



Graduate School
for East and Southeast
European Studies

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2022 & 2023



Universität Regensburg

Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies^{UR} 2022 & 2023

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Editorial

by **Ulf Brunnbauer**

Speaker of the Graduate School

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022, has brought war back to Europe. This occurred less than a quarter of a century after the last wars on the continent ended, namely the wars of succession in the former Yugoslavia. These wars raise the question of why East and Southeast Europe have become theaters of violent conflict since the end of the Cold War. This is one of the major questions addressed by the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies' research and events. Our research shows that the consequences of the dissolution of empires and the legacies of communist rule have not been fully digested and accepted – and also not fully understood – in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The most extreme case is President Putin's brutal revisionism, rooted in nostalgia for the Soviet Union and his misinformed opinions about Ukrainian national identity. However, even members of the European Union sometimes dabble in revisionism. For example, the Bulgarian government has blocked EU accession negotiations with North Macedonia as long as the country does not capitulate to Bulgaria's vision of its own history and identity.

Wars and conflicts are not the only reasons why East and Southeast Europe is a region deserving of specialized knowledge production. The region is a place of complex and often ambiguous transformation processes and a space where different transregional and local influences converge and intersect in often surprising ways. The complex interplay of cultural, political, economic, and social ties linking East and Southeast Europe to other regions around the globe makes it a fascinating research area. This is why, since its inception in 2012, the Graduate School has emphasized transregional, transnational, and comparative perspectives. We want to understand the place of "our" region in the world and the world in "our" region. This means highlighting both connections and what is connected. Despite globalization, local context remains crucial, which is why language proficiency is so important for area studies research.

During the reporting period, the Graduate School recruited new doctoral projects that advance its mission. As the following pages will show, the Graduate

School's early career researchers work on highly innovative and original themes. The interdisciplinary nature of much of their research is also evident, highlighting another outstanding feature of the Graduate School. We believe in the value of bringing together different disciplinary perspectives and diverse epistemologies. Raising awareness of the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation and thinking outside the box is a major element of the Graduate School's training program. Another focus of the program is training transferable skills for academic and non-academic careers. The Graduate School supports its doctoral researchers in building their research profiles by funding an annual self-organised graduate conference and providing funds for conference attendance.

The Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies at the University of Regensburg is a network. This is evident in its broad, interdisciplinary university membership and its close cooperation with other programs in Regensburg, as well as with national and international partners. Particularly important are our collaborations with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) and the Institute for East European Law (IOR), both of which are independent research institutes located in Regensburg. The Graduate School organises many events with the Leibniz Science Campus "Europe and America in the Modern World," a joint research platform of the IOS and the University of Regensburg, which is funded by the Leibniz Association. We benefit from the international scholars brought to Regensburg by the Science Campus and its program to support early-career researchers. Lastly, the newly established Department of Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies (DIMAS) at the University of Regensburg contributes to the Graduate School's training and research activities in many ways.

We thank all our partners, as well as our institutional sponsors: the University of Regensburg and the Free State of Bavaria, which provide sustainability funding for the Graduate School.

Introduction

The Activities of the Graduate School in 2022 and 2023

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer

Deputy Speaker: Prof. Dr. Mirja Lecke

Manager: Dr. Heidrun Hamersky

The current reporting period was a time of resuming hope and adapting in crisis. After two years of pandemic-related restrictions, the Graduate School entered 2022 with renewed confidence and a return to in-person programming. However, the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February 2022 caused profound shock and necessitated a swift adjustment of our activities to the drastically altered circumstances. Fundamental questions suddenly arose for the GS OSES^{UR}, not least because the outbreak of war entailed far-reaching practical implications: research on Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine could no longer be conducted in the usual manner, and this situation was unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. Travel to the area was – and remains – unfeasible while in Russia, certain topics are effectively out of bounds. Doctoral researchers at the GS OSES^{UR} have also been affected by these developments and have had to revise their research plans accordingly.

The GS OSES^{UR} responded swiftly to the war in Ukraine and as early as 1 March 2022, welcomed its first scholar who had fled the country. Additionally, using residual funds from the 2021 budget, it established its own *GS OSES^{UR} Emergency Programme for Displaced Early Career Researchers from Ukraine*, offering up to four short-term fellowships (each lasting four months). Beyond providing humanitarian support, the fellowships were also intended to establish longer-term academic affiliations between the researchers and the Graduate School. The first fellow was the international law expert Katharina Busol, a specialist in the prosecution of war crimes committed in Eastern Ukraine since 2014. Her expertise attracted considerable interest from both national and international media. Following her initial fellowship at the Graduate School, she was awarded another one-year grant secured by the IOS from the Volkswagen Foundation. The Institute applied successfully for six further grants for female scholars from Ukraine.

In mid-May 2022, three additional researchers – some accompanied by family members – joined the Graduate

School under the newly launched *GS OSES^{UR} Emergency Programme*. For a period of four months, Halyna Chomenko (a literary scholar from Kharkiv), Ilona Lechner (a linguist from Berehove), and Anna Ivanova (a sociologist from Kharkiv) pursued their research activities at the University of Regensburg. The degree to which the Ukrainian guest researchers were integrated into the Graduate School's programme varied, primarily depending on their respective language proficiencies.

Following a decision by the Executive Board, one of the fellows from Ukraine, Anna Ivanova, was awarded a one-year pre-doctoral fellowship commencing in mid-September 2022. This support enabled her to prepare an application for external doctoral funding.

In collaboration with local partners – particularly the IOS, the Leibniz ScienceCampus, and CITAS – a diverse programme of events addressing the situation in Ukraine was swiftly organised by the GS OSES^{UR}. In the spirit of knowledge transfer, these events were explicitly aimed not only at academic audiences but also at the broader public in Regensburg. Among the Principal Investigators, Guido Hausmann and Julia Herzberg, in particular, contributed extensively to media outreach.

The GS OSES^{UR} rapidly mobilised support on multiple levels, including targeted initiatives for doctoral researchers to help them cope with the impact of the war. We are grateful to Ger Duijzings, who offered an informal session focused on processing such events – an initiative that was very well received and found to be highly beneficial by the doctoral researchers. Especially in times of crisis, the advantages of a structured doctoral programme over traditional individual doctoral study become strikingly apparent. The daily, in-person interaction with peers provides a stabilising and supportive environment for the doctoral researchers.

In July 2022 the members assembly of the GS OSES^{UR} re-elected Ulf Brunnbauer (History) and Mirja Lecke

(Slavic Studies) as speakers Graduate School, with Sabine Koller (Slavic-Jewish Studies) and since 2023 Juliane Tomann (Public history) as Equal Opportunity Officer (her deputy is the historian Natali Stegmann). The abovementioned members of faculty form the Executive Board together with a representative of the doctoral researchers. Lena Franke served in this role until 2022, and since 2023, Magdalena Daller and her deputy, Jana Vinge Martins, have taken over this function. The Graduate School continues to be maintained by three Faculties: Philosophy, Art History, History, and Humanities (PKGG), Languages, Literature, and Cultures (SLK) and by the faculty of Law. Members of these three faculties, and since 2023 another five professors of the newly established Department for Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies (DIMAS) as well as members of the Leibniz Institute for East and South-east European Studies (IOS), jointly form the Graduate School's Faculty, who act as supervisors to the PhD candidates. It is of strategic value for the Graduate School to broaden its thematic focus and move in the direction of Area Studies. Therefore, the Members Assembly appointed in 2022 as new Principal Investigators Juliane Toman (Public History) and in 2023 Anne Brüske (Spatial Dimensions of Cultural Processes), Astrid Ensslin (Dynamics of Virtual Communication Spaces), Rike Krämer-Hoppe (Transnational Norm Development), Timothy Nunan (Transregional Cultures of Knowledge), Anna Steigemann (Sociological Dimensions of Space), and Katrin Boeckh (East and South-east European History / IOS). In 2023, two PIs left the Graduate School: Julia Herzberg and Heike Karge have been appointed to professorships at the prestigious Universities in Leipzig and Graz, respectively. Overall, the GSOES^{UR} had 22 Principal Investigators during the reporting period. By the end of 2023, the Graduate School membership included 31 doctoral candidates, five predoctoral and two postdoctoral researchers. Twelve of the early career researchers including one postdoc were funded by the GS OSES^{UR}.

Promoting equal opportunities and advancing diversity remain central objectives of the GS OSES^{UR}. The representatives for equal opportunity and diversity, Sabine Koller and Julia Herzberg, implemented a consistently ambitious and highly relevant programme, addressing key structural and cultural aspects of equity and inclusion. During the reporting period, several events with a focus on gender and equality took place.

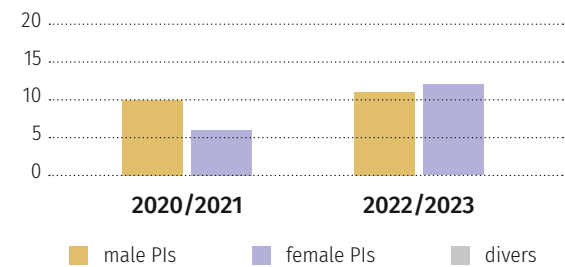
In 2022 and 2023 two public lectures addressing gender-related topics were held. Maria Rakhmaninova (Tbilisi) spoke on *Left Feminism in Russia 2010–2022: Between Gender Studies and Activism*, and Olga Shparaga gave a hybrid-format lecture entitled *The Revolution Has a Female Face*, focusing on the role of women in the Belarusian protest movement. Both events attracted a high level of interest and engagement, reaching over 90 participants in total. Reports were published on the University website and recordings are available on the GS OSES^{UR} YouTube channel.

In addition, the film series *Women's Roles in Socialism and Beyond*, initiated and organised by Heidrun Hamersky in cooperation with the Cottbus Film Festival and the cinema Ostentor, was presented as a public event in Regensburg. Introductions by Sabine Koller, Marek Nekula, and Julia Herzberg contextualised the screenings, which enabled the broader public to engage with gender discourse.

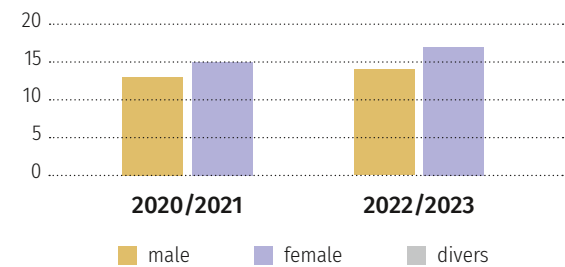
A particular focus has been on increasing the representation of women among the Principal Investigators (PIs). At the end of the 2020/21 reporting period, women accounted for 37.5% of the PI cohort (six out of sixteen). By the end of the current reporting period (2022/23), the Graduate School recorded, for the first time in its history, a majority of female PIs, with women making up 52 % of the group (12 out of 23). This marks a significant improvement in gender balance and aligns with the consistently high proportion of female doctoral researchers at the Graduate School over the years.

While the increase in the number of female supervisors reflects the positive impact of ongoing gender equality efforts, significant challenges remain in terms of internationalisation. Despite the steadily growing share of international doctoral researchers (2020/21: 68%; 2022/23: 74 %) and the full transition to English as the language of academic training, the proportion of international Principal Investigators remained effectively stable (3/16, or 18%, in 2020/21, and 4/22, or 17%, in 2022/23). Addressing this imbalance with the university leadership, especially the representative for internationalisation at the University of Regensburg remains a key priority for the Graduate School and its equal opportunity representative.

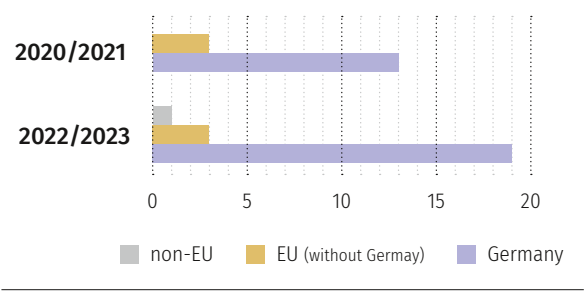
PIs: Development of Gender Balance



Doctoral Researchers: Gender Balance



PIs: Development of Diversity



In parallel with the unforeseen admission of researchers from Ukraine who fled the war in spring 2022, the regular recruitment process for a new cohort of doctoral researchers also took place. Three doctoral researchers from Germany, Hungary and Russia funded by the Graduate School were recruited in 2022, while another three came from Kosovo and Ukraine in 2023. These doctoral scholarships (for 3.5 years) were made possible through financial support of the GS OSES^{UR} provided by the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts (BayStMWK).

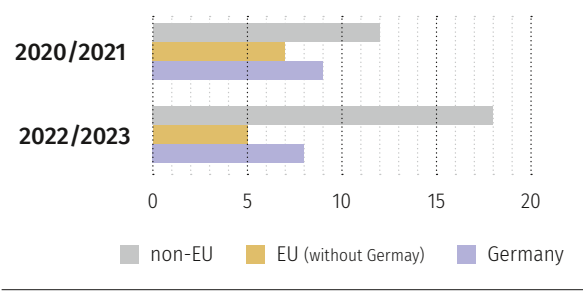
Furthermore, the Graduate School continues to offer association to doctoral candidates who are enrolled at the University of Regensburg and hold independent third-party funding. This model has proven effective in broadening the academic network and integrating a diverse cohort of researchers into the Graduate School's structures. In 2022 and 2023, three early career researchers from the chair of Public History at the University of Regensburg and from third-party funded research projects at the Leibniz Institute of East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) were associated.

The format of predoctoral fellowships has also continued as a successful instrument of early-stage recruitment. During the reporting period, four new predoctoral researchers were admitted under this scheme. These Predoctoral fellowships aim to enable early-stage researchers to design an innovative research project and apply for external project funding.

Since May 2022 the postdoctoral position was filled by Volha Bartash covering the maternity and parental leave of Jacqueline Nießer. This position remains a vital structural element of the Graduate School, functioning as an essential intermediary between the doctoral researchers and the Principal Investigators, while ensuring continuity and support across status groups.

An integral part of reporting on the past years includes reviewing the number of doctoral degrees successfully completed. Despite the considerable challenges faced by these particular cohorts in the final years of their doctorates – most notably the severe restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the far-reaching consequences of the war in Ukraine – a noteworthy

Doctoral Researchers: Diversity



number of doctoral candidates were able to complete their degrees successfully. In the period 2022–2023, Stefan Gužvica submitted and defended his dissertation, while Frederik Lange and Daniel Schrader submitted theirs. In addition, Veronika Wald successfully defended and published her thesis. These accomplishments highlight the resilience and determination of the doctoral candidates, as well as the strength of the supportive academic environment fostered by the Graduate School.

The continued success of our alumni clearly demonstrates that completing a doctorate at the Graduate School opens up a broad spectrum of career opportunities – both within academia and in other professional fields. Importantly, this is not a recent development, but part of a longer-term trend that has been consistently observable over the past years. This finding is further supported by the results of the GS OSES^{UR} alumni survey conducted in 2023. At the time of the survey, 100% of respondents were in employment, which is to be seen as a highly positive outcome. Of these, 60% were still working in academia or in research positions outside universities. Within the period of five to eight years after completing their doctorate, this share decreases slightly to 50%. The graduates in the reporting period have also already secured employment positions: Stefan Gužvica is continuing his academic trajectory as a researcher at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Frederik Lange has taken up a position at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in the Department of Gender & Diversity Policy. Veronika Wald is currently working as a lecturer in Russian Language at Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg. Such outcomes underline the strong career prospects associated with completing a doctorate at GS OSES^{UR} and reflect the sustained ability of the Graduate School to prepare early career researchers for diverse professional pathways.

