



EEGA

Leibniz ScienceCampus

Report
2018 –
2019

Eastern Europe –
Global Area

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01 EEGA Members

02 Preface

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Three years after founding the Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA), we look back on constant development and successful efforts to promote young scholars and intensify our network activities. Pursuing EEGA's aim to strengthen international visibility, to foster interdisciplinary cooperation, and to support joint research and publication in the field of Eastern Europe as Global Area, we hosted a significant number of events, trainings, workshops, and offered grants for postdocs. The ScienceCampus has developed into an important and renowned pillar of inter-regional cooperation across the borders of three German states as well as of strategic connections with leading research centers in the world.

We were fortunate to host many visiting scholars who expand and densify our network within and outside academia. Our first SummerSchool with journalists took place in September 2018, a four-day event which attracted a variety of media representatives. Bringing junior and senior researchers in Leipzig, Halle, and Jena together with our international EEGA fellows from seven countries has paid out with the network's first joint publications: the special issue »Understanding and Explaining Islamophobia in Eastern Europe« (Yendell ed., 2018) and the edited volume »Southern African Liberation Movements and the Global Cold War 'East': Transnational Activism 1960–1990« (Dallywater, Saunders, Fonseca eds., 2019).

EEGA's outstanding cooperation partner, the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB 1199) on Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition, has recently been approved for a second funding phase. Furthermore, several joint applications of EEGA members and fellows at German and European funding institutions have been launched and are now under review.

EEGA is fortunate to welcome its first graduate fellows, two international BA students who developed their

thesis in the intellectual framework of the ScienceCampus. Yet again, a postgraduate fellow successfully developed an EEGA-related PhD proposal (»Narrating and Performing Utopia in the Global Feminist Movement«) and the first EEGA doctoral fellow has started her work on transnational mobility of anticolonial activists during the last decades of the Portuguese empire in Africa. Furthermore, in 2018, an emphasis on Global Eastern Europe has been established within the Master's programme »European Studies« at Leipzig University to sustain the support of young researchers on all levels of education. A first cohort has started their studies, and we are looking forward to this new pool of young colleagues in our field of studies on the global positioning of Eastern Europe.

Recent news from and on Eastern Europe encourage us in our work: political shifts, crises, and decisive developments on a global scale call for thoughtful scientific analysis. Discussions about chances and risks of China's »One Belt, One Road« initiative, ongoing debates about energy dependency and increasing islamophobia and xenophobia across Europe continue to shape media coverage and public perception, pointing at the timeliness of EEGA's research agenda in a phase of increasing East-West and North-South tensions. The »German-Russian Roadmap for Cooperation in Education, Science, Research and Innovation«, ratified in 2018, offers opportunities to stabilise relations in the academic world. In the years to come, international outreach and public dissemination of research findings are two main aims of the ScienceCampus. An event with German and US-American scholars in New York will be one of these activities. To increase EEGA's international visibility, we started conversations with the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) about organising their 2020 regional conference, in Leipzig.

But for now, please enjoy reading and browsing through our report.

Yours Sincerely



Prof Dr Sebastian Lentz

(Spokesperson of the Steering Committee)



Prof Dr Matthias Middell

(Spokesperson of the Steering Committee)

03 EEGA within the Leibniz Association

The Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA) is dedicated to promoting research on Eastern Europe in current and historical globalisation processes. Striving to outgrow regionally compartmentalised approaches, EEGA collaborates with regional partners to develop an informed understanding of Eastern Europe's changing, at times paradoxical role in a globalised world. The ScienceCampus investigates this multifaceted topic through the lens of five research areas: 1) Mobilities and Migration Regimes; 2) Self-Positioning in a New World Order; 3) Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies; 4) Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications; 5) Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation and Diffusion. These research activities all aim at understanding how Eastern Europe's diverse, rich, and incidentally conflicted societies position themselves in global processes and conflicts, engage in the dynamics of global integration, and champion these developments.

EEGA is part of the Leibniz ScienceCampus network, the Leibniz Association's response to the often-criticised lack of cooperation between university and non-university research institutions within the German research system. Leibniz ScienceCampi thus promote close collaboration between Leibniz institutions and universities through thematically focused, complementary regional partnerships. The resulting networks drive research activities and strengthen the scientific environment in the respective fields. ScienceCampi conduct strategic research, encourage interdisciplinary projects and methods, enhance the visibility of the respective locations, and refine their research profiles.

In this vein, EEGA pursues four strategic goals:

1) The Leipzig-Halle-Jena science region is dense with higher education and research institutions, renowned knowledge and expertise in the study of Eastern Europe and globalisation. Providing an infrastructure and serving as a catalyst connecting universities, research in-

stitutes, and individuals studying globalisation and/or Eastern Europe, EEGA integrates strengths and competencies and builds bridges across disciplines and institutions towards synergetic and complementary collaboration.

2) The Leibniz ScienceCampus stimulates a research-led discourse on Eastern Europe and promotes knowledge transfer between academia and the public, researchers in Germany and abroad, particularly with scholars from Eastern Europe. Engagement and dissemination projects with both the public and tailored audiences (e.g. journalism, political consulting) promote interaction between academia and society and enhance discussion culture. The exchange with partners (visiting scholars, journalists, etc.) from Eastern Europe allows deepening the understanding of the region by combining internal and external approaches to make sense of the region.

