

# Conference Agenda

## Tenth Annual Tartu Conference on East European and Eurasian Studies

Date: Wednesday, 10/June/2026

8:00am - 4:30pm

Conference registration and info desk open

Lossi 36

9:00am - 10:45am

**WA1: Roundtable: The Baltic Sea as Analytical Borderlands**

Session Chair: **Francisco Martínez**, University of Murcia

**The Baltic Sea as Analytical Borderlands**

*Presenter(s):* **Liene Ozoliņa** (Latvian Academy of Culture), **Lena Hercberga** (Uppsala University), **Michael Cole** (University of Murcia)

9:00am - 10:45am

**WA2: Moral Economy of Philanthropy in the Late Romanov Empire**

Session Chair: **Harry Fennell**, University of Tartu

Discussant: **Kersti Lust**, Tallinn University

**Begging on the move (or not) in Nicholas I's empire**

**Alison Smith**

University of Toronto

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**Mobility and the moral economy of giving: Pilgrims, passers-by and hand to hand giving in late Imperial Russian villages**

**Sarah Badcock**

University of Nottingham

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**Fraudulent fundraising tours and the regulation of illicit philanthropy in the late Romanov Empire**

**Catherine Gibson**

University of Tartu

9:00am - 10:45am

**WA3: Urban Development and Cultural Heritage: Balancing Growth and Preservation**

Session Chair: **Antonín Nenutil**, KU Leuven

**Franchising Elite Informality: Eagle Hills and the Mobility of the 'Dubai Model' in the Global East**

**David Gogishvili**

University of Lausanne

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**Negotiating Belonging in Kalamaja: Everyday Strategies in a Dominant Urban Field**

**Léo Henry**

University of Toronto

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**Community Houses as Anchors of Cultural Presence in Emptying Places**

**Egge Kulbok-Lattik**

University of Tartu

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**Performing global heritage: symbolic compliance in an age of deglobalisation**

**Julian Postular**

Netherlands Defence Academy

9:00am - 10:45am

**WA4: Geopolitical Imaginaries and Agency in the Shadow of Russian power**

Session Chair: **Francesco Strazzari**, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

Discussant: **Alessio Iocchi**, Università di Palermo

**Imperial Power through Subimperial Peace: Russia's Geopolitical Outsourcing in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe**

**Sophie Gueudet, Francesco Strazzari**  
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

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**“Navigating war challenges and accession aspirations: geopolitical imaginaries of external influences in Ukraine”**

**Khrystyna Bidonko, Roman Petrov**  
National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

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**“Georgia: Geopolitical Imaginaries under Conditions of Hybrid Rule and Democratic Erosion”**

**Ketevan Bolkvadze<sup>1</sup>, Maia Machavariani<sup>2</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Lund University; <sup>2</sup>Eastern European Center for Multiparty Democracy

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9:00am - 10:45am

**WA5: Reshaping the Political Arena: Transformation of Social Cleavages and Political Competition in Ukraine**

Session Chair: **Piret Ehin**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Anatoliy Kruglashov**, University of Łódź / Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University

**Wartime Governance, Institutions, and Political Trajectories in Ukraine**

**Oleksii Kolesnykov**  
University of Tartu

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**Forged and Fractured: Civic Identity and Sociopolitical Cleavages in Wartime Ukraine**

**Dmytro Khutkyy<sup>1</sup>, Olga Matveieva<sup>2</sup>, Vasil Navumau<sup>3</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>University of Tartu; <sup>2</sup>Dnipro University of Technology / Centre for Advanced Internet Studies;  
<sup>3</sup>University of Siegen

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**Patterns of Political Competition and Contours of a New Political Arena in Ukraine**

**Ryhor Nizhnikau<sup>1</sup>, Oleksii Kolesnykov<sup>2</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Finnish Institute of International Affairs; <sup>2</sup>University of Tartu

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9:00am - 10:45am

**WA6: Book discussion: Third Party Mediation and Peace Processes in the post-Soviet space: Norms, Interests and Power by Ana Maria Albuлесcu**

Session Chair: **Ibrahim Mammadli**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Ibrahim Mammadli**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Keith Harrington**, Dublin City University

**Book discussion: Third Party Mediation and Peace Processes in the post-Soviet space: Norms, Interests and Power by Ana Maria Albuлесcu**

**Ana Maria Albuлесcu**  
University of Tartu, Estonia

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10:45am - 11:15am

Coffee break

11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB1: Roundtable: The Age of Abuse: Transactionalism, Aggression, and the Erosion of Normativity**

Session Chair: **Yulia Kurnyshova**, University of Helsinki, University of Tartu

**The Age of Abuse: Transactionalism, Aggression, and the Erosion of Normativity**

*Presenter(s):* **Andrey Makarychev** (University of Tartu), **Yulia Kurnyshova** (University of Helsinki), **Valeriya Korablyova** (Charles University), **Stefan Meister** (German Council on Foreign Relations, DGAP)

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11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB2: Merchants, Markets, and Social Capital: New Frontiers in Economic History**

**Merchants, privileges, customs: the disputed integration of the Ostsee provinces in the Russian Empire during the XVIII century**

**Pavel Demchenko**

**The Global Baltic in the Early Modern Period: Signs of Seventeenth Century Eastern Baltic Commercial Agency**

**John Freeman**

Independent Scholar

11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB3: Confronting Soviet-Era Architectural, Military, and Economic Heritage**