As part of the Graduate School's ongoing career tracking efforts, the professional development of former postdoctoral researchers is closely monitored, too. In late 2022, Petar Kehayov accepted a professorship in Finnic Languages at the University of Tartu/Estonia. Since April 2023, Čarna Brković has held the Chair of Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology at the University of Mainz. In December 2023, Melanie Arndt



Summer School 2022: Excursion to Lety u Písku, the Protectorate's concentration camp and now Memorial to the Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti in Bohemia. © GS OSES^{UR}

was appointed Vice Rector for Internationalisation and Sustainability at the University of Freiburg. These appointments underline the strong and lasting impact of the Graduate School's postdoctoral programme on academic careers and leadership roles within higher education.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the Graduate School was finally able to resume its core academic activities on site from the summer term 2022 onwards. For many doctoral researchers, this was the first opportunity to engage with the programme beyond digital formats. The return to in-person events restored key elements of academic exchange and contributed to a renewed sense of community. The end of travel restrictions also led to increased international mobility.

However, this return to a more familiar academic routine did not mean a full return to normality. The effects of the ongoing war against Ukraine continued to shape the context in which research and institutional cooperation took place. Planned activities – including the annual summer school – had to be relocated or adapted to new political realities, and questions of memory, borders, and conflict became even more central to the Graduate School's thematic focus. The annual summer school, originally intended to take place in Odessa, was held in Prague in cooperation with the Malach Centre for Visual History at Charles University in late September 2022 under the title *Contested Memoryscapes: Central Europe and its Fractured Pasts*. The programme combined lectures, panel discussions, and small-group research with a mini-ethnographic field component and included an excursion to the memorial site in Lety, where a commemoration of the Roma Holocaust is currently being developed. In 2023, the summer school was hosted by the Department of History at the University of Trieste, in cooperation with the Elite Master's Programme in East European Studies, and the Graduate School at LMU Munich. The choice of location was both conceptually and logistically motivated: Trieste's historical and geographical position

made it a fitting site for the theme *A Liminal Identity? Border Narratives in Trieste, Past and Present*, while also being easily accessible from Regensburg and Munich. More than 30 participants attended, including PhD and MA students from the University of Trieste.

The Graduate School continues to possess the critical mass required to sustain a vibrant and attractive doctoral programme. The colloquium and study group format remain central in this regard. Two groups are currently active: one with a methodological orientation, the other dealing with questions of narrative and representation. Both provide important spaces for academic reflection and are coordinated by principal investigators and the postdoctoral researcher. Methods seminars, such as on *Feminist and Gender Theoretical Approaches in Research* by Joanna Moszczyńska, *Cultures and Politics of Translation in Postcolonial and Postsocialist Contexts* by Anne Brüske, *Multiperspectivity and Multi-Scalarity in Writing Your Area Studies Thesis. Spatial and Social Science Theories and Methods* by Anna Steigemann or *Digital Ethnography. Methodological Approaches and Research Ethics* by Volha Bartash acquainted the doctoral candidates with important research tools and new conceptual approaches. The annual academic writing (in English) workshop tackled specific issues, such as writing abstracts and conference papers.

Formats aimed at strengthening bottom-up academic engagement have also continued to develop. The Annual Graduate Workshop, first launched in 2020 and fully organised by doctoral researchers, has become a successful and sustainable format. The Graduate School and the Leibniz ScienceCampus provide core funding, while additional third-party resources – such as from the Vielberth Foundation – are sought depending on the scope and focus of the event. Thematic focuses of the Graduate Workshops in 2022 and 2023 included *From "Early Access" and "Open Worlds" to Game-Cons and Clans: The Production of Spatiality and Community in Contemporary Gaming and Environmen-*



Welcoming event for the 10th cohort of the GS OSES^{UR} in April 2022 still under the rule of pandemic © GS OSES^{UR}



Welcoming event in April 2023 © GS OSES^{UR}

tal Discourses and Practices in Eastern and South-eastern Europe: Challenges and Opportunities. (See corresponding workshop reports on page „Books by Principal Investigators“ auf Seite 38 in this volume.)

Alongside these core elements, the academic programme was further enriched by various public-facing and collaborative formats. These included several book launches by PIs and postdocs, as well as public events like *Odes(s)a – Blicke auf die Regensburger Partnerstadt* (discussions, lectures, screening), or the talk and discussion by Maya Stravinsky and Alexander Gubsky – the publisher of *The Moscow Times* on the topic of “Creating a resilient network to fight Russian propaganda. Psychology, a chat bot, and values-based methods to challenge social polarization” that was organised in collaboration with the Leibniz IOS and which attracted considerable attention from outside the university. The format *Hot off the Press*, which invites members of the GS OSES^{UR} to present their recent publications to a broader audience, has become a valued fixture of the internal academic calendar. A recent example was the presentation of a co-authored volume by Herbert Küpper and William Partlett on postcolonial approaches in legal studies, offering rel-

evant insights for historical scholarship as well (2022), Katharina Kucher’s book on Childhood in Russia, *Kindheit als Privileg Bildungsideale und Erziehungspraktiken in Russland (1750–1920)* or Mirja Leckes with Efraim Sicher co-edited volume *Cosmopolitan Spaces in Odesa: A Case Study of an Urban Context* (2023).

Particular attention was paid to fostering public engagement through strategic partnerships. Events held in cooperation with local institutions such as the Evangelisches Bildungswerk (Evangelical Educational Centre), the Filmgalerie Leerer Beutel, and the Jewish Community proved particularly effective in attracting diverse audiences. These collaborations not only extended the reach of the Graduate School’s programming but also facilitated dialogue beyond the academic sphere. In recognition of this, the City of Regensburg hosted a reception for the *Odes(s)a* series.

Despite budget constraints affecting the funding of international fellows, the Graduate School was able to continue its internationalisation efforts. Guest researchers were hosted either through their home institutions or in cooperation with local partners such as the IOS. Recent visiting fellows included Kamila

Budrowska (Białystok), Alexander Bikbov (Paris), and Anna Mazurkiewicz (Gdańsk). To enhance the visibility of this programme, the Graduate School launched a new video format titled *Meet the Fellow*, available via its website and YouTube channel. In these short videos, fellows introduce their research and reflect on their time in Regensburg – as in the case of Alexander Bikbov, whose contribution included a sociological photo essay on the traditional folk festival in Regensburg, the “Dult”.

The Graduate School, at both its locations in Regensburg and Munich, continues its successful book series “Schnittstellen” (Interfaces), edited by Ulf Brunnbauer and Martin Schulze Wessel. During the reporting period, the following dissertations defended in Regensburg appeared in the series: Annelie Bachmaier’s study on the Russian writer Aleksandr Grin *Fremdes schreiben – fremdes Schreiben. Konzeptionen von Alienität (in) der Prosa Aleksandr Grins* (vol. 21, 2022) and Daniela Mathuber’s thesis on the appearance of false members of the dynasty in Early Modern Russia *Körperkommunikation. Das Auftreten falscher Mitglieder der Dynastie im frühneuzeitlichen Russland* (vol. 22, 2022).

Another opportunity for doctoral researchers to publish their theses is through the open access publication server of the University of Regensburg. In 2023, two PhD manuscripts were published online, making their research findings immediately available and globally accessible: Oana Valentina Sorescu-Iudean’s thesis, *Dividing Society, Dividing Estates: Probate and Will-making in Hermannstadt, 1720–1800. A Social, Economic and Administrative Perspective*, and Veronika Wald’s work, *Valency Structures in the Russian-German Language Contact*. Researchers of the GS OSES in Regensburg also contributed to the Graduate School’s blog on memory culture, which is maintained by the colleagues of the GS OSES in Munich, and to the *Frictions* blog of the Leibniz ScienceCampus.

Taken together, the activities of 2022 and 2023 reflect both continuity and change. While the end of the pandemic allowed for a return to personal structures of academic exchange, Russia’s ongoing war against Ukraine underscored the need for flexibility, critical engagement with current developments, and strong networks of collaboration. The Graduate School responded to these conditions with a combination of resilience, innovation, and commitment to quality. It remains well positioned to support early-career researchers in navigating a complex and changing academic landscape.

Sustaining the programme’s achievements into the future will depend primarily on securing fresh funding, particularly for supporting doctoral researchers through own PhD scholarships or positions. Current

funding from the Sustainability Fund of the Free State of Bavaria for the continued development of the Graduate School beyond 2026 was connected to the GS OSES^{UR}’s participation in the 2025 Excellence Strategy application in area studies. The GS OSES^{UR} was involved from the outset in this application, which also discussed forming partnerships with other Bavarian universities.

The University of Regensburg is continuing to develop a regional focus on Eastern and Southeastern Europe, enriched by comparative and transregional perspectives. In this context, DIMAS has assumed a leading role in shaping the conceptual and preparatory work in this research area in collaboration with partners across the University and at IOS.

A draft proposal titled *Moving Meridians: Eastern Europe in a Polycentric World* was submitted to the DFG in May 2023 under the leadership of Mirja Lecke and Anne Brüske (DIMAS). The project applies innovative, multidisciplinary approaches and long-term historical perspectives to examine geopolitically driven shifts in power and their impacts on micro- and meso-levels in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Contributors include researchers from the University of Regensburg, LMU Munich, and the Universities of Bamberg and Passau.

Although the application was not successful, it has provided the groundwork for further collaborative applications involving PIs of the GS OSES and area studies in Regensburg more broadly. Regensburg continues to be recognised as a centre for critical research on Eastern and Southeastern Europe in global contexts. While no new doctoral scholarships can be awarded under the current funding scheme during its final three years, future doctoral candidates will increasingly be integrated into GS OSES^{UR} through associative models. In parallel, additional funding avenues are being explored.

One such opportunity is the successful renewal application for the Leibniz ScienceCampus, which includes funding for continued doctoral programming. The ScienceCampus has also introduced pre-doctoral and postdoctoral transition positions which offer association with the GS OSES^{UR}.

Colleagues involved in the GS OSES remain committed to the strategic advancement of the research, training, and outreach profile of the East and Southeast European Studies cluster in Regensburg. In light of current global challenges, the region demands renewed scholarly attention — and we remain committed not only to advancing research, but also to training the next generation of scholars equipped to critically engage with the complexities of Eastern and Southeastern Europe in a global context.

Research

The Graduate School's main research mission is to produce innovative and original research on Eastern and Southeastern Europe and their place in the world. Our research should therefore be guided by conceptual and theoretical ambition yet be rooted in in-depth empirical analyses. We encourage multi-disciplinary approaches. One of the innovative dimensions of our research is the exploration of connections, entanglements and transfers, both within the region but also between Eastern and Southeastern Europe and other parts of the world. This helps to understand the specificities of the region and its internal heterogeneity, while at the same time highlighting local variations of global or universal processes.

Our research is thus situated in current debates in Area Studies that underline the importance of transregional, translocal, and comparative approaches. One manifestation of this approach is the close cooperation of

the GS OSES^{UR} with the Leibniz ScienceCampus "Europe and America in the Modern World. Frictions and Transformations of Globality since the 19th Century", which was established by the IOS Regensburg and the University of Regensburg in 2019.

In the reporting period 2022 and 2023 a total of 31 doctoral researchers and five predocs (12 of them funded by the GS OSES^{UR} and 14 associated) and two postdocs, together with 22 professors and visiting researchers, conducted research at the GS OSES^{UR}. Their research is situated in a broad range of disciplines: East and Southeast European history, socio-economic history, literature, cultural studies, and linguistics, law, social anthropology, and American Studies. The research projects of the new cohorts (2022 and 2023) and those of the new Principal Investigators have a broad thematic and temporal scope, as the following pages will testify.



Doctoral and Postdoctoral Projects

Tears of Blood.

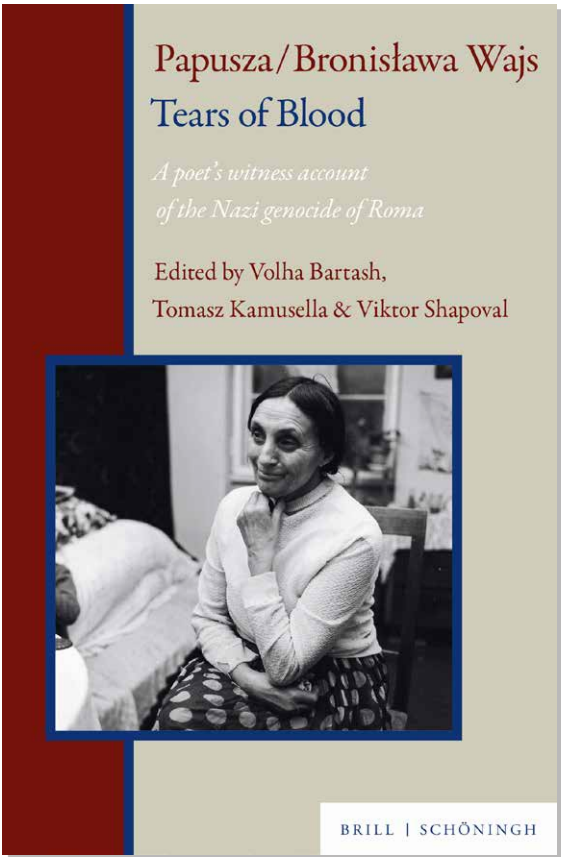
A Poet’s Witness Account of the Nazi Genocide of Roma

The forthcoming volume *Tears of Blood: A Poet’s Witness Account of the Nazi Genocide of Roma* (scheduled for publication in December 2024) presents a critical edition of the poem *Ratwale Jasfa* (Tears of Blood) by the Romani poet Bronisława Wajs, known as Papusza (1908–1987). Papusza was a survivor of the Nazi genocide in Volhynia (present-day Ukraine). In the early 1950s, she wrote her poetic account of the historical events in wartime Volhynia, highlighting the experiences of women from her community.

This edition introduces a rediscovered manuscript of *Tears of Blood* that is four times longer than the version published in 1956 in communist Poland. The expanded text, running to 1,086 lines in Papusza’s own hand, reveals the poet’s wartime experiences that were censored in earlier publications. This includes vivid depictions of Polish-Ukrainian ethnic violence, as well as the episodes where Papusza’s family navigated survival by performing music for fighting parties or assuming alternate ethnic and religious identities. These omitted sections not only highlight Papusza’s personal struggles but also convey the complexity of interethnic relations and survival strategies in wartime Volhynia.

The volume will include a transcript of the poem in Romani, a literal and a poetic English translation, and historical-philological commentaries. Stand-alone chapters focus on the poet’s life, the rediscovery of the manuscript, and the historical context in which the poem was created. By restoring Papusza’s voice and agency, this edition reclaims the poem as a historical source on the Romani genocide.

The project traces its origins to a public event at the University of St Andrews in 2019 and has evolved into a collaborative endeavor involving historians, translators and poets since. As one of the editors, I have focused on conceptualizing the volume and preparing a historical introduction.



