

Report

2020 – 2021

**Eastern Europe –
Global Area**

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01 Preface

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At the end of the last reporting period, the Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA) and its members found themselves in the typical severe lockdown-situation induced by the Covid-19 pandemic. While international travelling for research and conferences had come to a complete halt, teaching and meeting tools had been adjusted to online formats, Postdoc fellows pursued their projects from home offices in Leipzig, Halle and Jena, and novel ways of academic exchange in virtual conferences were established. In autumn 2020, the nine co-operation partners, i.e. three universities, four Leibniz institutes, and two renowned research institutions in the science region Leipzig – Halle – Jena, signed the co-operation agreement for a second funding phase of the ScienceCampus 2020 – 2024, which the German Joint Science Conference had approved in spring that year. Starting from October 2020, EEGA welcomed new coordinators of the newly founded Research Areas, many »Affiliate Researchers« from EEGA's partner institutions, and the colleagues of the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (Leipzig) as a new institutional partner. In chapter 3, you will find more information on the new actors, set-up, as well as on the focal points of EEGA in the 4 years to come.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has not lost its global relevance, the start of this second funding phase was yet productive. The text book for higher academic education, edited by Gilad Ben-Nun, Katja Castryck-Naumann and Lena Dallywater, presents global perspectives in Eastern Europe which aims to encourage teaching in this new field of inquiry. The book proposal has

gone through extensive review and has gained two new chapters with innovative perspectives on Islam in Eastern Europe and on Literature and the Arts. Half of the contributions are written and the volume – published by Bloomsbury – is expected to come out in 2022.

Conversations among young and senior researchers from Eastern Europe have been deepened at the regional conference of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), organised in co-operation with three German partners, namely EEGA, the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS) and the German Association for East European Studies (DGO) in April 2021 in Leipzig. Chapter 5 provides detailed insights.

In the newly established EEGA Colloquium – a forum for Global, Trans-regional and Eastern European Studies – numerous events, to a large extent also as co-operations by and with EEGA members, took place. Researchers from the ranks of EEGA partners, EEGA's own research areas and EEGA fellows used the event to present and discuss activities, projects and plans with experts from different fields (see chapter 7).


Finally, the application for a Graduate School on Eastern Europe as Globalisation Project with the participation of several EEGA member institutions and individual researchers is well on its way, with two PhD candidates starting their research projects at Leipzig University already this summer.

In this report, we are looking back on this fresh start and forward to many more joint activities to come.

Yours Sincerely,



Prof Dr Sebastian Lentz
(Spokesperson)



Prof Dr Matthias Middell
(Spokesperson)

02 EEGA Members

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03 EEGA in its Second Funding Phase

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.

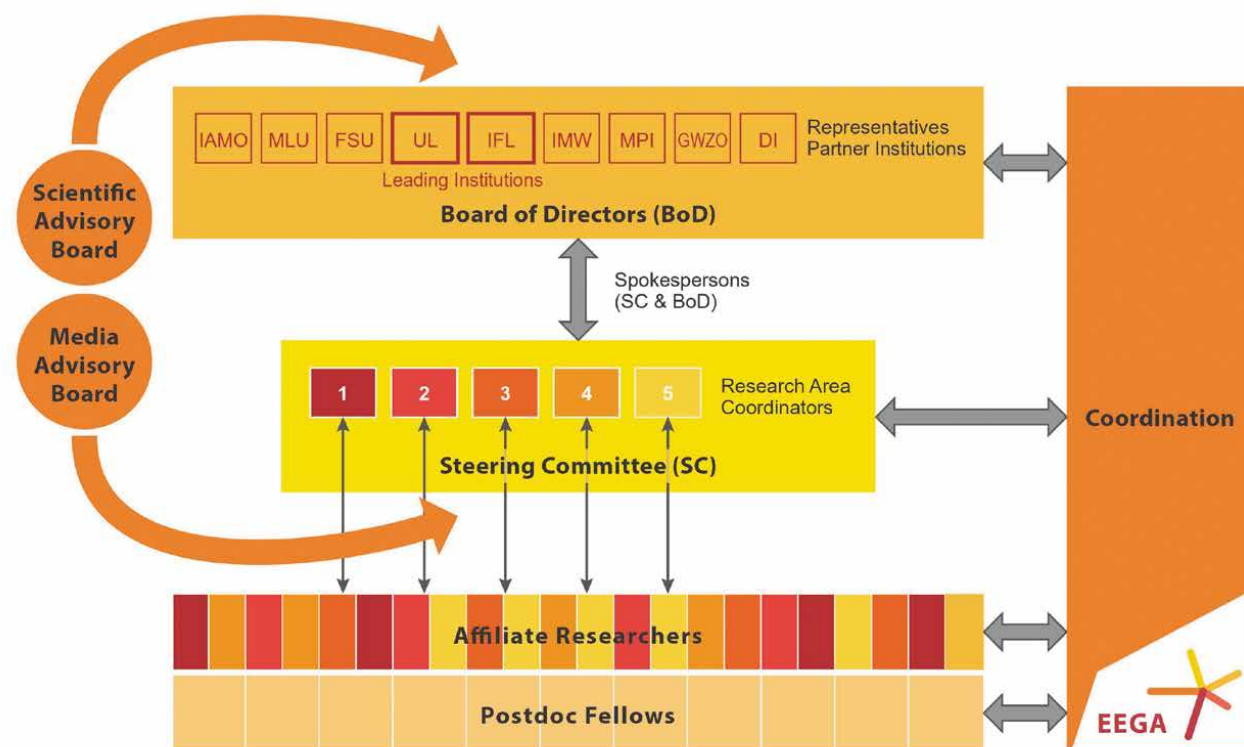
EEGA is part of the Leibniz ScienceCampus network, an initiative of the Leibniz Association to improve and intensify co-operation between university and non-university research institutions within the German research system. The 15th Report of the Leibniz Association to the Joint Science Conference on the status of implementation of the Pact for Research and Innovation,

published in April 2021, addresses the important position of ScienceCampi within the Leibniz Association. They function as essential instruments for a networking and cooperative science. By the end of 2020, there were 24 Leibniz ScienceCampi. They are characterised by the close interlinking of university and non-university research in complementary regional partnerships and enable thematically focused and long-term co-operation. They help to form new scientific communities, explore new avenues of collaboration and thus build critical masses at the respective locations for far-reaching national and international visibility. ScienceCampi conduct strategic research, encourage interdisciplinary projects and methods, enhance the visibility of the respective locations, and refine their research profiles.



←
Prof Yfaat Weiss (DI) and Prof Walter Rosenthal (FSU Jena) while signing the Co-operation Agreement © Swen Reichhold

↑
After Signing the Co-operation Agreement:
Prof Sebastian Lentz (IfL), Prof Beate Schücking (Leipzig University) and Prof Thomas Glauben (IAMO) – from left to right © Swen Reichhold



↑
Organigram of EEGA © IFL

On 16 September 2020, EEGA's partners convened to sign a new Co-operation Agreement officially extending EEGA's partnerships up until 2024, after the Leibniz Association approved EEGA's second funding period earlier this year. The representatives of EEGA's co-operation partners looked back at four fruitful years of co-operation and toasted an even more promising future, welcoming the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow as the ninth member of the network. The formal procedure was rounded off with a scholarly event later that day, an in-person and livestream panel discussion on the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on research and academe.

The new EEGA Co-operation Agreement officially entered into force with the start of the second funding phase on 1 October 2020.

With the new funding phase, EEGA introduced new goals, measures, boards and interdisciplinary Research Areas, coordinated by a younger generation of

scholars. Together with the associated Affiliate Researchers from all partner institutions, they develop ideas for joint publications, activities, and international Postdoc Fellows, who, during their stay in Leipzig, Halle, and Jena, enrich the work of ScienceCampus members. They steer the programme of EEGA, in close co-operation with the Board of Directors (BoD) and the Coordination, and guided by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and Media Advisory Board (MAB), both in new set-up for the period 2020–2024.

