is limited to active ceecon26 participants. Those eligible to attend have received an invitation and registration information by email. If you have received the invitation, please register for the reception using the form provided.

A Playback Theatre Performance

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 | Theatre Pool,
Boxhagener Str. 18, 10245 Berlin-Friedrichshain

19:30 **Living Through Uncertainty: Research, Stories, and Performance**

As part of ceecon26, congress participants and the wider public are invited to an interactive Playback Theatre performance inspired by four years of the **Ukraine Research Network (UNET).**

For researchers working on Eastern Europe, uncertainty is more than an analytical concept: it is a lived reality shaping academic work, professional trajectories, personal identities, and everyday decisions. Hosted by ZOiS, UNET emerged in this context, connecting scholars across borders during Russia's war against Ukraine and supporting research, professional development, networking, and public engagement amid profound personal and professional disruptions.

For the event, audience members share stories inspired by uncertainty, which are immediately interpreted and performed by actors and musicians. Stories may draw on experiences of war, migration, research, professional transitions, identity, belonging, political change, or everyday unpredictability.
No preparation is needed – the stories emerge during the performance.

As they accumulate, the stories create a collective portrait of uncertainty in contemporary Europe: not only as a condition of crisis, but also as a space for adaptation, creativity, solidarity, and hope.

The performers: **Anastasiia Dunaieva, Altea Garrido, Rémy Fernandes-Dandré, Olha Mikliaieva, Valentin Hoffmann and Yuliia Terentieva.**

Join us for an evening of stories, reflection, and performance. We invite you to register via the ceecon26 congress website at ceecon.de.



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German Association for East European Studies (DGO)

The DGO is the largest association for Eastern European studies in the German-speaking world. We promote research on and discussion of Eastern Europe across all disciplines. This includes the transfer of knowledge from academia to the general public by means of publications, events, and other activities. We are a forum for discussing politics, economics, and culture throughout the region. The DGO also serves to promote European dialogue.

Our members come from academia, politics, commerce and industry, media, and culture. DGO headquarters are in Berlin, but we also have branch offices in more than 20 other cities. In Young DGO, we have our own association for members up to the age of 35.

The association's work includes:
>> Academic conferences and congresses for experts and the general public
>> Publishing of two academic journals, as well as a variety of regular regional analysis
>> Networking and the mediation of experts
>> The advancement of young academics.

Our seven sections promote international academic exchange in the disciplines of Geography, History, Literary and Cultural Studies, Political and Social Sciences, Law, Religion, and Economics. We maintain branch offices in more than 20 cities. These organize events and serve as regional platforms in the German-speaking world.

DGO

► Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V.



OEI Eingang
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Institute for East European Studies (Osteuropa-Institut / OEI) of Freie Universität Berlin

The Institute for East European Studies, founded in 1951, is an interdisciplinary regional institute housed at the Freie Universität Berlin. Here on the Dahlem Campus, the Institute's teaching, research, and advising reflect the dynamics of the numerous transformation processes currently underway in the eastern part of our continent. Eastern Europe is a heterogeneous, conflict-ridden, and – due to the expansion of the European Union – very important region full of issues and challenges. Berlin is the best place to study them. Berlin is not only a meeting place for the cultures, peoples, and markets of East and West: as host to countless East European-focused institutions and initiatives, Berlin is also home to Germany's Eastern Europe expertise. The Institute for East European Studies plays an essential role in this context, with its programs and academic networks in Berlin and Brandenburg as well as in Eastern Europe.

Programs, research and publications of the Institute for East European Studies

>> The Institute for East European Studies' course offerings are concentrated around the multidisciplinary, contemporary-focused master degree program „East European Studies," which was founded several years ago.

>> Research focuses primarily on contemporary topics and their historical roots, particularly those related to the transformation processes in East Central, Southeast, and Eastern Europe. Additional areas of research include cultural questions and the examination of ethnonational conflicts in the East European space.

>> With its approximately 360,000 volumes, the library of the Institute for East European Studies provides an excellent resource for research.