Perception and Representation of Food Cultures in the Russian Empire of the 19th Century

My project investigates how Russian culinary culture in the 19th century was perceived and portrayed through the eyes of Western or Western European observers. Travel reports and cookbooks are the primary source material.

Since the beginning of Peter I's programme of reforms, Russian culinary culture had undergone a major transformation intended to bring it into line with European standards. By the 19th century, Russian culinary culture was "entering the western world with all of its attendant temptations"¹.

In the previous centuries, "foreign visitors to Muscovy [...] [had] generally complained about the food they encountered."² I want to investigate whether the enormous transformation and 'Europeanisation' of Russian cuisine had changed this opinion.

Further questions are: *Were the particularities of Russian culinary culture appreciated or, as in previous centuries, despised? What relationships were established between culinary culture and character/ Russian identity? What were the reasons behind the judgements?*

In the introduction, I examine the relationship between food culture and character, as it was perceived in the 18th and 19th centuries in Western European countries. Carl Friedrich von Rumohr (1785–1843), a well-known German writer and gastrosopher of his time, stated that 'the art of cooking is connected with the national character, with the intellectual development of nations'³ – a proposition shared by many of his contemporaries.

I will examine this thesis further, considering its dependency on prevailing patterns of contemporary self- and other-perception. What is clear in this regard is that despite the national undertone, there was a European cultural understanding that primarily manifested in a perceived superiority of European life



Merchant and Clerk, O.A., Russia, By A Recent Traveler, London 1859

and food culture. This sense of superiority referred primarily to all non-European countries and peoples, particularly with regard to indigenous groups. Thus, Rumohr speaks of "the disgusting food of an Eskimo" in direct contrast to "the flavourful and clean frugality of a civilized [...] people."⁴ In Antonius Anthus' *Lectures on the Art of Eating*, "the food of the savages" is mentioned "to indicate how one should not eat."⁵

My initial conclusion suggests that the portrayal of foreign food cultures in travel reports of the time largely followed the presented patterns and emphasized the inferiority of the foreign food culture—sometimes to the point of disgust—by comparing it with the self-defined superior eating and drinking habits.

1 Goldstein, Darra, *Gastronomic Reforms Under Peter the Great. Toward a Cultural History of Russian Food*, in: *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* Vol. 48 (4) (2000), p. 482–510, p. 510.

2 Goldstein, *Gastronomic Reforms under Peter the Great*, p. 487.

3 Rumohr, *Geist der Kochkunst*, p. 1. [translated into English by the author]

4 Rumohr, *Geist der Kochkunst*, 1822, p. 1. [translated into English by the author]

5 Anthus, *Vorlesung über Eßkunst*, 1838, p. 41. [translated into English by the author]



A Kaback

John Augustus Atkinson, James Walker,
*Picturesque Representation of the Manners,
Customs, and Amusements of the Russians*,
Vol I, 1812

This theme is examined in more detail in the first empirical chapter of the paper. The passages written by Theodore Child (1846–1892) in *The Tsar and His People or Social Life in Russia* provide a good example of this. In ignorance of the (culinary) changes that had occurred, he stated that: “It is curious to notice how little Russian civilization has changed since it was first studied by Western visitors, and how minutely true the descriptions of travellers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries remain even to the present day. [...] they [the Russians] are barbarous, coarse, dirty, and drunken; they live largely on salted cucumbers.”⁶

However, there were also other perspectives: A second theme that proves important in relation to the perception and representation of Russian culinary culture through Western European eyes is that of the description of culinary transformation as a success story of Europeanisation. This is examined in the second empirical chapter on the basis of the Russian Journals of Martha (1775–1873) and Catherine (1773–1824) Wilmot.

The last theme is the recognition of the uniqueness and intrinsic value of Russian cuisine and is embodied among others, by Johann Georg Kohl (1808–1878) as described in the third empirical chapter. Although he certainly followed the ideas and insights of popular gastrosophers such as Rumohr and Anthus, he also criticised what he saw as overly negative and tendentious approaches, e.g. their rejection of Russian fish soup, stating that “they would sing its praises as delicate and piquant if they had known this rassól, or also the ‘Ucha,’ another delicious fish soup of the Russians.”⁷

Another example is the German physicist and geologist Georg Adolf Erman (1806–1877). In his travel notes from Siberia, he criticized those ethnographers who were “too much disposed to consider everything from the European point of view”⁸. It was clear to him that in order to gain new insights, one had to arrive at a representation that understood and appreciated the (culinary) cultures in the Russian Empire as something independent.

The fourth empirical chapter deals with the transmission of Russian tastes in the form of recipes from various cookbooks and magazines. In addition to the question of the purpose of this transmission, the chapter will also examine whether Russian customs and tastes were faithfully retained or distorted in the process. Alphonse Petit’s *La gastronomie en Russie* (published in 1860) serves as the primary source here.

The variables on which the various kinds of representation depended—such as personal familiarity with certain tastes (which gastrosophers consider crucial for taste evaluation) or personal experiences and attitudes (such as openness and curiosity)—remain to be explored in more detail.

The Russian Empire represents a particularly interesting case study for examining these general insights and hypotheses: not only was there a booming debate in the 19th century about whether Russia could be considered European, but also, due to its political and societal structure, it is possible to analyse the extent to which not only Europeanism, but also imperial and colonial thinking influenced the perception and representation of the diverse and multifaceted food culture of the multiethnic empire.

6 See: Child, *The Tsar and his People or Social Life in Russia*, New York 1891, p. 284 f.

7 Kohl, *Petersburg in Bildern und Skizzen*, Vol. II, 1841, p. 73. [translated into English by the author]

8 Erman, *Travels in Siberia*, Vol. II., 1848, p. 39.

Medical Pluralism in Kosovo: Practices, Markets and Politics

My project is an anthropological analysis of the diversity of medical treatments available and the medical market in Kosovo. It aims to explore various approaches to healthcare from the perspectives of both patients and healthcare practitioners. The focus is on the interaction between traditional healing methods and new trends and developments in healthcare, viewed within the local context.

So far, I have been conducting ethnography on three fronts, with each space complementing the others by revealing local practices and perspectives on health, as well as the domestic healthcare system and market.

Digital space: On social media platforms (mainly Facebook), I have examined how medical solutions are sought and offered mostly by nonprofessionals, with the (occasional) involvement of healthcare professionals. A key theme emerging from social media is the widespread distrust of the local healthcare system and the process of medicalization in general.

Media monitoring: I have been closely following media programs that address health and healthcare topics. This reveals the media's active role in informing the public and offering practical advice and storytelling to help people diagnosed with various conditions. Media is a crucial part of my study, as it addresses healthcare within the local social, economic, and political context.

Fieldwork (participant observation and interviews) in Prishtina:

As the capital, Prishtina is a hub where various medical traditions and trends converge. I have had the opportunity to meet and interview several individuals, including healers, practitioners of new (foreign) healthcare approaches, doctors, and patients. Each holds distinct beliefs, concerns, and critiques, which often intersect or differ greatly. These individuals represent various medical traditions that I will explain in detail in the respective chapters. However, to summarise for this report, most interviewees highlight Kosovar patients' scepticism, curiosity, and a desire to explore different medical solutions, often driven by despair or disappointment with the healthcare system. Many also praise natural resources and religious heritage as valuable sources in the search for healthcare treatments.

This ethnography illustrates how people in Kosovo find practical solutions to maintain their health or treat illnesses in a context where the healthcare system lacks proper infrastructure and healthcare has not been a political priority.

I Solemnly Declare that I will Speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth.

The Afterlife of the ICTY Victims' Testimonies

My PhD research focuses on the role of victim-witness testimonies given during trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). It examines how these testimonies shape public memory of the 1990s wars in the former Yugoslavia. Specifically, I investigate how political leaders and national churches use these testimonies to influence collective memory about the conflicts. This raises a key question: how are these testimonies being used to shape public perceptions, and what impact does this have on the victims themselves?

By analysing three separate cases of victim-witness testimony, I aim to identify patterns in how these testimonies are used in memory creation processes. Preliminary findings suggest that this process often involves the manipulation of testimonies, with victims' voices being used as tools for political purposes rather than being honored as personal stories. As a result, victims may feel distanced from their own experiences, as their stories are reshaped to serve political narratives. However, some individuals have managed to create a sense of agency based on their victim identity, which has

been recognized by official state structures and, consequently, by society. This recognition has allowed them to gain social and, in some cases, political leverage.

Using digital tools, my research focuses on individual cases to better understand these dynamics. The study highlights that memories, especially those shared through testimonies, don't just tell the story of past events—they also reflect and spread the values of a society. When politicised, these memories can influence how communities understand and act in the aftermath of conflict.

So far, the research reveals that in the context of rising nationalism in post-war societies, the misuse of these court testimonies can undermine efforts toward reconciliation. By exploring this issue, the study aims to contribute new insights into how memory is shaped in post-conflict regions, offering lessons that may be applicable to other places recovering from war.

A Transformation from Below.

Understanding Workers' Lives in the Trepça Industrial Complex during 1960–1980

Since I joined the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies in April 2023, I have conducted research on labour history of Kosovo in Yugoslavia. Preliminary archival research and the analysis of oral histories of workers from the Trepça mining complex showcase a period of great social transformation for Kosovar workers under Yugoslavia.

The early research into the Trepça mining complex (1960–1980) reveals a dynamic narrative of industrial and social transformation in Kosovo, intricately tied to the broader Yugoslav socialist modernisation project. Trepça, as one of Kosovo's key economic drivers, provided not only employment but also fostered a unique worker identity. Through a mix of archival analysis and initial interviews, early findings highlight how Trepça became a socio-economic force shaping the lives, values, and identities of the local workforce and their families.

The initial archival research reveals a nuanced perspective on social mobility among Trepça's workers. For many, Trepça offered the first step from rural peasantry into industrial labor, facilitating a gradual rise up the socio-economic ladder. Trepça's generous scholarship and training programmes aimed to support workers' educational and professional growth. However, the high turnover of skilled labor and the subsequent loss of qualified employees highlighted persistent issues in worker retention and satisfaction.

Another unanticipated finding from interviews and the archives is the impact of Trepça on the local culture. The workplace became



The photo reads “The miner of Trepça”

© private collection of Shaban Voca, a miner of Trepça

more than just a place of employment; it transformed into a space for community engagement, social mobility, and cultural integration. Early research into Trepça reveals significant progress toward confirming hypotheses regarding worker identity, the role of self-management, and the socio-economic mobility Trepça enabled for Kosovar workers. However, the findings also suggest a need to adjust some assumptions, particularly regarding the persistence of socio-political barriers in integrating Albanian workers fully into the industrial hierarchy. This preliminary stage has illuminated the complex interplays at work in shaping Trepça's legacy as both an economic and social institution in Kosovo.

Fallen Soviet Soldiers and Veterans of the Second World War.

Remembrance at the Local Level in Ukraine (1991–2021)



War memorial “The Forcing of the Dnipro”, built by F. Sohoian in 1981 on the grounds of the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War. Kyiv, 31.08.2021



War memorial “Combat” by I. Nosenko unveiled in 1975 on the Alley of Glory. Zaporizhzhia, 29.08.2020

The Soviet soldiers who fought in the Second World War were an important part of the Soviet view of history and Soviet historical politics. They are therefore also an important example of the new way of dealing with Soviet Ukrainian and Soviet history in Ukraine after 1991. My research answers the following question: What were the representations of the fallen Soviet soldiers and veterans of the Second World War and their commemoration in public discourse at the local level in Ukraine from 1991 to 2021? For this, I use three regional case studies: the cities of Zaporizhzhia, Vinnytsia, and Ternopil.

In general, the Soviet legacy had a strong influence on the representations of Soviet soldiers in Ukraine. First of all, the heroization of people who were soldiers continued. At the same time, this led to a hierarchy of heroization in which people awarded the title “Hero of the Soviet Union” had a better chance of being remembered by name. This was reflected in publications and museum exhibitions, in which those who had received this title were mentioned first and foremost. It was also common that the mnemonic actors did not know how to portray Soviet soldiers or wanted to avoid unnecessary conflict, so they relied on the Soviet representation.

After 1991, a new representation appeared – that of a fighter for Ukraine or the independence of Ukraine. Politicians at the state and local level repeatedly tried to emphasize the necessity of the struggle of Soviet soldiers during the Second World War for the creation of the Ukrainian state. This trend can be also traced back to 2014–2021, when it became common to equate the contribution of the Second World War veterans and veterans of the

Russian-Ukrainian war (since 2014) for Ukrainian independence, implying that both generations of veterans fought for their country.

In general, the Soviet soldiers who fought in the Second World War were not an ideal example that could be seamlessly integrated into the image of a fighter for Ukrainian independence. The main problem with commemorating Soviet soldiers was their Soviet character, which can be seen as incompatible with Ukrainian independence. Another widespread opinion was that the Soviet soldiers who fought in the Second World War should be portrayed as victims. According to this interpretation, Ukrainians had no statehood of their own and were therefore forced to fight in the Red Army during the Second World War.

An important phase for understanding the changes in the memory culture is the generational change in the past thirty years since Ukraine gained independence. Over time, the importance of veterans for the local memory culture gradually diminished, with fewer events in which they were involved. The outbreak of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine in 2014 also impacted the perception of the word “veteran” in society. Since then, it has been increasingly associated with a new generation of veterans, while the veterans of the Second World War have faded into the background.

The growing influence of the internet and social media has allowed mnemonic actors to interact with urban residents in different ways, as since the 2000s they have been able to create their own websites and social media groups and publish information about their activities there, without the need to involve local media.

History in War Crimes Tribunals.

Historical Expertise and the Search for Legal Truth and Justice

Conventional wisdom holds that it is the witnesses who ultimately determine the outcome of cases. In the witness boxes of international war crimes tribunals, we see numerous victims and survivors of mass atrocities telling their stories of suffering. Furthermore, some “insiders” and even perpetrators give their testimonies. Different specialists, such as forensic pathologists, anthropologists, geneticists and entomologists, doctors and psychologists, experts on document and handwriting analysis, forensic audio and video experts, ballisticians and other military experts, are also called on to provide their expertise. One would wonder why historians and other social scientists are called on at all to take a stand and asked to testify on historical subjects. Historians could certainly provide background information and context on the alleged crimes and thus help judges better understand the situation in which these crimes were committed. But what is their role in creating the case narratives? Could they actually help the parties prove or refute the charges and thus win the case?

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was one of the first international war crimes tribunals to actively employ historians as expert witnesses. Some fifty historical expert witnesses testified and/or submitted expert reports both for the prosecution and defence. Several experts acted as witnesses only once, but many of them reap-



Robert J. Donia, historical expert witness at the Radovan Karadžić trial
SENSE Transitional Justice Center

© Screenshot from the video recording of the hearing held on 1 June 2010

peared in the Tribunal. For example, the American historian Robert J. Donia testified at least in sixteen different trials, the last time in a retrial before the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT).

