



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Future of Central and East European Studies in the Light of Russia's War of Aggression Against Ukraine

17–19 October 2024

University of Warsaw (Faculty of Modern Languages),
Dobra 55, 00-312 Warsaw

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Purpose of the Conference

The Future of Central and East European Studies in the Light of Russia's War of Aggression Against Ukraine

Russian aggression against Ukraine has changed the view of the Russian Federation that had previously dominated politics and scholarship. At the same time, it has brought attention to the role and importance of the countries located in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as changing perceptions of these both in international affairs and in political and scientific discourses in the West. It has also had repercussions in the scientific field, where cooperation between Western research institutions and Russian academic units has been suspended and access to Russian archives has radically narrowed. Along with this, dominant interpretations are being reevaluated and gaps in current approaches to understanding phenomena in Russia and its history have begun to be noticed. One matter of urgency in the current situation is to move the West away from a Russian-centric view of Central and Eastern Europe in favor of other perspectives, including the experiences of the countries located there. What is needed are studies of Central and Eastern Europe that bring to the fore the histories of its member states, treated as entities independent of the Russian center. The above-mentioned factors, however, are not universal: Different views on Russia are also present in the so-called global south, and the dynamics in play since February 2022, like any other, are subject to temporal fluctuations. The aim of this conference will be to review the current state of affairs in the field of research on Central and Eastern Europe and on Russia, to reflect on the past, and to develop new approaches that can help decentralize perspectives and look for alternatives to the previously developed assumptions and models used to study this part of Europe.

Issues to which we would like to attach particular importance include:

- The politics of memory in Russia and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- The experience of World War II and communism in Central and Eastern Europe
- Russian imperialism and its influence on the history of Central and Eastern Europe
- Foreign policy of Central and Eastern European countries towards Russia now and in history
- The history and state of research on Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries
- The history and state of research on Russia in the 20th and 21st centuries
- The current and historical political and social system of Russia – its characteristics and distinguishing features
- Russian political traditions and their influence on the shape of the state
- Legal classifications and settlements of Russian and Soviet actions against the countries of Central and Eastern Europe today and in history

Conference Partners

Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University
 The Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw
 The Centre for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin
 The Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences
 The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences
 Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University
 The Lithuanian Institute of History

Conference Scientific Committee

Prof. Patrycja Grzebyk, University of Warsaw, President, Network on Humanitarian Action
 Prof. Maciej Janowski, Director of the Institute of History at the Polish Academy of Sciences
 Dr. Bartłomiej Kapica, Deputy Head of the Center for Totalitarian Studies at the Pilecki Institute in Warsaw
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 Prof. Alvydas Nikžentaitis, Director of the Lithuanian Institute of History
 Prof. Andrzej Szeptycki, University of Warsaw, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland
 Dr. Krystian Wiciarz, Head of the Center for Totalitarian Studies at the Pilecki Institute in Warsaw
 Prof. Justyna Zając, Director of the Polish Studies Center, Indiana University Bloomington

Day 1 | Thursday October 17

8:00	Registration & Coffee
9:00	Opening Ceremony Auditorium 0.410
9:30	Keynote Address From “Containment” to “Persistent Engagement”: An Optimistic View of NATO’s Response to Russia’s War Against Ukraine Igor Lukes, Boston University Auditorium 0.410
10:30	Coffee Break
10:45	Session I-a Room 1.138 Discussion Panel. Do Belarusians Need History? Joanna Getka, University of Warsaw; Anton Saifullayeu, Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw; Lena Zhivoglod, “Honest People” Initiative, Belarus Moderator: Maxim Rust, Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw
	Session I-b Room 1.132 Challenges Arising From Russia’s Aggression Against Ukraine for EU-Ukraine Relations Marta Pachocka: The Impact of the Full-Scale War in Ukraine on the Migration Situation and Policies in the EU and its Member States. Aleksandra Borowicz: The Future of European Agriculture: Implications of Ukraine’s Accession to the European Union. Anna Wójtowicz & Justyna Góral: EU Energy Security After Russia’s Aggression Against Ukraine. Ewa Osuch-Rak: Ukraine’s Conflict: Catalyst or Constraint? The Impacts on SMEs and Innovation in Eastern Europe. Moderator: Ewa Latoszek
	Session I-c Room 1.128 Autonomy, Independence and Security in the Post-Soviet Space Julien Plouchart: Belarus and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict (2014-2023): Has a Belarusian Autonomy vis-à-vis Russia Been Possible? Kseniya Yurtayeva: Russian Expansionism in the Hybrid Occupation Strategy in Ukraine. Nurlan Aliyev: Is the Soviet Legacy of Russia’s Security Policy a Threat for the Future of Central and Eastern Europe? Kaarel Piirimäe: De-orientalizing the History of the Baltic Revolution, ca. 1980 to 1994. Moderator: Aleksandra Konopka
12:15	Lunch

