



EEGA

Leibniz ScienceCampus

Report

2019 – 2020

**Eastern Europe –
Global Area**

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01 EEGA Members

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**Leibniz Institute for
Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig**

Prof Dr Sebastian Lentz
(s_lentz@leibniz-ifl.de)
www.leibniz-ifl.de

**Centre for Area Studies (CAS) at Leipzig
University (new from January 2020:
Research Centre Global Dynamics
(ReCentGlobe))**

Prof Dr Matthias Middell
(middell@uni-leipzig.de)
<https://www.recentglobe.uni-leipzig.de/>

**Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish
Studies (ABZ) at Martin Luther University
Halle-Wittenberg and Friedrich Schiller
University Jena**

Prof Dr Yvonne Kleinmann
(yvonne.kleinmann@geschichte.uni-halle.de)
<http://www.aleksander-brueckner-zentrum.org>

**Fraunhofer Center for International
Management and Knowledge Economy
(IMW), Leipzig**

Prof Dr Thorsten Posselt
(thorsten.posselt@imw.fraunhofer.de)
<https://www.imw.fraunhofer.de>

**Institute of Geography at
Friedrich Schiller University Jena (IfG)**

Prof Dr Sebastian Henn
(sebastian.henn@uni-jena.de)
<http://www.geographie.uni-jena.de>

**Leibniz Institute for the History and
Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig**

Prof Dr Christian Lübke
(christian.luebke@leibniz-gwzo.de)
<https://www.leibniz-gwzo.de/de>

**Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development
in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle**

Prof Dr Thomas Glauben
(glauben@iamo.de)
<https://www.iamo.de>

**Max Planck Institute for
Social Anthropology (MPI), Halle**

Prof Marie-Claire Foblets PhD
Prof Dr Chris Hann
(foblets@eth.mpg.de)
(hann@eth.mpg.de)
<http://www.eth.mpg.de>

02 Preface

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In 2020, the Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA) finds itself in a unique situation: After four years of constant development, intensified international cooperation across the Atlantic, networking activities and a calendar full of events, trainings, workshops, and grants for PostDocs, the global Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way in which we are doing and conceptualising research. It has also changed the focus of research agendas and questions, with new dynamics of responses and positionings of societies towards the challenges posed by the pandemic, and a renewed awareness of local, national, regional, and global entanglements and connections. This shift in research agendas and methodologies comes in a crucial moment for EEGA in a second regard. In the reporting period, the eight cooperation partners, i.e. three universities, three Leibniz institutes, and two research institutions in the science region Leipzig – Halle – Jena, submitted an application to the Leibniz Association for a second funding phase for the ScienceCampus and, amongst Covid-19 turbulences, the Joint Science Conference (GWK) approved. In this second funding phase 2020–2024, EEGA welcomes new Research Area Coordinators, many of them PostDocs who have been integrated into EEGA's activities in the first four years, and the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (Leipzig) as a new institutional partner. Finally, the foundation of the ReCentGlobe at Leipzig University in 2020 marks a start into a new consolidation of research efforts, focusing on the study of globalisation processes, in the region.

We are particularly happy that the joint efforts of the first funding phase have yielded a text book for higher academic education on »Global Eastern Europe«, to be published in early 2021, which will facilitate

innovative teaching in this new field of inquiry. Combining expertise from all five EEGA research areas, the volume comprises findings and outcomes from more than three years of fruitful EEGA research activities. It stresses and demonstrates the importance of transregional perspectives on Eastern Europe, with regards to its global and regional entanglements and (self-)positioning in current and historical globalisation processes. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective, the textbook covers varied accounts of Eastern Europe's interaction with and influence on the global sphere, as well as of reverse processes, with individual actors at the centre of the analysis, as they preconfigure, articulate, delimit, position and transcend what has become a globally connected Eastern Europe. Each chapter is supported by maps and illustrations as part of a visual language that guides readers through Eastern Europe and its global entanglements.

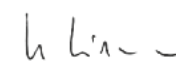
In the years to come, the researchers working together in the ScienceCampus will continue asking how societies of Eastern Europe position themselves in global processes and conflicts. EEGA's aim to communicate new research results in the media and to the broader public remains, and is probably more important than ever. Yet, conditions have changed and we are looking forward to an inspiring new year and second funding phase of EEGA. Conversations will hopefully be deepened at the upcoming regional conference of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) in April 2021 in Leipzig, organised in cooperation with three German partners, namely EEGA, ZöS and DGO.

Please stay in contact with us, online and in-person, and enjoy browsing through the pages of our annual 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 research 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 institutions, 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 societies in Eastern Europe with explicitly reflexive approach on Area Studies. It 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 culture of debate. The exchange with partners (guest researchers, journalists, etc.) from Eastern Europe allows to deepen the understanding of the region by combining internal and external approaches.

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 researchers and experts in related fields. It provides a subsequent line of education that starts from Master's courses and supports PhD-trainings. It completes with promoting thematic networking for postdocs and for highly qualified young academics. EEGA supports sharing experiences in academic teaching of new perspectives with a close links between research and education.

4) Within the 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 experience regarding research, network, and knowledge exchange activities within the Leibniz community.

04 Research Areas

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The Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« is organised in five research areas. In the following, they are presented with regard to their respective measures in 2019/20.

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **Prof Dr Helena Flam** (Leipzig University) and **Prof Dr Judith Miggelbrink** (TU Dresden)

Research Area 2

Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order

Coordination: **Prof Dr Frank Hadler** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) and **Prof Dr Matthias Middell** (Leipzig University)

Research Area 3

Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies

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

Research Area 4

Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications

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

Research Area 5

Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation and Diffusion

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

12 Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **Prof Dr Helena Flam** (Leipzig University) and **Prof Dr Judith Miggelbrink** (TU 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 2019/20, Research Area 1 welcomed two guest researchers:

→
Arokkiaraj Heller © private



› **Dr Arokkiaraj Heller:** six-months stay; research topic: Indian medical students' mobility choices to Eastern Europe and non-Eastern European countries: A comparative study.

»The benefit of EEGA lies in providing me to undertake a fresh project on students migration. During my stay, due to mentors, I advanced my knowledge of qualitative research techniques.« (Arokkiaraj Heller)

› **Dr Dorin Lozovanu:** six-months stay; research topic: Geography of Migration and Diaspora from Eastern Europe (case study of Moldova and Romania).

During his EEGA fellowship Dorin Lozovanu developed an application for a Georg Forster Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with the project **The Ethnic and Migration Diaspora: Case Study of Romanians and Moldovans in Europe**. The outcome of the application is expected in spring 2021. If successful, Dorin Lozovanu's new research project will be hosted by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography.

Research Area 2

Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order

Coordination: **Prof Dr Frank Hadler** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) and **Prof Dr Matthias Middell** (Leipzig University)

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 2019/20, Research Area 2 welcomed three guest researchers:

→
Bálint Varga © private



› **Dr Bálint Varga:** six-months stay; research topic: A Transnational History of the Late Habsburg Monarchy.