Session Chair: **Michael Cole**, University of Murcia

Discussant: **Sara Nesteruk**, Manchester Metropolitan University

**The value and management challenges of Soviet-occupation military heritage from the perspectives of different stakeholders: The case of the former USSR's external border in Latvia's northwestern coastal area.**

**Linda Veliverronena, Ize Grinfelde, Iveta Jokste**

Vidzeme University of Applied Science

**Destinies of unwanted legacies: decision-making regarding Soviet occupation military sites in the Cēsis district during periods of change in Latvia**

**Ize Grinfelde, Linda Veliverronena, Talis Pumpuris**

Vidzeme University of Applied Science

**Contested heritage: Soviet-era architecture and memory politics in Uzbekistan**

**Tomasz Waskiel**

University of Wrocław

11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB4: Narratives, Memory, and Foreign Interference in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus**

Session Chair: **Vincenc Kopeček**, University of Ostrava

Discussant: **Aimar Ventsel**, University of Tartu

**Competing Conceptualizations of Foreign Interference in Georgia: Government, Civil Society, and Societal Perceptions in a Polarized Political Environment**

**Mariam Bibilashvili, Zinaida Bechná**

Masaryk University

**The "Other" Ukraine: Memory, Territorial Cleansing, and Spatial Imagination**

**Vincent Artman**

University of Ostrava

**Indirect Foreign Interference: Geopolitical Narratives among Ethnic Georgian Returnees from Russia**

**Tsotne Tchanturia<sup>1</sup>, Vincenc Kopeček<sup>2</sup>, Dita Sutterová<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Georgian Institute of Public Affairs; <sup>2</sup>University of Ostrava

11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB5: Baltic Russophone Voice in Times of War: Structural Inclusion, Media Repertoires, and Identity Negotiation**

Session Chair: **Inta Mierīga**, University of Latvia

Discussant: **Piret Ehin**, University of Tartu

**Inclusion, Opinion Climate, and Self-Censorship among Russophones in Latvia and Estonia**

**Mārtiņš Kaprāns**

University of Latvia

**Continuity Despite the Ban: News Repertoires of Latvia's and Estonia's Russophones After the 2022 Ban on Pro-Kremlin Media**

**Jānis Juzefovičs<sup>1</sup>, Anastasija Tetarenko-Supe<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Rīga Stradiņš University; <sup>2</sup>University of Latvia

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**Identity trouble: the identity needs and opportunities of Latvian's and Estonia's Russophones amidst reforms and restrictions**

**Oksana Žabko**

University of Latvia

11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB6: Experts and Advisors on the International Stage**

Session Chair: **Samuel Foster**, University of East Anglia Centre for the Study of East-Central Europe and the Former Soviet Space

Discussant: **Lauri Mälksoo**, University of Tartu

**Legal Adversaries and a Shared Humanitarian Cause: Soviet and Anti-Bolshevik Refugee International Lawyers and the Question of Armenian Refugees**

**Tatiana Khripachenko**

University of Bonn

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**Historical knowledge and explanation in the service of international criminal justice: a case study of expert evidence on history from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia**

**Oleksandr Nadтока**

University of Regensburg

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**“Who could have predicted?” US and European expertise on “Russian power” from the end of the Cold War to the war in Ukraine.**

**VICTOR VIOLIER**<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut de recherche stratégique de l'école militaire (IRSEM); <sup>2</sup>Institut des sciences sociales du politique (ISP)

11:15am - 1:00pm

**WB7: Gender, Sexuality, and Everyday Practices in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

Session Chair: **Piotr Laskowski**, University of Warsaw

Discussant: **Łukasz Mikołajewski**, University of Warsaw

**Managing queer stigma and navigating ‘partner markets’ through dating applications in Shymkent and Almaty (Kazakhstan)**

**Yerkebulan Sairambay**

University of Tartu

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**Between the Local, National and the Global. Culture and Politics in Contemporary Polish Women's Periodicals**

**My Svensson**

Uppsala University

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**Everyday feminism in context: situated practices and gendered frictions in contemporary Poland**

**Julia Michcik**

Jagiellonian University

2:30pm - 4:15pm

**WC1: Book discussion: Collective Memory in Post-Soviet Kaliningrad Oblast by Miłosz J. Cordes**

Session Chair: **Miłosz Cordes**, Danish Institute for Studies Abroad

Discussant: **Mikhail Suslov**, University of Copenhagen

Discussant: **Kacper Wańczyk**, War Studies University, Warsaw

**Book discussion: Collective Memory in Post-Soviet Kaliningrad Oblast by Miłosz J. Cordes**

*Presenter(s):* **Miłosz Cordes** (Danish Institute for Studies Abroad)

2:30pm - 4:15pm

**WC2: Sovereignty in Grassroots Nationalism and Indigenous Politics**

Session Chair: **Hakob Matevosyan**, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS Berlin))

Discussant: **Olena Podolian**, Södertörn University

**Is left nationalism a product of transnational ideological flows? The case of Ukraine and post-Soviet space, 2010–2014**

**Oleksandr Ruzevych**

Warsaw University

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**Renaming Trauma: Memory, Decolonisation, and Russia's Shadow in Kazakhstan**

**Antonín Nenutil**<sup>1</sup>, **Jan Brzobohatý**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>KU Leuven; <sup>2</sup>Palacky University

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**Decolonization Debates Among the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation**

**Eugeniusz Portny**

Jagiellonian University

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**Long road to emancipation. Crimean Tatar-German projects between decolonisation, indoctrination and a new beginning.**

**Mieste Hotopp-Riecke**

ICATAT e.V. (Institut für Caucasia-, Tatarica- u. Turkestan-Studien)