In the first stage of my research, the primary task has been to identify all of these historical expert witnesses. I have meticulously searched for transcripts with oral testimonies and delivered reports in the Unified Court Records Database of the IRMCT, which provides

online access to all closed cases’ public court records from the ICTY. This allowed me to start “painting” a collective portrait of those scholars who agreed to provide their historical expertise. This has also laid the groundwork for the next step in the research: identifying and analysing the key concepts and topics in the entangled histories of Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia that transformed the ICTY’s courtroom into a podium for scholarly debates and a battlefield for the prosecution and defence historical narratives.

A Symbol is Born.

Commemoration of Contemporary Russian Assassinations



The Starovoytov family grave. Galina Starovoytova’s tombstone with her portrait (left), Nikolskoe Cemetery, Saint Petersburg, Russia, August 2024

© photo by the author



Memorial plaque with inscription: “In this house from 1994 to 1998 lived Galina Vasil’evna Starovoytova, scientist, civil right activist, deputy of the State дума of the Russian Federation”, Griboedova Canal Embankment, 91, Saint Petersburg, Russia, March 2022, ©

Andrey Leonob, 2GIS, URL: <https://2gis.ru/spb/gallery/geo/5348720342206996/photoId/30258560070758435>)



Memorial plaque at Anna Politkovskaya’s house: “Anna Politkovskaya lived in this house and was brutally murdered on October 7, 2006.” Lesnaya Str. 8/12, Moscow, Russia, March 2022 © photo by the author

I analyze the commemoration of two significant women of contemporary Russia: the politician Galina Starovoytova (1946–98), and the journalist Anna Politkovskaya (1958–2006). At the time of their assassination, they were prominent figures of democracy, renowned both in the country and abroad. The killers were found and sentenced to years of imprisonment. The masterminds of the crimes remain unknown.

My main research questions are: how and with what commemorative tools do real figures transform into symbolic ones? How does their myth exist and develop over time, and what does the narrative represent?

Using theoretical frameworks of memory studies, rituals, and performance, I concentrate on official websites dedicated to Starovoytova and Politkovskaya

as online archives and on urban spaces that include sites of memory in Moscow and Saint Petersburg where they lived, worked, or were assassinated, namely: cemeteries, parks created and named after them, and monuments to the victims of political repression. Together with digital commemoration, outdoor practices transform communicative memory into a cultural one. They enrich the

cultural layers of the city and ensure memory preservation.

Their motives constantly interconnect: for instance, a balustrade of the Griboedov channel of Saint Petersburg appears on Starovoytova’s website in the investigative section and as part of her tombstone to emphasize the importance of the city in her life. Two memorial plaques dedicated to Anna Politkovskaya in Moscow say, “Anna Politkovskaya until her tragic death worked in this building 1999 to 2006” and “Anna Politkovskaya lived in this house and was brutally murdered on October 7, 2006.” They keep the memory of her assassination a part of the city landscape and communicate with passersby, leaving them with questions about not only her personal life but the history of the country.

Identification or disidentification with the victims are the two main approaches to commemoration. In his book, *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators*, Michael Rothberg describes them as two strategies of expressing solidarity. Thus, I aim to

understand what these women represent for the public and how people relate to them through the visual embodiment of death, issues of gender, privacy, publicity, and war by analyzing Starovoytova’s and Politkovskaya’s funerals, documentaries, theater performances, and other forms of artistic practices that connect their legacy to new generations.

I see the people referring to them as the conscience of the nation, idealistic aspirations for changes, and experiencing the tragedies as personal losses around which people united and formed communities, keeping the memory of Starovoytova and Politkovskaya alive and reminding them that the investigations are not finished.

These practices make the annual commemoration of Galina Starovoytova and Anna Politkovskaya a thread connecting the Russian past to the present. Time passes, and a symbol is born out of the memory that attempts to overcome the grief and find a moral compass in dark times.



Grave of Anna Politkovskaya on the Troekurovskoye Cemetery, Moscow, August 2024 © photo by the author



Memorial plaque: “Anna Politkovskaya until her tragic death worked in this building 1999 to 2006” (Novaya Gazeta office, Potapowski pereulok 3, Moscow, Russia, August 2024 © photo by the author

Principal Investigators' Projects

Unexpected Entanglements in Latin America and the Caribbean:

From US Caribbean Narratives of De- and Reterritorialization to Interconnections between Latin America and Eastern Europe



Anne Brüske: *Zwischen De- und Reterritorialisierung. Raumproduktion US-karibischer Diasporaliteraturen*, Berlin, Boston: DeGruyter 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111339252>
© DeGruyter



Anne Brüske

Professor for Spatial Dimensions of Cultural Processes at the University of Regensburg, specializing in Latin American and Caribbean diaspora cultures and their entanglements with the USA and Eastern Europe. Her focus includes literature, graphic storytelling, and popular culture. She has been a principal investigator at the GS OSES^{UR} since 2023.

My research focuses on the often unexpected entanglements and the production of space in Latin American and Caribbean cultures.

In my recently completed book project, *Between De- and Reterritorialization*, I examined the production of social space as an entangled diaspora space in literary texts published in the U.S.A. in the 2000s by authors of Caribbean descent. Diaspora novels such as *Bodega Dreams*, *Days of Awe*, *The Dew Breaker*, and *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* position themselves through the spaces they narrate, their spatial semantics, and their intertextual relations between the Caribbean and the U.S., as well as in the dynamics of de- and reterritorialization. These works engage with the painful colonial histories of their Caribbean

‘countries of origin’ (Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic) and their ethnic groups in the U.S., renegotiating cultural and spatial belonging from a post-memory perspective. Grounded in plurilingual Caribbean cultural studies, sociological approaches to space, and postcolonial studies, the book opens new perspectives on the phenomenon of Hispanic-Caribbean and Haitian ethnic literatures in the U.S. It contributes to a theory of postcolonial and diasporic literary spaces.

Expanding to a transatlantic perspective, I am turning to overlooked interconnections between Latin America and Eastern Europe in crossover and youth fiction, including graphic novels, from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Die Forschungsstelle Kultur und Erinnerung



From the expulsion, there remains a self-sewn bag with old documents and passports. What does the third generation do with it today?

In 2022, a special funding grant from the Bavarian State Government made it possible to establish the research centre Culture and Memory: Expellees and Resettlers in Bavaria 1945–2020 [Forschungsstelle: Kultur und Erinnerung. Heimatvertriebene und Aussiedler in Bayern]. The centre was established under the direction of Katrin Boeckh at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in cooperation with the University of Regensburg. The aim is to explore the history, culture,

and integration of the expellees and ethnic German resettlers from Eastern Europe in Bavaria, while also applying innovative methods such as oral history, participant observation, network analysis, and the history of emotions. Current thematic foci include attitudes to citizenship among resettlers, language and dialect variation, women's biographies, and the impact of refugee and trauma experiences on the third generation of descendants.



© neverflash


Katrin Boeckh

Professor for East and Southeastern History at the University of Regensburg and senior researcher in the Department of History at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS). Her areas of research are ethno-national conflicts and their consequences, state and churches in socialist countries, institutions in late Stalinism and the discourse of values during transformation, with a regional focus on the Ukraine and the countries of Yugoslavia. She has been a principal investigator at the GS OSES^{UR} since 2023.

Digital Fictions as Critical Memory Spaces: Empirical Studies of Medial Reading



Screenshots from Randall Okita's VR installation, *The Book of Distance*, taken by the author



© Margit Scheid, UR

Astrid Ensslin

Astrid Ensslin joined the University of Regensburg in 2022 as Professor for the Dynamics of Virtual Communication Spaces. Her research and teaching lie at the intersections of Digital Media and Game Studies, Cultural and specifically Gender Studies, Comparative Literature, Applied Linguistics, and Digital Humanities. Her key publications and research projects focus on digital fiction and literary computer games, gender, body image and digital media, critical community co-design and narrative therapy, discourses of gaming, the spatial design and narrative potential of virtual realities, as well as in methods of digital humanities and empirical reader/player research. In 2023, she founded the Digital Area Studies Lab (DAS|LAB) in the Department of Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies at the University of Regensburg. She has been a principal investigator at the GS OSES^{UR} since 2023.

Over the past ten years, Alice Bell and I have been developing a conceptual and methodological apparatus for understanding, reading, and empirically researching readers of so-called digital-born fiction. This spring saw the publication of our new monograph, *Reading Digital Fiction: Narrative, Cognition, Mediality* (2024), which offers the first comprehensive and systematic examination of digital-born fiction from a cognitive and empirical perspective. The book presents five generations of digital fiction and their implications for “medial reading”, including hypertext and hypermedia fiction, narrative and literary video games, app fiction, and virtual reality. Studying texts and/or readers from the U.S., Canada, UK and Norway, we showcase medium- and platform-specific methods of qualitative reader response research across a variety of contexts and settings from screen-based and embodied interaction to gallery installation, and from reading group and individual interview to think-aloud methodologies.

On a more conceptual level, the book analyses how Anglophone digital fictions from the UK, U.S.A. and Canada come to terms, in medium- and platform-specific ways, with key issues of digital culture, such as data surveillance, cyber-crime, and antifeminist toxicity. The final chapter, “Orientation and Empathy in VR Fiction”, deals with the problematic concept of reader/player empathy, which has been hyped in discourses surrounding Virtual Reality, hailed by Chris Milk as “the ultimate empathy machine”. In her empirical research on readers of the Canadian VR fiction, *The Book of Distance*, by Randall Okita (2020), we show how personalized narratives of (forced) migration, land dispossession, resettlement and internment amongst Japanese Canadians during WWII are woven into a virtual multiverse that orients readers uncomfortably as absent-in-presence, between different universes and historical periods, replacing the illusion of empathy with a self-critical, voyeuristic metastance and the urge to refigure public discourses of wartime suffering both regionally and transregionally.

(Former) Communist Regimes in the World Economy Since the 1970s



European Communist States, 1963. © Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

After book projects on socialist internationalism and pan-Islamism, I am turning to the history of structural adjustment programs. As part of this research agenda, together with Ulf Brunnbauer, I am organizing an international conference “Communist Regimes and the World Economy Since the 1970s,” supported by the Gerda and Hermann Weber Foundation and scheduled to take place in 2027. We want to explore how communist regimes have adapted to globaliza-

tion since the 1970s. For example, how did regimes like Yugoslavia and Poland, which became heavily indebted to Western banks, balance their relationships with creditors and the IMF with their claims to socialism? More broadly, we are interested in how the experience of economic dependence may have influenced states like Hungary and Serbia today, which court foreign investment but fiercely defend their national sovereignty.



Timothy Nunan

Professor for Transregional Cultures of Knowledge at the University of Regensburg. His research focuses on encounters between the former socialist world and the Islamic world and themes such as socialist internationalism and pan-Islamism. He has been Principal Investigator at the GS OSES^{UR} since 2023.

Urbanisation, Globalisation, and Diversification Processes



Berlin, Mehringdamm ©Anna Steigemann



© Tanja Wagensohn, UR

Anna Steigemann

Acting Professor for the Sociological Dimensions of Space since 2020 and appointed the full professorship in the newly developed Department for Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies (DIMAS) at University of Regensburg in October 2022. Her research interests primarily focus on processes of urbanisation, gender, migration, diversity and space, inclusion and exclusion, as well as social and spatial collaborative research methods. She has been Principal Investigator at the GS OSES^{UR} since 2023.

Coming from the classic neighbourhood and community studies, I see myself as both a spatial researcher and sociologist, and I am actively involved in Citizen Science projects, such as the current Horizon Europe FAIRVILLE project, *Facing Inequalities and Democratic Challenges through Co-production in Cities*, and the project *Transforming Solidarities: Practices and Infrastructures in the Migration Society*, funded by the BUA/DGS, as well as my work as an associated researcher of the SFB 1265 *Refiguration of Space*, where I work on Architectures of Asylum.

FAIRVILLE, based at the University of Regensburg, is an international research project funded by Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation funding programme, started in 2023 and runs until 2027. The project aims to address urban inequalities and the challenges they pose to democracy in large cities and metropolitan areas across eight different countries in Europe and Africa. The focus is on participatory action research with various urban initiatives and city government staff on the ground. Through a highly collaborative approach, where different social groups, particularly those who are



Berlin-Kreuzberg, Rathausblock ©Anna Steigemann

often left out of urban and spatial development, are actively included in the research, come together to co-produce knowledge to develop more just and sustainable social, spatial, and political solutions. The primary focus is on the various modes, experiments, and formats (labs) of co-production of usable knowledge, which can also be practically applied on-site as strategies and tools to counter urban inequalities.

Using the example of the model project Rathausblock in Berlin-Kreuzberg, my team and I are researching how residents, organisations, facilities, and institutions deal with social inequalities in urban spaces and attempt to fight these inequalities, and in some cases, even shape spaces “from below” themselves.

Negotiating Toxic Pasts.

Nuclear Heritage Making in East-Central Europe



Landscape Ronneburg - Schmirchauer Höhe, 2007
© André Karwath aka Aka, CC BY-SA 2.5



Students explore post-uranium mining spaces in Ronneburg, June 2024
© Juliane Tomann



© Matthias Eimer

Juliane Tomann

Juliane Tomann joined the UR in December 2021 as a Junior Professor of Public History. Her research combines historical and ethnological approaches, focusing on performative practices in historical cultures, such as re-enactments and living history, as well as the transformation of post-industrial spaces and landscapes in Central and Eastern Europe. Since June 2023, she has also served as the Graduate School's Equal Opportunity Representative.

Recently, there has been a growing trend to treat decommissioned or defunct nuclear sites, along with their associated industrial and technological complexes, as heritage sites (Rindzevičiūtė, 2022, 2019). This process of ‘heritagization’ is a global phenomenon, one that has also taken root in East-Central Europe as part of broader political, social, and environmental transformations following the end of the Cold War. Nuclear heritage, however, remains a contested concept, fraught with issues of war, the long-term environmental impacts of contamination, and political memory.

In order to develop a more coherent empirical foundation and to engage in discussions surrounding this emerging area of research in Central and Eastern Europe, I co-organised a workshop on the

subject in December 2023 at the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF) Potsdam. A follow-up event will take place at Kassel University in April 2025.

My own research within this field focuses on the remediation and subsequent heritagization of a former GDR open-pit uranium mining site in East Thuringia (Ronneburg). In an attempt to address the environmental devastation and radioactive legacies, the vast post-mining crater has been transformed into an aestheticized “New Landscape” park, effectively overshadowing its toxic past. As part of a project-based course at the UR, public history students developed an audio guide for the “New Landscape,” which seeks to uncover and explain the “unseen” history of the area to visitors.

Schnittstellen

The Graduate School's book series *Schnittstellen: Studien zum östlichen und südöstlichen Europa* is edited by its founding directors Ulf Brunnbauer and Martin Schulze Wessel. It has been running since 2014 and is published by the renowned academic publisher Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. The series mainly serves to publish revised dissertation theses that have been successfully completed by members of the Graduate School, or of affiliated programmes, and which meet

high quality criteria. This makes *Schnittstellen* an interdisciplinary project, publishing manuscripts on the history, literature, culture, politics and social organisation of Eastern and Southeastern Europe. It also highlights transnational entanglements within the region and between Eastern and Southeastern Europe and other world regions. The following monographs authored by PhD researchers of the GS OSES^{UR} were published in this series during the reporting period:



Annelie Bachmaier

■ *Fremdes Schreiben – fremdes schreiben. Konzeptionen von Alienität (in) der Prosa Aleksandr Grins.* Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2022 (Vol. 21).