During his stay at EEGA he published an article on »America« in **Rural Hungary around 1900: Migration Networks and Rural Press in Creating Transnational Knowledge** at EEGA's cooperating e-journal **Connections – A Journal for Historians and Area Specialists**.

> **Dr Elkhani Nuriyev:** six-month stay; research topic: Competing Regionalisms in Post-Soviet Territory: Global Trends, Regional Implications for the EU's Eastern Partnership Countries.

»The benefit of EEGA lies in offering great opportunities for research fellows to broaden their horizons and to acquire new impressions. It is a transformative international experience to generate innovative ideas and boost professional network which is essential when launching new collaboration.« (Elkhani Nuriyev)

During his stay at EEGA he published an article on **The European Union, Russia and China: Competing Regionalisms in the Eastern Partnership Region** and a book review at EEGA's cooperating e-journal **Connections**.

> **Zoltán Ginelli:** six-months stay; research topic: Postcolonial Hungary: Eastern European Semiperipheral Positioning in Global Colonialism.

»The benefit of EEGA is providing the academic freedom to fulfil your research dreams with wonderful assistance from learned colleagues in globalization studies.« (Zoltán Ginelli)

During his stay in Leipzig he organised the EEGA supported workshop »The Return of the Colonial: Understanding the Role of Eastern Europe in Global Colonisation Debates and Decolonial Struggles«.

Lecture Series in Global Art History – »Global or Alter Global? Contemporary East-Central European Art Histories« (Winter term 2019/20): Organisers: Karolina Majewska-Güde (Catholic Private University Linz) and Beáta Hock. The concept of the guest lecture series »Global Art History« at KU Linz, Austria, was inspired by the question of what we can learn from the experiences of recent art historiography in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) about the practice of so-called »global art history«. Against the background that »global art history« often deals with the question of the decolonisation of art historical perspectives, Piotr Piotrowski's proposal of an alter-globalist art history that not only opposes the dominant canons of universal art history but is also highly critical of economic, civilisational, and cultural globalisation processes, was considered the starting point for the critical approaches of our guest speakers. The series problematised both the global perspective in art history from a regional perspective and the positioning of regional art histories in a global context. The lectures and the subsequent discussions provided an insight into theoretical and methodological questions but also introduced more recent art histories of individual Central and Eastern European countries such as the spatial shift and the globalisation of Central and Eastern European art history (Beáta Hock), CEE relations (Katarzyna Cytlak), the relationship to decolonisation (Bojana Piškur), new methodological concepts (Pavlaína Morganová), rewriting art history (Kathleen Reinhardt), and local and global interweaving (Irena Lagator). The programme of the meetings also gave an insight into the infrastructure of regional research – the speakers presented key publications, research centres, museums, networks, conferences and exhibitions related to recent art history in CEE.

Workshop »Conjunctural Geographies of Postsocialist and Postcolonial Conditions: Theory Thirty Years after 1989« (May 2020): Organisers: Mithilesh Kumar (Christ University, Bangalore) Wladimir Sgibnev and Lela Rekhviashvili (both Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography). In the light of Covid-19 the conjunctural geographies workshop was held online, and stretched over three days to accommodate time differences between different participants. The workshop hosted six panels on, »Postcolonial and Postsocialist Conditions: Space, Time, and Subjectivities«, »Labour, State, Capital: Capital-

ism and its Neoliberal Aftermaths«, »Nation, Othering, and Populism«, »Gender, Sexuality, and Social Reproduction«, »Civil Society and Social Movements« and »Informal Urbanism and Mobility Practices«. In the end, almost all the initially committed participants took part in the workshop and the reflection session showed a high level of satisfaction with the workshop. The positive response to the workshop led to the decision to publish a joint publication and to hold a further meeting, which will be accompanied by the keynote speech by Nivedita Menon, which will serve as a closure and summary of the project. The goal is to publish free access, short pieces that will reflect overall discussions of the workshop and present the audience on the state of art on current research mostly focusing on Eastern Europe but drawing comparisons with post-colonial/ global south contexts and engaging with southern and post-/decolonial theory. The key goal of the publication will be to outline how engagement with East-to-South comparisons and mutual learning sheds a new light on academic analysis of post-socialism: a task advocated for last three decades but only emerging with the engagement of promising young scholars, activists and artists.

Workshop »The Return of the Colonial: Understanding the Role of Eastern Europe in Global Colonisation Debates and Decolonial Struggles« (September 2020): The Workshop organised by our Postdoc Fellow Zoltán Ginelli together with Romina Istrate and Márton Demeter was supported by Decolonial Subversions and EEGA and built on previous initiatives of the Science-Campus and the Dialoguing Posts Network. In the event, invited scholars of Eastern European and Global or Trans-regional Studies from various fields debated how to organise and vocalise engagement from Eastern European scholars with colonialism, post-colonial theory and decolonial critiques better. Efforts to contextualise Eastern European histories of colonisation and decolonisation in relation to Western European colonialism are not new and there is emerging scholarship in this field. Yet it appears to have only little influence on mainstream post-colonial, decolonial and »whiteness« studies that currently shape discourses in the West and in many parts of the post-colonial Global South. The workshop's aim was to understand better what particular historical accounts and existing representations in western scholar-

ship Eastern European scholars might need to »reclaim« and how this could be pursued collectively. The series of virtual discussions resulted in a short commentary that outlines the state of Eastern European debates and opinions around these questions and offers suggestions towards a more organised approach in engaging with and contributing to the relevant debates worldwide. The commentary is designed to serve as a future roadmap for Eastern European scholars working in Global Colonisation Debates and Decolonial Struggles. Following the workshop, a mail list was set up on JISC to continue the conversations. The list aims to a) build a community of scholars grounded in Eastern European studies, from within or outside the region, b) to facilitate conversations around issues of (de)colonisation, and c) to promote a more organised regional approach in engaging with decolonial struggles worldwide. With these aims in mind, the list has been set up as a private discussion group to make communication and partnerships building more effective and manageable. Those who wish to be subscribed are welcome to reach the list owners (the workshop organisers) with a short justification why they wish to be subscribed. A workshop summary to serve as a roadmap for issues of (de)colonisation in the region will be released soon.

Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies

Coordination: **Prof Dr Sebastian Henn** (University of Jena), Prof Dr Thomas Glauben (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies – IAMO) and **Prof Dr Thorsten Posselt** (Fraunhofer 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 2019/20, Research Area 3 welcomed four guest researchers:

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Golib Sanaev
© IAMO



» **Dr Golib Sanaev:** six-months stay; research topic: Uzbekistan's integration into global cotton markets: The role of technological and institutional change.