3) EEGA pursues the objective of contributing to research capacity and network building within and outside academia. By promoting young researchers developing a career either within or outside academia, EEGA generates both scientists and experts in related fields. The Leibniz ScienceCampus provides a subsequent line of education that starts from Master's courses, comprises PhD-research and training and completes with promoting research by and further qualification for postdocs with reflexive knowledge about societies in Eastern Europe for highly qualified young academics.

4) Within Leibniz Association, the ScienceCampus EEGA strengthens the focus area »Eastern Europe« (see the establishment of the working group »Eastern Europe« in 2014) and Area Studies in general by contributing its multi-disciplinary knowledge and expertise and sharing its broad range of experiences regarding research, network, and knowledge exchange activities within the Leibniz community.

04 The Research Areas

The Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« is organised in five research areas. In the following, they will be presented with regard to their respective funding measures in 2018/19.

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **Helena Flam** (University of Leipzig) and **Judith Miggelbrink** (Technische Universität Dresden)

Research Area 2

Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order

Coordination: **Frank Hadler** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) and **Matthias Middell** (Centre for Area Studies)

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Research Area 3

Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies

Coordination: **Sebastian Henn** (University of Jena), **Thomas Glaubert** (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies – IAMO) and **Thorsten Posselt** (Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy)

Research Area 4

Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications

Coordination: **Jürgen Heyde** (University of Halle-Wittenberg), **Yvonne Kleinmann** (University of Halle-Wittenberg/Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies), and **Stefan Troebst** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

Research Area 5

Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation and Diffusion

Coordination: **Gert Pickel** (University of Leipzig) and **Holger Lengfeld** (University of Leipzig)

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **Helena Flam** (University of Leipzig) and **Judith Miggelbrink** (Technische Universität Dresden)

The transformation of Eastern Europe has resulted in high levels of subnational territorial inequality, displacements, and expulsions, as well as complex patterns of ethnic, cultural, religious, and political identities and orientations. Stark contrasts of vibrant and dynamic places on the one hand and marginalised places on the other characterise the region. These trends have resulted in complex patterns of mobility, mobile and immobile groups, as well as forms of control and flows. Research approaches take into account intersecting social, economic, cultural, political, and infrastructural components. Five interdependent mobilities are distinguished here: corporeal travel of people, physical movements of objects, imaginative travel, virtual travel, and communicative travel.

In 2018/19 Research Area 1 welcomed the guest researcher:

- › **Dr Mitilesh Kumar**: four-weeks stay; research topic: taxi industry, marshrutka, and mobilities.

Guest lecture Ernst van der Wal (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) at the IfL (October 2018): His presentation »Transnationalist Movements and Border Crossings amongst Queer Refugees in Germany and South Africa« focused on the impact of forms of transnational mobility on the lives of lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and intersex (or lbgti) subjects who have fled their countries of origin in recent years because of either political conflict or homo- and transphobia. Both South Africa and Germany have seen a heightened influx of queer refugees who deliberately chose these two countries for their apparent protection of lbgti rights. By drawing on photographic interview projects that were conducted in Germany and South Africa, van der Wal explores how narratives of sexual and gendered citizenship resound with larger debates surrounding transnational mobility and cross-cultural exchange.

Workshop Theorising Cities from/with a Global East in Leipzig and Zerbst (December 2018): Organisers: Nadir Kinossian (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany); Martin Müller (University of Lausanne, Switzerland); Wladimir Sgibnev (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany). This workshop aimed to bring together scholars and strands of research in order to propose a novel, synthetic, and non-discriminatory framework, which the organisers call »Theorising from a Global East«. Instead of considering cities in what is provisionally called the 'Global East' as cases for the mere application of existing theories, this workshop sought contributions that revive interest in the Global East and its potential contribution to global urban scholarship. The goal of the workshop was to discuss a range of conceptual and empirical questions on cities from the Global East with the prospect to producing high-quality manuscripts for a special issue on the workshop's topic. The event started with a panel discussion entitled »Thinking from/with/through the East: probing prospects of theorising global urbanism beyond North and South«. Nadir Kinossian (Leipzig), Steffi Marung (Leipzig), Martin Müller (Lausanne), Lela Rekhviashvili (Leipzig), and Elena Trubina (Ekaterinburg) interrogated the prospects and problems of thinking from/with/through the East as a third category – between North and South and resolute part of the global. The second and third days were dedicated to a concerted paper discussion of all participants involved.

Research Area 2

Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order

Coordination: **Frank Hadler** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) and **Matthias Middell** (Centre for Area Studies)

The end of the Cold War has been widely perceived as the starting point of changes to and within world order. The research area conceptualises »world order« as the result of multiple interventions by many actors that can be explored only by including various spatial scales and formats. It aims to stimulate the debate on the self-positioning of Eastern European states and societies by inviting area experts studying both Eastern Europe and other world regions. The focus is on positioning strategies of Eastern European collective actors within this changing world (order), new spatial formats of political organisation emerging within Eastern Europe, and the region's engagement with other world regions.

In 2018/19 Research Area 2 welcomed three visiting researchers:

→
Gilad Ben-Nun
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- › **Dr Gilad Ben-Nun** (University of Verona): six-months stay; research topic: East-Central Europe as the Birth Region of International Space.