Daniela Mathuber

■ *Körperkommunikation. Das Auftreten falscher Mitglieder der Dynastie im frühneuzeitlichen Russland.* Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2022 (Vol. 22).

E-Publications

The publication server of the Regensburg University gives scientists of the UR the opportunity to publish their PhD manuscripts online as open access. In 2023, two PhD manuscripts were published online, their findings can be accessed immediately and are available worldwide.

Oana Valentina Sorescu-Iudean

■ *Dividing Society, Dividing Estates. Probate and Will-making in Hermannstadt, 1720–1800: A Social, Economic and Administrative Perspective,* 2023.

Veronika Wald

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Jovana Jović

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Olha Martyniuk

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Jon Matlack

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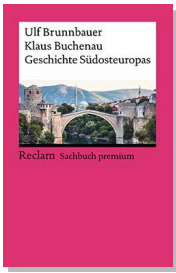
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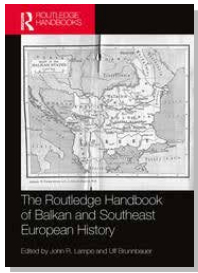
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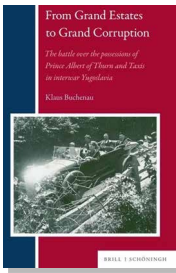
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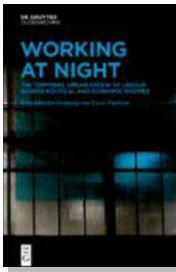
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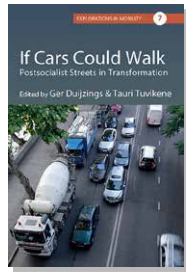
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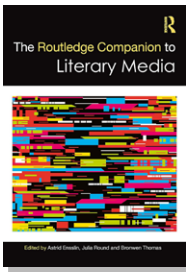


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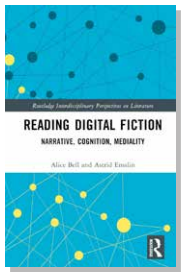
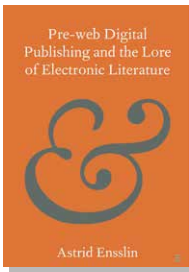


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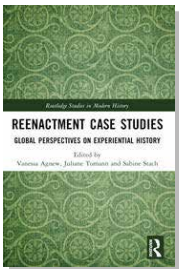
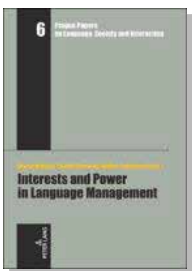
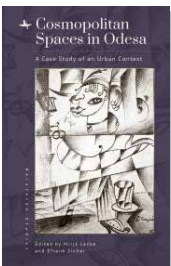
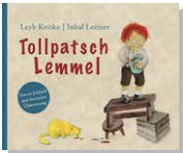
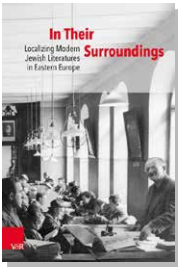
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Programme

The training programme of the GS OSES^{UR} offers a structured, interdisciplinary programme combined with one-to-one tutoring and peer support. It enhances the theoretical and methodological skills of the doctoral candidates, supports their research, and brings them into contact with other scholars. The aim is to raise our doctoral researchers' awareness of the value of multi-disciplinarity and comparison in the field of Area Studies.

A central pillar of our training programme are the Study Groups. These groups are interdisciplinary and focus on overarching themes and conceptual questions that link the individual research projects of the doctoral candidates. They are an exercise in multi-disciplinary dialogue and provide a space of reflection and advice on all issues related to the dissertation projects. Another important element of the training programme is the interdisciplinary Research Seminar, in which renowned scholars are invited once a month to give lectures. The speakers present ongoing research in the field of East and Southeast European Studies, as well as comparative research, or speak about conceptual questions relating to Area Studies. The idea is to stimulate interdisciplinary and cross-area debates and to create networking opportunities. A place for discussing current concepts and theories essential for the dissertation projects are the Theory and Methodology Seminars. These

seminars also offer an introduction to specific methodologies, such as interview techniques or digital research tools, which are pertinent to the individual PhD projects.

The training programme of the Graduate School aims to include the doctoral candidates as active members. Once a year, for example, they organize a Graduate Workshop with international peers on a topic of their choosing. This helps them to acquire early on skills to design and organise an academic event. Other relevant skills that either support an academic or a non-academic career are communicated in a wide range of transferable skills workshops and training measures. This includes, for example, regular training units in academic writing, the discussion of publication strategies, or meetings with representatives from different professional fields. The GS OSES^{UR} also assists in applying for the wide range of courses the University of Regensburg offers for these purposes. Doctoral researchers are also encouraged to actively participate in the Graduate School's FORUM module, which encompasses the many Graduate School events communicating knowledge to the broader public. These events help to learn how to translate complex research into relatable language, while also encouraging more experimental forms of science communication, such as cooperation with artists.

3rd Graduate Workshop 2022

From ‘Early Access’ and ‘Open Worlds’ to Game-Cons and Clans: The Production of Spatiality and Community in Contemporary Gaming

Organised by the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies and the Leibniz ScienceCampus

From ‘Early Access’ and ‘Open Worlds’ to Game-Cons and Clans: The Production of Spatiality and Community in Contemporary Gaming took place in-person from 14–16 September 2022. This conference was organised by Efthalia Prokopiou and Jon Matlack. In rotating panels of two, the six panels covered the following topics: 1) Digital Spaces: People, Platforms, and Community 2) The Roleplaying Researcher 3) Playing with and as the Protagonist and Player from a Postcolonial Perspective 4) Kriegsspiele 2.0? The Commodification of Memory through Real and Fake War 5) Extremist Finds a Game Lobby 6) Between Playbour and Sexual Objectification. Researchers from across Europe, including scholars from Georgia, Norway, and the United Kingdom, joined us in Regensburg along with contributors from India and Argentina, to investigate contemporary video games as an emergent space to be considered by Area Studies. The conference keynote speaker, Dr. Nico Nolden (University of Hannover), provided a deep dive into the achievements of engaging students and scholars of games directly with games as mediums of study.

This conference proceeded from the notion that investigating games and gaming community cultures is best achieved by incorporating diverse perspectives from multiple disciplines. As a starting point, we postulated that video games provide a potential challenge to the transnational turn in Area Studies, as gaming environments can allow for de-territorialized spaces. Moreover, the artificial avatars and digital artifacts to be encountered in games are interactable and thereby impose a methodological challenge for understanding the players’ experience of the game.

After investigating space, this conference aimed to challenge the conception of ‘communities’ for games. How, for example, game communities contend with and interpret history in ostensibly authentic historically-rooted games presented a core component of discussion for the conference.

Arising both in the course of discussion and by virtue of conference submissions, an emerging key question



Poster for the 3rd Graduate Workshop © Gustaf Lindström

centered around positionality of the player vis-à-vis the researcher themselves. In pursuing a keener understanding of spatiality in games, scholars must directly engage with the games themselves. Following this procedure, the scholar renders themselves as a co-producer within gaming communities.

The full overview of the conference program and procedure is available on the ScienceCampus’ website: <https://www.europeamerica.de/de/aktuelles-und-veranstaltungen/detail/graduate-workshop-from-early-access-and-open-worlds-to-game-cons-and-clans-the-production-of-spatiality-and-community-in-contemporary-gaming.html>

4th Graduate Workshop 2023

Environmental Discourse and Practice in Eastern and Southeastern Europe

Organised by the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies and the Leibniz ScienceCampus

The 4th Graduate Workshop of the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies was held in Regensburg from 25 to 27 May 2023. The workshop focused on discourses, challenges, and practices surrounding the growing field of Environmental Studies in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The keynote speaker was Victor Pál, an internationally recognized expert, who graciously attended the entire workshop and enriched it with his extensive experience.

The composition of the organisers reflected the diverse and interdisciplinary approach of the Graduate School, while the selection of participants considered not only academic excellence but also ethnic and disciplinary diversity. A particularly noteworthy aspect was the practical implementation of interdisciplinarity. While this is often a theoretical aspiration, it was successfully realised here, transcending conventional disciplinary boundaries. Historical approaches were harmoniously combined with those from political science, water management, and even natural sciences.

Furthermore, the Regensburg location once again proved to be a significant draw for research in Area Studies. The participants were international scholars at various career stages who traveled to Regensburg not only to engage in dialogue with one another but also to connect with local scholars.

A comprehensive report for *H-Soz-Kult* is currently in preparation, and individual contributions are planned for a publication in *Frictions*. Due to the event's great success, a continuation of the format is planned for the upcoming year.



25-27 MAY
2023
REGENSBURG

SIGN UP
GSSES.CONFERENCE@UR.DE
WWW.GSSES-UR.DE

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE AND PRACTICE IN EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE: FACING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

25 MAY
16:30 KEYNOTE
LANDSHUTER STR. 4, ROOM 319
VICTOR PÁL (HELSINKI):
WASTE IN THE EAST. CONSUMERISM AND TRASH IN COMMUNIST EASTERN EUROPE

26 MAY
HINTER DER GRIEB 8
PANEL 1: 10:30-12:30
INSTITUTIONS, GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIONS
PANEL 2: 13:30-15:00
ECOPOLITICS AND IDEOLOGIES
PANEL 3: 15:30-17:00
ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS

27 MAY
HINTER DER GRIEB 8
PANEL 4: 9:30-11:30
ENVIRONMENT BEYOND THE HUMAN

4TH ANNUAL GRADUATE WORKSHOP OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR EAST AND SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

STEFANIE KONG
Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies
UNIVERSITY OF REGensburg
EUROPE AND AMERICA
IN THE MODERN WORLD
UR
IOS
Leibniz ScienceCampus

Poster for the 4th Graduate Workshop © Miloš Đurović

Programme 2022

20.01.2022

*Consumerism, Cheap Nature, and State Socialism:
A Transnational Waste Regime Perspective*
Zsuzsa Gille (Illinois)

20.–21.01.2022

*State Descriptions Revisited: Historical Forms of Terri-
torial Representations, 18–21th Centuries*
Borbála Zsuzsanna Török (Duisburg-Essen), Guido
Hausmann (Regensburg)

31.01.2022

Getting Writing (Part 2)
Eva-Maria Walther (Fulda)

10.–11.02.2022

*Feminist and Gender Theoretical Approaches
in Research*
Joanna M. Moszczyńska (Regensburg)

08.03.2022

*Redesigning Ecologies and Local Communities.
Ecological Restoration in Eastern Europe*
Stefan Dorondel (Bucharest)

25.04.2022

Getting Started with your PhD – The Thesis and Beyond
Paul Vickers (Regensburg)

28.04.2022

Official Welcome of the 2022 Cohort

28.04.2022

*“Cold War Instruments”? Exiles from East Central
Europe in U.S. Political Warfare*
Anna Mazurkiewicz (Gdańsk)

12.05.2022

*Types of Language Conflicts – with a Focus on Russia
and Ukraine*
Monika Wingender (Gießen)

12.05.2022

*Multiple Times of Planning: European and Soviet Mod-
els of Job Motivation in the 1920s–60s*
Alexander Bikbov (Paris)

17.05.2022

*Prosa und Lyrik – Reading with Maria Stepanova
(Berlin/Moscow) and her translator Olga Radetskaja
(Berlin)*
Venue: Jüdische Gemeinde, Regensburg
In cooperation with: Professur für Slavisch-Jüdische
Studien der Universität Regensburg, Sabine Koller
(Regensburg)

17.–18.05.2022

Conference Presentations and Writing Abstracts
Josie Dixon (Winchester)

18.05.2022

In den Stürmen der Transformation
Ulf Brunnbauer (Regensburg) und Philipp Ther (Wien)
Venue: Donau-Schiffahrts-Museum/Ruthof, Regens-
burg

03.06.2022

*Academic Writing Skills for Advanced Writers – Reflect-
ing Upon One’s Writing Process*
Eva-Maria Walther (Fulda)

09.06.2022

*Travels across Language: Cosmopolitanism
Made/Unmade*
Galin Tihanov (London)

24.06.2022

*Transformation Back and Forth: Feminism, Gender, and
what else?*
Roundtable Discussion with Renata Mieñkowska-
Norkiene (Warsaw), Zsófia Lóránd (Cambridge), Eszter
Kováts (Budapest), Radmila Švaříčková Slabáková
(Olomouc), Jennifer Ramme (Frankfurt/Oder), Julia
Faisst (Regensburg)
In cooperation with: Anna Höcherl, Heike Karge, Natali
Stegmann (Regensburg)

07.07.2022

Poland-Lithuania in the Age of the Atlantic Revolution
Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski (London)

19.07.2022

Publishing in Peer-Reviewed Journals – an Introduction
Peter Mario Kreuter, Katharina Kucher, Sabine Rutar
(Regensburg)

19.07.2022

The Post-Soviet as Post-Colonial. A New Paradigm for Understanding Constitutional Dynamics in the Former Soviet Empire
Herbert Küpper (IOR, Regensburg)

20.07.2022

Hive, Film by Blerta Basholli, (2021)
Introduction by: Ger Duijzings (Regensburg)

20.–21.07.2022

Cultures and Politics of Translation in Postcolonial and Postsocialist Contexts
Anne Brüske (Regensburg)

22.07.2022

Chapter Workshop

27.07.2022

Let Communism Live Forever: Nostalgia and the Soviet Hare Krishnas
Joseph Kellner (Georgia)

14.–16.09.2022

From 'Early Access' and 'Open Worlds' to Game-Cons and Clans: The Production of Spatiality and Community in Contemporary Gaming
3rd Annual Graduate Workshop of the GS OSES^{UR}
In cooperation with: Leibniz ScienceCampus

26.09.–01.10.2022

Summer School in Prague: *Contested Memoryscapes: Central Europe and its Fractured Pasts*
In cooperation with: Charles University Prague, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics (ÚFAL), Malach Centre for Visual History and LINDAT Clariah, Leibniz ScienceCampus

04.10.2022

Historical Memory in Greece, 1821–1930: Performing the Past in the Present
Christina Koulouri (Athens)
In cooperation with: Leibniz ScienceCampus

20.10.2022

New Perspectives on Literary Censorship in Communist Poland (1944–1990)
Kamila Budrowska (Białystok)

22.11.2022

Chinas Kapitalexport nach Südosteuropa. Wie die neue Seidenstraße expandiert
Jens Bastian (Berlin)

24.–25.11.2022

Multiperspectivity and Multi-Scalarity in Writing Your Area Studies Thesis. Spatial and Social Science Theories and Methods
Anna Steigemann (Regensburg)

08.12.2022

Left Feminism in Russia. 2010–2022: Between Gender Studies and Activism
Maria Rakhmaninova
In cooperation with: Oberseminar der Professur für Geschichte Russlands und Ostmitteleuropas in der Vormoderne (LMU München), Frauenbeauftragte der GS OSES^{UR}, Professur für Slavisch-Jüdische Studien (UR)

Programme 2023

11.01.–12.01.2023

Introduction to Interdisciplinary Memory Studies
Volha Bartash (Regensburg)