»The benefit of the EEGA is that it has enabled me to establish a network with researchers from various disciplines studying the ongoing processes of agricultural development in Central Asia. Participation in the workshop at IAMO provided a platform for knowledge exchange, discussion, and networking and brought together over 40 participants from various research institutes and universities in Germany.« (Golib Sanaev)

During his stay at EEGA he organised the workshop »Agricultural Innovations, Rural Development and Globalization Processes in Central Asia« together with his IAMO colleague Nodir Djanibekov.

» **Dr Liudmyla Yefimenko:** one-month stay; research topic: Legitimacy problems and CSR strategies of Ukrainian agroholdings.

During her fellowship Liudmila Yefimenko worked on the joint publication **Agroholdings and Agricultural Science in Ukraine: Uneasy Bedfellows** with Taras Gagalyuk and Vladislav Valentinov (both Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies) that was published afterwards online at VoxUkraine.

→
Tetiana Galetska
© private



» **Dr Tetiana Galetska:** six-months stay; research topic: Economic and Welfare Impacts of an Ukraine-EU Partnership: The Case of Agri-food Sectors.

»The benefit of EEGA is an invaluable experience of international communication, which leads to new ideas, plans, concepts. On the whole, over the time, this experience will allow us all to change this world in a new and progressive direction.« (Tetiana Galetska)

→
Kinga Xénia Havadi-Nagy
© private



» **Dr Kinga Xénia Havadi-Nagy:** two-weeks stay; research topic: Short supply chains of agricultural products: tool of economic, social and environmental recovery of rural areas.

»The benefits of EEGA are various. First of all it provides research possibilities in a professional environment. Besides the research conducted in well endowed facilities, the fruitful exchange of ideas and experiences with international colleagues supports the fellows in their professional carrier. The gathered impulses can refresh the subjects of interest and publications. Finding common research topics for further cooperations with collaborators of the host institutions adds significant value to a short term research stay.« (Kinga Xénia Havadi-Nagy)

Workshop on »The IT industry as a driver for transformation in Central and Eastern Europe« (November 2019):

The two-day workshop in Lviv, Ukraine, was organised by Susann Schäfer (Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany), Nataliia Cherkas (Kyiv National Economic University named by Vadym Hetman) and Nicolai Teufel (University of Bayreuth, Germany). The participants of the event first visited Futura Hub with a detailed lecture from Nicolai Teufel, the director of Learnopolis and Tech StartUp School. The first keynote speaker Nataly Veremeeva (Director of TechUkraine, Kyiv IT Cluster) analysed in her lecture »Development of Tech Ecosystem in Ukraine: Findings, Challenges and Way Forward« the IT ecosystem of Ukraine as a whole as well as in the regional context, and focused on the necessity of IT Export Strategy implementation, which should be the result of joint efforts of the state and business. The lecture was followed by a panel discussion on the impact of IT industry on regional transformations with professional experts, who were invited from diverse fields: University council members and academics teaching future IT specialists, CEO of IT company, head of TTO, Members of IT cluster, CEO of Platform of Innovative partnership, city administration sector responsible for IT development. On the second day of the workshop Dr. Magdolna Sass (Institute for Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) held the second keynote on the topic »Participation in IT-related international value chains: a catching-up opportunity for CEE«. The presentations of the participants were organised in three sessions: Digitalisation, Skills and Education, Local and Global perspectives. The par-

ticipants of the workshop arrived from universities and research institutions of Ukraine, Germany, United Kingdom, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway and Georgia.

Workshop on »Agricultural Innovations, Rural Development and Globalization Processes in Central Asia« (February 2020):

The event was organised by EEGA fellow Golib Sanaev in the framework of a PostDoc research supported by EEGA and Nodir Djanibekov (IAMO). The full day workshop in Halle (Saale) brought together researchers from different disciplines. Its aim was to better understand processes of globalisation and agricultural innovations towards agricultural and rural development in Central Asian countries. In order to exploit agricultural potential in a sustainable way, innovations as well as reforms of the current institutional environment are required. Challenges relate to non-transparent and poorly defined land ownership and tenure relations, a high discretionary involvement of governments in input and output markets, high transaction costs, inadequate access to credit for farmers and a limited provision of public goods and services. However, innovations and integration into global markets will have implications for structural changes, rural labour markets, rural socio-economy, as well as farmers' behaviour. The important role of these processes has attracted attention of social scientists from various related fields, including agricultural economists. The workshop included presentations on eleven topics related to agriculture, innovation, rural development, and globalisation in Central Asia.

Research Area 4

Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications

Coordination: **Prof Dr Jürgen Heyde** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe / University of Halle-Wittenberg), **Prof Dr Yvonne Kleinmann** (University of Halle-Wittenberg/Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies), and **Prof Dr 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 2019/20, Research Area 4 welcomed four guest researchers:

> **Dr Nataša Jagdhuhn:** six-months stay; research topic: Collecting and Exhibiting Non-alignment: The Gallery of Art of the Non-Aligned Countries »Josip Broz Tito«.

»The biggest benefit of EEGA ScienceCampus for me was that it provided me with a period of 6 months to work exclusively on my project. The chance to cooperate with EEGA fellows and colleges at the GWZO was very helpful, both on the level of academic counselling as well as on the level of sharing practical information related to different forms of postdoc applications. I also used my time as a fellow to build up my profile as a scholar and to improve my academic network.« (Nataša Jagdhuhn)

> **Dr Laura Demeter:** six-months stay; research topic: Authoritarian Regimes and their Involvement in the Global Heritage Project during the Cold War.

> **Dr Anna Calori:** six-months stay; research topic: Bringing the global back home: Developing »socialist entrepreneurialism« and (re) making the workplace in a global perspective (1961–2008).

Anna Calori is co-editor and co-author of the edited volume **Between East and South: Spaces of Interaction in the Globalizing Economy of the Cold War** (by Anna Calori, Anne-Kristin Hartmetz, Bence Kocsev, James Mark, and Jan Zofka) published at the end of 2019.

> **Dr Jacqueline NieBer:** three-months stay; research topic: The Non-aligned Body. A Transnational History of Nude Tourism during the Cold War.

Conference on »Eastern European Emigrants and the Internationalisation of 20th Century Music Concepts« (January 2020): Intercultural transfers have always played a crucial role in music history. However, the 20th century in particular was one characterised by the global exchange of musical concepts and techniques. Emigration was a strong catalyst for these processes, especially with regard to artists from Eastern Europe, beginning with and even before the Russian October Revolution. The international conference at the Musicological Institute of Leipzig University, organised by Anna Fortunova and Stefan Keym, brought together 17 musicologists and other researchers from Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, France, and Germany to rethink the relationship between the emigration of artists and scholars from Eastern Europe and the globalisation of ideas. In his keynote lecture, Christoph Flamm (Lübeck/Heidelberg) highlighted not only the negative aspects of (mostly forced) emigration but also its positive results as an enrichment for the host culture. In the final discussion, Stefan Keym highlighted some results of the conference: Firstly, there was great diversity in the aesthetics as well as in the careers of the émigrés. Secondly, geographical mappings should always be questioned, since the very terms »Eastern« and »Western Europe« depend on the point of view and cannot be clearly defined. Thirdly, the different perspectives and narratives from which the life and creative paths of the emigrated composers were experienced and portrayed should be taken into account. Finally, the success of an émigré's integration into and interaction with his or her host culture depended largely on the needs of the latter, as the theory of intercultural transfer has pointed out.