Together they work towards the central aims of the ScienceCampus, namely consolidating and strengthening the network, further internationalisation, supported by a coherent publication strategy and knowledge transfer activities in Germany and abroad, and the establishment of a joint Graduate School, combining the forces, structures and capacities of the three participating universities with the expertise of Affiliates at the six partnering research institutions.

The planned Research Training Group builds on the substantive and strategic work done so far in EEGA and develops it further with a view to emerging, promising research fields in trans-regionally-oriented research on Eastern Europe. It integrates Central German research on globalisation and Eastern Europe in the mode of junior research and builds, among other things, on the successful preliminary work in the five research areas of the EEGA network since 2016. Here, Eastern Europe has been conceptualized as a globalisation actor and as a globalised region between interdependence and decoupling, between centre and periphery. The Research Training Group faces the challenge of productively developing interdisciplinary perspectives on the region and can draw on the Eastern European expertise of the participating institutions while representing an impressive disciplinary diversity: geography, history, cultural and political sciences, sociology, anthropology, economics, art and music history, and literary studies. On the one hand, the project covers a historical range from the early 19th century to the present. On the other hand, the attention paid to the historicisation of processes of interdependence and demarcation as well as of integration and fragmentation dynamics, and the methodological coexistence of interdependence and comparative perspectives are common to these diverse disciplinary approaches.

Working towards these central goals, requires not only a stable, established network, but also fresh perspectives. EEGA is pleased that two new spokespersons are taking over the task of leading the Steering Committee (SC), Katja Castryck-Naumann, Senior Researcher at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe and Sebastian Henn, Professor of Economic Geography at Friedrich-Schiller University Jena.



↑
Dr Katja Castryck-Naumann © GWZO



↑
Prof Dr Sebastian Henn © Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, photo: Anne Günther

The ScienceCampus also welcomes two new members to the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to guide, consult and review the overall progress. Irina Busygina, Professor for Political Studies and International Affairs at the Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, is an expert on globalisation and regional integration as well as Russian foreign policy and EU-Russia relations. Renowned for his research on political culture in Eastern and East Central Europe and religious change in Western and Eastern Europe and in the USA is Detlef Pollack, Professor of Sociology of Religion at Wilhelms-University Muenster.



Prof Irina Busygina © private



Prof Detlef Pollack © Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster/dpa, photo: Brigitte Heeke

Responding to the needs of researchers at all stages of their qualification, across age, gender, race and religion, in its second funding phase EEGA introduces specific measures for Gender Equality and Diversity Management. The goal of creating equal opportunities for women, men and non-binary people of all status groups and eliminating existing disadvantages will be integrated into all areas of responsibility.

The ScienceCampus is fundamentally committed to the Leibniz Association's structural and personnel equality standards and developed its equality concept on this basis. The goals of this concept are first, the equality of women, men and non-binary researchers of all status groups as well as the reduction of existing gender-specific disadvantages, second, the promotion of the compatibility of family and research and the appropriate consideration of special life situations, third, to point out the disadvantages that exist for women, men and non-binary people in academia and to work towards equality of all sexes in this respect, fourth, to respect and protect the right of personality and the right to sexual self-determination, and fifth, to use gender-neutral language in internal and external texts.

04 The Research Areas

The Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA is organised in five research areas:

- 1) Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe under the Global Condition;
- 2) Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order;
- 3) Economic and Regional Development under the Global Condition;
- 4) Cultures of Internationalism and Internationalism of Cultures;
- 5) Populist Movements and Regimes in Eastern Europe.

Their 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.

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe under the Global Condition

Coordination: **Jonathan Everts** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Steffi Marung** (Leipzig University) / **Wladimir Sgibnev** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography)

In the wake of economic and political transformations, fuzzy territorialities, and technological innovations, mobility and migration regimes have repeatedly shifted on all scales. After investigating transformations and contestations of mobility and migration in the region, Research Area 1 aims at a better longitudinal understanding of underlying normativities and infrastructures and their effects on the region's position and agency in processes of globalisation. Thus, it addresses present and historical migration and bordering practices, materialities and technologies, and justice regimes.

A joint outcome will be to develop a comprehensive and historically informed collection of forms and methods of visualisations to grasp the region's ambiguous and disputed mobility and migration regimes in a trans-regional perspective.

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) / **Marek Mikuš** (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) / **Lela Rekhviashvili** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography)

The collapse of state socialism in Eastern Europe marked an ending of the global Cold War and ushered in a new world order. This initially rather unipolar (US-led) order has been challenged by the rise of China's power, waning US hegemony, renewed tensions between Russia and the North Atlantic bloc, and is being confronted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Research Area 2 focuses on the positioning of Eastern European (EU member and non-member) states and societies in the context of the evolving geopolitical conditions. It encourages a dialogue between post-socialist and post-colonial approaches and looks specifically at changing geostrategic imaginations and spatial reconfigurations at multiple scales as well as the roles of finance, social movements and academia in these processes.

Research Area 3

Economic and Regional Development under the Global Condition

Coordination: **Sebastian Henn** (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) / **Nadir Kinossian** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) / **Lena Kuhn** (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies) / **Uwe Müller** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

The transformation from planned to market economy and the integration of the economies of Eastern Europe into a unified global economy have brought about accelerated industrial structural changes with serious social and demographic effects to this day.

Research Area 3 deals with the development of regional disparities with a special focus on external influences such as foreign direct investments in Eastern Europe. It also addresses the extent to which regional policy objectives and instruments are shaped by historical experience, external approaches and interests as well as by various actors such as the European Union.

Research Area 4

Cultures of Internationalism and Internationalism of Cultures

Coordination: **Katja Castryck-Naumann** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) / **Stefan Keym** (Leipzig University) / **Yvonne Kleinmann** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

International collaboration as well as intercultural transfers and entanglements are two crucial and partly overlapping domains in which actors from the region positioned themselves in global relations and processes. Such developments have a long intriguing tradition, speeding up and expanding spatially since the middle of the 19th century.

Research Area 4 investigates Eastern European actors, initiatives, strategies and positions in international exchanges, movements and organisations, which interconnect the societies of the region in multiple ways. It explores a wide range of cultural fields – music, literature and other arts, and in a broader sense also legal, political and scholarly cultures – to gain a nuanced understanding of the potentials and limits of cultural globalisation in Eastern Europe. This includes its dialectic relationship with the search for imperial, national and regional identifications, and of the impact of Eastern Europeans on international cultural developments.

Research Area 5

Populist Movements and Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **Holger Lengfeld** (Leipzig University) / **Gert Pickel** (Leipzig University) / **Alexander Yendell** (Leipzig University)

So-called populist movements and the openness of citizens for populist arguments have gained in importance worldwide. They are more successful in Eastern Europe than in many other parts of the world. In some Eastern European countries right-wing populists even came to power. However, explanations for the specific success of populists in Eastern Europe are rare. Especially when it comes to empirical and comparative analyses.

Research Area 5 contributes to the comparison of populisms and investigates the effects of long-lasting traditions, social and political circumstances and recent experiences with transformation, migration, and external influences of globalisation on populism.

05 Co-operations and Events

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Axel Körner, Leibniz Professor at Leipzig University in the winter semester 2020/21. © Leipzig University, photo: Christian Hüller

Despite the challenges in maintaining personal contacts and cultivating networks only online in the pandemic, it was possible to realise events with old and new partners and to establish collaborations.



Axel Körner from University College London, Leibniz Professor in the winter semester 2020/21 at Leipzig University, gave his **inaugural lecture** on **30 October 2020** on the topic **»Beethoven vor dem Nationalstaat. Historische Lebenswelten und Zeiterfahrung«** (Beethoven before the nation state. Historical Life Worlds and Time Experience) in the Paulinum. He is a highly distinguished expert on transnational intellectual history and the director of the UCL Centre for Transnational History. The Leibniz Professorship is awarded each semester to distinguished and predominantly international researchers. It is one of the highest awards bestowed by Leipzig University.