←
Adam Mayer
© private

- › **Dr Adam Mayer** (University of Kurdistan Hewler): six-months stay; research topic: A Case of Alter-Globalization During the Cold War: The Intellectual History of State Socialist Hungary in Africa, and Africa's Presence in Socialist Hungary.

Workshop »20 Years of NATO Intervention in Yugoslavia: Local, Regional and Global Aspects of 'Humanitarian interventions'« (May 2019): Organisers: Dr Katarina Ristic (Global and European Studies Institute, Leipzig University) and Elisa Satjukow MA (Historical Department, Leipzig University). The workshop was held at the GWZO in Leipzig from May 23 to 25, 2019. The main objective was to gather researchers of humanitarian interventions dealing with historical, cultural, political, and legal aspects of intervention(s), bringing together diverse interpretations of the NATO Intervention in FRY which emerged during the last twenty years on a local, regional, and global scale. The workshop was divided in six panels, addressing global perspectives on intervention(s), regional consequences, and media representations. The second part focused on attempts to incorporate the intervention(s) in national memory, memory activism, and artistic responses. At the round table held on May 23, two NGO activists from Prishtina and Belgrade discussed the NATO Intervention in Yugoslavia with a historian with the SEE and a politician from the German Green party. At the same time, Jaume Castan Pinos' book on collateral effects of intervention (2019) was launched. Regarding the outcomes, an edited volume from selected papers of the conference is planned to be published by Berghahn books. Furthermore, the idea to establish a network for the research of interventionism was discussed.



→
Bojana Matejić
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› **Dr Bojana Matejić:** six-months stay;
research topic: Cultural Transfers around
1968: Art – Theory – Emancipation

»The main benefit of the EEGA postdoctoral fellowship programme is that it has enabled me to conduct research into the transnational, decolonial, emancipatory impulses in art and theory around '68, through the lens of South-East entanglements within the Yugoslavian NAM project, and to prepare a proposal for long-term postdoctoral research in Germany. The possibility for me to be a part of a research community in the GWZO for six months has proved very fruitful as regards my postdoctoral research development.«

Research Area 3

Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies

Coordination: **Sebastian Henn** (University of Jena), **Thomas Glauben** (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies – IAMO) and **Thorsten Posselt** (Frauenhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy)

This research area aims to further explore economic issues by addressing the following research fields and questions: corporate coping strategies and state intervention, trade patterns and regional specialisations, in- and outward-bound foreign direct investments, translocal knowledge flows, evolution of new economic and patterns of urban and regional resilience.

In 2018/19 Research Area 3 welcomed the guest researcher:

› **Dr Nataliia Cherkas** (Kyiv National Economic University): five-months stay;
research topic: Integration of Eastern Europe IT Outsourcing Industry into Global Production Networks.

Nataliia Cherkas was awarded a travel grant from EEGA to attend the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) Conference in San Diego, in April 2019. She presented her research entitled »Exchange rate and foreign trade structure as factors of economic growth in transitional economies of Europe«. The participation at the conference provided an opportunity for her to introduce her research on Eastern European countries to the global scientific society. The presentation received a lot of interest from many scholars and encouraged fruitful discussions.

»The benefit of EEGA is an excellent opportunity to work and cooperate in a state-of-the-art academic environment, meeting new scholars for joint projects and publications. Participation in local and international workshops and conferences provided valuable feedbacks for the improvement of my research and important contacts for networking.«



←
Nataliia Cherkas
© private

Workshop »Entrepreneurial Ecosystems – Conceptualizations, Measurements, and Empirical Evidences« in Tallinn, Estonia (July 2018): The one-day workshop, organised by Susann Schäfer (University of Jena, Germany), Merli Reidolf (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia), and Garri Raagmaa (University of Tartu, Estonia) was attended by 17 scientists and economic partners from Estonia, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and Great Britain. In addition to the workshop, an excursion to the Tallinn Entrepreneurial Ecosystem took place the day before, where four organisations were visited, and the workshop participants discussed with the experts on site. These included the Tallinn Business Development Agency, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Accelerator Technopol and the Business Development Agency of Harju County. An important output of the workshop is the plan of the participants to realise a joint EU funding application in the near future.

Workshop on »Agriculture Trade and European Partnership for Sustainable Development in Central Asia« in Tashkent Uzbekistan (October 2018): The event was organised by IAMO in cooperation with the Tashkent State Agrarian University (TDAU) with the financial support of EEGA. The workshop aimed to better understand the regional development trends in Central Asian countries and discuss the business opportunities for European companies. 16 presenters and guests from Germany, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan highlighted important fields where Central Asian countries may have comparative advantages in the world market. Furthermore, the possible options of involving German companies in the agricultural supply chains were discussed. One of the outcomes was the development of ideas for a subsequent joint application for international third-party funding.

Workshop »Innovations for Increasing Income of Smallholders and Resilience of the Wheat Supply Chain in North African Countries (SMARTCHAIN)« at IAMO, in Halle (October 2018): The workshop was attended by 16 representatives of research institutions and a representative of an IT company. The representatives came from eight countries (Egypt, Germany, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia). The participating institutions include the University of Cairo, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the G20 Wheat Initiative (Berlin), and the Institut National de Recherche

Agronomique de Rabat (INRA) in Morocco. The participating scientists (mainly professors and postdoctoral researchers) belonged to a wide range of disciplines, including agricultural economists, plant breeders, and hydrologists. The aim of the workshop was to prepare a pre-application for a Horizon2020 call. The proposal focused on the sustainable intensification of cereal production in North African countries – a sector where also Russian trade companies play a significant role also in the grain supply chains. In the workshop, the representatives of the individual target countries reported on the current situation in the grain sector of their country. In discussions, case studies were jointly selected for the proposal. Furthermore, the participants identified additional suitable partners for the project consortium. Last but not least, a roadmap for the preparation of the pre-application was drawn up.