→ Participants of the conference study textbooks on the topic
© Felicitas Förster

Research Area 5

Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation and Diffusion

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

Around 1989/91, 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 2019/20, Research Area 5 welcomed one guest researcher:



→ Micha Fiedlschuster
© private

> **Dr Micha Fiedlschuster:** six-months stay; research topic: The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum: A transnational school of democracy or school of management'?

»The benefit of EEGA for me is that I can dedicate time to write a proposal for a new research project, which will help me to secure long-term funding. Second, I can discuss my research project with the colleagues at the member institutions of the EEGA ScienceCampus. I benefit a lot from the interdisciplinarity of the EEGA ScienceCampus and the intellectual environment at its member institutions. The expertise on Eastern Europe at the GWZO and the IfL is in particular helpful to develop my research ideas further. Last but not least, the other guest researchers contribute to the accommodating atmosphere at the work place.« (Micha Fiedlschuster)

05 Promotion of Young Researchers

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 second three-year **PhD-fellow, Alexander Dontsov** (in cooperation with the Leipzig University). He is working on the effects of intensification and expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative in Central-Eastern Europe on Russia's foreign policy, with supervision of Professor Dr Matthias Middell.

At the end of 2019 EEGA welcomed three talented **post-graduate students**, who developed their PhD proposals in the research field of EEGA:

> **Anna Zheltoukhova:** two-months fellowship; research topic: New origins of nationalism in the context of Eastern European political history.

> **Luka Ekhvaia:** three-months fellowship; research topic: The Patriot Camps as experimental Spaces for Exercising the Memory Politics of the Post-Rose Revolution Regime and for Mass Mobilization of the Youth.

»The benefit of EEGA resides in creating a platform of opportunity that provides scholars with communication, interaction, and improvement of their professional networks. Collaborative effort of EEGA's members bring new solutions into rapidly evolving global communities, and has proven to be essential for academic research.« (Alexander Dontsov)

Alexander Dontsov © private



Mashkura Babadjanova
© private



> **Mashkura Babadjanova:** three-months fellowship; research topic: Analysing the impact of Climate change on wheat productivity in Central Asia.

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 research blog or newsletter.

Coaching Workshop »Project Management for third-party funded projects: application, execution and controlling« (August 2019): The tailor-made workshop offered targeted coaching on visualisation, planning and monitoring tools in the context of third-party funded projects and was aimed in particular at junior researchers applying for or directing third-party funded projects. All three phases: application, implementation and controlling, were dealt with. Christian van den Kerckhoff from the Education Centre of Wissenschaftsladen Bonn e.V. developed the two-day programme. The workshop was the result of a cooperation of EEGA with the CRC 1199 at the University of Leipzig and the GWZO Leipzig.

Workshop »Zukunft Osteuropa« with EEGA Meet & Greet (October 2019): The Young German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, DGO) organised a day for career orientation and networking for young people interested in Eastern Europe for the second time. More than 60 young people from all parts of Germany took part in the event. The participants took the opportunity to talk to experts from different fields who are academically and professionally involved with Eastern Europe. The main aim was to gather ideas for their own professional future. In four workshops, representatives from the fields of international cooperation, media, business and academia presented their own professional careers and current fields of work. The subsequent »Market of Opportunities« with about 20 booths offered the participants the opportunity to inform themselves about other professional fields and institutions with a connection to Eastern Europe. During the breaks, at the final discussion and at the »Meet & Greet« organised by EEGA, it became clear how informative and important the discussions among the participants were.

Concentrated work of the workshop participants © EEGA



06 Internationalisation and Partnerships

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Next to the many personal contacts and existing networks at individual level, EEGA strives for a further internationalisation of the ScienceCampus and promotes establishing international partnerships. To this end, the following activities were launched in the last reporting period:

An application for an EEGA panel at the **ENIUGH Conference 2020 in Turku, Finland** was approved. Due to Covid-19 the congress was postponed to 2021.

First contacts have been established and conversations with representatives from **research centres and institutions from Prague, Budapest, Glasgow, and Helsinki** began in December 2019. There, amongst others, the expansion of the EEGA partnership network for the training of young academics have been discussed.

The application for a booth at the **Research Forum of the Congress of Historical Sciences in Poznan** this year was accepted. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the congress was unfortunately postponed to 2021, so EEGA will hopefully participate next year.

Following the first successful Regional Conference in Uppsala, Sweden, the **British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES)** organises its second **Regional Conference** in cooperation with EEGA. Further collaboration partners are the Centre for East

European and International Studies (ZOIS) and the German Association for East European Studies (DGO). The conference was to take place in Leipzig in September but was postponed to April 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the theme **»Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements«**, the conference seeks to stimulate and discuss research on these border-crossing encounters in a comparative perspective. Aiming to stimulate a debate about interpretations across historical periods and geographical spaces, the conference brings together perspectives and case studies from a variety of disciplines.

The close cooperation between EEGA and BASEES is also reflected in the recently approved **institutional membership of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography** at BASEES.

Two events in New York City, USA, have received special attention from EEGA partners, colleagues and the public:

The **academic colloquium »Globalizing Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements of an often Neglected Region«** took place on 13 September, 2019, at the Jordan Center, NYU, in New York City. It was organised by EEGA in cooperation with Jane Burbank (NYU) and the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at NYU. The event presented recent findings of this network and aimed to engage in a debate with colleagues from the US on how to look at

this often neglected region when it comes to the search of Russia and East Central Europe for an adequate position in today's world order. In a first panel specific reactions to environmental problems and new geopolitical ambitions as well as specific reactions to migration were discussed both from an historical and contemporary perspective but also attempts to integrate the vast post-Soviet space economically in times of the rise of China. A second panel of the event was devoted to historical roots of these current geopolitical ambitions.

The **Science Lounge »Riding the backlash against globalization – US positioning towards Russia's role in the world«** in January 2020 organised by the Leibniz Association, the German Consulate General New York, the German Center for Research and Innovation New York and EEGA provided a platform for public debate. It brought together researchers from both sides of the Atlantic, media representatives, NGOs, and policy advisors to discuss different perspectives on how to understand and react to geopolitics, migration, and regional development in Russia and Eastern Europe, and its posi-

tion in a globalised world. The event opened up a space for exchange between European and US communities, connecting public and academic discussions on both sides of the Atlantic. Benedikt Brisch (Director DWIH New York), David Gill (German Consul General in New York) and Matthias Kleiner (President of the Leibniz Association) gave welcoming remarks. Together with the audience, Corey Johnson (Department Head at University of North Carolina at Greensboro), Beth Mitchneck (Professor Emerita at the University of Arizona) and Sebastian Lentz (Director of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig) then challenged existing presumptions and empty words. In an open conversation the experts offered insights into the mechanisms and structures of Eastern European societies and tried to understand the plethora of perceptions of seemingly overpowering processes of globalisation, as well as the kaleidoscope of individual reactions to them. James M. Lindsay (Senior Vice President, Director of Studies, and Maurice R. Greenberg Chair at the Council on Foreign Relations) moderated the discussion.