In his inaugural lecture, organised by the Leibniz Programme at Leipzig University, in co-operation with the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe) of Leipzig University and EEGA, Axel Körner set Beethoven back in his own understanding of space and time. This historical framework can seem surprisingly up-to-date to us and is thus perhaps the key to the question of why his music still speaks to us today. At least since Richard Wagner's Beethoven studies, Ludwig van Beethoven has been seen in music historiography and public memory predominantly in connection with a supposed German national culture. Dichotomous explanatory patterns in musicology, such as the alleged stylistic dualism of an epoch marked by the opposition between Beethoven and Rossini, have

reinforced this view. Such a localisation of the composer can be refuted by studying the sources on Beethoven's own experience of space and time, but also by confronting recent research on the significance of the Holy Roman Empire and the Habsburg Monarchy, a life-world that fundamentally shaped Beethoven and the people of his time. In terms of historical philosophy, we usually regard these pre-national state concepts as contradictory to an idea of political modernity centred on the nation state. This teleological narrowing denies us access to the culture and world of ideas of an epoch that was characterised by a dramatic change in the historical experience of time.

The follow up workshop on **»Conjunctural Geographies of Postsocialist and Postcolonial Conditions: Theory Thirty Years after 1989«**, mainly organised by **Wladimir Sgibnev and Lela Rekhviashvili** (both Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) was held online on **4–5 December 2020**, and included four core components. First and foremost, the workshop was dedicated to in-depth discussion of nine paper contributions, presented in the scope of three panels – **»Postcolonial & Postsocialist Conditions«**, **»Alternatives to development«**, **»Gender and Sexuality«** – and aimed to bring papers under a collective special issue publication. Second, the workshop hosted a Keynote speech by **Nivedita Menon** focusing on **»Thinking the Global South and post-capitalist imaginaries«**. Third, the workshop hosted a roundtable discussion on **»Reflecting on post-socialist post/decolonial dialogues«**, moderated by **Ovidiu Tichindeleanu** and inviting researchers that have been involved in organising workshop and conferences on dialogues between the posts, including **Sanja Petkovska, Philipp Lottholz, Spela Drnovsek Zorko, Romina Istratii** served as panelists. The final part of the workshop was dedicated to discussing publication plans, including the meeting with one of the editors of the e-journal *Connections* **Katja Castryck-Naumann**.

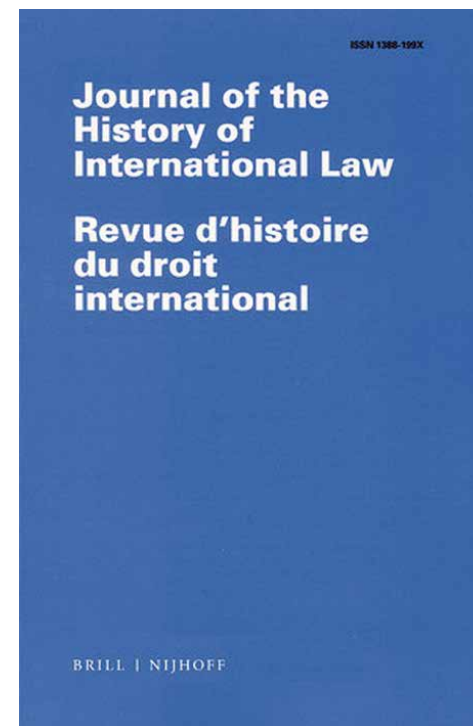
Immediately after the workshop a special issue proposal including abstracts of all papers and bios of the authors was sent to the e-journal *Connections*. With manuscripts ready to be submitted, currently the special issue editors are working on the introduction, and the entire special issue hopefully should be submitted by Autumn 2021.

In 2020 and still today, people in Belarus have been rising week after week the streets to make their voice heard against the authoritarian system of Alexander Lukashenko. The **discussion series »Aktuelle Perspektiven auf die Proteste in Belarus«** (Current perspectives on the protests in Belarus) followed the call for solidarity of the German Society for East European Studies (DGO) and invited representatives of Belarusian civil society to a digital series of talks to discuss the various facets and topics of the protests. To kick off the series – a co-operation between the regional group of the Young DGO, the Chair of Eastern and Southeastern European History at Leipzig University, the Global and European Studies Institute, the Institute for Slavonic Studies, the Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA and the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe – the philosopher and activist **Olga Shparaga** talked about the topic of feminist perspectives on the protests in Belarus.

On **24 – 25 May**, EEGA member the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow organised a digital conference on **»A Lost World? Jewish International Lawyers and New World Orders (1917–1951)«** in co-operation with the International Law Forum at the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Jacob Robinson Institute at the Hebrew University of

Jerusalem. Conference participants focused on the diversity of schools, conflicting identities, responses to the holocaust and cross-influences, amongst others with a presentation by former EEGA Postdoc Fellow and EEGA Chief-Editor **Gilad Ben-Nun**, asking **»How Jewish is International Law?«**

From **15 to 19 June 2021**, the **European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH)** hosted the VI European Congress on World and Global History. Under the conference theme »Minorities, Cultures of Integration and Patterns of Exclusion«, EEGA organised the **double panel »Globalizing Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements of an often Neglected Region«**. The panel, chaired by **Lena Dallywater** (IfL, EEGA Coordination), focused on the question of how Eastern European societies have been positioning themselves in past and present and towards global processes and conflicts.



→
Gilad Ben-Nun's article »How Jewish is International Law?« published in the Journal of the History of International Law (Volume 23, 2, Brill; Nijhoff, pp: 249–281).

Using concepts of minority and minority positions, practices and narratives of inclusion, the individual contributions examined processes such as migration and mobility, economic networks and political integration, as well as intercultural perspectives and identities.

In the first panel, »Eastern European societies and their relations to the Global South«, **Anna Calori** (Imre Kertész Kolleg, Jena) discussed the economic entanglements between the two semi-peripheral socialist countries of Yugoslavia and Cuba, which were linked by similar efforts towards economic self-reliance and embedded in a complex web of aid and development networks between East and South.

In his contribution, **Bence Kocsev** (Leipzig University) asked from a more macroeconomic perspective how the shifts in the political-economic integration of East-Central Europe affected East-South relations and, above all, how they should be interpreted in the context of the history of globalisation.

The second panel, »Eastern European actors in processes of migration and globalisation«, began with a presentation by **Cristian Cercel** (Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University Bochum) on two largely unexplored cases of organised Danube Swabian migration, highlighting particularly involved actors and their interconnections, as well as situating their migration in the broader context of post-war globalisation and transnational interconnections.

Claudia Eggart (University of Manchester) showed in her contribution that the challenges of Kyrgyzstan's traders are closely related to the increasing dependence on the crisis-ridden Russian economy and the geopolitical power struggle between the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union.



↑
In her talk on »Everyday and Lived Geopolitics of Labor Migrants and Cross-Border Traders in Kyrgyzstan« Claudia Eggart gave insights into her research on mapping geopolitical transformations in globalising Kyrgyzstan. Picture Credits: EEGA, for the content: Claudia Eggart



The moderator and the three panelists of the round table discussion discuss about connectivity, solidarity and challenges in times of crisis. © EEGA

In his presentation, **Gilad Ben-Nun** (Leipzig University) compared the entry of »hard« Hanbali Islam into geographical areas such as Bosnia, Albania, Kosovo and Ethiopia, which have hitherto adhered to »softer« Hanafi, Maliki or Shafi'i Islamic traditions, and stressed the importance of also looking closely at comparative designs in the research process.

Finally, the stimulating discussions in the double panel, led by **Katja Castryck-Naumann** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe), underlined the different perspectives on Eastern Europe's changing role in current and historical processes of globalisation and encouraged further co-operation and joint publication projects.

On **15 July 2021**, the **Round Table Discussion and ScienceLounge »Global Perspectives on Societal Challenges in Eastern Europe: Focus on Russia, Belarus and China«** took place as part of the GLOBE21 Science Festival »Border-Crossing Solidarities: Global Cohesion after the Corona Crisis«, organised by the Research Centre Global Dynamics at Leipzig University in co-operation with the Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA.