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**WC4: Revisionism Resurgent: Russia's Multi-Domain War and the Reconfiguration of European Security**

Session Chair: **Valeria Korablyova**, Charles University

Discussant: **Anatoliy Kruglashov**, University of Łódź / **Yuriy Fedkovych** Chernivtsi National University

Discussant: **Oleksii Polegkyi**, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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**From Periphery to Core: The Russia-Ukraine War and the Strategic Rebirth of NATO's Eastern Flank**

**Tomasz Stepniewski**<sup>1</sup>, **Alicja Zyguła**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin / War Studies University Warsaw; <sup>2</sup>The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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**The Securitisation of Religion in Ukraine after the 2022 Russian full-scale invasion**

**Andrzej Szabaciuk**

Catholic University of Lublin and the Institute of Central Europe

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**Russian Operation of Influence as Coercive Deterrence Against Western Support for Ukraine**

**Oleksii Polegkyi**

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin / Center for Public Diplomacy

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**WC5: Political Agency of Ethnic Minorities in the Baltic States amid Global Crises**

Session Chair: **Mari-Liis Jakobson**, Tallinn University

Discussant: **Mari-Liis Jakobson**, Tallinn University

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**Minority identity and democratic participation in context of aggressive kin state**

**Marianna Makarova**

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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**Political alienation of Russian minority in the light of Russia's aggression in Ukraine**

**Inta Mierina**

University of Latvia

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**Voting, Belonging, and Exclusion: Russian-Speaking Voters in Tallinn's Lasnamäe at the 2025 Municipal Elections**

**Danila Rygovskiy**

Tallinn University

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**WC6: Histories of Political Concepts: Nationhood, Nation-States, and Modernity**

Session Chair: **Harry Fennell**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Kārlis Sils**, Sodertorn University

**The idea of a nationalizing state in the 19th century: imagining the fate of small nations in the Russian Empire**

**Hent Kalmo**

University of Tartu

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**The Shape of Things to Come? Modernity and the State in British and French Balkan Discourses, 1880-1914**

**Samuel Foster**

University of East Anglia

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**An amorphous structure of ethnos: soviet concept of ethnos in the works of Bromlei and Gumilev**

**Hiroaki Misu**

Hokkaido University

2:30pm - 4:15pm

**WC7: The Politics of Expertise: The Multiple Roles of Intelligentsia in the Perestroika Movements in the Soviet Baltic Republics**

Session Chair: **Juhan Saharov**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Kristo Nurmis**, Tallinn University

**“The Popular Front Always Looks to the Future”: Scenario Thinking as Participatory Strategy in the Estonian Perestroika (1987–88)**

**Juhan Saharov**

University of Tartu

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**How to Nullify a Pact: Estonian Experts and the Debate of the MRP Secret Protocols in 1989**

**Kaarel Piirimäe**

University of Tartu

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**We’ll Do It Our Way: On the Distinctiveness of the Expert Knowledge of Sajūdis Leaders**

**Justinas Dementavičius**

Vilnius University

4:45pm - 6:15pm

**PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: International Law, Russia, and the Imperial Structuring of the Global Order**

Speakers: **Lauri Mälksoo**, University of Tartu; **Cindy Wittke-Hohfeld**, University of Regensburg and Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS)

Moderator: **Hent Kalmo**, University of Tartu

6:30pm - 9:00pm

**Conference dinner**

**Date: Thursday, 11/June/2026**

<b>8:00am - 4:30pm</b>	<b>Conference registration and info desk open</b> Lossi 36
<b>9:00am - 10:45am</b>	<b>TA1: Roundtable: Foreign Direct Investment-Led Urban Transformations and the Reconfiguration of Policy and Place Across the Global East</b> Session Chair: <b>David Sichinava</b> , Carleton University
	<b>Foreign Direct Investment-Led Urban Transformations and the Reconfiguration of Policy and Place Across the Global East</b> <i>Presenter(s):</i> <b>Dasha Kuletskaya</b> (ETH Zürich / RWTH Aachen), <b>Suzanne Harris-Brandts</b> (Carleton University), <b>David Gogishvili</b> (University of Lausanne)
<b>9:00am - 10:45am</b>	<b>TA2: Urban Social Spaces of the Nineteenth-Century Romanov Empire</b> Session Chair: <b>David Ilmar Beecher</b> , University of Tartu Discussant: <b>Alison Smith</b> , University of Toronto <b>Town and Gown: Social Spaces of Student Life in Late Imperial Tartu</b> <b>Catherine Gibson, Janet Laidla</b> University of Tartu
	<b>Anti-Places: Prestige, Temperance, and the Helsinki Zoo, 1890–1914</b> <b>Anton Kotenko</b> Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
	<b>A Single Shared Stage for a Multiethnic Vilnius? Pleasure Gardens and Entertainment Culture in the Late Russian Empire</b> <b>Juozapas Paškauskas</b> Lithuanian Institute of History
<b>9:00am - 10:45am</b>	<b>TA3: Learning Nearby: Recontextualisations of Dissonant Heritage in Comparative Perspective</b> Session Chair: <b>Kristo Nurmis</b> , Tallinn University Discussant: <b>Yuliya Yurchuk</b> , Södertörn University <b>Everything for Everybody: Recontextualising archival heritage during wartime</b> <b>Victoria Donovan</b> University of St Andrews
	<b>Uncomfortable Palace: Rethinking Russian Imperial and Soviet Legacy in Wartime Kharkiv</b> <b>Viktorii Grivina</b> University of St Andrews
	<b>Negotiating change: Art, research, and stakeholder engagement in working with dissonant heritage</b> <b>Linda Kaljundi</b> Estonian Academy of Arts
	<b>Reckoning, Reimagining, Rebuilding: A Case Study of the Estonian National Museum</b> <b>Lily Song</b> Northeastern University
<b>9:00am - 10:45am</b>	<b>TA4: Central and Eastern Europe in the face of a new global (dis-)order: challenges and solutions</b> Session Chair: <b>Anatolij Kruglashov</b> , University of Łódź / Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University Discussant: <b>Oleksii Kolesnykov</b> , University of Tartu