↑

The discussants on the podium (from left to right): Sebastian Lentz, Corey Johnson, Beth Mitchneck and James M. Lindsay (moderator) © Nathalie Schueller

07 Knowledge Transfer and Interaction with the Media

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



→ Gert Pickel in conversation with moderator Gemma Pörzgen
© Swen Reichhold



← Krisztian Simon, Farhan Janjua and Tamina Kutscher (from left) discuss about the freedom of the media in different countries © Swen Reichhold

After a successful first edition in 2018, **EEGA's second Summer School with Journalists** was held in September 2019, in Leipzig. The four-day event with the topic **»Populism in European Societies – Repercussions in the Media«**, moderated by freelance journalist Gemma Pörzgen, featured panels, workshops, media-trainings and lectures, and targeted a diverse audience of academics, journalists and the interested public.

The event started off with a lecture by Gert Pickel (Leipzig University) on populist tendencies in Eastern Europe. Pickel explained radical populism as a global phenomenon and described its current forms in Eastern Europe. Pickel was followed by Jan-Hinrik Schmidt (Hans Bredow-Institute Hamburg) with a lecture on the effects of digital media on public opinion.

The second day started with a panel on **»Communicating Science,«** opened with a paper presentation by Svetluša Surova (Gnarum). Surova claimed that **»greater transparency and ethics«** in communicating academic output, i.e. an alliance of academia and journalism, was **»neither possible nor needed«** because of the methodological differences between the trades. Parallel to the panel, Volker Hahn (iDiv Leipzig) offered a media workshop for all those who wanted to improve their media communication skills. Later that day, Tamina Kutscher presented her online project Dekoder, which features annotated articles and videos from independent Russian media outlets in German. The second panel, **»Reaching diverse audiences«**, started with a presentation on **»Populism on Television Political Talkshows«** in the Ukraine, by Kostiantyn Yanchenko (MA student at Hamburg University). Yanchenko was followed by Christine Gözl (GWZO), who spoke about new formats of scientific communication at GWZO. Dennis Grollmann then added his

experience with balanced reporting in his work at the private radio station Antenne Düsseldorf. The panel ended with an interactive workshop by Marius Dragomir, who spoke about research and practise in science communication at his former job at Open Society Foundations and in his current position as director of the Center for Media, Data and Society (CEU) in Budapest.

The third day started with a panel on the **»Freedom of the Media«**. First, Hungarian journalist Krisztian Simon talked about foreign grants in independent Russian and Hungarian newsrooms. He was then followed by Farhan Janjua, who gave an account of his journalistic work on human and digital rights as well as queer issues in Pakistan. These reports were commented on in a fruitful round table on **»Comparative Perspectives on Repercussions of Populism in the Media«**, comparing the German, Hungarian and Ukrainian media landscapes. A discussion on **»Right Wing Populism and Islamophobia in East and West«** completed this outlook. Psychologist Oliver Decker concluded the third day with a presentation of the work of the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Right-Wing Extremism and their contribution to documenting the alarming rise of anti-Semitism and the polarisation of society in Eastern Germany.

On the last day of the Summer School, Insa van den Berg (freelance journalist) offered a workshop for the preparation of press releases and conferences. She highlighted the differences between journalistic and academic **»languages«** and methods, pointing out the prevalence of falsification in the former and verification in the latter.

The Summer School ended with a positive summary and outlook. Here, participants and organisers clearly expressed their satisfaction with the Summer School and its fruitful and engaging debates and presentations.

Book Launch »A History of Modern Political Thought in East Central Europe« (October 2019): In cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), EEGA organised a book presentation of the two-volume **History of Modern Political Thought in East Central Europe** in Leipzig. The first Volume **Negotiating Modernity in the ›Long Nineteenth Century‹** was published in 2016. The two-part second volume followed in 2018 and consists of **Part I: Negotiating Modernity in the ›Short Twentieth Century‹ (1918–1968) and Negotiating Modernity in the ›Short Twentieth Century‹ and Beyond, Part II: 1968–2018**. Part I and II of the second volume were presented by two of the editors, Maria Falina and Michal Kopeček. Friedrich Cain (Junior Fellow at the Max-Weber-Kolleg for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies of Erfurt University) moderated the event. Joachim von Puttkamer (chair of Eastern European History at Friedrich Schiller University Jena und Director of the Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena) commented on the two-volume project. The synthetic work, authored by an international team of researchers, covers twenty national cultures and 250 years and offers the first-ever synthetic overview of the history of modern political thought in East Central Europe. After the book presentation, a thought-provoking discussion arose. Viewers were encouraged to rethink some of the basic assumptions about the history of modern political thought and modernity as such.



← Maria Falina (on the right): Michal Kopeček talking about the difficulties in composing the book © EEGA

Film Screening (November 2019): In November 2019 the film **Godovščina Revoljucii/Anniversary of the Revolution (1918) – Dziga Vertov's film debut reconstructed** was presented with an introductory lecture and discussion at UT Connewitz, Leipzig. On the occasion of the revolution and civil war in Soviet Russia, a long documentary film, »Anniversary of the Revolution«, was made between 1917 and 1918 directed by the then 22-year-old David Abelevič Kaufman, later world-famous as Dziga Vertov. It shows scenes of ordinary citizens but also of the revolutionaries Lenin and Trotsky on celluloid. After the Civil War, Trotsky's images disappeared from the archives and the film was lost in its entirety. Under the direction of the film historian Nikolai Izvolov, the film was successfully reconstructed at the Russian State Archive for Film and Photo Documents in Krasnogorsk. The introductory lecture was held by Barbara Wurm (HU Berlin). The film was accompanied live with music by Richard Siedhoff.

Panel Discussion »Research under the Covid-19 condition – Eastern Europe as a Global Area (September 2020): Due to the current travel restrictions and health requirements worldwide, the second Regional Conference of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) on »Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements«, originally planned for September 2020, in Leipzig, Germany in cooperation with EEGA, ZOIS and DGO,



← Lively interaction with international guests © Swen Reichhold

had to be postponed to 21–24 April 2021, keeping as much of its current programme set-up as possible. On 16 September 2020, a small-scale event was organised in its place, discussing topical issues in a panel discussion, and celebrating the approval and start of a second funding phase of EEGA with members, colleagues and cooperation partners.