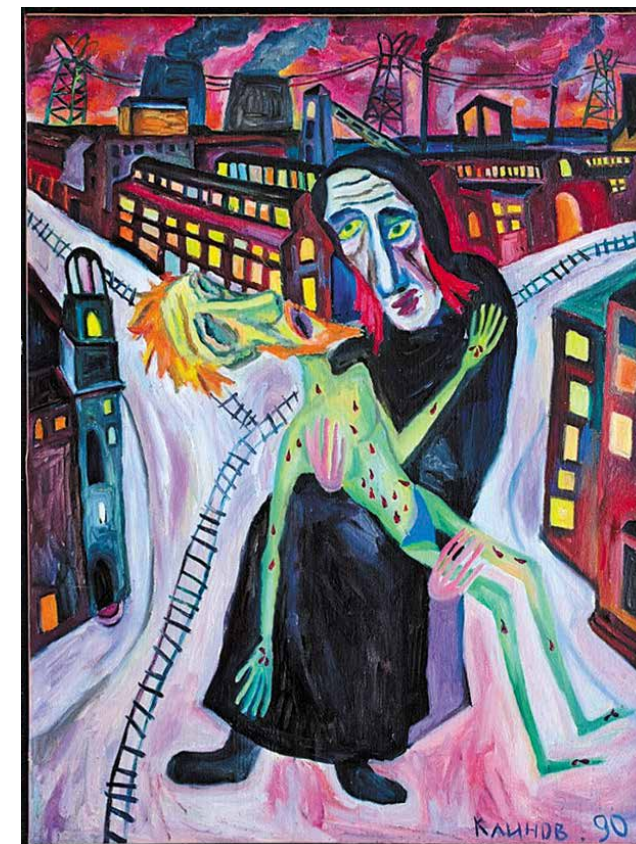
The moderated discussion took a step back from the everyday Covid-19 discussions and looked at the dynamics that have influenced societies in Russia, China and Belarus in recent years – requiring international responses and putting solidarities to the test.

Iryna Herasimovich (essayist and translator from Minsk) focused on language during the Corona pandemic, emphasising the proliferation of phrases, fixed structures and vocabulary from times past, such as World War II, and the role of the media in supporting unified language, and asked about ways to sustain people in times of crisis. **Lela Rekhviashvili** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig) examined Chinese investments in Eastern European and Eurasian countries and shed light on the discourses around economic and political threats. China seems to want to demonstrate its power in Eastern Europe and Eurasia through investments, which also flow into large infrastructure projects. Lela Rekhviashvili pointed out that this demonstration of power is present and is also perceived as a threat in the affected regions. **Benjamin Beuerle** (German Historical Institute Moscow) outlined Soviet and Russian involvement in climate protection and showed the controversial perspectives and ruptures after 1990 up to the ongoing Corona pandemic, ranging from efforts to reduce emissions in transport to increased climate movements and the threat of international climate targets as a major exporter of raw materials.

Stimulated by the moderation of **Andrey Vozyanov** (editor and researcher at Minsk Urban Platform), there was a lively discussion about the influences of the Corona crisis in the respective research areas. Culture in Belarus was very strongly affected by the impact of the pandemic, whereas there had been no fundamental

changes for climate change, even if the climate movements in Russia had temporarily faded more into the background. In addition, the crisis has increased inequalities and after China's rapid economic recovery, its expansion of power in Eastern Europe continued, which will have long-term effects on local societies. The event ended with a fruitful discussion about connectivity and solidarity, where all participants strongly agreed that connectivity is pronounced and the link with solidarity is rather missing or at least needs to be questioned.

The day was rounded-off with an evening event on the independent art scene in Belarus with **Artur Klinaŭ**, organised by **Nadine Menzel** (Leipzig University), **Nina Weller** (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder), and **Philipp C. Schmädke** (University of Kufstein). The lecture and discussion on »**Alternative Spaces: Situation and Tendencies of the Independent Belarusian Cultural Scene**« was part of the event series »Contemporary Literature, Art and Culture in Belarus. Artistic Positions between Departure and Retreat«.



Pieta (1990)
© Artur Klinaŭ

06 BASEES Regional Conference

Conference »Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements« 20–24 April 2021, online



As part of their institutional co-operation, the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) and the Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA) organised the regional conference »Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements« in April 2021. Further organizing partners were the German Association for East European Studies (DGO) and the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), Berlin. Scholars from all over the world presented their research results on global and trans-regional entanglements in Eastern Europe. Case studies presented dealt with Poland, the west of Russia, the Balkans and the Caucasus region. Thus, a lively academic exchange took place, initiating new research collaborations and launching German research more strongly in Anglophone Eastern European and regional studies as well.

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The ZOiS Forum »The End of Communism as a Generational Phenomenon?« kicked off the conference on Tuesday, 20 April 2021. In the discussion round, the generational change to the fall of the Soviet Union was examined from personal and academic perspectives with contributions from both sides of the Iron Curtain.

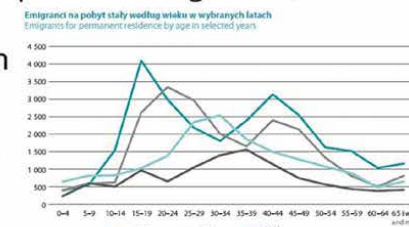
The first day of the conference, on 21 April 2021, comprised three panels with twelve presentations, starting with BASEES Postgraduate **Panel 1** on »**Eastern European / Soviet Globalisms and Socialist Modernities: New Perspectives on the Socialist Experience**«, highlighting education and development projects, music education, population policy as a tool for global competition and the advertising film industry. The following **Panel 2** on »**Societies in Motion – Mobilities, Perspectives and Engagements of Urban and Diasporic Youth**« was divided into two thematic strands, one dealing with global, regional and local mobilities and the other with attitudes, perspectives and motivations.



Several Contributions Emphasized the Impacts of Mobilities and Migration on the Region. Picture Credits: EEGA, for the content: Félix Krawatzek

The big exodus

- ▶ In particular the poorer Eastern regions of Poland have seen significant emigration waves (eg Podlaskie or Podkarpackie Voivodeship)
- ▶ Over time shifts in age-profile of migrants (cf. <https://stat.gov.pl/>)
- ▶ Emigration impacts on what people think about political and social questions, also those who have not migrated