**Imperial and Deimperial Frames in Russian Opposition Media: Interpreting the Global Order during Trump's Second Presidency**

**Olga Nadszakula-Kaczmarczyk**

The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow

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**The unification of the Republic of Moldova with Romania in political statements in the context of the Russian aggression in Ukraine**

**Marius Diaconescu**

University of Bucharest

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**How ontological security studies could help to unpack Russia's revisionism and its aggressiveness in international relations**

**Michał Słowikowski**

University of Łódź

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9:00am - 10:45am

**TA5: Fragmentation? Russia, the CIS Space and Domestic Challenges in times of the War in Ukraine**

Session Chair: **Jussi Lassila**, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Chair: **Geir Flikke**, University of Oslo

Discussant: **Dmitry Dubrovskiy**, Charles University

**The Real Time of Heroes: The Management of War Veterans in Putin's Dictatorship**

**Jussi Lassila**

Finnish Institute of International Affairs

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**Autocratic Quasi-Legalism: Russia and Security Treaties in the CIS Space**

**Geir Flikke**

University of Oslo

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**Erosion of Russian Eurasian multilateralism**

**Stefan Meister**

German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

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9:00am - 10:45am

**TA6: Navigating Educational Transitions: Integration, Deimperialisation, and Multimodal Pedagogy**

**De-empiring education in Estonia: Legacies and logics**

**Kadri Koreinik, Kara Brown**

University of Tartu

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**Between Mobility and Constraint: Educational Pathways and Institutional Frictions for Ukrainian Refugee Adolescents in Latvia.**

**Hanna Markova**

University of Latvia

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**Introducing the S-Connection Framework**

**Angela Princiotta**

Tallinn University

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**Teaching in the Absence: Multimodal Pedagogy in "Emptying" Educational Spaces during War**

**Iryna Malyshivska, Olha Bilyk, Nataliia Pyliachyk**

Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University

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9:00am - 10:45am

**TA7: Documenting Experiences of the War in Ukraine**

Session Chair: **Dmytro Khutkyy**, University of Tartu

Discussant: **Nataliia Steblyna**, Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University

**War in the Lens of New Media: Cultural Practices and Digital Documentation of the Ukrainian War**

**Yuliia Kovalenko, Natalia Korzhyk, Yuliia Litynska**  
Kharkiv State Academy of Culture

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**Mediation of war: trust, mistrust, and proximity to the frontline**

**Yaroslava Bukhta**  
University of Oxford

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**Orcish Question: Dehumanization Between Mordor and Moscow**

**Ivan Šimko**  
Slovak Academy of Sciences

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**Forced Mobility, Fragile Futures: Ukrainian Scholars and Remapping of Academic Displacement**

**Nadiya Ivanenko**  
University of Oxford

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10:45am - 11:15am

**Coffee break**

11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB1: Roundtable: Critical Editions of Historical Sources: A Reappraisal for the Age of AI**

Session Chair: **Anton Kotenko**, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

**Critical Editions of Historical Sources: A Reappraisal for the Age of AI**

*Presenter(s):* **Łukasz Mikołajewski** (University of Warsaw), **Piotr Laskowski** (University of Warsaw), **Anke Hilbrenner** (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)

11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB2: Religion, Regime Legitimacy, and (De-)Globalization in Wartime Russia (1): Apocalyptic Narratives and the Global Culture War**

Session Chair: **Jerry Pankhurst**, Wittenberg University  
Discussant: **Alar Kilp**, University of Tartu

**Is it fruitful to regard Russia as a theocracy in the making?**

**Pär Gustafsson Kurki**  
Swedish Defence Research Agency

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**Religion, Gender and the Russian War on Ukraine**

**Petr Kratochvíl**  
Charles University

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**The Official Russian Orthodox Church's Eschatological Story of Russia's War Against Ukraine**

**Santeri Kytöneva**  
University of Helsinki

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11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB3: Inter-Imperiality, Extractivism, and Agency Between Empires: Ukraine and Estonia**

Session Chair: **Oleksii Polegkyi**, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin  
Discussant: **Mart Kuldkepp**, University College London; University of Tartu

**Inter-Imperial Soldiers? Liberatory Scripts, Anti-Imperialism, and Colonial Extraction in Ukraine, 1918**

**Oksana Dudko**  
University of Manitoba

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**Inter-imperial invisibility and the logic of extractivism**

**Epp Annus**  
Tallinn University / Ohio State University

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**Imperialism and Colonialism in Ukrainian Intellectual Discourse during Russia's War against Ukraine**

**Yuliya Yurchuk**  
Södertörn University

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**Strategic inter-imperiality: humour and solidarity against the imperial "greatness"**

**Valeria Korablyova**  
Charles University

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11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB4: Imperialism and Civilizational Imaginaries in the Age of Globalization**

Session Chair: **Andrzej Szabaciuk**, Catholic University of Lublin and the Institute of Central Europe  
Discussant: **Joseph MacKay**, Australian National University