23.01.2023

Where to, Open Scholarship?
Björn Brems (Regensburg) and
Tony Ross-Hellauer (Graz)

02.02.2023

*Die Revolution hat ein weibliches Gesicht.
Der Fall Belarus*
Olga Šparaga (Vienna)
Organised by the Equal Opportunity and Diversity
Representatives of the GS OSES^{UR}

06.02.2023

*„Jüdinnen“ – Literarische Weiblichkeitsentwürfe
im 20. Jahrhundert*
Anna Dorothea Ludewig (Potsdam)
In cooperation with: Jüdische Gemeinde Regensburg

20.04.2023

Official Welcome of the 2023 Cohort

20.04.2023

*Area Studies in the 21st Century: A Sum of Areal
Knowledges, or a Field of Theoretical Innovation and
Experimentation?*
Zoran Milutinović (London)

25.04.–26.04.2023

*Writing Articles for International Publication in
Peer-Reviewed Journals*
Josie Dixon (Winchester)

04.05.–06.05.2023

*Food and Body in Colonial Contexts in Pre-modern
Times (1600–1900)*
Organised by Olga Trufanova and Julia Herzberg (LMU)

05.05.2023

*Where Research Begins. Choosing a Research Project
that Matters to You (and the World)*
Christopher Rea (Vancouver) and Timothy Nunan
(Regensburg)
In cooperation with: Department of Interdisziplinäre
and Multiscalar Area Studies (DIMAS)

11.05.–12.05.2023

*Multiperspectivity and Multi-Scalarity in Writing Your
Area Studies Thesis. Spatial and Social Science Theo-
ries and Methods*
Anna Steigemann (Regensburg)

16.05.–17.05.2023

*Digital Ethnography. Methodological Approaches and
Research Ethics*
Volha Bartash (Regensburg)

25.05.2023

*Waste in the East. Consumerism and Trash in
Communist Eastern Europe*
Viktor Pál (Helsinki)

25.05.–27.05.2023

*Environmental Discourse and Practice in Eastern and
Southeastern Europe:
Facing Challenges and Opportunities*

4th Annual Graduate Workshop of the GS OSES^{UR}
In cooperation with: Leibniz ScienceCampus

06.06.2023

*Zwischen Liebe und Zwang. Nachdenken über eine
Biografie aus der queeren Holocaustgeschichte*
Anna Hájková (Warwick)

13.06.2023

*EU Strategic Autonomy: Views and Stances of the
Visegrad Countries*
Song Lilei (Tongji/China)
In cooperation with: Leibniz IOS

15.06.2023

Logic(s) of Historical Persistence
Jason Wittenberg (Berkeley)
In cooperation with: Leibniz ScienceCampus

22.06.–23.06.2023

*Colonization and Decolonization in Eastern Europe,
Southeastern Europe and Eurasia*
Timothy Nunan (Regensburg)

27.06.2023

Creating a Resilient Network to Fight Russian Propaganda. Psychology, a Chat Bot, and Values-Based Methods to Challenge Social Polarization
Maya Stravinsky (Berlin)
In cooperation with: Leibniz IOS

28.06.2023

Kindheit als Privileg. Bildungsideale und Erziehungspraktiken in Russland (1750–1920)
Katharina Kucher (Regensburg)

29.06.2023

Cosmopolitan Spaces in Odesa: A Case Study of an Urban Context
Efraim Sicher (Be'er-Sheva)
In cooperation with: Chair for Slavic Literature and Culture (UR)

04.07.2023

Odes(s)a: Multiethnisch und kosmopolitisch? Eine historisch-wissenschaftliche Diskussion
Mirja Lecke, Guido Hausmann and Walter Koschmal (Regensburg)
In cooperation with: City of Regensburg

05.07.2023

Die „Kleine Ukraine“ in der Regensburger Ganghofer-siedlung 1945–1949
Filmscreening „Striving for dignity“, introduction by Walter Koschmal (Regensburg)
In cooperation with: City of Regensburg

06.07.2023

Warum ist Odes(s)a UNESCO-Weltkulturerbe geworden? – Ein Streifzug durch die Stadt
Polina Barvinska (Odesa/Regensburg) and Guido Hausmann (Regensburg)
In cooperation with: Leibniz IOS

20.07.2023

Jiří Gruša. Metaphors of Postnational Writing in Central Europe
Dalibor Dobíáš (Prague)
In cooperation with: Czech Seminar of the Center for Czech Studies (UR)

21.07.2023

Chapter Workshop & 1st Alumni-Meeting on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the GS OSES in Regensburg

24.09.–30.09.2023

Summer School in Trieste: “A Liminal Identity? Borders Narratives in Trieste, Past and Present”
In cooperation with: Department of Humanities at the University of Trieste and the Elite Graduate Program for East European Studies at the University of Regensburg and LMU Munich

19.10.2023

Historische Reenactments in der DDR. Lebendige Geschichte zwischen eigensinniger Freizeitgestaltung und Geschichtspolitik
Juliane Tomann (Regensburg)

07.11.2023

Tausend und ein Morgen
Ilija Trojanow (Vienna)
In cooperation with: Bücher Pustet, Regensburg

13.11.–14.11.2023

Environmental Research between Ukraine and Bavaria – Encounter, Cooperation & Construction
In cooperation with: Science at Risk, BayFOR, IOS, BAYHOST, City of Regensburg, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection

15.11.2023

Bohemia's Jews and Their Nineteenth Century. Texts, Contexts, Reassessments
Jindřich Toman (Michigan)
In cooperation with: Czech Seminar of the Center for Czech Studies (UR)

23.11.2023

Can the Subaltern Speak? Restoring Agency of the Polish-Romani Poet, Bronisława Wajs (Papusza)
Emilia Kledzik (Poznań)

07.12.–08.12.2023

Methods and Tools for Interdisciplinary Area Studies Research and Thesis Writing
Anna Steigemann (Regensburg)

14.12.2023

Getting “away from Moscow”: Another “Zelensky effect”
Valeria Korablyová (Prague)
In cooperation with: Leibniz ScienceCampus, Center for Czech Studies (UR)

Archival Research and Fieldwork

Magdalena Daller

- National Library of France, Paris, 04.01.–18.01.2023.
- German Culinary Archive, Dresden, 05.06.–08.06.2023.
- National Library, London, 11.10.–21.10.2023.
- The British Library, London, 20.08.–03.09.2022.
- National Library of France, Paris, 25.07.–19.08.2022.

Tila de Almeida Mendonça

- ZIH, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, 08.04.–16.04. 2023.

Miloš Đurović

- Fieldwork, Pljevlja, 15.08.2022–15.01.2023.
- Državni arhiv Crne Gore [State archives of Montenegro], Pljevlja, 01.12.–15.12.2022.
- Fieldwork, Pljevlja, 01.12.2021–15.04.2022, 15.09.2022–15.02.2023.

Lena-Marie Franke

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC, 18.02.–24.02.2023.
- Desk Research, University of Michigan, Department for Slavonic Studies, Ann Arbor, 01–07/2023.
- National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague, 07.05.–11.05.2022, 12.07.2022, 01.10.–06.10.2022.
- Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem, 03.09.–16.09.2022.
- Central Depository, Literary Archive, Museum of Czech Literature, Litoměřice, 13.07.–14.07.2022.

Nikola Gajić

- Desk Research, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, 01.06.–30.06.2023.
- Fieldwork, ICTY, Hague, 11.11.–25.11.2023.
- Fieldwork, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, 10.12.–25.12.2023.

Rina Geci

- Desk Research, Regensburg, 01.04.–31.12.2022.
- Pilot (Ethnographic) Research, Prishtina, 01.08.–20.09.2022.
- Fieldwork, Pristina, 06.08.–15.10.2023.

Stefan Gužvica

- Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, 01.12.2021–01.04.2022.

Artur Hilgenberg

- Russian State Military-Historical Archive, Moscow, 01.12.2021–28.02.2022.

Fatos Hoxha

- National Library of Kosovo, Pristina, 03.07.–10.07.2023.
- Interviews, Pristina, 08.07.2023.

Jovana Jović

- National and University Library Zagreb, 01.04.–08.04.2022.

Damjan Matković

- Arhiv Srbije [Archive of Serbia], Belgrade, 15.02.–28.02.2023.

Jon Matlack

- City Archive Nürnberg, 08.02.2022.
- City Archive Würzburg, 06.04.–07.04.2022, 20.06.2022.
- City Archive Regensburg, 04/2022 – 06/2022.
- National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland, 17.07.–29.07.2022.
- United States Army Heritage and Education Center – Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, 31.07.–05.08.2022.
- Ike Skelton Combined Arms Research Library, U.S. Army Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 08.08.–13.08.2022.

Magdolna Molnár

- Desk Research, 01/2022–09/2022.
- Interviews, 11/2022–12/2022.

Jacqueline Nießer (Postdoc)

- Interviews, Rijeka/Poreč, 15.05.2023.
- Fieldwork, Participant Observation of the 70th Anniversary of the International Naturist Federation (INF-FNI), Montavilet, 07.09.–10.09.2023.

Niklas Platzner

- Political Archive of the Federal Foreign Office, Berlin, 26.10.–28.10.2022.
- Prussian Cultural Heritage Secret State Archives, Berlin, 26.10.–28.10.2022.
- General Administrative Archives – Financial and Court Chamber Archives, Vienna, 11.10.–21.10.2022.
- House, Court and State Archives, Vienna, 11.10.–21.10.2022.
- Vienna City and Provincial Archives, Vienna, 11.10.–21.10.2022.
- Archive of the University of Vienna, Vienna, 11.10.–21.10.2022.
- City Archive Wiener Neustadt, Vienna, 11.10.–21.10.2022.

Efthalia Prokopiou

- Center for Right Studies, Free speech archives, Hoover Institution, Berkeley and Standford, SoSe 2023.
- Archives of Contemporary Social History, Athens, 27.04.–09.06.2022.
- National Library of Greece, Athens, 27.04.–09.06.2022.
- Panteion University Library, Athens, 15.11.–15.12.2022.

Daniel Schrader

- Desk Research on Writing Democracy, Managing Democracy. Constructing a new politics on the pages of Russian liberal newspapers (1990–1995), SoSe 2023.

Igor Stipić

- Fieldwork, Technical High School of Jajce, Jajce, 01.01.–01.07.2023.
- Liceo de Aplicacion, Santiago de Chile, 07.03.–07.11.2022.

Olga Trufanova

- Russian National Library, Archive of the Academy of Sciences, RGADA, Historical Library, St. Petersburg, Moscow, 09.01.–07.02.2023.
- British Library, London, 11.09.–15.09.2023.

Jana Vinga Martins

- Fieldwork, Národní muzeum [National Museum], Prague, 07.03.–17.03.2023.

Vita Zelenska

- Fieldwork, New York, 20.03.–24.04.2023.
- Fieldwork, Athens, Heraklion, Thessaloniki, 01.02.2022–30.06.2022.

Sara Žerić Đulović

- Hrvatski državni arhiv [Croatian State Archives], Zagreb, 16.01.–20.01. and 28.08.–01.09.2023.
- Fieldwork, Pirot, 05.06.–13.06.2023.
- Fieldwork, Imotski, Posušje, Tomislavgrad, Prozor-Rama, 31.07.–06.08.2023.

Presentations

Volha Bartash (Postdoc)

- *Roma Survivors in the Western Borderlands of Post-war Soviet Union*, Conference “Bridging Disciplines, Histories, and Cultures. Lessons & Legacies,” Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University & Charles University, Prague, 06.11.–10.11.2023.
- *Roma Communities in the Baltic Borderlands*, 13.10.2023, Baltic Research Forum, University of Illinois & Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, online, 12.10.–13.10.2023.
- *The Memorial to Roma Genocide Victims in Navasyady, Belarus in the Light of Regional and National Memory Politics*, University Erlangen-Nürnberg, 21.09.2023.
- *Survival as a Daily Routine: Roma in the German-occupied Belarusian-Lithuanian Border Region*, 29.05.2023. Conference “Recovering Forgotten History. The Image of East-Central Europe in English-Language Academic Textbooks and Monographs,” Polish History Museum, Cracow, 29.05.–03.06.2023.
- *On Agency and Resistance, Roma in the Soviet Partisan Movement*, 11.05.2023. Symposium “New Directions in the Study of the Roma Genocide,” Wiener Holocaust Library & University of Cambridge, London, 10.05.–11.05.2023.
- *Memory, Identity and Belonging in the Migration Decisions of Polska Roma*, 07.03.2023. Workshop “Transnational Migration in Romani History: Agency, Media, and Policing,” Bielefeld University & University of Liverpool, Bielefeld, 06.03.–07.03.2023.
- *The Romani Perspective: Intertwined History of Two Sites of Memory in Lithuania*, research workshop “Memory Cultures,” Charles University & University of Regensburg, Prague, 11.09.–13.09.2022.
- *Gender, Trauma and Memory: Romani Women in the Aftermath of the Genocide*. International conference “Re-Working the Trauma: Research on Roma and Jews in the Baltics and USA,” Roma Community Centre & Lithuanian Jewish Community, Vilnius, 13.09.2022, online.
- *‘Only my mother knew’: Romani Women’s Experiences and Memories of Nazi Violence*, conference “The Nazi Genocide of the Roma and its Legacy,” Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Oslo, 08.09.2022.
- *Nazi Genocide in Family Memories of Roma from Belarus and Lithuania*, Summer school “History and memory of the Holocaust. Comparative perspectives,” Institute of Contemporary History, Södertörn University, Stockholm, 23.05.–25.05.2022.

Elia Bescotti

- *Ontological in-Securities in the post-Soviet Politics of International Law. Contested Sovereignties between Georgia and Abkhazia, and Moldova and Transnistria*, Colloquium, “REES Discussion Group,” Russian and East European Studies, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford, Oxford, 26.05.2023.
- *Politics of International Law and Ontological In-securities in the Transnistrian Settlement*, 15.04.2023. Workshop “Third Emerging Scholars Workshop on De Facto States”, De Facto States Research Unit, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu, online, 14.04.–15.04.2023.
- *Status, Sovereignty, and their Contestations. A Socio-Legal Enquiry on Recognition and its Denial in Protracted Conflicts of Secession in the Post-Soviet Space*, 15.03.2023. Conference, “ISA 64th Annual Convention 2023,” International Studies Association, Montréal, 15.03.–18.03.2023.

Miloš Đurović

- *Reflecting on the Visions and Practices of ‘Environmental Sustainability’ between the European Centre and its Periphery*, lecture series “Climate Change: Action and Law in the Global South and Beyond the West,” DIMAS & Leibniz ScienceCampus, Regensburg, 03.07.2023.
- *Reluctance towards Decarbonized Futures in a Coal Mining Town in Northern Montenegro*, 15.06.2023. Workshop “EAN/FAN Workshop: Renewable Energy & Post-Carbon Futures,” Energy Anthropology & Futures Anthropology Network, Lisbon, 15.06.–17.06.2023.
- Presentation of my fieldwork, Study Group “Ethnographic Methods and Research Ethics,” GS OSES^{UR}, Regensburg, 07.06.2023.
- Introduction, 22.07.2022. Chapter Workshop 2022, GS OSES^{UR}, Regensburg, 22.07.2022.