13:15	Keynote Address From the End of History to the New Cold War. Changing Historical Paradigms in Studying Central and Eastern Europe. Marek Cichocki, Collegium Civitas	Auditorium 0.410
14:15	Session II-a Colonialism and Imperialism, From the 18th Century to the Present Day Grzegorz Skrukwa: The Myth of "Novorossiya" in the Russian Imperial Narrative and its Deconstruction. Hanna Perekhoda: The Intriguing Resilience: Untangling the Ukrainian Knot of Russian Vulnerability in Relation to the West. Karolina Brzykcy: The National Question in Russia in the Years 1917-1924. Marxism and Ethnic Minorities of the Former Russian Empire. Agnieszka Stec: The Russian Narrative in Scientific Discourse in France Concerning Ukraine, Russia and the War of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine. Moderator: Damian Markowski	Room 1.138
	Session II-b Youth, the Future, and Russia's War Against Ukraine Kamila Smagulova and Joanna Bagadzińska: Language Activism in Kazakhstan: Decolonial Sentiments and (Post)-Soviet Reality. Mukhammadsodik Donaev: Media Literacy and Uzbek Youth Perceptions of the Russia-Ukraine War. Iuliia Hoban: Behind Their Eyes: Photography as a Lens for Children's Agency and Resilience in the Russia-Ukraine War. Bakhytzhon Kurmanov: Waging a "War of Words": The Impact of Russia's War Against Ukraine on Central Asian Young People. Moderator: Ian Garner	Room 1.132
	Session II-c Societies and Economies in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Space: Issues and Approaches Damian Bębnowski: Exiled Polish Economic Historiography on the Soviet Model of Development. William Pyle: Democratic Values and the Legacy of the Early 1990s in Russia. Waldemar Rapior: Wartime Relations: Polish National Habitus, Polish-Ukrainian Friendship and Participatory Action Research. Ardak Orakbayeva: Back in the USSR: the Popularity of Modern Russian TV Series About the Soviet Era Among Young People in the Post-Soviet Space. Moderator: Bartłomiej Kapica	Room 1.128
15:45	Coffee Break	
16:00	Discussion Panel Empire and Imperialism: What Do These Terms Mean Now and How Should They Be (Re)Interpreted Historically in the Wake of the Russian War Against Ukraine? Marek Kornat, Historical Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences; Dariusz Staliūnas, Lithuanian Institute of History & Vilnius University; Jan Holzer, Masaryk University, Brno Moderator: Andrzej Nowak, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences	Auditorium 0.410
17:30	Welcome Reception	