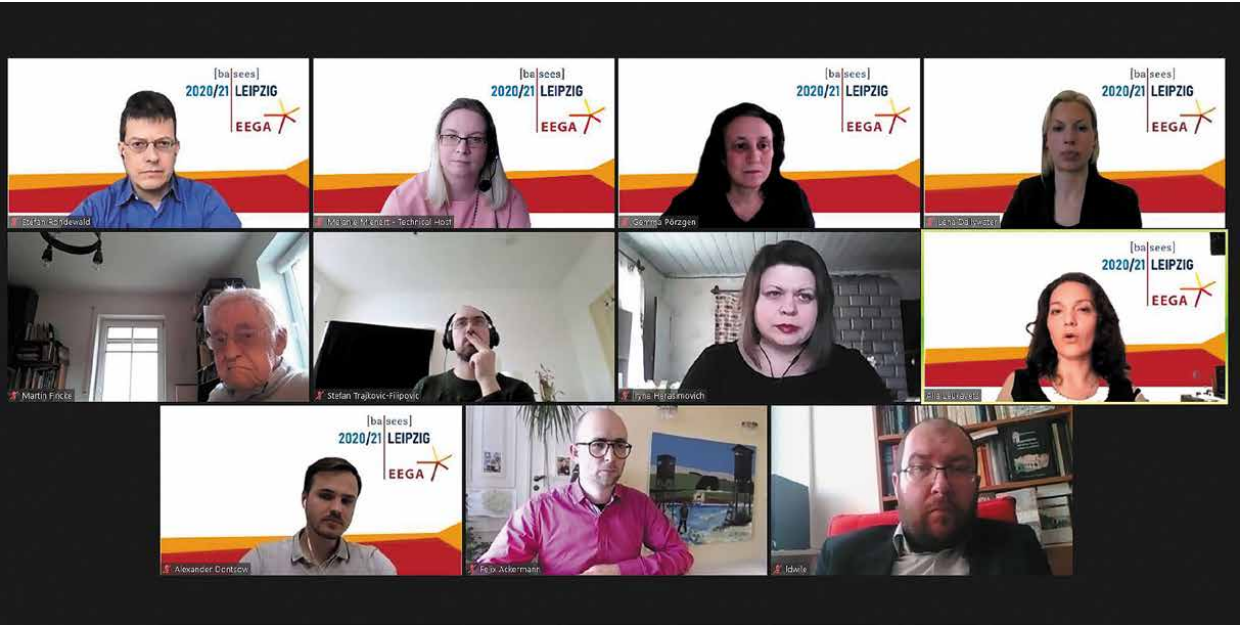


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In the **Opening Keynote and Roundtable Discussion »Globalising Belarus? – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements«** on the evening of the first day of the conference with **Alla Leukavets** (Center for Strategic and Foreign Policy Studies, Minsk; EEGA Fellow), **Felix Ackermann** (German Historical Institute Warsaw), **Iryna Herasimovich** (translator and essayist) and **Stefan Rohdewald** (Professor of East and Southeast European History, Leipzig University), moderated by freelance journalist **Gemma Pörrzen**, it was noted that public perception of the situation in Belarus had diminished in recent

months due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the repressive state crackdown on protesters. The question of similarities and differences between the Belarusian protests and the Maidan protests in Ukraine was raised, but comparisons were also made with the peaceful protests in Poland in the 1980s. The participants in the discussion considered the peacefulness of the Belarusian protests to be a great advantage for the movement, as it allowed them to find support among the general population. Finally, the participants discussed forms of support from foreign academics for the people in Belarus.

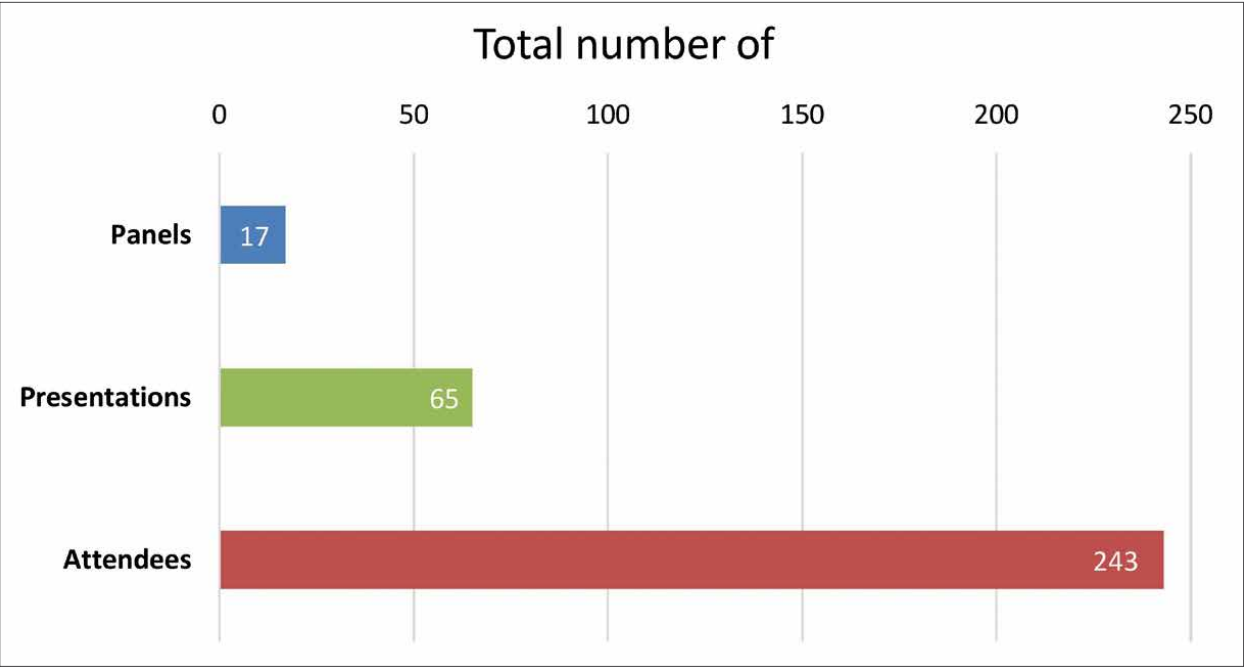


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Lively discussion among the participants and the audience at the Opening Keynote and Roundtable Discussion: »Globalising Belarus? – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements«. © EEGA

The second day of the conference offered a wide range of topics with a total of five panels and 21 presentations. While **Panel 3** on **»EU-nization of Gender Equality Policies in Central and Eastern European Research and Higher Education«** looked in depth at gender equality policies to support women in science, the particularly well-attended **Panel 4** focused on the often overlooked question of **»East-Central European Colonialism«**. The lively discussion and high number of participants underlined the relevance and need for research on this topic. **Panel 5** on **»Reindustrialization and the Agents of New Centralities and Peripherality in Non-metropolitan Spaces of Central and Eastern Europe«** dealt with the transformation of old industrial regions and cities, their narratives, imaginaries, the role of their agents as well as development strategies and future perspectives. The speakers in **Panel 6** on **»Transregional Entanglements in Crime and Punishment«** traced how the Eastern European legal system, including its Soviet heritage, is inte-

grating into the Western legal sphere. **Panel 7** on **»Economic Integration and Globalization? Trade, Transfer, Interests, and the »Socialist Bloc«** examined economic and agricultural historical and current relations with and within Eastern Europe, as well as Gorbachev’s New Thinking on Perestroika.

The third day of the conference, which featured five panels and 19 presentations, started with **Panel 8**, **»Challenging the System: State Power, Protest and Opposition«**. In this panel, the speakers presented different aspects of protest movements, such as the large Hungarian working class and Maidan protests, and highlighted different tools for empowerment. In **Panel 9** on **»(A)typical Sources of Globalizing Eastern Europe: Methodological Issues«**, the participants showed new facets of relations with the East as well as globalisation processes and interconnections between Eastern Europe and the Global South. **Panel 10**, **»Institutional Powers and**



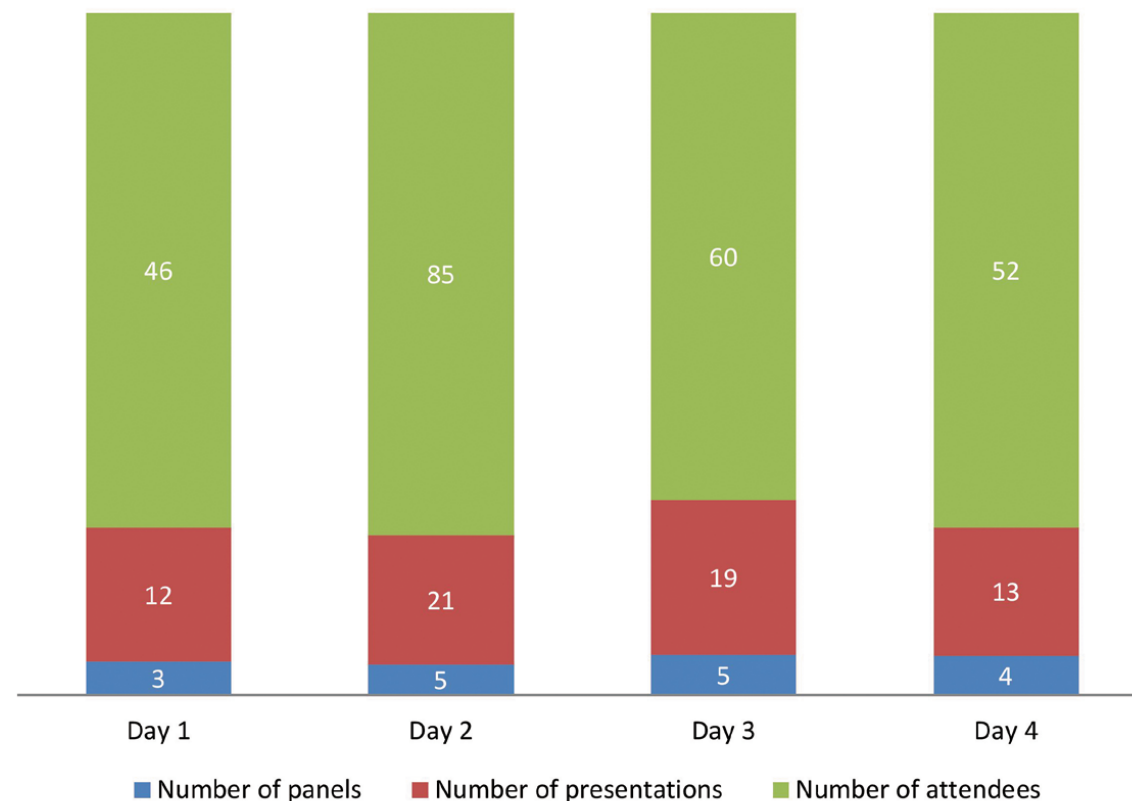
Informal Networks in Political Decision Making and Economic Developments», examined institutional powers of presidents and prime ministers as well as informal practices of politics and their effect on transnational linkages. In **Panel 11**, the overall theme **»Contested Landscapes and Identities: Networks, Narratives, Negotiations«** analysed ethnic groups, entangled ecologies, the European Capital of Culture as branding of cities, Putin's Holocaust speeches and photographic practices as global negotiation processes. The last panel of the conference day, **Panel 12**, **»Navigating Between the Worlds: Colonial and Neo-Colonial Interdependencies and Formations«**, dealt with aspects of colonisation and decolonisation and specifically with the topic of racism, e.g. in Poland and the GDR.