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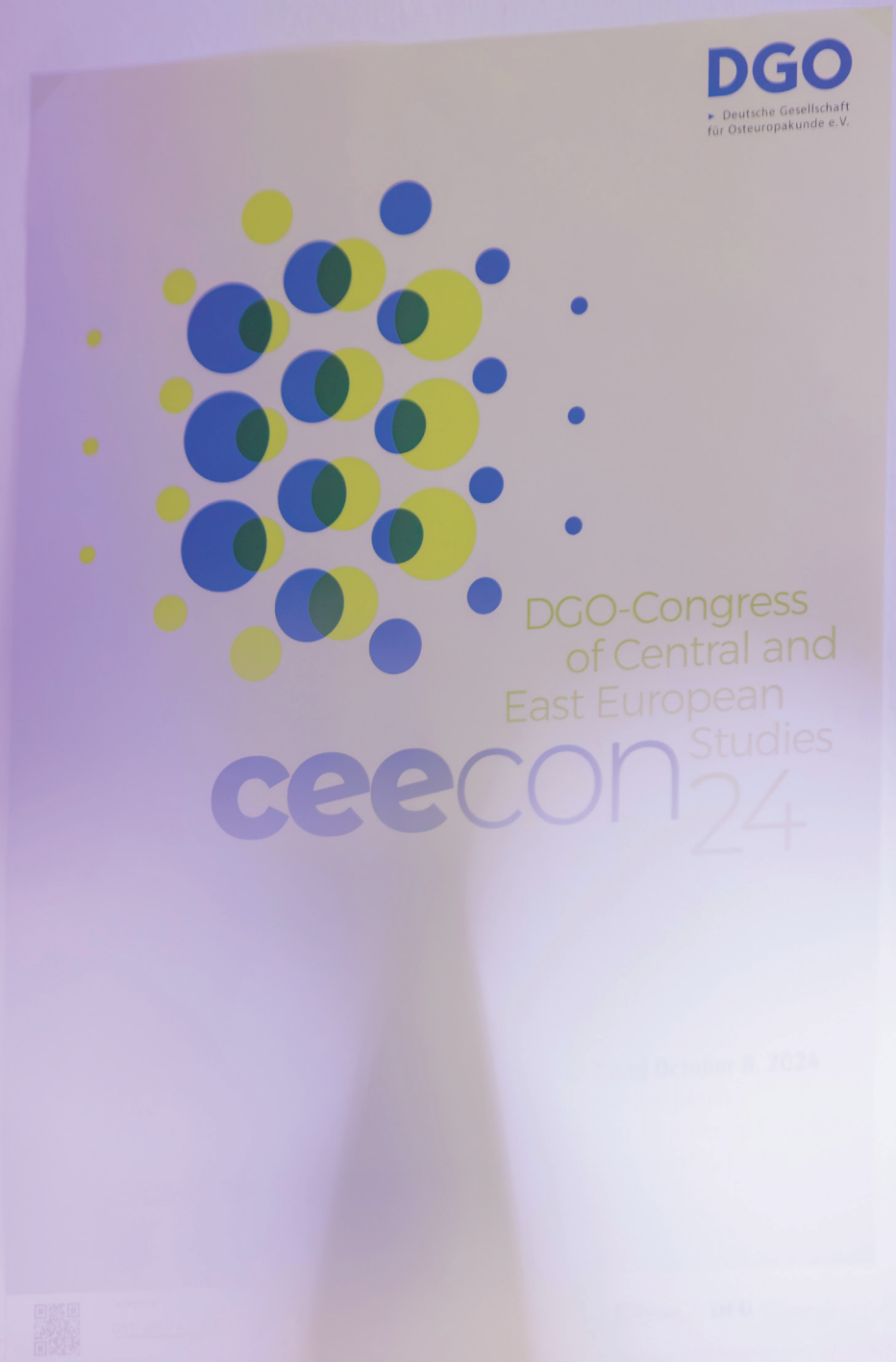
The Centre for East European and International Studies (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien, ZOiS)

The Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) is an independent, international, publicly funded research institute. It focuses on foundational and socially relevant academic research on Eastern Europe and shares the results with policymakers, the media, and the broader public.
Detailed analysis of the complex developments taking place in Eastern Europe is only possible with a multi-perspective approach. ZOiS researchers therefore come from a range of disciplines, including political science, sociology, social anthropology, economic and social geography, political economy, theology and cultural studies.