Workshop »Transforming the Transformation? – Economic and social development in Central and Eastern Europe« (November 2018): The workshop, sponsored by EEGA, organised by the Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy IMW and the Leibniz Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), curated by the Herder Research Council and the UMR Sirice (Paris Sorbonne I), took place on the Fraunhofer IMW and GWZO premises in Leipzig. During the conference, scientists from Berlin, Frankfurt an der Oder, Leipzig, Paris, Beijing, and Sheffield, among others, discussed whether and how successfully the states of Central and Eastern Europe have managed to develop more innovation-driven economies. This also involved a historical look at the transformation processes in Central and Eastern Europe after 1990. Due to the high quality of the contributions, there are plans to publish the papers in a conference volume.

→ Birgit Glorius speaks about »Return Migration, Transnational Entrepreneurs and Social Remittances – Alternative Tools for Socio-economic Development.«
© Fraunhofer IMW



Research Area 4

Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications

Coordination: **Jürgen Heyde** (University of Halle-Wittenberg), **Yvonne Kleinmann** (University of Halle-Wittenberg/Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies), and **Stefan Troebst** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

As processes of globalisation in and for Eastern Europe have shaped the region for a long time, the EEGA research approaches reach back into the first era of globalisation around 1900 and to the emergence of Eastern Europe on the political map after World War I. The research area shifts the focus onto important but yet little researched questions by conceiving historical actors in Eastern Europe as active global players instead of just imagining the region as a mostly passive object of global developments. Exploring the cultural and intellectual manifestations of globalisation in and for the region, Eastern Europe will be conceptualised »on a global scale«. Based on this approach, the research area aims at overcoming perspectives on Eastern Europe that reproduce exceptionalism from within and »orientalisation« from the outside.

In 2018/19 Research Area 4 welcomed three guest researchers:

› **Dr Alexander Kratochvil (HU Berlin):** six-months stay; research topic: Confrontation and Communication: Subcarpathia as a Contact Zone in Literary discourses.



→
Mikhail Ilchenko
© private

› **Dr Mikhail Ilchenko (Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Yekaterinburg):** six-months stay; research topic: Shaping New Urban Identities: Symbolic Transformations of the Modernist Urban Heritage under New Post-Soviet Geography.



→
Anastasia Felcher
© private

› **Dr Anastasia Felcher:** five-months stay; research topic: Global Trends, Local Responses: Knowledge Production in the post-Soviet WWII. Museums in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova.

»The benefit of EEGA lies in providing fellows with a unique setting that combines a welcoming institutional environment, training-through-research, up-to-date academic facilities, and encouragement to pursue individual projects. During my five-months stay in Leipzig, due to the rich academic calendar available to fellows, the exchange with my mentors, and thought-provoking discussions with my new colleagues, I advanced as a cultural historian of Eastern Europe and also engaged in global studies. Therefore, I developed a new interdisciplinary project that includes both perspectives. Also, my publication record advanced significantly.«

Research Area 5

Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation and Diffusion

Coordination: **Gert Pickel** (University of Leipzig) and **Holger Lengfeld** (University of Leipzig)

Around 1989/1991, the transition paradigm that forecasted Western models of state and economy becoming globally universal proved to be mainstream among research, government, and policy-making communities. Roughly 25 years later and under the impact of the Ukraine Crisis, the relevance of the once powerful paradigm has been contested. The spreading of new ideas, institutions, policies, models or repertoires of behaviour, attitudes, and values from their point of origin to new sites and Europeanisation as derivatives of broader processes of globalisation have impacted Eastern Europe – but not in the same manner, form, and with the same outcomes everywhere. This research area will explore actors in Eastern Europe between »uniqueness« and »normality« within Europe and the globalised world.

In 2018/19 Research Area 5 welcomed the guest researcher:



→
Stefan Telle
© private

› **Dr Stefan Telle:** six-months stay; research topic: Socio-Spatial and Political Polarization in East Central Europe. Comparing Germany and Romania.

»The benefit of EEGA is to progress with my project thanks to the financial, organisational, and intellectual support provided by the fellowship.«

05 International Academic Exchange with Eastern Europe

The EEGA also co-financed and co-organised conferences that were visited by national and international guests.

Joint Annual Conference of the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) and EEGA (July 2018): The three-day conference was opened on the evening of July 3, at the Saxon Academy of Science, with a keynote by Basil Kerski (Director of the European Solidarity Centre) with the title »Polish and German people in Europe. What separates us connects us.« About 60 guests participated at this keynote lecture, which was followed by a vivid discussion. The opening event was followed by thematic panels on the following topics: Eastern Europe and the Global South in Cold War Times, Identity Constructions for the Self and its Others or (Re-)Moveable Easts and (Re-)Usable Others: The »Eastern« International. About 20 conference speakers came to Leipzig in order to present their research projects to an international audience. In addition to the presentations, there was enough time for exchange and networking. After a guided tour at the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst (Gallery of Contemporary Art), for instance, we welcomed EEGA fellows, conference speakers and others to a meet-and-greet session at a bar.