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**Mongolia's 'Third Neighbor' Policy: Navigating Between Russia, China, and the Rest of the World**

**Christopher Tong**  
University of Maryland

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**"Weaponizing Life: The Biopolitical Capture and Russia's War in Ukraine"**

**Yuliia Kurnyshova<sup>1</sup>, Andrey Makarychev<sup>2</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>University of Helsinki; <sup>2</sup>University of Tartu

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**Civilisational Divergence and the Crisis of International Society: An English School Perspective on Russian (Ontological) De-Globalization (2014-2025)**

**Domingos Tavares Campos**  
NOVA University of Lisbon

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11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB5: Temporary Protection and the EU Border Regime: Solidarity, Discrimination, and Agency among Recent Waves of Migrants and Refugees**

Session Chair: **Oksana Belova-Dalton**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Yaroslava Bukhta**, University of Oxford

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**Perceptions of host and home country in refugees aspirations of return: Ukrainians with collective, temporary protection in Scandinavia**

**Marthe Handá Myhre, Jørn Holm-Hansen**  
Oslo Metropolitan University

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**Who's Welcome? Security, Soviet Memories, and the Estonian Refugee Dilemma**

**Hakob Matevosyan**  
Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS)

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11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB6: Late Socialism and the Transition Years**

Session Chair: **Simo Mikkonen**, University of Eastern Finland  
Discussant: **David Ilmar Beecher**, University of Tartu

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**The Two Selves of the Estonian Red Army Soldier: Soviet Estonian Veteran Culture from 1941–1992**

**Kristo Nurmis**  
Tallinn University

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**Over the Finnish Line. Cross-border influence of Western media on political liberalization.**

**Robert Lipinski**  
University of Oxford

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**Resource flow from Latvian diaspora to homeland in early 1990ies: a tool to strengthen democratic changes.**

**Kristine Bekere**  
University of Latvia

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**From Disarmament to the International Economy: The Evolution of the Dialogue between Gorbachev and European Social Democracy (1985-1991).**

**Ferdinando Maieron**  
Scuola Normale Superiore

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11:15am - 1:00pm

**TB7: Academic Freedom and Knowledge Production**

Session Chair: **Aimar Ventsel**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Yuliia Kovalenko**, Kharkiv State Academy of Culture

**Academic Freedom and “Foreign Influence”: Russia’s Foreign Agents Law and Its Repercussions in Contemporary Europe**

**Dmitry Dubrovskiy**  
Charles University

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**Indoctrination or Isolation? State Strategies Toward Universities in Post-2022 Russia**

**Ivan Baydakov**  
Tel Aviv University

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**Caught between fires? The state of scholarly publishing on European constitutionalism: perspectives from Central Europe**

**Max Steuer**<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Comenius University in Bratislava; <sup>2</sup>O.P. Jindal Global University

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**Representation of Ukraine in Regional Studies in Europe and NorthAmerica (Cross-case study)**

**Daria Popil**  
Ukrainian Institute

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**TC1: Historical Circulation, Transfer, and Reinterpretation of Concepts**

Session Chair: **Ivan Baydakov**, Tel Aviv University  
Discussant: **Kadi Kähär-Peterson**, University of Tartu

**Beyond Transfer: Space, Coexistence, and Conceptual Conflict in the Late Romanov Empire**

**Harry Fennell**  
University of Tartu

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**Seminars and the Circulation of Literary Theory in Socialist Eastern Europe: Warsaw - Tartu**

**Piotr Sidorowicz**  
University of Warsaw

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**The ties between East-Central Europe and Baltic political thought, 1918-1991**

**Samuel Kramer**  
Independent Scholar

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**TC2: Religion, Regime Legitimacy, and (De-)Globalization in Wartime Russia (2): Religion, Power, and the Russian State**

Session Chair: **Pär Gustafsson Kurki**, Swedish Defence Research Agency - FOI  
Discussant: **Jerry Pankhurst**, Wittenberg University

**A Hybrid Weapon for a Hybrid War: Just What Kind of a Doctrine is the ‘Russian World’?**

**Paul L. Gavrilyuk**  
University of St. Thomas

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**In Search of Russia's Identity and Historical Mission: The Nationalist and Imperial Discourse of the Moscow Patriarchate after 2022 from the Perspective of Ontological Security**

**Marcin Składanowski**

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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**Russian Elites in Wartime: Performing Orthodoxy – Signalling Loyalty**

**Natalia Zhdanova**

University of Oxford

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**Between Sacralization and Instrumentalization: Secular–Religious Entanglements in Wartime Russia**

**Alar Kilp**

University of Tartu

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**TC3: Book discussion: The Future of Hiding – Secrecy, Infrastructure, and Ecological Memory in Estonia's Siberia by Francisco Martínez**

Session Chair: **Francisco Martínez**, University of Murcia

Discussant: **Aimar Ventsel**, University of Tartu

Discussant: **Siobhan Kattago**, University of Tartu

**Book discussion: The Future of Hiding – Secrecy, Infrastructure, and Ecological Memory in Estonia's Siberia**

**Francisco Martínez**

University of Murcia, Spain

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**TC4: Disinformation: Narratives, Networks, and Influence**

Session Chair: **Yuliia Kopytsiak**, Voluntas

Discussant: **Kateryna Nykytchenko**, Kyiv National Linguistic University

**News-source impacts on American conservatives' support of Ukraine and beliefs about Russian disinformation**

**Mike Cronin**

University of Tartu

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**News Framing in Western Media and Ukrainian Domestic Media on Key Sociopolitical Events in Ukraine**