Day 2 | Friday October 18

8:30	Registration and Coffee	
9:00	Keynote Address Archival Research in the Former USSR. The Situation Before and After February 2022 Mark Kramer, Harvard University	Auditorium 0.410
10:00	Session III-a Epistemic Violence and Transitional Justice. Intellectual History and Politics of Memory Approaches From the Former (Imperial) and Soviet Space Mirosław Filipowicz: Generations of Discontinuity: Polish Russian and Soviet Studies in the Interwar Period and Emigration Research after 1945. Stawomir Łukasiewicz: Concepts of the West, Europe and Russia Developed by Polish Émigrés During the Cold War Era. Oleksandr Avramchuk: East-Central Europe in Cold War America: The Rise and Fall of an Intellectual Concept. Wojciech Łysek: Between 'the Grand Failure' and 'the Choice' (1989-2004). The Collapse of the Soviet Union and its Results in the Views of Zbigniew Brzeziński. Bartłomiej Krzyszczan: Freedom Without Liberation? Prometheism, the Polish School of Sovietology and Contemporary Political Discourse Towards the Caucasus and Central Asia. Moderator: Bartłomiej Krzyszczan	Room 1.138
	Session III-b Sovietisation, Russification, and Decolonization Kinga Czechowska: Polish Diplomacy, the "Jewish Question" and Soviet Russia in the 1930s. Krystian Wiciarz: Decolonizing Research and Knowledge? Paradigm Shifts in Studying Central and Eastern Europe. Jerzy Rohoziński: The Russian/Soviet Imperial Narrative of the Hungry Steppe Irrigation in Southern Kazakhstan. The Case of the Museum of the History of Cotton Growing in the Turkestan Region. Moderator: Krystian Wiciarz	Room 1.132
	Session III-c Memory Studies, Monuments & Memory Politics Pavel Voinitski: Russian Memory Politics in Contemporary Belarus: The Case of Minsk's Nevsky Equestrian Monument. Mykola Bryvko & Tetyana Sheptytska: The Politics of Memory Regarding the Burial Places of Victims of Political Repressions in Ukraine and Russia: Between Memory and Oblivion. Dagmara Moskwa: Memory Laws in Contemporary Russia: Regulating the Narrative of the Russo-Ukraine War. Lizaveta Kasmach: State-Building Efforts of Belarusian National Elites in the Upheaval of the First World War From a Comparative Perspective. Moderator: Jerzy Rohoziński	Room 1.128
11:30	Coffee Break	

11:45	Keynote Address Central Europe Strikes Back Andrzej Szeptycki, University of Warsaw, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland	Auditorium 0.410
12:30	Lunch	
13:15	Session IV-a Strengthening European Self-Confidence: Western European Perspectives on the History of Ukraine in School History Textbooks Mariia Kovalchuk: Europe in Ukrainian History Textbooks. Perspectives on Shared History . Yulia Ostropalchenko: Interplay and Dissonances of Ukrainian History in Narratives of Textbooks and Political Leaders (2020-2023) . Steffen Sammler: Western European Perspectives on the History of Ukraine in School History Textbooks . Marcin Wiatr: Multiperspectivity as a Method of Teaching History in the Transnational Textbook Series: The Polish-German "Europe – Our History" and the Franco-German "Histoire/Geschichte" in Comparison With the German-Russian History Book "Stations of Common History. Places of Remembrance" . Moderator: Igor Kąkolewski	Auditorium 0.410
	Session IV-b Cultural Histories of Belarus from Transnational Perspectives Tatsiana Astrouskaya: The Jewish Movement for Emigration and Belarusian Intelligentsia Under Late Socialism: Points of Intersection . Tania Arcimovich: "I do not know why I learn it": The New Drama Turn in the Context of Political Turmoil and the War . Simon Lewis: Polyphonic Memory in Belarus: Literary Multilingualism and Pluriform Remembrance . Moderator: Simon Lewis	Room 1.132
	Session IV-c Russian & Soviet Crimes: Survival and Punishment Natasha Bluth: Gendered Violence, Genderless Frames: Discourses of Domestic Violence in Russia and Ukraine, 2011-2021 . Tomasz Lachowski: "Dispersed Nuremberg 2.0" for Soviet Crimes. Some Reflections on the Relevance of the Crime of Genocide in the Process of Dealing With the Communist Past in Central and Eastern Europe . Aleksandra Konopka: Forced Displacement of Children in Russian and Soviet Crimes – From Survival to Justice . Moderator: Oktawian Kuc	Room 1.128