Panel 13 on **»Changing Global Conditions of Infrastructural and Large-scale Development Projects in Eastern Europe«** dedicated the beginning of the last conference day to the reconstruction of hegemonic cycles in Eastern Europe through mostly Russian and Chinese investments and development projects that represent a global financialisation of critical infrastructures. **Panel 14**, **»Working with the Past, Shaping New Urban Memories: Cultural Urbanism in Central and Eastern Europe«** discussed cultural urbanism in Eastern Europe through the reinterpretation of the region's unique modernist heritage and presented a critique of post-socialism as well as post-socialist cities. **Panel 15**, **»Global Trends, Local Implications. Effects of »New Regionalisms«, Global Competition and Trade Liberalisation on Mar-**

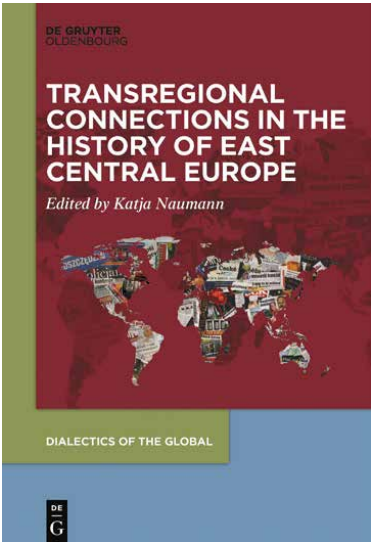
kets and Economies in Eastern Europe« addressed questions about the transformation of post-socialist states beyond conventional analyses of democratisation, modernisation, markets or government, companies and corporations involved in the BRI as a network, and competing regionalisms in EaP countries. The last conference panel, **Panel 16** on **»The Unpredictable Past and Uncertain Future of East European Music: the Cases of Bulgaria and Serbia«**, was organised by the BASEES study group for Russian and East European Music (REEM). In addition to research on the development of the Bulgarian music school, emigrated Serbian composers and their reception in the USA were presented, as well as traces of contemporary Serbian composers to Western Europe.

In the **Final Discussion**, the representatives of the participating conference partners of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography and the EEGA, the BASEES, the ZOIS and interested participants came together to review the last four days. The interdisciplinary character of the conference contributions as well as their high quality and novelty were particularly emphasised.

Distribution of panels, presentations and participants over the individual days



07 EEGA Colloquium – A Forum for Global, Transregional and Eastern European Studies



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The edited volume will be published in November 2021 by DeGruyter Oldenbourg.

Starting in autumn 2020, EEGA organises a Colloquium for researchers, students and interested guests involved in the fields of Global, Transregional and Eastern European Studies, and neighbouring disciplines. The Colloquium serves as a hub and melting pot for research in Leipzig – Halle – Jena, crossing borders and strengthening the network between the various academic and research institutions in the region. Here, researchers from EEGA's partners, EEGA's own Research Areas and holders of the EEGA Fellowship enjoy the limelight of an expert forum to present and discuss activities, projects, strategies and plans.

The Colloquium incorporates events at EEGA's partner institutions, thus offering a stage with a broader audience and building up momentum for development and outreach within an overarching framework.

Numerous events took place online both in the winter semester 20/21 and in the summer semester 2021.

Book presentation: »Transregional Connections in the History of East Central Europe«

The presentation of the edited volume »**Transregional Connections in the History of East Central Europe**«, in co-operation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, was hosted by the editor **Katja Castryck-Naumann** together with some of the volume's authors, e.g. **Michael G. Esch**, **Immanuel Harisch**, **Beáta Hock**, **Klemens Kaps**, and **Ned Richardson-Little**.

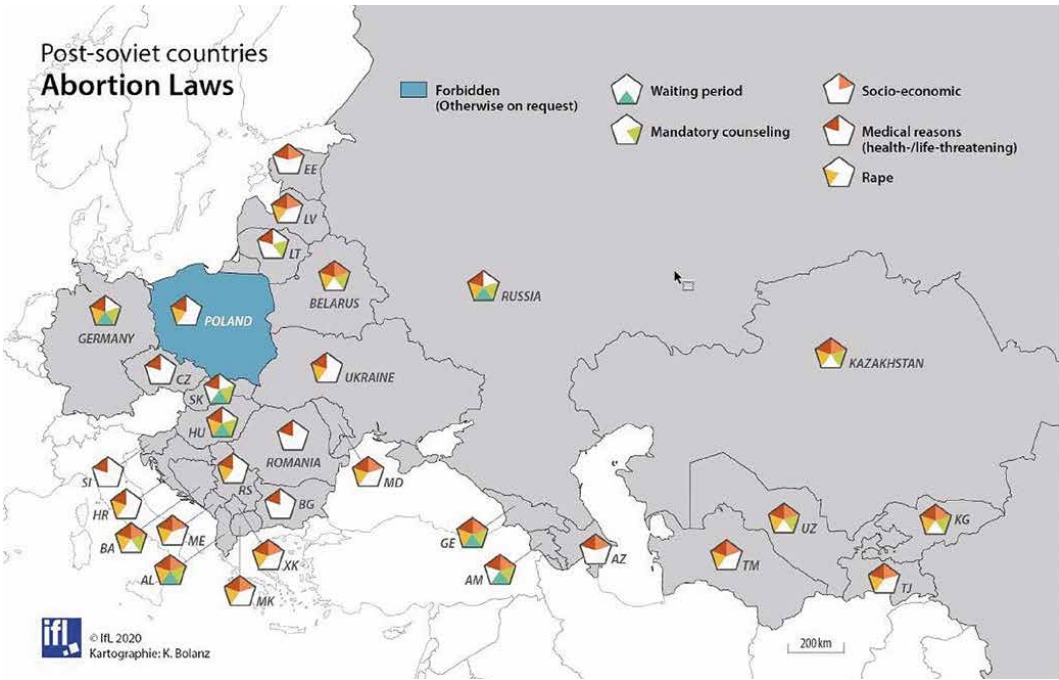
The volume's contributions argue that trans-regional connections play a fundamental role in the history of East-Central Europe and they explore this connectivity by showing how people from eastern and central parts of Europe have positioned themselves within global processes and in international settings while, in turn, also shaping them. The contributions examine different fields of action such as economy, arts, international regulations and law, development aid, and migration, focusing on the period between the middle of the nineteenth century and the end of the Cold War. Through historical analyses, the volume sets out to challenge normative Eurocentric and nationalist preconceptions by asking how East Cen-

tral European societies »transformed their political orders by ways of integrating in cross-border and transregional connections and constellations«. The authors uncover spaces of interaction and emphasize that internal and external entanglements have established East-Central Europe as a distinct region. Understanding the connectedness of this subregion is stimulating for the historiography of East-Central Europe as it is for the field of global history (degruyter.com/view/title/570583).