**Kateryna Nykytchenko**

Kyiv National Linguistic University

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**Semantic Warfare and the Politics of Meaning**

**Volbrecht van Leenen**

Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**TC5: Geopolitics and Migration: War, Activism, and the Liminal Identities of Russian and Belarusian Diasporas**

Session Chair: **Miłosz Cordes**, Danish Institute for Studies Abroad

Discussant: **Jaroslav Dvorak**, Klaipėda University

**“Living in a State of the Splits”: Russian Emigrant Activists Between Old and New Identities**

**Irina Meyer Olimpijeva**<sup>1</sup>, **Irina Busygina**<sup>2</sup>, **Daria Dimke**<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES); <sup>2</sup>Harvard University; <sup>3</sup>Center for Independent Social Research (CISRus)

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**Inter-Imperial Memory and Political Imagination: Belarusian Diaspora in Lithuania, Poland, and the Czech Republic**

**David Pergl**

Charles University

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**Everyday Liminality: Young Russian Emigrants in Georgia**

**Marina Perglová**

Charles University

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**Living with a Discredited Passport: Belarusian and Russian Migrants in Lithuania and Poland**

**Florence Fröhlig**

Södertörn University

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**2:30pm - 4:15pm**

**TC6: EU Foreign Policy**

Session Chair: **Olena Podolian**, Södertörn University  
Discussant: **Thomas Linsenmaier**, University of Tartu

**From Connectivity to Sustainability: The Role of the European Union's Global Gateway in Promoting Green Transition in Central Asia after 2022**

**Andrzej Stopczynski**

University of Łódź

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**Reconfiguring from the East: The Baltic states' 'selective disentanglement' with China and the shaping of EU strategic autonomy**

**Longtai Zhang**

Ghent University

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**Flat Maps, Fluid Worlds: The EU's Geopolitical Connectivity in the Interlocking Worlds of Afro-Eur-Asia**

**Emilian Kavalski<sup>1</sup>, Nora Fisher Onar<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Tampere University; <sup>2</sup>University of San Francisco

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**2:30pm - 4:15pm**

**TC7: Soviet Music and Film**

Session Chair: **Anke Hilbrenner**, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf  
Discussant: **Egge Kulbok-Lattik**, University of Tartu

**Soviet films on global screens: Sověksportfil'm facing global markets in the 1950s and 1960s**

**Aline Meyenberg**

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

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**The universal and the provincial: the representations of Odessa in Kira Muratova's films**

**Moeko Eto**

Waseda University

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**Circumventing Moscow: Musical Co-operation between Finland, Soviet Estonia, and Latvia in the 1960s and 1970s**

**Simo Mikkonen**

University of Eastern Finland

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**4:45pm - 6:15pm**

**KEYNOTE: Empires We Choose: Migration and Sovereignty in a Double Periphery**

Speaker: **Dace Dzenovska**, University of Oxford  
Moderator: **Edgars Eihmanis**, University of Tartu

**6:45pm - 9:00pm**

**Reception**

**Date: Friday, 12/June/2026**

**8:00am - 4:30pm**

**Conference registration and info desk open**

Lossi 36

**9:00am - 10:45am**

**FA1: Writing Environmental History of Ukraine: Concepts, Contexts, Approaches**

Session Chair: **Julia Malitska**, Södertörn University, Sweden

Discussant: **Epp Annus**, Tallinn University; Ohio State University

**Modernizing the Herd? Animal Bodies, Cattle Farming and Empire in Romanov-ruled Ukraine**

**Julia Malitska**

Södertörn University

**Riverscape as Method: Rethinking Space, Nature, and History Along Ukraine's Contested Rivers**

**Oleksii Chebotarov**

Independent Scholar

**Mobilizing the Past for an Ecological Future: Competing Narratives of the Dnipro Wetlands after the Kakhovka Disaster**

**Anna Olenenko**

University of Alberta / Khortytsia National Academy

**9:00am - 10:45am**

**FA2: Authoritarianism in Eurasia: Regime Resilience, Adaptation, and Contestation**

Session Chair: **Michał Słowiński**, University of Lodz

Discussant: **Jørn Holm-Hansen**, Oslo Metropolitan University

**From Regency to Consolidation: Authoritarian Succession in Kazakhstan in Comparative Perspective**

**Patricija Romina Smolnikar**

University of Oxford

**Sectoral Varieties of Brokerage: Russian Networks and the Adaptive Capacity of Authoritarian Regimes**

**Sebastian Hoppe**<sup>1</sup>, **Anna Filippova**<sup>1</sup>, **Aram Bagdasarian**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS); <sup>2</sup>Harvard University

**Democratic Resilience through Regional Cooperation: Baltic Responses to Authoritarian Turn in Georgia**

**Sandro Tabatadze**

Vytautas Magnus University

**9:00am - 10:45am**

**FA3: Arts and Politics: Musical Expression in Times of War**

Session Chair: **Azniv Tadevosyan**, University of Tartu

Discussant: **Elena Pavlova**, University of Tartu

**The image of woman as a strategic narrative: A case of Ukrainian entrance at Eurovision Song Contest**

**PINAR AKGÜL**

Giresun University

**After Escapism: How Ukraine's Electronic Scenes Produce Solidarity, Care, and Civic Power in Wartime**

**Maxime Chervaux**

University Paris 8

**Dropping out of Putinism: Russian relocants, music communities and vernacular cosmopolitanism in Georgia**

**Marco Biasoli**

University of Manchester

9:00am - 10:45am

**FA4: From Propaganda Dissemination to Impact Measurement**

Session Chair: **Mike Cronin**, University of Tartu

**How Propaganda Disseminates: A Novel Analytical Approach to Pro-Russian Narratives and Audience Engagement during the 2024 Lithuanian Parliamentary Elections**

