

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

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

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: **Antonin Nenutil**, KU Leuven

Discussant: **Dasha Kuletskaya**, ETH Zürich, CH / RWTH Aachen University, DE

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

David Gogishvili

University of Lausanne

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

Léo Henry

University of Toronto

Community Houses as Anchors of Cultural Presence in Emptying Places

Egge Kulbok-Lattik

University of Tartu

Performing global heritage: symbolic compliance in an age of deglobalisation

Julian Postulat

Netherlands Defence Academy

9:00am - 10:45am

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

Session Chair: **Dumitru Minzarari**, Baltic Defence College

Discussant: **Dumitru Minzarari**, Baltic Defence College

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

Sophie Gueudet, Francesco Strazzari
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

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

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

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

Ketevan Bolkvadze¹, Maia Machavariani²
¹Lund University; ²Eastern European Center for Multiparty Democracy

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

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

Dmytro Khutkyy¹, Olga Matveieva², Vasil Navumau³
¹University of Tartu; ²Dnipro University of Technology / Centre for Advanced Internet Studies;
³University of Siegen

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

Ryhor Nizhnikau¹, Oleksii Kolesnykov²
¹Finnish Institute of International Affairs; ²University of Tartu

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

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)

11:15am - 1:00pm

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

Session Chair: **Paris Pin-Yu Chen**, University of Birmingham
Discussant: **Marten Seppel**, University of Tartu

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

Pavel Demchenko

Scuola Superiore Meridionale

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 Pumpurins

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 Tchanturia¹, Vincenc Kopeček², Dita Sutterová²

¹Georgian Institute of Public Affairs; ²University of Ostrava

11:15am - 1:00pm

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

Session Chair: **Inta Mierīņa**, 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 Juzefovičs¹, Anastasija Tetarenko-Supe²

¹Rīga Stradiņš University; ²University of Latvia

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

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 Nadtoka

University of Regensburg

"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^{1,2}

¹Institut de recherche stratégique de l'école militaire (IRSEM); ²Institut 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

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

My Svensson

Uppsala University

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: **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

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

Antonín Nenučil¹, Jan Brzobohatý²

¹KU Leuven; ²Palacky University

Decolonization Debates Among the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation

Eugeniusz Portny

Jagiellonian University

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

Mieste Hotopp-Riecke

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

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: **Anatolii Kruglashov**, University of Łódź / Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University
Discussant: **Oleksii Polegkyi**, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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

Tomasz Stepniewski¹, Alicja Zyguła²

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

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

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

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

Minority identity and democratic participation in context of aggressive kin state

Marianna Makarova

The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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

Inta Mierina

University of Latvia

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

Danila Rygovskiy

Tallinn University

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

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

Samuel Foster

University of East Anglia

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

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

Kaarel Piirimäe

University of Tartu

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-Hohlfeld**, 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

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

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

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

Michał Słowikowski

University of Łódź

Rebirth of imperialist policy: where to find a secure place for Central-Eastern Europe

Anatoliy Kruglashov

University of Łódź / Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Ukraine

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

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

Geir Flikke

University of Oslo

Erosion of Russian Eurasian multilateralism

Stefan Meister

German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

9:00am - 10:45am

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

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

De-empiring education in Estonia: Legacies and logics

Kadri Koreinik, Kara Brown

University of Tartu

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

Hanna Markova

University of Latvia

Introducing the S-Connection Framework

Angela Princiotta

Tallinn University

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

Iryna Malyshevskaya, Olha Bilyk, Nataliia Pyliachyk

Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University

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

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

Yaroslava Bukhta
University of Oxford

Orcish Question: Dehumanization Between Mordor and Moscow

Ivan Šimko
Slovak Academy of Sciences

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

Nadiya Ivanenko
University of Oxford

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

Religion, Gender and the Russian War on Ukraine

Petr Kratochvíl
Charles 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

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

Santeri Kytöneva
University of Helsinki

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

Inter-imperial invisibility and the logic of extractivism

Epp Annus

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

Yuliya Yurchuk
Södertörn University

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

Valeria Korablyova
Charles University

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

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

Christopher Tong
University of Maryland

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

Yuliia Kurnyshova¹, Andrey Makarychev²
¹University of Helsinki; ²University of Tartu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kristo Nurmis
Tallinn University