However, ZOiS's work does not begin and end with research. Our aim is to contribute to and inform public debate and current discourses and offer new perspectives on – and from – Eastern Europe. ZOiS researchers regularly share their findings with policymakers, the media and an interested public, using a variety of events and publication formats for this purpose.

Research on Eastern Europe relies on new perspectives and a willingness to engage with unconventional topics. Supporting young academics is also a priority for ZOiS here. And lastly, ZOiS sees itself as a place for networking and exchange for universities, research institutes, think tanks, foundations and other organisations with a connection to Eastern Europe.

ZOiS
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Contributors to the Congress Programm

The ceecon26 program has been developed through a collaborative selection and curatorial process. Scholars and researchers from different universities and institutions contributed their expertise to reviewing submissions, shaping the program, and curating the PhD presentations.

Congress Committee:
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Katharina Bluhm (Freie Universität Berlin)
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Gabriele Freitag (German Association for East European Studies)
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Congress organization:
Ewa Dąbrowska (German Association for East European Studies)

Locations

Henry Ford Bau (HFB), Freie Universität Berlin, Garystraße 35, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Ground floor	Registration
Auditorium C	Opening, Keynote, Closing Panel
Conference Room II	Roundtables
Conference Room III	Roundtables

Osteuropa-Institut (OEI), Freie Universität Berlin, Garystraße 55, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

B55	Coffee Break
Auditorium A, 026	Ukraine: Civil Society, Project Presentation
101	Ideology
105	Authoritarianism, Project Presentation
121	Memory, Project Presentation
301	Ukraine: Ecology & Future
302A	South Caucasus
302B	Technologies / Economy
323	Migration / Society / Democracy

Otto-Suhr-Institut (OSI), Freie Universität Berlin, Ihnenstraße 22, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

UG 1	Security: Institutions and Borders
UG 2	Soviet Union & Other Empires
UG 3	Migration
UG 4	Youth & Identity

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Senate Hall, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin-Mitte

Award Ceremony and Reception, 08.09.2026, 19:30

The reception takes place in the Senate Hall of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in Berlin-Mitte. Located on Unter den Linden, the university's historic main building is situated in the heart of Berlin, close to Museum Island and other major landmarks.

Nearest stations: U-Bahn “Unter den Linden” and S-Bahn “Friedrichstraße”

Theatre Pool, Boxhagener Str. 18, 10245 Berlin-Friedrichshain

A Playback Theatre Performance, 07.10., 19:30

The Playback Theatre performance takes place at Theatre Pool, an independent theatre venue in Berlin's Friedrichshain district. Located in the eastern part of the city, Friedrichshain is known for its diverse cultural scene and numerous arts venues.

Nearest stations: U-Bahn “Frankfurter Tor” and “Samaritenstraße”

Index

A

Abdinassir, Nazira (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University) 38
Abibok, Yulia (Centre for East European and International Studies) 36
Achilli, Alessandro (University of Cagliari) 13
Albert, Gleb J. (University of Lucerne) 35
Anceschi, Luca (University of Glasgow) 12
Andronikashvili, Zaal (Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research) 27
Anisimova, Sofya (University College Dublin) 32
Arcimovich, Tania (University of Erfurt) 9, 31, 37
Artwinska, Anna (Lepizig University) 51
Asschenfeldt, Friedrich (Stanford University) 32
Astrouskaya, Tatsiana (University of Harvard) 31
Aulaiwi, Aymen (University of Oxford) 11, 21
Azarkevich, Yahor (University of Warwick) 29