	Session V-a Book Release Panel. "The Russian-Ukrainian War. Challenges to the Documentation and to the Prosecution of International Crimes" Prof. Patrycja Grzebyk, University of Warsaw; President, Network on Humanitarian Action; Mark Kramer, Harvard University; Oleksandra Matviichuk, Center for Civil Liberties, Kyiv; Dominika Uczkiewicz, Center for Totalitarian Studies, Pilecki Institute; Nadia Volkova, Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group. Moderator: Rafał Tarnogórski, Polish Institute of International Affairs.	Room 1.138
14:45	Session V-b From Historical Politics to War. The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict Over Identity in the Media Space Wiktor Werner: Russian Historical Revisionism as an Ideology. Structure, Origins and Consequences . Alexey Vasilyev: Putin's Narrative About the History of Ukraine: Sources and Structure . Jacek Nożewski: The Russia-Ukraine War in International Digital Media News Coverage . Dawid Gralik: The War in Ukraine in the Light of Non-Mainstream Polish Social Media Channels . Moderator: Dawid Gralik	Room 1.132
	Session V-c When History Repeats Itself. Paradigms of the 20th Century East-Central European Experience With Russia Bartłomiej Kapica: "Why Is the Soviet Union Not a Socialist State?" Polish Socialists on the USSR Before the Second World War . Michał Przeperski: The 1989 Transformation as a New October Revolution . Damian Markowski: A New Soviet West Once Again? The Sovietization of Western Ukraine 1944-53 and its Similarities to the Russian Occupiers' Policy in Ukraine . Paweł Sasanka: The Years 1953-1956 in Central and Eastern Europe as a Window of Opportunity . Moderator: Bartłomiej Kapica	Room 1.128
16:15	Coffee Break	
16:30	History & Law – A Rocky Relationship. The Prosecution of International Crimes in Central-Eastern Europe. Are We Able to Escape From Our History? Anton Weiss-Wendt: Making History: Soviet & Post-Soviet Russia and the Instrumental Interpretation of the Genocide Convention . Marek Jan Wasiński: Reinterpretation of Crimes in Central-Eastern Europe Within a Post-Imperial Paradigm . Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala: The Commission of War Crimes as a Pattern of Conduct of Hostilities . Aldo Zammit Borda: History Written by International Criminal Tribunals . Moderator: Patrycja Grzebyk, University of Warsaw; Director, Network on Humanitarian Action.	Auditorium 0.410
19:00	Pilecki Award Gala (by invitation)	

Day 3 | Saturday October 19

9:00	Registration and Coffee
9:30	<p style="text-align: right;"> Room 1.138</p> <p>Session VI-a Central-Eastern Europe Beyond Sovietization and Westernization: Environmental History, Sport Diplomacy, and Transnational Challenges Francesco Magno: Environmental History of Central and Eastern Europe During Communism: New Lines of Inquiry. Lorenzo Venuti: Challenging the Idea of a Uniform Eastern Bloc: Sports Diplomacy and the Autonomy of Individual Countries. Maddalena Valacchi: Solidarity Across Borders: A Comparative Analysis of Solidarność's International Literature and Primary Sources. Moderator: Artur Adamczyk</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"> Room 1.132</p> <p>Session VI-b Central Europe vs. Russia as Seen in Literature, Culture, Ideology Ondřej Holub: The Lures of Modernity and Panslavism: Czech National Socialism Between East and West. Simo Mikkonen: Resisting Russification in Soviet Estonia Through Musical Networking, 1960-1985. Ganna Liulikova: The Transforming Of Values In Eastern Slavic Culture: From Russian Imperialism to National Identity. Aliaksandr Paharely: Neighbor, Brother, and Role Model to Emulate, or How Belarusian Intellectuals Viewed the Progress of Ukrainian Nation- and State-Building From the Late 19th to Early 21st Centuries. Moderator: John Cornell</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"> Room 1.128</p> <p>Session VI-c CEE Studies From a Historical Viewpoint Roman Syrota: Russian or Slavonic (and East European) Studies? Politics, the Personality Factor and Ukrainian Studies Positioning at the SSEES in the 1920s–30s. Olga Gontarska: CEE Studies in Poland: Reframing the University Curriculum. Iryna Odrekhivska: Decoloniality as Translation: Re-Positioning the Transnational Image Building of Ukraine's Culture. Oksana Ermolaeva: "Common Crime Offenses" in Times of Political Repression: The Case of the Soviet Northwestern Borderland in the 1930s. Moderator: Krystian Wiciarz</p>
11:00	<p style="text-align: right;"> Room 3.110</p> <p>Keynote Address Reshaping Ukrainian Studies in the Context of the War Tetiana Portnova, University of Potsdam</p>
12:00	Coffee Break

	Room 3.110
12:15	<p>Discussion Panel Central and Eastern Europe as Subject or Object? Perspectives on CEE Studies in the Global Public Discourse John Micgiel, University of Warsaw; Tetiana Portnova, University of Potsdam; Mark Kramer, Harvard University; Igor Kąkolewski, Centre for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin Moderator: Ian Garner, Center for Totalitarian Studies, Pilecki Institute</p>
13:45	Lunch

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