The evening featured a two-part discussion with two rounds, 45 minutes each. For this event, a roundtable discussion in Leipzig with representatives from all organising institutions, moderated by the free journalist Gemma Pörzgen (Berlin), and with a small audience of EEGA fellows, Research Area Coordinators, and interested colleagues from partner institutions was organised. The roundtables featured Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOIS), Judith Pallot (BASEES), Matthias Middell (EEGA), Gabriele Freitag (DGO), Réka Krizmanics (Leipzig University), and Stefan Rohdewald (Leipzig University) who discussed, firstly, research questions that arise because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and secondly, impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on practicalities of empirical research. In the conversation they tackled broader questions regarding the global entanglements the pandemic has demonstrated, and ruptures that have shown themselves more brazenly than before, and they also addressed the practical effects on teaching and empirical research.

Historian Stefan Rohdewald elaborating on new research horizons © Swen Reichhold



08 Publications

Textbook Project »Eastern Europe: A Global Area«

As one of the main EEGA activities in the first funding phase, an editorial board has started working on the textbook project »Eastern Europe: A Global Area« in November 2019. Combining expertise from all five EEGA research areas, the volume comprises findings and outcomes from more than three years of fruitful EEGA research activities. It stresses and demonstrates the importance of transregional perspectives on Eastern Europe, with regards to its global and regional entanglements and (self-)positioning in current and historical globalisation processes.

The textbook aims to provide MA and PhD students, in study programmes at EEGA's partner institutions in Halle, Jena and Leipzig, as well as abroad, with an authoritative and simply written learning tool. Each chapter and case study can be used individually or as an overall guide for structure and content in seminars, lectures and other academic settings. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective, the textbook comprises varied accounts of Eastern Europe's interaction with and influence on the global sphere, as well as of reverse processes, with a focus on the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The book's didactic approach puts individual actors at the centre of the analysis, as they preconfigure, articulate, delimit, position and transcend what has become a globally connected Eastern Europe.

The chapters cover a variety of disciplines, with topics ranging from geopolitical visions of Eastern Europe and their impact on international relations over natural resources, environmental policies and climate change, as well as transnational and global aspects of Eastern European music history to Eastern European legal systems and their integration in international legal frameworks.

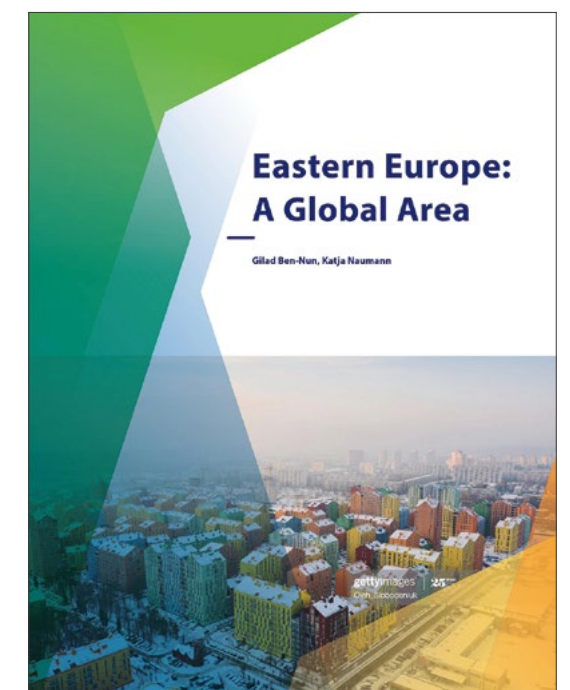
Each chapter is supported by maps and illustrations as part of a visual language that guides readers through Eastern Europe and its global entanglements.

The editorial board consists of Katja Nauman and Gilad Ben-Nun. Naumann, specialist for transregional and transnational entanglements of Eastern Europe, has been researcher at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) since 2008. Ben-Nun, former EEGA research fellow and lecturer for Global and Migration Studies at Leipzig University, is a historian of international law and an expert on the history of refugee law.

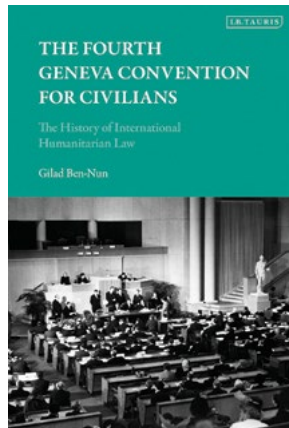
Together with the authors, students and EEGA postdoc fellows, the editors critically discussed the conceptual rationale of the textbook and the chapters' set-ups, complemented by a virtual seminar (see EEGA in Times of Covid-19).

The textbook is to be published in early 2021.

Draft Layout of the cover of the text book
project »Eastern Europe: A Global Area«



Gilad Ben-Nun, EEGA staff member and EEGA textbook editor, successfully completed his habilitation at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy at Leipzig University. The corresponding publication **The Fourth Geneva Convention for Civilians. The History of International Humanitarian Law** was published by Bloomsbury at the beginning of 2020.



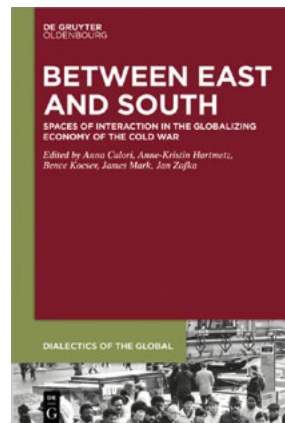
←
Cover of Ben-Nun's book
The Fourth Geneva
Convention for Civilians

Our EEGA fellow **Eric Burton** published an article on **Decolonization, the Cold War, and Africans' routes to higher education overseas, 1957–65** in the *Journal of Global History*, 15(1), 169–191, at Cambridge University Press in 2020. The first draft was written during his stay at EEGA ScienceCampus.



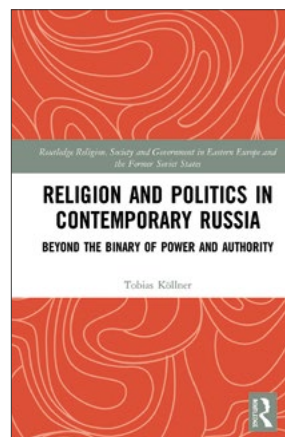
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Cover of Volume 15, Issue 1
(March 2020) of the *Journal of
Global History*

Our EEGA PostDoc fellow **Anna Calori** co-edited the book **Between East and South: Spaces of Interaction in the Globalizing Economy of the Cold War**. It was published in the series »Dialectics of the Global«, volume 3, at De Gruyter Oldenbourg in 2019.