**Vidmante Krusinskaite**

Vilnius University

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**"Russian underground in Ukraine" disinformation campaign: origins, main messages and potential influence for the EU**

**Nataliia Steblyna**<sup>1</sup>, **Jaroslav Dvorak**<sup>2</sup>, **Valeriia Vasylenko**<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University; <sup>2</sup>Klaipėda University; <sup>3</sup>Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University

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**Global Platforms, Local Democracies: How Social Media Reshape Political Participation and Trust in Post-Socialist States**

**Karolina Ferreira Fernandes**

University of Białystok

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9:00am - 10:45am

**FA5: Minorities: Memory, Integration, and Security**

Session Chair: **Aigerim Nurseitova**, University of Tartu

**Mixed Marriages in Soviet Latvia: Local Knowledge, Documentation, and the Periphery's View of Sovietization**

**Daniela Rihtere**

Latvian War Museum

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**Russians in the Ranks? Ethnic Representation and Recruitment Cleavages in the Estonian Defense Forces**

**Christofer Berglund**

Malmö University

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**Reporting challenges of Russian-language journalists in Estonia, Latvia, and Moldova after the start of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine**

**Anna Tisler-Lavrentjev**

University of Tartu

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9:00am - 10:45am

**FA6: Church and State in Russia**

Session Chair: **Santeri Kytöneva**, University of Helsinki

Discussant: **Danila Rygovskiy**, Tallinn University

**"You're all American spies!" Is persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union and post-Soviet Russia religious or political?**

**Igor Mikeshin**

University of Helsinki

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**The Transnational Reach of Russian Soft Power: Propaganda, War, and Influence**

**George Soroka**

Harvard University

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**The Strategic Instrumentalisation of "Traditional Values" in Russian Colonialism**

**Dmytro Yagunov**

Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

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**Identity as Strategy: Traditional Values and the Fragmentation of the West.**

**Iuliia Treshchenok**

University of Helsinki

9:00am - 10:45am

**FA7: Sovietization of Learning and Science**

Session Chair: **Kaarel Piirimäe**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Juhan Saharov**, University of Tartu

**Between the Global and the Local: Soviet Atheist Museums as a Transnational Ideological Project (Case of Kyiv from the 1930s)**

**Anna Yanenko**<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Preserve "Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra"; <sup>2</sup>French Research Center in Humanities and Social Sciences (CEFRES)

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**Building Communism in Estonia During the Thaw: The Society "Teadus" and Its Struggle for a Socialist Everyday Life**

**Karsten Brüggemann**

Tallinn University

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**Agribusiness Repackaged? Experiments in Agro-Industrial Integration in Occupied Estonia during Late Socialism**

**Donald Morard III**

McGill University

10:45am - 11:15am

**Coffee break**

11:15am - 1:00pm

**FB1: Ukrainian Science Across Borders: Perspectives on the Interwar Period**

Session Chair: **Jan Surman**, Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
Discussant: **Roman Leibov**, The University of Tartu

**Ukrainian Social Science in the Czech Lands: the Case of Ippolit Olgerd Bochkovsky**

**Alexander Dmitriev**

Charles University / Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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**Ukrainian Scholar: Scholarly Persona After 1918**

**Jan Surman**

Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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**Two Sessions of the International Statistical Institute in the 1920s: A View from Soviet Ukraine**

**Denys Tereshchenko**

European University Institute

11:15am - 1:00pm

**FB3: Populism and Polarization in Europe**

Session Chair: **Sandro Tabatadze**, Vytautas Magnus University, Kavolis Institute of Transdisciplinary Research  
Discussant: **Max Steuer**, Comenius University in Bratislava, O.P. Jindal Global University

**Mnemonic Populism and the Rhetoric of Stability: Weaponizing School History for Authoritarian Survival in Belarus**

**Nikolai Shpilkov**

University of Siena

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**Restoring Democratic Accountability in Post-War Ukraine: Party Politics and Executive Power**

**Svitlana Kononchuk**

Dortmund Technical University

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**The Legacy of Left-Wing Authoritarian Regimes on Parties' Dispersion on the Left-Right Scale: A Study of Post-Communist Democracies in the European Union**

**Yuliia Kopytsiak**

Voluntas

11:15am - 1:00pm

**FB5: Politics of History and Memory**

Session Chair: **Olena Denysenko**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **PINAR AKGÜL**, Giresun University

**Archives Across Borders: Animated Testimonies from Ukraine in the Holodomor.**

**Sara Nesteruk**

Manchester Metropolitan University

**Negotiating the role of the National Museum of Kazakhstan between the global and the local**

**Dariya Sarybay**

University of Vienna

**Reading as an act of decolonization: linguistic hierarchies and literary preferences in Kazakhstan**

**Zhanargul Aizakova**

Narxoz University

**Two Truths Make a Lie: A Comparison of the Securitization of History in Latvian and Russian Textbook Depictions of the Second World War.**

**Dainis Rižkins**<sup>1</sup>, **Emily Robin Kowal**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rīga Stradiņš University; <sup>2</sup>Charles University