B

B., Maria (Hannah Arendt Research Center) 37
Baćak, Valerio (Rutgers University) 20
Beichelt, Timm (European University Viadrina) 21
Beloshitzkaya, Vera (University of Salzburg) 38
Benkrama, Ismael (Freie Universität Berlin) 38
Bidenko, Yuliya (Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute) 24
Bieber, Florian (University of Graz) 13
Blackburn, Matthew (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) 18, 22, 25
Blakkisrud, Helge (University of Oslo) 18
Bluhm, Katharina (Freie Universität Berlin) 17, 28, 51
Böhm, Natalja (Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich) 11, 21
Bollwein, Raphaela (University of Vienna) 37
Borbáth, Endre (Heidelberg University) 38
Bornio, Jakub (University of Wrocław) 12
Bovhyria, Ruslana (Freie Universität Berlin) 13
Bozhenko, Anastasiia (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) 25
Brunnbauer, Ulf (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies/University of Regensburg) 13
Buchko, Kateryna (Ukrainian Catholic University) 16
Buko, Maria (University of Konstanz) 37
Burkhardt, Fabian (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies) 12, 21, 51

C
Casado Guerrero, Marina (Central European University) 39
Catana, Catalina (University of Manchester) 39
Cergol Paradiž, Ana (University of Ljubljana) 37
Cerovic, Masha (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences) 13
Chulitskaya, Tatsiana (Vilnius University) 20
Cichocka, Ewa (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin / University of Warsaw) 38
D
Dąbrowska, Ewa (German Society for East European Studies) 51
Danilova, Veronika (Justus Liebig University of Gießen) 18
Darieva, Tsypylma (Centre for East European and International Studies) 30
Darkovich, Andrii (Kyiv School of Economics) 16
Davoliūtė, Violeta (Vilnius University) 22
Davtyan, Erik (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) 26
Davydova, Angelina (Institute for Global Reconstitution) 25
Desai, Raj (Georgetown University) 31
Dobbins, Michael (Leibniz University of Hannover) 16
Doe, Jane (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) 19
Dollbaum, Jan Matti (University of Fribourg) 21, 28
Dubrovsky, Dmitry (Charles University, Prague) 21
Dudlak, Tamas (University of Pécs) 18
Dunaieva, Anastasiia (Playback Theatre) 43
Dziatlouskaya, Kseniya (University of Cologne) 36
E
Eckert, Luisa (Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr) 32
Elgin, Ceyhun (Bogazici University) 29
Erlenmaier, Fabian (University of Potsdam) 19
Eroshenko, Anna (Quarteera e. V.) 19
Etkind, Alexander (Central European University) 23
F
Falagiarda, Matteo (European Central Bank) 29
Farangis, Davronova (University of Tsukuba) 11, 23
Fernandes-Dandré, Rémy (Playback Theatre) 43
Finkelstein, Miriam (University of Konstanz) 13
Fomin, Ivan (Charles University) 18, 19
Foret, Pauline (European University Viadrina) 10, 17
Freitag, Gabriele (German Association for East European Studies) 8, 9, 51
Fruhstorfer, Anna (Freie Universität Berlin) 38

G
Galeja, Liena (Latvian Academy of Culture) 22, 23
Garrido, Altea (Playback Theatre) 43
Garsztecki, Stefan (TU Chemnitz) 12
Gawrich, Andrea (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen) 14, 33
Gerasimova, Anna (Ruhr-University Bochum) 19
Ghețu, Flavia (Justus Liebig University) 39
Gigauri, Nika (Georgian Institute of Public Affairs / Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) 26
Glajar, Valentina (Texas State University) 33
Golova, Tatiana (Freie Universität Berlin) 36
Goncharova, Galina, Bulgaria (Kliment Ohridski Universität) 13
Grabovska, Tetiana (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) 25
Gramshammer-Hohl, Dagmar (University of Graz) 13
Grandits, Hannes (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) 13
Grebeniuk, Tetiana (University of Warsaw) 22
Gusejnova, Dina (London School of Economics and Political Science) 9