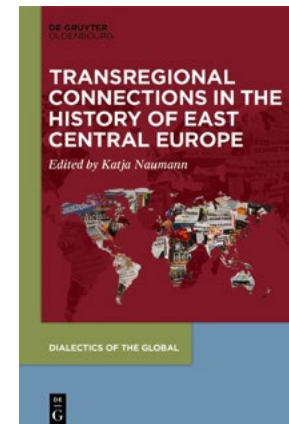
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Published at De Gruyter
Oldenbourg: Between East and
South: Spaces of Interaction in
the Globalizing Economy of the
Cold War by co-editor and
EEGA fellow Anna Calori

Tobias Köllner, one of our first guest researchers at EEGA 2017, successfully completed his habilitation in general sociology at the Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg in November 2019. The corresponding publication **Religion and Politics in Contemporary Russia: Beyond the Binary of Power and Authority** will be published in 2020 as a monograph in the Routledge Religion, Society and Government in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet States book series where Tobias Köllner has published an edited volume recently.



←
Cover of Tobias Köllner's book
Religion and Politics in
Contemporary Russia: Beyond
the Binary of Power and
Authority that is based on his
habilitation thesis

Katja Naumann, former EEGA staff member and EEGA textbook editor, completed her work on the publication **Transregional Connections in the History of East Central Europe**. The book is published in spring 2021 within the series Dialectics of the Global, at De Gruyter Oldenbourg.



←
Cover of Transregional
Connections in the History
of East Central Europe

Arising from her EEGA fellowship **Liudmila Yefimenko** (Tavria State Agrotechnological University) issued a **joint publication** in 2020 with Dr Taras Gagalyuk and Prof Dr Vladislav Valentinov (both Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies) online at VoxUkraine. The title of the contribution is **Agroholdings and Agricultural Science in Ukraine: Uneasy Bedfellows**.



↑
Screenshot of the online article Agroholdings and Agricultural Science in Ukraine by EEGA fellow Liudmila Yefimenko

EEGA closely cooperates with the e-journal **Connections** (<http://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.

The articles and reviews published by EEGA's PostDoc Fellows:

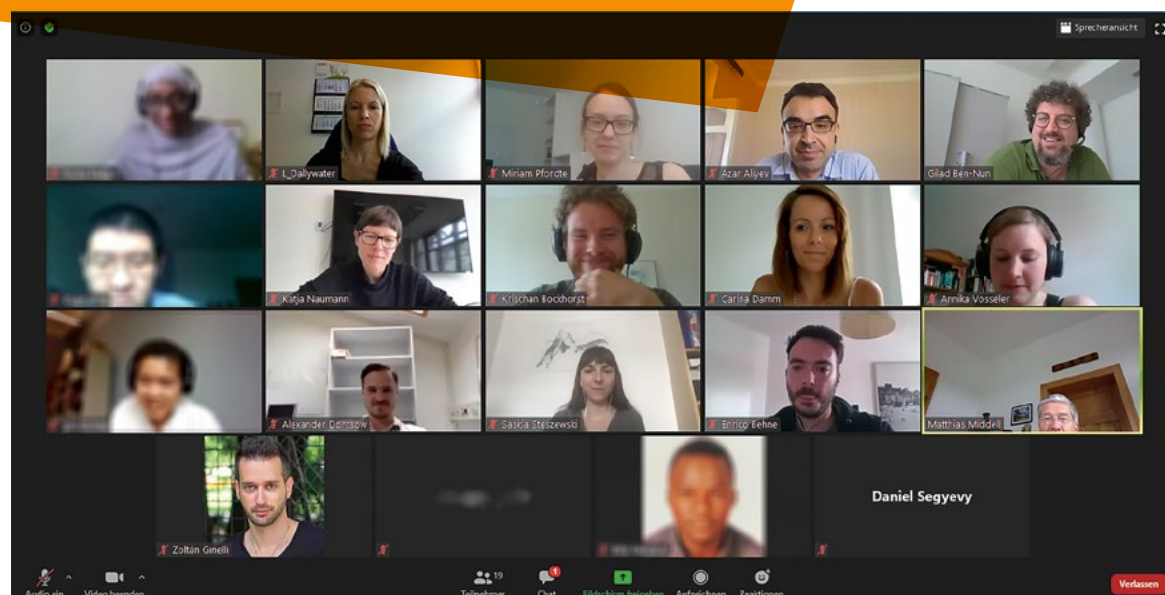
- > **Bálint Varga:** »America' in Rural Hungary around 1900: Migration Networks and Rural Press in Creating Transnational Knowledge
- > **Laura Demeter:** review on **Building a Common Past. World Heritage in Russia under Transformation, 1965–2000** (by Corinne Geering)
- > **Stefan Telle:** **Populism and Citizenship in the European Union: Beyond Supply- and Demand-Explanations**
- > **Bojana Matejic:** review on **Globalizing East European Art Histories: Past and Present** (edited by Beáta Hock and Anu Allas)
- > **Elkhan Nuriyev:** **The European Union, Russia and China: Competing Regionalisms in the Eastern Partnership Region**
- > **Elkhan Nuriyev:** review on **Russia, the EU, and the Eastern Partnership** (by Vasile Rotaru)

For further publications of EEGA and our EEGA fellows, please have a look at our **Open Access Library** (<https://www.leibniz-eege.de/open-access/>)

09 EEGA in Times of Covid-19

At EEGA, most activities aim to connect researchers on Eastern Europe from around the world. The ScienceCampus – much like many other academic institutions – was thus hit hard by the travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders enacted to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Screenshot of one of the seminar sessions © EEGA
↓



Numerous 2020 EEGA events had to be cancelled or postponed. At the start of the pandemic, the academic outreach event EEGA Science Lounge on »Culture Contested? The state of East-Central Europe's cultural landscapes between national, European and international levels«, planned for 18 March, unfortunately could not take place. Frank Hadler (GWZO/EEGA, Leipzig), Yoshiko Waki (Berlin-based choreographer), Bernd Karwen (Polish Institute, Leipzig) and Beáta Hock (project »Multiple Transformations 1989«, Leipzig) were invited to discuss recent cultural developments in East-Central Europe: How can these developments be understood in the context of post-1989 transformations? How do cultural policy makers in East-Central Europe work today, and why does the West often perceive these policies as nationalist? The UNESCO Chair for Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development, Wolfgang Schneider, was invited to moderate the event. In light of its topicality, the event is planned to take place in 2021.

A two-day workshop on »Conjunctural Geographies of Postsocialist and Postcolonial Conditions: Theory Thirty Years after 1989«, planned for 15–16 May, was successfully adapted to the new circumstances. With their workshop, Mithilesh Kumar (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Patna), Wladimir Sgibnev and Lela Rekhviashvili (both IfL) promoted the academic debate on »globalisation, crisis, and their aftermath« for the »conjunctural geographies of postsocialist and postcolonial conditions.« The organisers point to the fact that categories such as East-West, North-South, Core-Periphery, etc. have failed to accurately represent the global condition, especially with regards to Eastern Europe. With more than ten confirmed presenters and more than 60 participants, the virtual workshop received a lot of attention, and a follow-up is envisaged for spring next year.