The volume draws on contributions and discussions at the 2018 EEGA-cum-GWZO annual conference »Eastern Europe – Global Area: Eastern Europe in Global Relations«. It is part of the Dialectics of the Global-Series and is published in November 2021 by DeGruyter Oldenbourg.

Presentation of EEGA textbook »Eastern Europe – Global Perspectives«

As one of the main EEGA activities in the first funding phase, an editorial board has started working on the textbook project in November 2019. Combining expertise



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First impressions of map design in the EEGA textbook © IfL

30 from all five 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. The presentation of »Eastern Europe – Global Perspectives« (working title) was hosted by the editors **Katja Castryck-Naumann** and **Gilad Ben-Nun** together with **Kristin Bolanz** (graphic designer) and several of the authors.

Galina Tsmyg, head of the Music Performance Art Department at the Institute of Art Criticism, Ethnography and Folklore of the Center for the Belarusian Culture, Language and Literature Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, gave a lecture on »Discovering Belarus: peculiarities of research organization system and specificity of the problems of scientific research (on the example of musicology)«. **Alena Petrushkevich**, associate professor in international economics and international business, lecturing at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, talked about her project »Foreign Direct Investment in EAEU: Asymmetric Participation in the Globalized Economy«. Her area of research includes foreign direct investments, TNCs and MNEs, investment policy, sustainable economic development, and economies in transition.

EEGA Fellows on their research topics

Liudmila Tsarova, lecturer at the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University (Minsk), gave a talk on »Ausländische Direktinvestitionen in Belarus: Modus zum Überleben oder Bedrohung der nationalen Sicherheit?« This research focuses on the legal regulation of foreign direct investments (FDI) in Belarus under the national, regional and global conditions. The aim of research is to identify aspects in FDI regulation, which provide the balance between the interest in attracting investment and threat to national security. **Gabriela Cretu** currently works on a joint project with the title »The influence of context conditions on the perceptions and effects of European/national policies in peripheral/rural areas«. The first project ideas have been presented at the colloquium. During her EEGA research fellowship in Leipzig she conducted research at Leipzig University, Institute of Political Studies, on a topic addressing the EU's influence on institutional and policy transformations in Eastern Europe. **Alla Leukavets**, Policy Analyst at the Center for Strategic and Foreign Policy Studies in Minsk, Belarus, presented her research project topic »Elections in authoritarian regimes: cementing stability or triggering change?«. It focuses on functions of elections in authoritarian regimes, the strategies and interests of various stakeholders as well as the menu of electoral manipulations based on the case study of 2020 presidential elections in Belarus and post-electoral protests.

Nadir Kinossian: »Stuck in Transition: Rebranding Post-socialism as the Global East?«

As part of the EEGA Colloquium and in co-operation with the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, EEGA Research Area Coordinator **Nadir Kinossian** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) presented his newest research on »Stuck in Transition: Rebranding Post-socialism as the Global East?«. In his talk, Nadir Kinossian intro-



Nadir Kinossian

The Global East?

Themes	Research topics
'Gap' between North and South	Does the 'Global East' have to fill that gap?
Deterritorialised reading of the region	What are the criteria of inclusion / exclusion? <ul style="list-style-type: none">History of state socialism? Liminality?Indicators?
An emancipatory project	Who are they supposed to emancipate themselves from? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Unequal power relationship?From legacies of communism and Marxist dogma?From own corrupt and kleptocratic government?
A new geographical imagination	What does "Destabilisation" mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Destabilising the West and its fundamental principles?Should authoritarian regimes be considered as legitimate?

Nadir Kinossian explaining the concept of the »Global East«. Picture Credits: EEGA, for the content: Nadir Kinossian



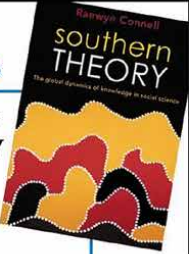
The political imperative of diverse knowledges

But social science is, at best, ambiguously democratic. Its dominant genres picture the world as it is seen by men, by capitalists, by the educated and affluent. Most important, they **picture the world as seen from the rich capital-exporting countries of Europe and North America** – the global metropole.

To ground knowledge of society in other experiences remains a fragile project. Yet **only knowledge produced on a planetary scale** is adequate to support the self-understanding of societies now being forcibly reshaped on a planetary scale.

Connell 2007: vii

Martin Müller



Sebastian Lentz (in top right)

Martin Müller

Keynote speaker Martin Müller on: What role does the East play within a »global theory« and what role should it play? Picture Credits: EEGA/GWZO, for the content: Martin Müller

duced new pathways in understanding political, economic and societal changes in the countries of Eastern Europe and offered perspectives to reframe Post-socialism as the main frame for analysis. Post-socialism as the main frame for understanding change in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the FSU has been criticised as no longer relevant and oriented towards the past rather than the future. Yet, a new conceptual frame is still in the process of emerging. Countries have taken diverging paths leading to democracy, authoritarianism, and various conditions »in between«. These variegated outcomes of transition have led to the growing scepticism about the validity of the transition paradigm. The multiplicity of post-socialisms does not fit easily into any overarching concept such as »transition«, »democratisation«, or »neoliberalisation«. Hence, there have been attempts to rethink, revive, or »reset« the debate. Human geographers also contribute to these debates by seeking to conceptually frame this part of the world that was earlier defined as the »Soviet Bloc« or »the Second World«. While these conceptualisations try to overcome the limitations of the transition paradigm and offer new promising perspectives, many questions remain unsolved. Nadir Kinossian presented numerous of them and discussed them with the audience.

Martin Müller: »Go East: thinking beyond North and South«

The keynote lecture at this year's annual conference of the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe on »Asymmetries of a Region: Decentering Comparative Perspectives on Eastern Europe« was given by **Martin Müller** (University of Lausanne), who spoke about »Go East: thinking beyond North and South«. What could it mean to intervene in the making of global theory from the perspective of the East? What voices would we hear, what paths would we open, what wisdoms would we challenge? And through what means could thinking with the East in global theory become possible? In his talk, moderated by **Sebastian Lentz** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, spokesperson of EEGA), Müller showed how thinking with the East is not only possible but necessary if we want to arrive at a »global theory« of diverse voices and multiple locations that deserves the name.

08 Our Postdoc-Fellows

The Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA supports researchers from within and outside the science region Leipzig – Halle – Jena. In the reporting year six Postdocs received an EEGA fellowship (between 6 weeks and 6 months) and stayed at one of our partner institutions.

› **Gabriela Cretu** (Research Area 5): six months stay at Leipzig University; research project: European Integration, Institution-building and Public Policy in Eastern Europe.

→
Maryia Danilovich
© private



› **Maryia Danilovich** (Research Area 2): three months stay at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography; research project: Self-Positioning of Belarus in the World Order of Global Competition: between Russia, China and European Ambition.

→
Valeryia Ala Leukavets
© private



› **Valeryia Ala Leukavets** (Research Area 5): three months stay at Leipzig University; research project: Elections and Protest Movements in Non-democratic Regimes: Cementing Stability or Triggering Change?

→
Alena Petrushkevich
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› **Alena Petrushkevich** (Research Area 3): two months stay at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies; research project: FDI & ODI dynamics and policy changes in the Eurasian Economic Union under the global and regional challenges.

»The benefit of EEGA for me is a breakthrough in my studies and scientific life. EEGA appeared to be a window of opportunities to the valuables that are of utmost importance for a scientist: new ideas and methodology, scientific co-operation and connections, friendly and creative communication in the atmosphere of freedom, diversity and integrity. The benefits have been multiplied in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies in terms of welcoming environment, wonderful facilities for research work and living, enormous resources in the library, open and fruitful co-operation with a member staff.«

→
Liudmila Tsarova
© private



› **Liudmila Tsarova** (Research Area 3): six weeks stay at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg; research project: Ausländische Direktinvestitionen in Belarus: Modus zum Überleben oder Bedrohung der nationalen Sicherheit? (Foreign Direct Investment in Belarus: Mode of Survival or Threat to National Security?).