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

Robert Lipinski
University of Oxford

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

Kristine Bekere
University of Latvia

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

Ferdinando Maieron
Scuola Normale Superiore

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

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

Ivan Baydakov
Tel Aviv University

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

Max Steuer^{1,2}
¹Comenius University in Bratislava; ²O.P. Jindal Global University

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

Daria Popil
Ukrainian Institute

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

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

Piotr Sidorowicz
University of Warsaw

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

Samuel Kramer
Independent Scholar

2:30pm - 4:15pm

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

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

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

Russian Elites in Wartime: Performing Orthodoxy – Signalling Loyalty

Natalia Zhdanova
University of Oxford

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

Alar Kilp
University of Tartu

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

2:30pm - 4:15pm

TC4: Disinformation: Narratives, Networks, and Influence

Session Chair: **Yuliia Kopytsiak**, Voluntas
Discussant: **Sten Torpan**, University of Tartu

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

Mike Cronin
University of Tartu

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

Kateryna Nykytchenko
Kyiv National Linguistic University

Semantic Warfare and the Politics of Meaning

Volbrecht van Leenen
Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands

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 Olimpieva¹, **Irina Busygina**², **Daria Dimke**³

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

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

David Pergl
Charles University

Everyday Liminality: Young Russian Emigrants in Georgia

Marina Perglová
Charles University

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

Florence Fröhlig
Södertörn University

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

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

Longtai Zhang
Ghent University

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

Emilian Kavalski¹, Nora Fisher Onar²
¹Tampere University; ²University of San Francisco

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: Sovëksportfil'm facing global markets in the 1950s and 1960s

Aline Meyenberg
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

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

Moeko Eto
Waseda University

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

Simo Mikkonen
University of Eastern Finland

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 Słowikowski**, 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 Hoppe¹, **Anna Filippova**¹, **Aram Bagdasarian**²

¹Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS); ²Harvard 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 Biasioli

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

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

Nataliia Steblyna¹, **Jaroslav Dvorak**², **Valeriia Vasylenko**³

¹Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University; ²Klaipėda University; ³Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University

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

Karolina Ferreira Fernandes

University of Białystok

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

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

Christofer Berglund

Malmö University

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

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

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

George Soroka

Harvard University

The Strategic Instrumentalisation of "Traditional Values" in Russian Colonialism

Dmytro Yagunov

Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

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^{1,2}

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

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

Karsten Brüggemann

Tallinn University

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

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

Ukrainian Scholar: Scholarly Persona After 1918

Jan Surman

Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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

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

Svitlana Kononchuk

Dortmund Technical University

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 Rižkins¹, **Emily Robin Kowal**²

¹Rīga Stradiņš University; ²Charles 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

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

Dorka Takacsy

Corvinus University of Budapest

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

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

Guna Zarina

University of Latvia

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

Kārlis Sils

Södertörn University

2:30pm - 4:15pm

FC2: Resilience to Hybrid Threats and Polarization

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

Discussant: **George Spencer Terry**, Baltic Defence College

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

Lita Juberte Krumina

Rīga Stradiņš University

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

Satu E Semberg

University of Helsinki

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

Damian Zych

University of Warsaw

2:30pm - 4:15pm

FC3: Governance and Security in the Digital Age

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

Discussant: **Logan Carmichael**, Cybernetica

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

Didzis Klavins

University of Latvia

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

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

Discussant: **Svitlana Kononchuk**, Dortmund Technical University / TU-Dortmund

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

Ezgi Canıgüzel Arslan

Middle East Technical University

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

Roman Neyter¹, Nataliia Zaika², Volodymyr Vakhitov², Vladyslav Dombrovskiy²

¹Kyiv School of Economics; ²American University Kyiv

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

Emmanuel Arakpogun¹, Hanna Doroshuk²

¹University of Stirling; ²V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

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

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

Kaori Kurihara

Waseda University

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

Katarzyna Biersztańska¹, Magdalena Tomala²

¹Branch of the University of Białystok in Vilnius; ²Kielce University of Technology