→
Keynote Speaker
Basil Kerski
© Swen Reichhold

The 26th Conference of junior scholars in the field of East European studies (Tagung Junger Osteuropa-ExpertenInnen, JOE conference) took place from July 13 to 15, 2018, in Leipzig. The German Association for East European Studies (DGO) organised the conference together with EEGA, the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) and the Research Centre for East European Studies (FSO). In contrast to previous years, this conference did not focus on a single topic. Participants with diverse research interests were thus given the opportunity to set their own priorities and to take advantage of networking opportunities and discussions at the JOE conference. Prof Matthias Middell opened the conference with the keynote »Eastern Europe and the New Spatialization of the World – Reflections on a Research Agenda«. Middell explained the genesis of the Leipzig-based scientific institutions with expertise in Eastern Europe. He addressed the competition between area studies and specialised disciplines as well as the in-

stitutionalisation of spatial concepts through spatially focused research agendas. Overall, the conference was marked by the diversity of the contributions. The exploitation of the media through political discourses was one of the central topics. The media coverage on the Ukrainian crisis was analysed and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine was examined as a »clash of civilizations«. Lectures were held on the alleged bellicosity of Russian society, choreographies of Polish football fans, and the cultural memory of the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia among others. The host institutions EEGA and GWZO presented themselves with their own panel on day two of the conference. The scientific location of Leipzig as a possible workplace was outlined and the scholarships offered by the EEGA were explained in greater detail.



←
Prof Matthias Middell opens the JOE conference
© EEGA



→
James Mark gives a keynote on
"1989: A Global History of Eastern Europe" © Swen Reichhold

Joint Annual Conference of the Center for Area Studies, EEGA, the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, and the Collaborative Research Center 1199 of Leipzig University: »Revolutions and Transformations in a Global Perspective, 1989–2019« (June 2019): The four-day international conference was opened by Matthias Middell, speaker of EEGA's steering committee, with a lecture on »1989. 30 years after a Global Moment«. Stefan Troebst, Coordinator of Research Area 4, continued the conference with a lecture on »The Re-Balkanization of the Balkans? 1989 in Southeastern Europe«. The conference keynote, supported by EEGA, was the book presentation »1989: A Global History of Eastern Europe« by James Mark. He is member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz

ScienceCampus. The book was published in 2019. The former EEGA Fellows Stefan Telle and Gilad Ben-Nun added to the diverse discourse at the conference with interesting contributions. Stefan Telle's lecture on »1989–2019: From the End of History to the Golden Straitjacket and back?« and Gilad Ben-Nun's commentary to the panel »Populism, Anarchism, Protest Movements as a Consequence of 1989« sparked an engaging debate on the third day. Chris Saunders introduced the last day of the conference with a talk on »Southern African transformations, from 1989 to 2019«. In June 2019, the former EEGA visiting researcher co-published EEGA's first edited volume »Southern African Liberation Movements and the Global Cold War 'East'. Transnational Activism 1960–1990« with Lena Dallywater and Helder Adegar Fonseca.

06 Knowledge Transfer and Interaction with the Media

As a platform, EEGA promotes knowledge transfer between academia and the public. Events for specific audiences, particularly multipliers such as journalists or consultants, ensure this mutually beneficial collaboration.



The audience listens to the conversation about the challenges of writing about Russian topics in German media © EEGA

ScienceLounge »Despotism and Democracy – Current German coverage of Russia« (August 2018):

This time, the special guest was Reinhard Veser (experienced journalist and expert for Eastern Europe), who talked with Prof Sebastian Lentz about his daily work, especially developments and journalistic challenges with news coverage on Russia and Russian topics in the German media. Veser emphasised the importance of careful writing and referencing in Russia. He said he enjoyed visiting the country during the Football World Cup this year because the Russians were very enthusiastic about the event and the country presented itself as very liberal-minded. Veser explained that reader feedback is very relevant to his daily work, which starts off every morning right after getting up. When asked about his wishes concerning communication with academics, Veser said they should learn to point out the relevance of their research topics and explain the main facts to non-experts in a simple way.

ScienceLounge »Far away and yet intertwined? – Poland between independence and globalisation« (November 2018):

In the winter edition of the EEGA ScienceLounge, Markus Krzoska gave an insight into his research on Poland's role in globalisation processes. The conversation brought together such diverse themes as the clearing of the forest to protect against bark beetles, Poland's independence in the interdependent world and the impossibility of a cultural history. Markus Krzoska is a cultural historian at the Historical Institute of the University of Gießen. He is known in particular for his extensive cultural history of Poland »Ein Land unterwegs« (2015). The interview was moderated by Bernd Karwen (Lecturer for Literature, Politics, and History at the Polish Institute Berlin, Branch Leipzig) and Frank Hadler (Head of the Department »Integration and Globalization« at the GWZO and EEGA Research Area Coordinator).