Luckily, Katja Naumann and Gilad Ben-Nun could move their summer term EEGA-PhD seminar on »Global Eastern Europe« to online platforms, as Leipzig University shut down in-person teaching for the entire summer term. As research on Eastern Europe has been shaped by occidental-centric narratives, their seminar strived to

apply novel, actor-based and transregional heuristic tools and approaches in the investigation of Eastern Europe's global entanglements, with a focus on the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. With more than 20 participants, the seminar proved to be a real success.

The major EEGA event of 2020 was similarly affected, the September Regional Conference on »Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements«, a cooperation with the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES). Eventually, the programme committee postponed the conference to 21–24 April 2021, keeping as much of its programme set-up as possible. In the place of the conference, a virtual panel was organised to discuss research questions that had arisen with the Covid-19 pandemic, and its consequences for practicalities of empirical research.

Of course, the pandemic also impacted our fellowship programme. Living abroad, Maryna Rabynovich had to postpone the start of her fellowship, while Zoltán Ginelli luckily made it to Germany right before the borders were shut. The EEGA Fellow meetings, an opportunity for fellows to network and present their research, were held online. Maryna Rabynovich's and Dorin Lozovanu's study trip with the Global and Area Studies Graduate School at Leipzig University on the »EU's Oriental Question«, planned for 31 March – 7 April 2020, also had to be cancelled.

While remote working was a change from the usual goings-on at EEGA, it also offered real benefits. Some fellows reported they felt more productive, having made good progress with third party funding applications, publications and giving online presentations. EEGA staff profited from more flexibility and established new efficient online workflows. Despite events being postponed or cancelled, we redirected our energies from event organisation into publications (s. textbook and edited volume) and arranged the start of EEGA's second funding phase in October 2020. The pandemic clearly challenges our work at EEGA, but fortunately, ways could be found to adapt to the new scenario productively.

> Jacqueline Nießer

The Covid-19 lock-down started after one month of my fellowship in Leipzig, but talks and meetings that were scheduled during March had already be cancelled nevertheless. Networking therefore was inhibited from the very beginning. I had my office at Leipzig University, SFB 1199, right in the center of town – perfect for getting a sense of the city on the way to and after work. I used the quiet first month for completing an article which I had not finished due to teaching in the winter term. Right at the time after submitting the article, I embarked working on the grant application that I envisaged to elaborate during my stay at EEGA, but due to the lock-down I stayed the first weeks back home in Regensburg, unsure whether I would be allowed to travel to and work in Leipzig. As home office proved to be less productive, I decided to take the risk, travelled to Leipzig where I was anyway subletting a flat and checked whether I would be permitted in the office. I resumed office work, but could not meet with the professors and researchers intended for discussing my plans for the grant application. We eventually arranged for phone calls and during May, some would go for a walk in the park to exchange, too. Only in my last month of fellowship virtual meetings with other EEGA fellows were arranged. They proved to be valuable and I regret we could never meet in person and discuss more. I had some books from our institute's library with me which I could keep during my whole fellowship due to the lock-down – a positive side effect. I would have loved to attend academic events at Leipzig University and other research institutions, and I really miss that I could not take advantage of the rich cultural scene of the town. Despite the unusual conditions however, I was productive, stayed healthy and profited from my short fellowship at EEGA.

Three EEGA fellows talk about their scholarships under Covid-19 conditions



←
Jacqueline Nießer
© neverflash



→
Zoltán Ginelli
© Dániel Borovi

> Zoltán Ginelli

My experiences were hectic: I arrived in emergency just when borders closed. The inability to plan ahead caused many disruptions, but EEGA co-ordinators were flexible and helpful. At first, I was optimistic about continuing work on already collected materials and online sources, but in a few months the situation became mentally challenging, despite my affinity to work in home office and isolation. Due to office regulations, I decided not to apply for office space. University services were unavailable for 2 months, although Leipzig University adapted relatively fast, and inter-library loans did magic. The pandemic's major blow came on my historical research, since most archives became impossible to reach even through mediators. All conferences were called off, including BA-SEES in Leipzig, my first-time travel grant to the ASEES convention in Washington D.C. and my invitation to Singapore. Our long-planned exhibition for OFF-Biennale Budapest had to be postponed. Joint applications became sluggish, since project partners had developed many administrative burdens and family commitments. Managing a crammed spring schedule and planning future events in 2021, including my scholarship to do research in Columbia University's archives, has raised many questions, especially due to pre-funding. Although the pandemic did demonstrate flexible technological possibilities in online communication, which pointed out academia's unnecessary indebteding of young researchers in costly conferencing, teaching and participation in events lacked meaningful, important personal interaction.

→
Elkhan Nuriyev
© Christina
Anzenberger-Fink



> Elkhan Nuriyev

Covid-19 has neither influenced nor interrupted my research work under the EEGA fellowship. The pandemic has only affected face-to-face networking. Since joining the Leibniz ScienceCampus in April 2020, however, I have remained intellectually active, discussing my project and sharing my expertise, be it during online meetings in Leipzig, at international conferences and virtual speaking engagements, or in the form of written academic papers. As such, I gave a colloquium at the IfL on 8 June 2020, and also made a presentation at the SFB/ReCent-Globe on 24 June 2020. In addition, I spoke at the expert workshop organised by Austrian Institute for European Security on 9 June 2020, and then also gave a talk at the international conference held by the George Marshall Center for Security Studies on 25 June 2020. Moreover, I wrote a research article and prepared a book review. Both papers have recently been submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed e-journal Connections. One more academic article is expected to be published in the Austrian journal Wirtschaft und Management.

Contact

Leibniz ScienceCampus
Eastern Europe – Global Area (EEGA)
c/o Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
Schongauerstraße 9
04328 Leipzig, Germany

<http://www.leibniz-eega.de>
<https://leibniz-ifl.de/funktionen/kontakt>

Coordination

Lena Dallywater, M.A.

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
L_Dallywater@leibniz-ifl.de
Phone +49 341 600 55-266

Melanie Mienert, M.A.

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
M_Mienert@leibniz-ifl.de
Phone +49 341 600 55-267

Speaker

Prof Dr Sebastian Lentz

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
S_Lentz@leibniz-ifl.de

Prof Dr Erich Schröger

Vice-Rector for Research and Young Academics
of Leipzig University
prorektor.forschung@uni-leipzig.de

Prof Dr Matthias Middell

Leipzig University
Middell@uni-leipzig.de

Editorial Board EEGA Text Book

Dr Gilad Ben-Nun

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography /
Leipzig University
Gilad.ben-nun@uni-leipzig.de

Dr Katja Naumann

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography /
Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture
of Eastern Europe
Katja.naumann@leibniz-gwzo.de

Imprint

Leibniz ScienceCampus
Eastern Europe – Global Area (EEGA)
c/o Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
Schongauerstraße 9
04328 Leipzig, Germany

Phone +49 341 60055-266
Fax +49 341 60055-198
leibniz-eega@leibniz-ifl.de

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leibniz-eega@leibniz-ifl.de
Phone +49 341 60055-266

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