H
Hachmeister, Maren (TU Dresden) 34
Hackler, Julia (University of Bristol and University of Southampton) 11, 23
Harmash, Liudmyla (Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University) 23
Harper, Sophie (University of St. Gallen) 28, 29
Havlin, Tetiana (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg) 37
Heil, Marius (Aston Universit) 10
Hein-Kircher, Heidi (Ruhr-University Bochum / Martin Opitz Library Herne) 19, 51
Hershcovitz, Sylvia (Bar Ilan University) 37
Hildebrandt, Axel (Moravian University) 33
Hoch, Tomáš (University of Ostrava) 29
Hoffmann, Isabel (Osnabrück University) 36
Hoffmann, Valentin (Playback Theatre) 43
Hoppe, Sebastian (Centre for East European and International Studies) 21
Hoření, Karina (Polish Academy of Sciences) 33

I
Innocenti, Laura (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) 30
Ishchenko, Volodymyr (Freie Universität Berlin) 25
Ivanenko, Nadiya (University of Oxford) 36
Ivanov, Denis (Corvinus University of Budapest) 32
Ivanova, Anna (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) 35

J
Jaeger, Sophie (Central European University) 30
Janeke, Kristin (Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr) 32
Jašina-Schäfer, Alina (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) 13
Jędrysiak, Marcin (Centre for Eastern Studies Warsaw) 23
Jerjomina, Olga (University Witten/Herdecke) 22
Jouanny, Jean-Robert (University of Birmingham) 33

K

Kácsor, Adrienn (University of Weimar) 39
Kakachia, Kornely (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) 26
Kakhishvili, Levan (ETH Zurich) 31
Kandyuk, Oleksiy (University of Konstanz) 24
Karabayeva, Assylzat (Kimep University) 21
Kasianov, Georgiy (University of Lublin) 25
Keller, Franziska Barbara (University of Bern) 21
Keudel, Oleksandra (Kyiv School of Economics) 17
Kindler, Robert (Freie Universität Berlin) 34, 51
Kiss, Nadiya (University of Erfurt) 9, 31
Kleynmans, Katharina (Osnabrück University) 36
Kochekovskii, Aleksandr (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe) 19
Kocyba, Kristina (TU Dresden) 16
Kofroň, Jan (Charles University) 32
Kokhan, Oleksandra (Centre for East European and International Studies) 37
Kolesnykov, Oleksii (University of Tartu) 24
Korzun, Olena (National Agrarian Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) 25
Kosicińska, Klaudia (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań) 36
Kostiuchenko, Tetiana (Freie Universität Berlin) 16
Kozmin, Dmitrii (University of Bologna) 30
Koźmiński, Filip (Jagiellonian University) 35
Krause, Fabian (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg) 39
Kravchuk, Ariana (Dresden University of Technology) 51
Krawatzek, Félix (Centre for East European and International Studies) 12, 22, 29
Kucher, Katharina (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies) 12
Kulashri, Swati (TU Dresden) 31
Kulyk, Volodymyr (Kyiv School of Economics) 13, 18
Kumankov, Arseniy (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) 19
Kuokštis, Vytautas (Vilnius University) 32
Kurramov, Khursand (Independent Journalist) 14
Kuße, Holger (TU Dresden) 19
Kutsenko, Olga (TU Berlin) 16
Kuznetsov, Michael (Karazin Kharkiv National University) 31

L

Łada-Konefał, Agnieszka (German Institute of Polish Affairs) 12
Lajus, Julia (Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies) 13
Langbein, Julia (Centre for East European and International Studies) 33
Lankina, Tomila (London School of Economics and Political Science) 12
Lebanidze, Bidzina (University of Jena) 26
Lehmann, Maike (Max Weber Network Eastern Europe) 13
Lewis, Alison (The University of Melbourne) 33
Loew, Laura (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen) 10, 17, 51
Lukeria, Tetiana (Kyiv School of Economics) 16