Bernd Karwen, Markus Krzoska, and Frank Hadler (from the left) talk about the origin of Krzoska's book »Ein Land unterwegs« © EEGA

ScienceLounge »Opportunities and risks of digitisation in the agricultural sector« (March 2019):

The ScienceCampuses EEGA, WCH (ScienceCampus Halle – Plant-based Bioeconomy), and the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) jointly organised the event »Digitisation in Agriculture« with experts from academia, business, and politics, in Halle (Saale), Germany. The discussion was opened by Prof Sebastian Lentz, spokesperson of EEGA, who presented a brief overview of the topic and the panel guests. The discussion was presented by Ina Volkhardt from ScienceCampus Halle. Guest of honour Thomas Wunsch, State Secretary at the Ministry of Economics, Science and Digitization in Saxony-Anhalt, explained that politics have a special influence on the development of digitisation in agriculture. The state must create the basis for a functioning infrastructure in order to support the development of new technologies. IAMO researcher Dr Ivan Duric spoke

about the need to familiarise agricultural workers with new technologies. Employees should be made aware of the appropriate handling of digital innovations and the related data protection guidelines. Matija Zulj, CEO and Founder of Agrivi, discussed why it is also profitable for small and medium-sized agricultural companies to invest in digitisation. The software, its installation and maintenance, as well as the associated costs are tailored specifically to the needs of each individual farm. For the companies, the use of new technologies not only increases crop yields, but also saves considerable labour time and costs in the future. Oleksandr Verzhkyhovskyi, Chief Operating Officer of the agricultural company IMC, contributed expert knowledge on digitisation in the Ukraine to the discussions. Large farms have recognised the benefits of digitisation and started investments. Another major problem in the Ukraine is the shortage of employees, who often immigrate to Western EU countries to work.

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Ina Volkhardt presents the discussants (from left): Oleksandr Verzhkyhovskyi, State Secretary Thomas Wunsch, Ivan Duric, and Matija Zulj © EEGA



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Alfons Balmann (IAMO) comments on the developments of digitisation in agriculture © EEGA



ScienceLounge »Islamophobia and Right-Wing-Populism in the East« (April 2019):

Khaldun Al-Saadi (staff member of the Coordination and Counselling Centre for Radicalisation Prevention (KORA)), Farid Hafez (Austrian political scientist and Islamophobia expert), Gert Pickel (sociologist of religion, board member of the German Association for Political Science and the Competence Centre for Right-Wing Extremism and Democracy Research at the University of Leipzig), and Alexander Yendell (researcher at Leipzig University) discussed the topic »Islamophobia and Right-Wing-Populism in the East«. The discussion was moderated by Susanne Kailitz, freelance journalist with the German newspaper »Die Zeit« and the German magazine »Focus«.

The multifaceted discussion focused on the experience of difference and fear of alienation which play an important role in Eastern Europe and Eastern Germany. Yendell's publication »Islamophobie in Osteuropa verstehen und erklären« (»Understanding and Explaining Islamophobia in Eastern Europe«), a collection of several authors' investigations into the hitherto relatively neglected phenomenon of »Islamophobia without Muslims«, served as a base for the discussion. When asked why the fear of Islam seems to be greatest precisely where only few Muslims live, the participants agreed that the fear of losing one's culture is one of the main causes, especially in countries and regions where identification is based more on national or ethnic ascriptions. Especially when people feel materially, physically, or symbolically threatened by immigrants, their views on Muslims become increasingly negative. In addition, imbalanced media coverage reinforces prejudices. At the close of the discussion, the audience and panellists controversially discussed whether personal encounters alone could reduce existing fears.



ScienceLounge »China's New Silk Road: Mega-project with a Global Impact?« (June 2019):

Over the past five years, China has invested more than 25 billion US dollars in infrastructure projects as part of the Silk Road Initiative. In the upcoming years, the management intends to further advance its mega-project with 64 billion US dollars. This was announced by state and party leader Xi Jinping at the close of a two-day Silk Road summit in Beijing, at the end of April. Billions will be invested in transport facilities and other infrastructure projects to open up new trade routes to Europe, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. In the summer edition of the ScienceLounge, Jürgen Steiger (senior advisor at GIZ) and Dirk Böttner-Langolf (Fraunhofer IMW) took a closer look at the mega-project. The engaging debate revolved around questions like – What role do security and foreign policy considerations play? And how do the neighbours of the enormous country react?

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Farid Hafez, Khaldun Al-Saadi, Alexander Yendell, Gert Pickel, and Susanne Kailitz (from left) talk about their research and personal experiences on Islamophobia in the East © EEGA

EEGA's first SummerSchool with Journalists took place in September 2018, in Leipzig. The audience consisted of academics, journalists, and communication officers. The four-day event, moderated by freelance journalist Gemma Pörzgen, was a combination of panel discussions, workshops, media-training, lectures, and best practice examples.

Part one of the first day addressed challenges in media and public relations. In the discussion the communication officers of four scientific institutions talked about their experiences and challenges in communicating with national and international media contacts. In part two, »PR Meets Journalism«, Andreas Metz (head of communications at the German Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations) talked about the media routine at his institution. Metz criticised that the media very often only react to certain events or dates. He advised that they should be more proactive in setting an agenda. Editor Leonid Klimov from the media platform dekoer.org presented his project and showed the editors' interest in new contacts with scientists.