Lena-Marie Franke

■ *Representations of the Theresienstadt Ghetto in Survivors' Testimonies*, Colloquium, University of Michigan Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Ann Arbor, 28.03.2023.

■ *Jiří Weil's Novel Life with a Star and Its Reception in the Context of Early Czech Shoah Literature*, 31.03.2023. Workshop "22nd Annual Czech and Slovak Studies Workshop," University of Illinois Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Urbana-Champaign, 31.03.–01.04.2023.

■ *Rezeption früher tschechischer Shoah-Literatur im Wandel*, 23.09.2023. Workshop „Studentische Tagung zur Osteuropaforschung Was bleibt? Erinnerung in Ost- und Südosteuropa," JGU Mainz, Mainz, 21.09.–23.09.2023.

■ *Depiction of the Holocaust in Jiří Weil's Novel Life with a Star*, 28.09.2023. Workshop "Studentská konference mladých bohemistů," BOHEMIKON, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, 28.09.–29.09.2023.

■ *Early Narratives of the Shoah: Ota B. Kraus' Novel Land without God*, 29.06.22. Congress "VI. Kongres světové literárněvědné bohemistiky," Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS, Prague, 27.06.–02.07.2022.

■ *Early Narratives of the Shoah and Their Actualization: Ota Kraus and Erich Kulka's Továrna na smrt and Its Revisions and Reception between 1946 and 1964*, 05.05.22. Conference "Studentská literárněvědná konference," Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS, Olomouc, 04.05.–05.05.2022.

Barbara Frey

■ *Corruption and Informal Practices among Business Actors in Serbia*, 11.04.2022. Workshop "Informal Practices in Southeast Europe – Examples and Analyses," Institute for the Recent History of Serbia, Belgrade. 10.04.–11.04.2022.

■ *Dangerous Entanglements? Exploring Path Dependency and Managerial Ties to Political Elites in the Croatian Agro-Sector*, 21.10.2022. Workshop "Firms, Wars, and Ethics in the Business History of Central-Eastern Europe and Russia 4th Workshop on Business History in Central and Eastern Europe," Venice School of Management, Ca' Foscari University, Venice. 21.10.–22.10.2022.

Nikola Gajić

■ *I Solemnly Declare that I will Speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth": Afterlife of the ICTY Victims' Testimonies*, 03.03.2023. Conference "KonKoop Kick-off Conference," ZOIS Berlin, Berlin, 02.03.–03.03.2023.

■ *I Solemnly Declare that I will Speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth": Afterlife of the ICTY Victims' Testimonies*, 20.07.2023. Workshop "CEU Summer Uni Course – Holocaust Testimonies and their Afterlife," Central European University, Budapest, 10.07.–21.07.2023.

Stefan Gužvica

■ *Balkan Communism and 'Comintern Control,' 1917–1933*. Seminar, University of Ljubljana, 08.03.2022.

Artur Hilgenberg

■ *The Agrarian Community of the Don Cossacks. 18th–early 19th Century*, 15.02.2022. Colloquium for Scholarship Holders of the German Historical Institute, Moscow, 15.02.2022, online.

■ *Between Agriculture and War Service. The Codification of Common-Pool Institutions of the Don Cossacks in the 19th Century*, 25.11.2022. Exploratory Workshop „Collective Land Rights and Capitalist Economy, 19th–21st Centuries," Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University Duisburg-Essen, organised by Borbala Zsuzsanna Török, University of Vienna, 24.11.–25.11.2022, invited.

Jovana Jović

■ *From Corruption to Informality: An Interdisciplinary Cooperation between Historians and Linguists*, 11.04.2022. Workshop "Informal practices in Southeast Europe – Examples and Analyses," Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije (INIS), Belgrade, 10.04.–11.04.2022.

■ *Framing Corruption – A Lexical-Semantic Analysis of the Thematic Use of Words Based on Serbian and Croatian Press Texts from 1919 to the Present Day*, 11.05.2022. Seminar "Who or What Is Corrupt? Interdisciplinary Dimensions of Corruption," University of Regensburg, SuSe 2022.

■ *The CORRUPTION-Frame and How to Annotate Selected Sentences According to the FrameNet Guidelines*, 23.06.2022. Colloquium "Forschungsseminar Slavistische Linguistik," University of Regensburg, SuSe 2022.

■ *Interdisciplinary Reading of Sources I: A Scandalizing Newspaper Article*, 06.07.2022. Seminar "Who or What Is Corrupt? Interdisciplinary Dimensions of Corruption," University of Regensburg, SuSe 2022.

■ *Empirical part II: Corruption Scandals in the Serbian and Croatian Mass Media (Methodology)*, 22.07.2022. Chapter Workshop 2022, GS OSES^{UR}, Regensburg, 22.07.2022.

■ *Framing Corruption — Eine lexikalisch-semantische Analyse der Korruptionslexik anhand serbischer und kroatischer Presstexte von 1919 bis in die heutige Zeit [Framing Corruption — A Lexical-Semantic Analysis of the Thematic Use of Words Based on Serbian and Croatian Press Texts from 1919 to the Present Day]*, 24.09.2022. Conference “Der 14. Deutsche Slavistiktag”, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 21.09.–24.09.2022.

■ *Framing Corruption — A Lexical-Semantic Analysis of the Thematic Use of Words Based on Serbian and Croatian Press Texts from 1919 to the Present Day*, 30.09.2022. Workshop “The Future of Corruption Studies,” University of Regensburg, Cres. 27.09.–02.10.2022.

Frederik Lange

■ *The Drina as Boundary, Bridge and Grave — Changing Functions and Attributions of a Southeast European River, 1878–1980*, 07.11.2022. Colloquium “Oberseminar der Osteuropäischen Geschichte,” Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Lehrstuhl für Osteuropäische Geschichte, 07.11.2022, invited.

■ *At the Limits of Reason — or: How Belgrade and Vienna Struggled with the Drina River Islands*, 10.02.2022. Workshop “Südosteuropa Science Slam anlässlich der Jahresausstellung ‚Facing the Balkans. Südosteuropa in Fotografien von Harald Schmitt,“ BSB München, 10.02.2022, online, invited.

Damjan Matković

■ *Informality and Corruption (1815–1894)*, 15.05.2023. Workshop “Multiperspectivity and Multi-Scalarity in Writing Your Area Studies Thesis. Spatial and Social Science Theories and Methods,” GS OSES^{UR}, Regensburg, 11.05.–12.05.2023.

Olha Martyniuk

■ *Remembering the Fallen Soviet Soldiers in World War II in Ukrainian Cities (1991–2021)*, 22.09.2023. Conference “2nd PoSoCoMeS Conference “Post/Socialist Memory Cultures in Transition,” Tallinn University, Tallinn, 20.09.–23.09.2023.

■ *Erinnerungskultur an die Soldaten der Roten Armee am Beispiel der ukrainischen Städte Zaporizhja, Vinnycja und Ternopil (1991–2021)*, 10.05.2022. Seminar “Online-Vortragsreihe History revisited. Geschichte der Ukraine im 20. Jahrhundert,” Zentrum für Erinnerungskultur, Menschenrechte und Demokratie (ZfE), 10.05.2022, online.

■ *Darstellung des Zweiten Weltkrieges in lokalen ukrainischen Museen in Zaporizhja, Vinnycja und Ternopil von 1991 bis 2021*, 02.07.2022. Conference “29. Tagung Junger Osteuropa-Expert*innen”, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, Jena, 01.07.–03.07.2022.

■ *Turning away from the Great Patriotic War: The Ukrainian Transformation of the Memory of the Second World War*, 14.07.2022. Seminar “Ukrainian Research Online,” University of Erfurt, 14.07.2022, online.

■ *Erinnerungspraktiken und Darstellungsformen der Soldaten der Roten Armee in der Ukraine (1991–2021): Zwischen dem sowjetischen Erbe und der nationalen Idee*, 02.11.2022. Colloquium “Münchner Kolloquium zur Osteuropäischen Geschichte,” LMU Munich, 02.11.2022.

Magdolna Molnár

■ *Circular Circuits: Ways to Reduce E-Waste*, 23.09.2022. Workshop “Circular Society Forum,” Hans Sauer Stiftung, 22.09.–23.9.2022. Online.

Jacqueline Nießer (Postdoc)

■ *The Entangled History of Naturism in Italy and Yugoslavia*, Colloquium, “Zentrum für Südosteuropa Studien,” University of Graz, Graz, 21.03.2023.

■ *Not for Yugoslavs, but for Yugoslavia? “Freikörperkultur” (FKK) in SFRY*, Seminar, “Introduction to Southeast European Studies,” University of Rijeka, Rijeka, 10.05.2023.

■ *Naturism on Koversada Island as a Nonconformist Practice of Nourishment*, 17.11.2023. Conference, “Balkans as a Space of Nourishment”, University of Jena, Jena, 16.11.–18.11.2023.

■ *Transnational Entanglements of Naturism in Italy and Yugoslavia*, 30.11.2022. Forschungskolloquium zur Transregionalen Geschichte, Prof. für Transregionale Wissenskulturen, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23.

■ *The Translocal Connectivity of Peripheral Groups: Researching International Naturism as Humanistic Idea and Transnational Practice*, 03.03.2022. Workshop “Transregional Dynamics in Eastern Europe and the Americas: New Empirical Approaches,” GWZO, EEGA, CITAS, Leipzig, 03.03.–04.03.2022.

■ *International Naturism in Yugoslavia*, 21.02.2022. Research Hour der Regensburger Area Studies, Universität Regensburg, 21.02.2022.

Niklas Platzer

■ *Crossing Borders, Breaking Boundaries — The Case of the Emperor Joseph II.*, 29.04.2022. Conference “On Borders and Boundaries: German- Czech Conference for Young Researchers of the Chair of East and Southeast European History of the LMU and the Institute of International Studies of the Karls-Universität Prag,” Chair of East and Southeast European History of the LMU and the Institute of International Studies of the Charles University in Prague, Munich, 28.04.–29.04.2022.

■ *An (Un-)Sweet Competition? Colonial- and Beet Sugar in Austria-Hungary in the 19th Century*, 07.07.2022. Conference “Jahrestagung Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa (GWZO),” GWZO Leipzig, Leipzig, 06.07.–08.07.2022.

■ *An (Un-)Sweet Competition, or — How the Beet Sugar Took over the Habsburg Empire*. Colloquium on Eastern European History, Lehrstuhl für Ost- und Südosteuropastudien, LMU München, 27.07.2022.

■ *Karl Polaynyi and the Development of the Beet Sugar Industry of Bohemia and Moravia*, 04.11.2022. Workshop “IX. AKKU-Nachwuchsworkshop ‘Junge Unternehmensgeschichte’,” Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Darmstadt, 03.11.–04.11.2022.

■ *Tacit Knowledge — The Imagining of Russia during the Great Eastern Crisis (1875–1878) by the Satire Magazine Berliner Wespen*, 15.12.2022. Conference “Caricatures and Satire in a Global Perspective: 1850–1950,” Universität Bonn, 14.12.–16.12.2022.

Efthalia Prokopiou

■ *Racial Humanism and Ecological Consciousness?: A Transatlantic Perspective of Contemporary Ecofascist Discourses*, workshop, “Environmental Discourses and Practices in Eastern and Southeastern Europe: Challenges and Opportunities,” GS OSES^{UR}, Regensburg, 25.05.–27.05.2023.

■ *Fighting for the Homeland: The Far-Right Politics of War Monuments in the USA and Greece*, Colloquium, “Visiting Scholars Colloquium,” University of California, Berkeley, 03.10.2023.

■ *Remembering Antiquity: “White identity”, “White Homeland” and Populism in Contemporary Far-Right Wing Discourses*, 27.01.22. Doktoranden-Kolloquium, Prof. Volker Depkat, Regensburg, WS 2021/22.

■ *Neoeofascism: The Green Nuances of Contemporary Far-Right*, Europe and America in the Modern World Online Series, Leibniz ScienceCampus and VHB, WS 2021/22, online.

■ *Race, Mysticism and Pseudo-populism* in Contemporary White Supremacist Narratives: Examples from Greece and the USA*, 07.07.2022. 9th European Workshops in International Studies, The Interconnected Works of the Past and the Present: Co-Constituting the International, European International Studies Association, Thessaloniki, 06.07.–09.07.2022.

■ *Historism*, 05.09.2022. Theory Seminar, Prof. Depkat, Frauenchiemsee, 05.09.–07.09.2022.

■ *Story Telling and Memory*. Summer school “Contested Memoryscapes: Central Europe and its Fractured Pasts,” GS OSES^{UR}, Prague, 26.09.–01.10.2022.

Yulia Pyankova

■ *Performative Commemoration of Political Murders in Modern Russia: Galina Starovoytova, Anna Politkovskaya, Boris Nemtsov*, Conference Workshop, Chapter-Workshop of the GS OSES^{UR}, 21.07.2023.

Igor Stipić

■ *The State and its Students: Political Ethnography of Two Working-Class High Schools in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chile*, Conference “Neoliberalisms Compared: Transformations in Eastern Europe and Latin America,” Charlotte, 15.09.–16.09.2023.

■ *Chile in the Aftermath of a Failed Constitutional Referendum*, 15.11.2022. Seminar “Chile in the Aftermath of a Failed Constitutional Referendum,” Institute for Advanced Studies in Koszeg (iASK), Koszeg, 15.11.2022.

■ *Southeast Europe at a Geopolitical Crossroads: Between China, Russia, and the European Dream*, 24.02.2022. Seminar “Truts and Consequences: UNESCO MOST Winter School,” Institute for Advanced Studies in Koszeg (iASK), 21.02.–25.02.2022.

Olga Trufanova

■ *Matter of Taste: On Coloniality of Dietary Discourses in the 18th Century Ethnographic Texts from Siberia*, 17.03.2023. Conference “New Research on the Pre-modern Tsarist Empire,” Abteilung für Osteuropäische Geschichte, Lehrstuhl Prof. Dr. Ricarda Vulpius, WWU Münster, 17.03.–18.03.2023.

■ *Matter of Taste: On Coloniality of Dietary Discourses in the 18th Century Ethnographic Texts from Siberia*, 02.04.2023. Conference “BASEES”, Glasgow, 31.03.–03.04.2023.

■ *Absorbing the Asian Frontier: Food and Food-Related Knowledge in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Siberia*, Colloquium “Neuere Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte”, Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte und Landeskunde, University of Tübingen, 05.06.2023.

■ *Decolonizing Siberian History: A Feminist Perspective*, 28.08.2023. Conference “Decolonisation of Memory in the Former Soviet Spaces,” Department of History and Contemporary studies, Södertörn University, Stockholm, 28.08.–29.08.2023.

■ *Jenseits des Andersseins: Essen und indigene Völker Sibiriens in der europäischen Reiseliteratur des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts [Beyond Otherness: Food and Indigenous Peoples of Siberia in 17th and 18th Century European Travel Literature]*, Conference “Zwischen Selbst- und Fremdwahrnehmung: Indigene Bevölkerung im Blick frühneuzeitlicher Reisender,” Center Georg Simmel, Paris, 16.11.–18.11.2023.