11:15am - 1:00pm

**FB6: Between Support and Isolation: De Facto States from Eastern Europe to the Eastern Mediterranean**

Session Chair: **Sophie GUEUDET**, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna  
Discussant: **Eiki Berg**, University of Tartu

**Between Secession and Unity: The Role of Parent State Titulars in Shaping Separatist Conflicts in Moldova and Georgia**

**Keith Harrington**

Dublin City University

**Minority Informal Representation in Non-Democratic Settings: Polish Minority Ethnic Brokers in Transnistria**

**Magdalena Dembinska**

Université de Montréal

**Stabilisation Without Resolution: International Engagement and the Limits of Peacebuilding in Abkhazia and Northern Cyprus**

**Clara Schulz**

Umeå University

**Liberal Internationalism and the Making of De Facto Statehood**

**Ibrahim Mammadli**, **Ayşe Özlem Marşan**

University of Tartu

11:15am - 1:00pm

**FB7: Consuming Politics on the Screen: Talkshows, TV Series, and YouTube**

Session Chair: **Oksana Belova-Dalton**, University of Tartu  
Discussant: **Andrey Makarychev**, University of Tartu

**'Why are standing here and lying?': Aggression as entertainment and propaganda in Russian political talk shows**

**Petr Gulenko**

Charles University

**From Global Intelligence to Everyday Anxiety: Popular Culture and Security in the Baltic Frontline**

**Anita Pluwak**  
University of Copenhagen

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**From global trash to sovereign biopolitics: the pro-natalist transformation of MTV's *16 and Pregnant* in Russia**

**Dorka Takacsy**  
Corvinus University of Budapest

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**FC1: Political Ideologies in the Early 20th Century**

Session Chair: **Karsten Brüggemann**, Tallinn U  
Discussant: **Eva Piirimäe**, University of Tartu

**The Forgotten Constitution of the Lithuanian Monarchy, 1918**

**Tomas Balkelis**  
Lithuanian Institute of History

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**Democratic Channels and the Dissemination of Soviet Propaganda: Communist Front Organizations' Legal Press in Latvia in the 1920s**

**Guna Zarina**  
University of Latvia

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**Political Street Violence as a Legacy of Imperial Collapse: the Case of Far-Right Radicalisation in Interwar Riga**

**Kārlis Sils**  
Södertörn University

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**FC2: Resilience to Hybrid Threats and Polarization**

Session Chair: **Thomas Pritchard**, University of Tartu

**Businesses in the Comprehensive National Defence System: dimension of psychological resilience. Case study of Latvia 2019-2024.**

**Lita Juberte Krumina**  
Riga Stradiņš University

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**Hybrid Threats in the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea: Assessing Regional Vulnerabilities and Strategic Futures**

**Satu E Semberg**  
University of Helsinki

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**Ontological Security, Mnemonic Anxiety and the Polish-Russian Clash over Victimhood Nationalism**

**Damian Zych**  
University of Warsaw

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2:30pm - 4:15pm

**FC3: Governance and Security in the Digital Age**

Session Chair: **Mihkel Solvak**, University of Tartu

**Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Transformation of Diplomacy: A Conceptual Framework for Ministries of Foreign Affairs**

**Didzis Klavīnš**  
University of Latvia

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**Digital Challenges for Security and Democratic Politics: The EU Pillars of Information Environment Protection**

**Ramon Loik, Jaanika Puusalu**  
Estonian Academy of Security Sciences / University of Tartu

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**Diplomacy in the Disinformation Age: Assessing the impact of weaponized information on conflict resolution in the Russia-Ukraine War**

**Michael Butler**

Clark University

2:30pm - 4:15pm

**FC4: Domestic Challenges in Wartime Ukraine: Technology, Democratic Accountability, and Displacement**

Session Chair: **Maxime Chervaux**, Université Paris 8

**Technological Autonomy and Critical Raw Material Supply: Ukraine's Critical Raw Material Potential and Russia-Ukrainian War**

**Ezgi Canıgüzel Arslan**

Middle East Technical University

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**Global Aid, Local Cooperation: Behavioral Spillovers in Ukraine's Wartime Food Sector**

**Roman Neyter<sup>1</sup>, Nataliia Zaika<sup>2</sup>, Volodymyr Vakhitov<sup>2</sup>, Vladyslav Dombrovskiy<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Kyiv School of Economics; <sup>2</sup>American University Kyiv

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**Artificial Intelligence and the War in Ukraine: Implications for Global Security Governance and Regulatory Futures**

**Emmanuel Arakpogun<sup>1</sup>, Hanna Doroshuk<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Stirling; <sup>2</sup>V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

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**Human Capital Displacement in Times of War: The Ukrainian Experience in a Regional Context**

**Polina Malesh, Sandra Boldizhar, Vadym Pishta**

Uzhhorod National University

2:30pm - 4:15pm

**FC5: Memory Politics and Identity Construction**

Session Chair: **Robert Lipinski**, University of Oxford

Discussant: **Heiko Pääbo**, University of Tartu

**Governing Memory through Presidential Discourse: Historical Narratives in the Baltic States since the 1990s**

**Shan Huang**

Tsinghua University

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**The Homeland of Russian in Exile: Focusing on Marina Tsvetaeva's Poems in the 1930s**

**Kaori Kurihara**

Waseda University

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**Baltic Sea Region Identity in Times of Geopolitical Rupture: Security, Regional Belonging, and the Eastern European after 2022**

**Katarzyna Biersztańska<sup>1</sup>, Magdalena Tomala<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Branch of the University of Białystok in Vilnius; <sup>2</sup>Kielce University of Technology