Day two started with the interview workshop »My scientific work: short, concise and understandable«. Ulrich Grünewald from the National Institute for Science Communication (NaWik) advised the participants on how to describe their project in a few words. They had to present their topic and answer some questions in a very short time on camera. Most of the participants of the forum »Double burden or chance? Tensions, crisis of trust and scholars under pressure« agreed that scientists and journalists face similar experiences today. There is a high politicisation of their content and research, and they find themselves time and time again in heated discussions about certain topics. The panellists on »Current topics in reporting – priorities in the media versus priorities in science?« agreed that Eastern Europe should be seen as an important component of globalisation processes, and that certain disciplines find their way into the media more often than others.

The third day was devoted to developments in science communication. At the beginning Patrick Donges (Professor for Communication at Leipzig University) spoke about internal and external science communication. He warned that the media often forget that scientific journalism does not follow the same rules as political journalism. Four young academics discussed the chances and pitfalls



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EEGA Fellow Gilad Ben-Nun in dialogue with journalists on the expectations to researchers
© Swen Reichhold

in using social media as researchers. In the forum they agreed that social media communication helps to overcome borders and develop networks and new contacts easily at an international level. On the other hand, social media are time-consuming and show results only after many years of commitment. Two best practice examples followed. Melanie Mienert, one of the coordinators of EEGA, shared her experience about the difficult German book market and working on a non-fiction book for almost ten years. Bernd Großheim, former Moscow correspondent for the German radio broadcaster ARD, gave insights into his work. Radio broadcasting is often underestimated in its importance and as an opportunity for academics to get into the public view, he said. Freelance journalist Nicola Kuhrt, specialised in medicine, talked about the future of science journalism. The public believes in science, she said. Therefore, there are a lot of chances for journalists to explain and to tell good stories

in this field. The day ended with a talk about China's »One Belt, One Road« initiative. As Paul Joscha Kohlenberg (German Think Tank Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)) pointed out, journalists have played an important role in reporting about projects connected to this Chinese programme because they do research on the spot and achieve greater transparency.

The SummerSchool ended with a workshop by Ulrike Brandt-Bohne (NaWik). She explained the importance of storytelling in academia and gave practical advice. Then, the participants had the chance to train in groups how to tell a story about an academic field. At the final roundtable discussion, everybody agreed that it was a successful approach for the conference to involve academics, journalists, and communication officers in a fruitful dialogue. The SummerSchool will have a follow-up in 2019.



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Blogger Anne-Katrin Hutschenreuther shows tools for working with social media
© Swen Reichhold

Advisory Board for Media and Transfer

To give broad public audiences an understanding of the complex political, economic, and social developments in Eastern Europe, EEGA constitutes an Advisory Board for Media and Knowledge Transfer. This advisory board consists of experts from the media branch. It critically and constructively accompanies knowledge transfer at EEGA. Especially print and online media, radio, audio-visual media, and the so-called new media are relevant to EEGA. Members of the advisory board strategically advise the management and coordination of EEGA on the design of its transfer and the cooperation with media or media representatives. This also includes content-related consultation on topics, contacts to the communications industry and the public, as well as finding event dates for EEGA which are particularly relevant for knowledge transfer into the broader public audiences. So far, the Board consists of the two journalists Gemma Pörzgen and Ivo Mijnsen (Swiss newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung).

07 Promotion of Young Researchers

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EEGA provides a fully-fledged line of education on reflexive knowledge about societies in Eastern Europe for highly qualified young academics. It starts from Master's courses, comprises PhD-research and training, and completes with promoting research by and further qualification for postdocs.

In 2019 EEGA welcomed its first three-year **PhD-fellow**, **Ana Moledo**.

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Ana Moledo
© private



› Her PhD (in cooperation with the University of Leipzig) is supervised by Dr Steffi Marung and focuses on the transnational mobility of anticolonial activists during the last decades of the Portuguese empire in Africa.

»The benefit of EEGA is a research network that provides plenty of opportunities for exchange with other fellows and guest researchers in my own as well as related academic fields.«

In 2018 EEGA welcomed its first two, talented **graduate students**, who developed their BA theses in the research field of EEGA:



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Aigerim Kaimanova
© private

› **Aigerim Kaimanova** (Prague): three-months fellowship; research topic of her Bachelor thesis: *One Belt, One Road Initiative: Its Impact on post-Communist States*.



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Friederike Weiner
© private

› EEGA **postgraduate fellow Friederike Weiner** has submitted her PhD proposal, which deals with *»Narrating and Performing Utopia in the Global Feminist Movement«*. She was a three-months fellow and worked on *»Recent Feminist Activism in Eastern Europe in a European and Global Context«* in EEGA Research Area 5.

› **Famke Geißler (Halle)**: three-months fellowship; research topic of her Bachelor thesis: *Effects and adaptation of climate change in the Barents Region*.

In 2019 EEGA also welcomed its first **trainee, Paula Zücker**.



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Paula Zücker
© private

› During her six-weeks internship, she gained insights into collaboration on specific research projects, preparation of and participation at events (like ScienceLounges, workshops, or lectures), and writing articles for the newsletter and EEGA website.

»The internship at EEGA is a great networking opportunity as it allows me to meet many renowned researchers and professors. It also gives me an opportunity to gain new perspectives on global issues and to meet many fascinating people.«

EEGA offers trainings and courses for successful career development in neighbouring academic fields. The workshops are designed for small groups of postdocs. Topics for trainings and workshops can range from expertise in developing funding applications, specific skill-sets for writing essays for publication in newspapers, to forms of writing a scientific blog or newsletter.