■ 17th Century “Gender-Based Violence” and 19th Century “Intersectionality”: Discussions on “Women’s question” in the Writings of Siberian Regionalists, 01.04.2022. “Gender, Power, Violence in the Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Regions,” Association for Women in Slavic Studies AWSS, 31.03.–02.04.2022, online.

■ *Food Practices in the Texts of the Second Kamchatka Expedition*, 28.08.2022. “Reisen und Religion im (langen) 18. Jahrhundert,” Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Pietismusforschung, Halle (Saale), 28.08.–31.08.2022.

■ “Disgusting” Siberian Food and the Making of the Russian Empire, 17.11.2022. “Ugh! Disgust, Repugnant Matters and the Construction of Difference, 1700–1900,” York St John University, Technische Universität Braunschweig, 17.11.–18.11.2022.

■ *Food for Thought vs Food for Body: Corporality in the Ethnographic Texts and Everyday Life of the Second Kamchatka Expedition*, 07.07.2022. Russland-Asien Seminar, LMU München, 07.07.2022, online.

Jana Vinga Martins

■ *Exhibiting Europe. Presentation of PhD Project*, Colloquium “PUR Doktorandenseminar,” University of Regensburg, 12.01.2023.

■ *Images of Europe in the Czech National Museum*, Colloquium “Forschungskolloquium Public History,” University of Heidelberg, 15.06.2023.

Vita Zelenska

■ *Pitfalls of Anthropological Writing*, 28.07.2023. Conference “Contested Knowledge: Perspectives in Social and Cultural Anthropology,” German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Munich, 25.07.–28.07.2023.

■ *Processual Fieldwork Methodology*, 12.10.2022. Study Group: Ethnographic Methods and Research Ethics (EMRE), Leibniz ScienceCampus & GS OSES^{UR}, Regensburg, WiSe 2022/23.

■ *What Are the Limits of a Political Agency of Sound?* (Roundtable discussion), 14.09.2022. International conference “What sounds do – New Directions in an Anthropology of Sound,” University of Copenhagen, 13.09.–16.09.2022, invited.

■ *More-than-human Makrinita*, 08.07.2022. Summer school “Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities (PSL),” Laboratory of Social Anthropology at the University of Thessaly in Volos, Makrinita (Volos), 29.06.–09.07.2022.

■ *Multiple Spaces of Displacement*, 28.01.22. International workshop “Mediterranean Mobilities: Emergent Hierarchies,” University of The Aegean, 28.01.2022, online.

Sara Žerić Đulović

■ *What Can we Learn from the Socialist Experience? Migrants, Experts and Development Policies, 1960s-1980s*, workshop “Migration and Development: Between Wishful Thinking and Practical Results,” IOS Regensburg, Belgrade, 02.03.–03.03.2023.

■ “I work and I exist”. *Impact of (Yugoslav) Gastarbeiters Savings on Women’s Emancipation in Imotska Krajina*, BASEES CONFERENCE 2023, Glasgow, 30.03.–20.04.2023.

■ *Migration and Development in Socialist Yugoslavia: The Gastarbeiter Factories (devizne fabrike)*, Southeast European Studies Online Platform: New Research in Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, online, 05.07.2023.

■ “Trust and Cooperation” *Between the Researcher and Interviewees: Case Study of Pirot, Serbia*, workshop “Migrant Entrepreneurs in Kosovo and Serbia: Tracing Trust and Innovation”, Viadrina Center Borders in Motion/IOS Regensburg, Frankfurt a.d. Oder, 08.09.–09.09.2023.

■ *Reforma carinskih olakšica kao prilika za povratak jugoslavenskih gastarbajtera [The Reform of Customs Benefits as an Opportunity for the Return of Yugoslav Guest Workers]*, Socialism on the Bench, Centre for Cultural and Historical Research of Socialism, Pula, 28.09.–01.10.2023.

Teaching

Volha Bartash (Postdoc)

- Lives before the Holocaust: Jewish and Romani Communities in East and Southeast Europe between the Two World Wars, Proseminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2023/24, 2 H/W
- Oral History of Nazi Genocide in East and Southeast Europe, Proseminar, University of Regensburg, SoSe 2022/23, 2 H/W
- Digital Ethnography. Methodological Approaches and Research Ethics, Theory & Method Workshop, GS OSES^{UR}, University of Regensburg, SoSe 2023, 16.05.–17.05.2023
- Introduction in Interdisciplinary Memory Studies, Theory & Method Workshop, GS OSES^{UR}, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 11.01.–12.01.2023
- Ethnic and Religious Life in Postwar Soviet Union, Proseminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- Bitter Memory: Holocaust Sites in East and Southeast Europe, Proseminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- The Era of the Witness: Holocaust Survivor Testimony as a Historical Source and a Pedagogical Tool, UR, SoSe 2022, 2 H/W

Olha Martyniuk

- Erinnerungskultur und Geschichtspolitik der Ukraine seit 1991, Seminar, University of Regensburg, SoSe 2023, 2 H/W

Jacqueline Nießer (Postdoc)

- Einführung in die Körpergeschichte, Seminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- Nonkonformismus in Ost- und Südosteuropa, Seminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- Theorien und Methoden der Geschichtswissenschaften, Seminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- Introduction in Public and Applied History, University of Regensburg, 2 H/W
- Positionality in Area Studies (Focussing on East- and Southeast European Studies, Universität Regensburg, 1 H/W

Jana Vinga Martins

- Geschichte im digitalen Raum. Historische Bezüge in Digitalen Spielen, Seminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- Bilder eines Kontinents. Einführung in die Visual History am Beispiel Europa, Seminar, University of Regensburg, SoSe 2023, 2 H/W
- re:think history! Geschichtsvermittlung im Museum der Migrationsgesellschaft, Seminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W
- History matters! Das „History Problem“ in den politischen Beziehungen zwischen Japan, China und Südkorea, Seminar, University of Regensburg, WS 2022/23, 2 H/W

Vita Zelenska

- Critical Migration Studies, Seminar, University of Regensburg, SoSe 2023, 1,5 H/W

Awards (Travel Grants, External Scholarships)

Volha Bartash (Postdoc)

■ Postdoctoral Scholarship, Bavarian Program for the Realization of Equal Opportunities for Women in Research and Teaching, University of Regensburg, 01.07.2023–30.06.2024.

Lena-Marie Franke

■ Forschungsstipendium für Doktoranden, DAAD, 01.–03.2023.

■ Promos Mobilität Fachkurs, DAAD/UR, 30.07.–04.08.2023.

■ Josef-Dobrovsky-Fellowship, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, 10.09.–22.10.2023.

■ Yad Vashem Research Fellowship for International PhD students, The International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, 03.09.–16.09.2022.

■ Vladimir Macura Prize: 2. place in the category of doctoral students, Student conference of the Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS, Olomouc, 05.05.2022.

Stefan Gužvica

■ Research Grant, Erasmus+, Ljubljana, 01.12.2021–01.06.2022.

Artur Hilgenberg

■ Scholarship, German Historical Institute, Moscow, 01.12.2021–28.02.2022.

Jon Matlack

■ Fellowship, London School of Economics, London, November 2023.

■ Graduate Student Travel Grant, Bavarian American Academy, Munich, 01.01.2022.

Magdolna Molnár

■ PhD Scholarship, Deutsche Bundesstiftung für Umwelt (DBU), 01.07.2022 (for 3 years).

■ Area Studies Master Thesis Prize, CITAS, 25.4.2022.

Jacqueline Nießer (Postdoc)

■ Travel Grant, Faculty Officer for Equal Opportunities for Women in Science and the Arts at the University of Regensburg, Graz, 20.03.–21.03.2023.

■ Outgoing Fellowship, University of Regensburg, Rijeka, 05.05.–24.05.2023.

■ Grant for Student Assistant, Officer for Equal Opportunities for Women in Science and the Arts at the University of Regensburg, Regensburg, October 2023–March 2024.

Efthalia Prokopiou

■ Travel Grant, Bavarian American Academy, Munich, July 2023.

■ Graduate Student Travel Grant, Frauenbeauftragte Universität Regensburg, Regensburg, July 2023.

■ Exchange Program, Berkeley, July–December 2023.

Jana Vinga Martins

■ Travel Grant, Bavarian-Czech Academic Agency, Regensburg, 07.03.–17.03.2023.

■ Travel Grant, Representatives for the Equality of Women in Academia and the Arts, Regensburg, 07.03.–17.03.2023.

Members' List

Predoctoral, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researchers

Tila de Almeida Mendonça, M.A.

East European History
(Predoc 2023/24)

Teaching and Research go Underground. Illegal Education in the Warsaw Ghetto, 1939–1942

Dr. Volha Bartash

Social Anthropology
(Postdoc 2022–2023)

Holocaust Memory Activism in the Baltics

Elia Bescotti, M.A.

Political Science

Secession, Non-Recognition and Ontological Security in the Post-Soviet Politics of International Law

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Aude Merlin (FU Brüssel),
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Cindy Wittke (IOS, Regensburg)

Artur Bulakh, M.A.

East European History
(Predoc 2023)

Visualizing the “Enemy”: The Image of a Jew in the Nazi Propaganda Materials in German-occupied Ukraine

Magdalena Daller, M.A.

East European History, Doctoral Researchers' Representative

Essen und nationale Identität in kulinarischen Stadtlandschaften. Reisen von St. Petersburg über Odessa nach Tbilissi im 19. Jahrhundert [Perception and Representation of Food Cultures in the Russian Empire of the 19th Century]

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Guido Hausman

Drivalda Delia, M.A.

Social Anthropology

National Resistance as a Temporary Mean of Gender Empowerment – The Reshaping of Public Sphere before, during and in the Aftermath of the Kosovo Crisis (1988–1999)

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Miloš Đurović, M.A.

Social Anthropology

Living Polluted Lives in an Ecological State: Coping with Pollution in a Coal-Mining Town on the Periphery of Montenegro

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Lena-Marie Franke, M.A.

Slavic Studies, Doctoral Researchers' Representative

Early Narratives of the Shoah in Czech Literature

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Marek Nekula

Barbara Frey, M.A.

Business Administration
(submitted thesis 2023)

Corruption in Serbia and Croatia since 1990

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Steger

Nikola Gajić, M.A.

Southeast European History

“I Solemnly Declare that I will Speak the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing by the Truth”: Afterlife of the ICTY Victims' Testimonies

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Rina Geci, M.A.

Social Anthropology
(Predoc 2022, since 04/2023 Doctoral researcher)

Contemporary Medical Pluralism in Kosovo: Practices, Markets, Politics

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Stefan Gužvica, M.A.

Southeast European History
(defended 2022)

Sickle without a Hammer: Revolution and Nation-Building in the Balkans, 1900s–1930s

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer

Artur Hilgenberg, M.A.

East European History

The Communal Land Tenure of the Don Cossacks. Origins and Evolution till 1835

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Guido Hausmann

Fatos Hoxha, M.A.

Southeast European History

A Transformation from Below. Understanding Workers' Lives in the Trepça Industrial Complex during 1960–1980

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer

Marina Israilova, M.A.

Social Anthropology

Locality and Translocality of Artistic Communities from Saint Petersburg, Russia

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Anna Ivanova, M.A.

Public History

(Predoctoral and Doctoral researcher 2022–23, changed to Graduate Center for the Study of Culture at the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen in 10/2023)

Decommunization in the Urban Space of Ukraine: Discourses, Identities and Symbols

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Juliane Tomann

Jovana Jović, M.A.

Slavic Studies

The Historical Semantics of INFORMALITY — An Empirical Study on the Thematic Use of Words Based on Serbian and Croatian Press Texts from 1919 to the Present Day

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen

Frederik Lange, M.A.

Southeast European History
(submitted thesis 2023)

The River Under the Bridge. The Drina as an Ambivalent Place of Remembrance

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer

Miloš Lecić, M.A.

Southeast European History

Corruption in Serbia and Croatia in the "Short" 20th Century, 1914–1989

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau

Damjan Matković, M.A.

Southeast European History

Informality and Corruption in Serbia 1817–1914

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchenau

Jon Matlack, M.A.

American Studies

Maneuvering towards 'The West': U.S. Army-Bundeswehr Joint War Games as Conduit for Western Identity Formation

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Volker Depkat

Olha Martyniuk, M.A.

East European History

Fallen Soviet Soldiers and Veterans of the Second World War: Local-Level Commemoration in Ukraine (1991–2021)

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Guido Hausmann

Cornelius Merz, M.A.

History

(drop-out 2022)

Exploring Identity and Belonging Through Spatial Relations – A Comparative Study of Cleveland and Leipzig, 1890–1930

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Rainer Liedtke

Magdolna Molnár, M.A.

Social Anthropology

(changed to Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus in 2023)

The Intra-European Routes of Waste and Their Social Impacts in the New Member States

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Oleksandr Nadtocka, M.A.

Social Anthropology

Historical Forensics and Historians as Expert Witnesses at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Dr. Jacqueline Nießer

Anthropology/Cultural Studies
(Postdoc)

Transnational Entanglements in Twentieth Century Body Politics

Niklas Platzer, M.A.

East European History
(Predoc 2022/23)

*The Habsburg Beet Sugar Industry in the Long
19th century*

Efthalia Prokopiou, M.A.

American Studies

*Notions of Home in the Far Right “White Genocide”
Narrative. A Multinational and Multilingual Approach
to Contemporary Far Right Self-Representations in
Europe and the Americas*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Volker Depkat

Yulia Pyankova, M.A.

East European History

*The Symbol is Born: Commemoration of Contemporary
Russian Assassinations*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Guido Hausmann

Daniel Schrader, M.A.

East European History
(submitted thesis 2023)

*Representing Democracy? Political Practices and
Languages of Delegates to Russian Town Soviets and
Dumas in Revolution and Civil War, 1917–1919*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Guido Hausmann

Igor Stipičić, M.A.

Social Anthropology

*Who Speaks the Nation-State? Hegemonic Structures,
Subaltern Pedagogies, and Fractured Community in
Bosnia and Chile*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Olga Trufanova, M.A.

East European History

*Absorbing the Asian Frontier. Food and Food-Related
Knowledge in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century
Siberia*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Julia Herzberg

Jana Vinga Martins, M.A.

Public History, Doctoral Researchers’ Representative

*Exhibiting Europe: European Perspectives in National
History Museums*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Juliane Tomann

Veronika Wald, M.A.

Slavic Studies
(defended 2022)

*Valency Structures in the Russian-German Language
Contact*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen

Vita Zelenska, M.A.

Social Anthropology

*What Does it Mean to Be a Refugee? Sites of Knowl-
edge Production and Their Asymmetrical Entangle-
ments*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

Sara Žerić, M.A.

Southeast European History

*Gastarbeiters as Agents of Development in Socialist
Yugoslavia*

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulf Brunnbauer

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Prof. Dr. Katrin Boeckh

Southeast and East European History

Prof. Dr. Anne Brüske

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Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings

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Prof. Dr. Astrid Ensslin

Professor of the Dynamics of
Virtual Communication Spaces,
Director of the Digital Area Studies Lab (DAS|LAB)

Prof. Dr. Alexander Graser

Public Law and Policy, esp. European, International,
and Comparative Law

Prof. Dr. Björn Hansen

Slavic Studies, Linguistics

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Prof. Dr. Marek Nekula

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Head of the Bohemicum

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03–04/2022

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