M
Madaminova, Feruza (International School of Finance Technology and Sciences) 21
Makhortykh, Mykola (University of Bern) 23
Malyarenko, Tatiana (Odesa Law University) 24
Malyshivska, Iryna (Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University) 17
Manzhurin, Evgeny (Independent Researcher) 34
Masař, Tomáš (Charles University) 34
Maslanka, Susanne (Collegium Carolinum) 34
Matevosyan, Hakob (Centre for East European and International Studies) 22, 30
Matsaberidze, David (Tbilisi State University) 26, 31
Matthes, Claudia (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) 31
Matveev, Ilya (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) 28, 30
Melcher, Matthias (Ludwigs Maxilian University Munich) 51
Melegh, Attila (Corvinus University) 13
Mennecke, Olga (University of Hildesheim) 18
Meyer Olimpieva, Irina (George Washington University) 36
Mierina, Inta (University of Latvia) 30
Mikheieva, Oksana (Kyiv School of Economics) 17
Mikliaieva, Olha (Playback Theatre) 43
Moskvych, Lidiia (Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University) 24
Mucciarelli, Elisa (University of Regensburg) 39
Muratova, Elmira (European Centre for Minority Issues) 22
Müser, Oliver (Candid Foundation Berlin) 27

N
Nahorniak, Khrystyna (Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University) 17
Napiwodzki, Dominik Jakub (Institute for Caucasica-, Tatarica- and Turkestan-Studies) 22
Naumov, Vasily (Center for Advanced Internet Studies) 14
Niakhayeu, Pavel (Jagiellonian University) 37
Norba, Olha (Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava) 11, 23, 51

O
Ochman, Ewa (University of Manchester) 23
Ohle, Maximilian (Independent Researcher) 26
Okhotnikova, Olga (Ludwig-Maximilians-University) 34
Onuch, Olga (University of Manchester) 13

P

Panchenko, Tetyana (Karazin Kharkiv National University) 17
Pavlova, Olena (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) 25
Peinhopf, Andrea (University of Ostrava) 29
Perga, Tetiana (TU Berlin) 25
Pergl, David (Charles University) 22
Perglová, Marina (Charles University) 36
Petö, Andrea (Central European University) 9, 23, 31
Petrescu, Corina (The University of Mississippi) 33
Petrovic, Marija (University of Fine Arts Hamburg) 39
Pfeilschifter, Veronika (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) 26, 27
Pheiffer, Lea Nina Sophia (University of Regensburg) 24
Pidkuimukha, Liudmyla (National University of Kyiv) 39
Planida, Diana (University of Bologna) 17
Podlogar, Monika (University of Ljubljana) 39
Pośłada, Mikołaj (Jagiellonian University) 35
Priebus, Sonja (European University Viadrina) 21
Puleri, Marco (University of Bolgna) 13
Pysmenskyy, Yevhen (King Danylo University) 24

Q

Qeburia, Tamar (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies) 13, 27

R

Rastvorova, Mariia (University of Graz) 23
Reichardt, Iwona (The College of Eastern Europe) 12
Reisner, Oliver (Ilia State University Tbilisi) 31
Reznik, Alexander V. (Institute for the Culture and History of Germans in Northeast Europe) 35
Romandash, Anna (Centre for International Governance Innovation) 16
Romashko, Tatiana (University of Jyväskylä) 18
Rupprecht, Tobias (Humoldt University of Berlin) 35
Rusakova, Elena (Memorial International) 14

S

Safronova, Anna (Leibniz Center Modern Orient) 35
Saidova, Nozima (Independent Researcher) 28
Sakhechidze, Aleksandre (Freie Universität Berlin) 31
Sariyeva, Botagoz (Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies) 20
Sartania, Katie (Leibniz Center Modern Orient) 27
Sasse, Gwendolyn (Centre for East European and International Studies) 8, 13, 14, 51
Sauvé, Guillaume (University of Montreal) 30
Savevska, Maja (Nazarbayev University) 28
Schmäing, Sophie (Freie Universität Berlin) 17
Schmid, Ulrich (University of St. Gallen) 28
Schmidt, Richard (Centre for East European and International Studies) 20