Writing-Sweatshop with Ingrid Scherübl (»Neue Fachlichkeit«) at the IfL (July 2018): The Writing-Sweatshop was an intense day of writing. The instructed writing process lasted eight hours and was well structured to be effective. The participants worked on a single text during the whole day: a book chapter, a thesis chapter, an exposé, a journal article, a lecture, an application. The participants started with a white sheet of paper and left the workshop with a satisfying rough draft.

Coaching Session with Prof Middell at the Frauenhofer IMW (July 2018): The coaching by Prof Matthias Middell gave insights and advice on intellectual, administrative, organisational, and time-specific aspects of writing convincing funding applications and project proposals for submission at third party funding institutions. The group session was directed at young researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level.

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Final discussion with Gudrun Wirtz, Julian Bauer, Karolin Bove, and Lena Dallywater (from left)
© EEGA



From October 25 to 28, 2018, the local city group of the Community for Student Exchange in Central and Eastern Europe (GFPS) organised the Leipzig City Days, which were financially supported by EEGA. As part of a varied programme, the scholarship holders from the partner countries Poland, Czechia, Belarus, and the Ukraine came together to develop a project about living the experience of the democratic upheaval of 1989/90 and diverse forms of civil, political, cultural, and academic commitment. This NGO has been run by volunteers for almost 35 years. Their goal is to bring together young people from Central and Eastern Europe in the framework of language courses, scholarships, and exchange projects.

Coaching »Making the choice«: Audiences, varieties, chances and developments in Open Access (March 2019): The coaching, organised by EEGA and the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), focused on chances and developments in Open Access publishing. After some introductory words from Lena Dallywater (EEGA) and Christine Gözl (GWZO), Julian Bauer (Leibniz Association) spoke about activities and funding opportunities with regard to Open Access Publications within the Leibniz Association. He was followed by Karolin Bove (University Library of Leipzig) who informed about options, challenges, and publication strategies in this specific publishing field. Gudrun Wirtz (Bavarian State Library), head of the Department of Eastern Europe, gave an overview of Open Access in Eastern Europe Studies with a focus on the Bavarian State Library. A final discussion on the coaching's topics and results with the three speakers and the audience completed the event.

08 Publications

Understanding and Explaining Islamophobia in Eastern Europe edited by Dr Alexander Yendell, published by EEGA in cooperation with the e-journal *Connections* (December 2018), is EEGA's first special issue. It focuses on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiments in a range of Eastern European countries. The articles offer general theoretical, cross-national, and comparative perspectives, as well as case-specific views. It is a multidisciplinary discussion as the authors come from different disciplines or use theories which were developed in various disciplines such as sociology, social psychology, political science, anthropology, and history. The special issue evolved from an EEGA financed workshop in November 2017.

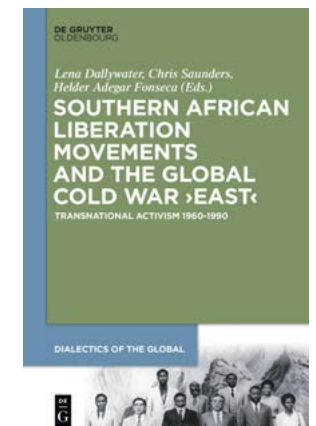


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Cover of EEGA's first special issue
«Understanding and Explaining
Islamophobia in Eastern Europe»
© EEGA

Southern African Liberation Movements and the Global Cold War 'East': Transnational Activism 1960–1990 edited by Lena Dallywater, Chris Saunders, and Helder Adegar Fonseca, published by DE GRUYTER OLDENBOURG in the series »Dialectics of the Global«, Vol. 4 (June 2019), is EEGA's first edited volume. The book evolved from an EEGA financed panel on »Southern African Liberation Movements: Transnational Connections in Southern Africa and with Countries in the 'East' (1960–1994)« at the Conference of the African Studies Association in Germany, in June 2018, in Leipzig.

The book launch took place at the 8th European Conference on African Studies Edinburgh on June 12, 2019. During the event the participants had the chance to browse through the pages and meet the authors, editors, and publishers of the book. Together with the publishing house de Gruyter (Berlin), EEGA organised a corresponding evening event at the Divino Enoteca. On June 15, the co-editors Lena Dallywater and Chris Saunders presented the book in Leipzig at the Conference »Revolutions and Transformations in a Global Perspective, 1989–2019«. The book has also been presented by two other co-editors of the book, Helder Adegar Fonseca and Chris Saunders, and one of the authors, Natalia Telepneva, in both English and Portuguese at the international conference »The Lusophone World: Global and Local Communities in Evora (Portugal)«, at the end of June 2019.

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Cover of EEGA's first edited
volume »Southern African
Liberation Movements and the
Global Cold War 'East'«
© De Gruyter



EEGA closely cooperates with the e-journal **Connections** (www.connections.clio-online.net/). EEGA has its own column »EEGA in dialogue«, publishing news, calls for applications and for papers, and events. It also serves as a platform for EEGA members, guest researchers, and postdoc fellows to publish their project outlines and first findings. For further publications of our EEGA fellows, please have a look at our **Open Access Library** (www.leibniz-eeqa.de/open-access/).

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