→
Galina Tsmyg
© private



› **Galina Tsmyg** (Research Area 4): three months stay at Leipzig University; research project: Discovering Belarus: choral cultural exchange as a phenomenon of modern European culture.

»The benefit of EEGA for me is that the scholarship at EEGA has contributed greatly to my professional career. Among the most important aspects: comprehending Western European terminology – as a fundamental tool of research work, the success of which depends largely on the grounding of a specific conceptual thesaurus; gaining experience in a free and open culture of academic teaching, research, and discussion; opening up new research horizons; developing long-term partnerships among scholars; the invaluable experience of collaborating with Western European colleagues Prof. Dr. Stefan Keym and Prof. em. Dr. Helmut Loos, which allowed to compare and harmonize the methodology of research in the field of musical art (theory, history and performance practice).«

EEGA also keeps in touch with former scholarship holders. Two former post-doctoral fellows can point to great successes in this reporting year with their research, which goes back to their time at EEGA.

In April 2021, former EEGA Postdoc Fellow **Mikhail Ilchenko** started a position as a research associate in the department »Culture and Imagination« at the EEGA member the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe. Within the framework of the third-party funded project »Stadt.Kultur.Bauen – Baukulturelles Erbe in der postsowjetischen Stadtentwicklung« (City.Culture. Building. Heritage in Post-Soviet Urban Development), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), he is investigating **urban transformations in Russian industrial cities from a socio-historical perspective**. Ilchenko is particularly interested in changes in the perception of the building heritage of modernity, which he has already been working on as part of an EEGA fellowship and a short-term appointment at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe in 2018–2019. In his numerous studies on this topic, Mikhail Ilchenko takes an international perspective that includes various post-socialist states as well as Israel, France or Germany. The collaborative project »Stadt.Kultur.Bauen« is carried out by the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe together with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and RWTH Aachen University. The funding was approved for three years within the framework of the BMBF's funding guideline »Regional Studies (Area Studies)«.

→
Mikhail Ilchenko
© private,
photo: Raisa Popova



Former EEGA Postdoc Fellow **Dorin Lozovanu** realised in November and December 2020 in Moldova one of the projects he prepared during his fellowship at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig. One of the aims of the project was the transfer of his gained knowledge to a wider public. The project, supported by the Government of Moldova and Swiss Development Agency, included numerous activities: presentations at three international university conferences, organising of a scientific seminar (at the Institute of Ecology and Geography, Academy of Sciences of Moldova), three school lectures, two radio programmes, two training seminars (at Moldova State University and Regional museum in Calarasi), and three publications.

09 Publications

37

Conference proceedings »The Middle Income Trap« (Berghahn Books)

In May 2021, **Yaman Kouli** and **Uwe Müller** submitted the manuscript of their conference volume **»The Middle Income Trap in Central and Eastern Europe – Emergence and Ways out«** to Berghahn Books.

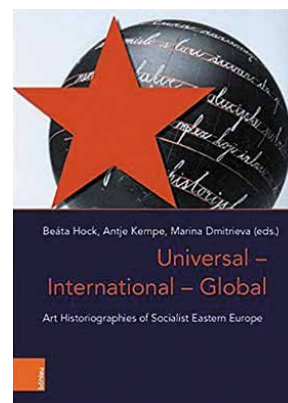
EEGA, alongside the Herder Research Council and the Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW), sponsored the conference in November 2018, where the majority of the papers completed in subsequent years were discussed for the first time. EEGA, alongside EEGA's partner institute, the Fraunhofer Center IMW Leipzig, also funded the majority of the proof reading of the papers through a contract for work, for which the editors applied for financial support from the ScienceCampus.

Thus, the publication is a so far very successful co-operation between initiators from outside (Yaman Kouli – formerly DHI Paris, now University of Düsseldorf as well as Herder Research Council) as well as EEGA institutions (Fraunhofer Center IMW and Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe), which will hopefully lead to a highly acclaimed publication after the peer review process of the publisher, expected for mid 2022.

In winter 2021/22, the publication will also be presented at the regular EEGA Colloquium (see p. 28).

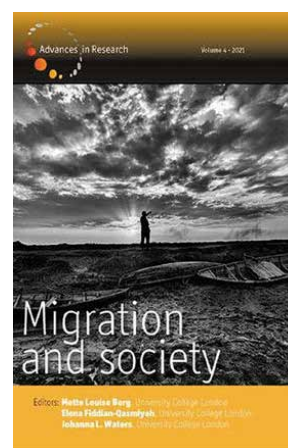
Arising from the EEGA-funded workshop »Socialist Internationalism and the Global Contemporary: Transnational Art Historiographies from Eastern and East-Central Europe« is the volume **»Universal – International – Global. Art Historiographies of Socialist Eastern Europe«**. The book, edited by **Beáta Hock**, **Antje Kempe** and **Marina Dmi-**

trieva, will be published in 2021 by Böhlau Verlag Cologne within the series »Das östliche Europa: Kunst- und Kulturgeschichte« (Eastern Europe: History of Art and Culture).



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Cover of the edited volume resulting from an EEGA-funded workshop

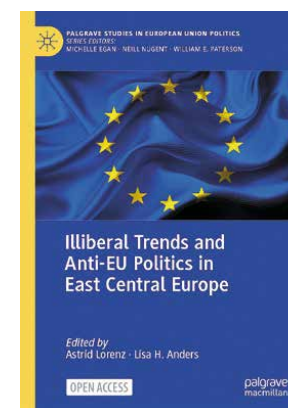
Former EEGA fellow and EEGA textbook editor **Gilad Ben-Nun** is featured in the fourth issue of the journal *Migration and Society*. During his EEGA fellowship, he laid the groundwork for his article on **»Jewish Law, Roman Law, and the Accordance of Hospitality to Refugees and Climate-Change Migrants«** (Migration and Society: Advances in Research, Vol 4 (2021), pp: 124–136).



←
Gilad Ben-Nun on »Jewish Law, Roman Law, and the Accordance of Hospitality to Refugees and Climate-Change Migrants«

Ben-Nun furthermore published an article on **»How Jewish is International Law?«** within the renowned *Journal of the History of International Law* (Volume 23, 2, Brill; Nijhoff, pp: 249–281).

EEGA Affiliate Researcher **Astrid Lorenz** (UL) together with **Lisa Anders** (UL) are the editors of the book **»Illiberal Trends and Anti-EU Politics in East Central Europe«**, an open access publication published 2021 by Palgrave Macmillan within the series »Palgrave Studies in European Union Politics«. In their book, the authors offer a detailed insight into the background of the rule of law problems and the open disregard for EU law in the East Central European countries.



←
Open Access Publication
»Illiberal Trends and Anti-EU Politics in East Central Europe«

EEGA Fellow **Maryia Danilovich**, Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, Belarusian State University, wrote a blog post on **»Belarus-China industrial cooperation: a blow up of the picture«** during her stay at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography in Leipzig. The post highlights difficulties and challenges of joint projects between China and Belarus in the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative in Eurasia.



←
Blog post on failures and setbacks of China's involvement in Belarus in context of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

EEGA closely co-operates with the e-journal *Connections* (<http://www.connections.clio-online.net/>). Here, 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.

Articles and reviews published by EEGA's Postdoc Fellows since September 2020:

- › **Nataša Jagdhuhn**: review on **Nonaligned modernism: Socialist postcolonial aesthetics in Yugoslavia, 1945–1985** (by Bojana Videkanić)
- › **Nataša Jagdhuhn**: **Yugoslavia's Window to Africa: The Establishment of the Museum of African Art Belgrade as a Product of the Cultural Politics of Nonalignment**
- › **Jacqueline Nießer**: **The Region after Yugoslavia**

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/>)

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