Schmidtke, Felix (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) 23
Schuffert, Filip (Justus Liebig University Giessen) 51
Schulte, Julius (University of St. Gallen) 28
Scripka, Abigail (The Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History) 35
Seleznova, Eugenia (Central European University) 39
Selvage, Douglas (Stasi Records Archive) 33
Sendhardt, Bastian (German Institute of Polish Affairs) 12
Sereda, Viktoria (Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Studies) 13, 23
Serikova, Anastasiia (Bielefeld University) 11, 21
Shcherbyna, Mariya (Polytechnic University of Turin) 37
Shedov, Denis (University of Helsinki) 31, 39
Shevchenko, Svitlana (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) 38
Shore, Marci (University of Toronto) 8
Sirmais, Andrejs (Independent Researcher) 35
Sivak, Marina (Freie Universität Berlin) 39
Smirnov, Roman (Leibniz University Hannover) 19, 30
Smrček, David (Czech Academy of Sciences) 34
Snochowska Gonzalez, Claudia (Polish Academy of Sciences) 34
Sobczuk, Natalia (German Institute of Polish Affairs) 11, 21
Stammler, Sophie (University of Lapland) 29
Stégmayer, Márk (Johannes Kepler University Linz) 20
Stepens, Ojars (University of Latvia) 23
Steuer, Max (Comenius University Bratislava) 20
Stewart, Susan (German Institute for International and Security Affairs) 14
Sułek, Ewa (Freie Universität Berlin) 23
Swerdlov, Steve (University of Southern California) 14

T

Tabatadze, Sandro (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) 26
Taralashvili, Tamari (Ilia State University) 26, 38
Tashkinova, Daria (The Research Center for the History of Transformations, University of Vienna) 10, 17
Telukha, Svitlana (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) 23
Terentieva, Yuliia (Playback Theatre) 43
Tertychna, Olha (National Academy of Agrarian Sciences) 25
Thomas-Colquhoun, Ewan (University of Potsdam) 10, 17, 28
Tolepbergen, Miras (University of Oslo) 28
Torres-Adán, Ángel (Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava) 32
Trifan, Elena (University of Erfurt) 9, 31
Tsybuliak, Natalia (Berdyansk State Pedagogical University) 16

V
Vakhitov, Volodymyr (American University Kyiv) 13, 16
Vandergrift, Maraike (Philipps-University Marburg) 33
Varga, Mihai (Freie Universität Berlin) 25, 28
Végh, Elizabeth (Eötvös Loránd University) 11, 23
Veryna, Ulyana (University of Bremen) 37
Vilchyk, Tetiana (National Law University) 24
Villegas Cara, Francisco Manuel (University of Augsburg) 19
Volosevych, Inna (InfoSapiens) 24
von Blumenthal, Julia (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) 41
von Löwis, Sabine (Centre for East European and International Studies) 33
Vorbrugg, Alexander (University of Bern) 31
W
Warzycha, Veronika (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space) 33
Wedde, Rainer (RheinMain University of Applied Sciences and Arts) 24
Weller, Nina (Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research) 37
Wien, Markus (American University in Bulgaria) 32
Winkler, Sophie (Center for European and International Studies) 29
Wittkowsky, Andreas (Center for International Peace Operations) 14
Wolff, Stefan (University of Birmingham) 14, 33
Worschech, Susann (European University Viadrina) 16, 17
Woźniak-Wrzesińska, Ewelina (Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe) 19
Wydra, Doris (University of Salzburg) 26
Y
Yusupova-Ryder, Marina (Edinburgh Napier University) 30
Z
Zavadskaya, Margarita (Finnish Institute of International Affairs) 30
Zbyněk, Vydra (University of Pardubice) 34
Zeller, Jan (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg) 13
Zhanat, Zakiyeva (National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan) 20
Zhou, Jiayi (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) 25, 28, 29
Zhuravlev, Oleg (TU Dresden) 30
Zhuravlov, Yaroslav (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) 34
Ziegler, Günter M. (Freie Universität Berlin) 8
Zinenko, Olena (Ruhr University Bochum) 22
Zvánovec, Mikuláš (University of Hradec Králové) 34

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