

Annual Conference of the Leibniz ScienceCampus „Eastern Europe – Global Area“ (EEGA), Funding Phase 2020 – 2024

in cooperation with the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe) at Leipzig University

“Beyond the collapse: Globalization projects in Eastern Europe before and after 2022” 16 – 17 May 2023



Czechoslovaks in Angolan wood technology industry (Personal Archive of Josef Grus)

Against the backdrop of recent developments in the region, this years' EEGA Annual conference is asking "How do Eastern European actors respond to the new global challenges? How do they reconfigure their globalization projects?". The in-person event will take place in cooperation with EEGA's main partner, the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe) at Leipzig University, in Leipzig, city of EEGA's headquarters.

At the two-day congress, scholars from all over the world will present their research on globalization projects about and from Eastern Europe in both panel sessions and round table discussions. Presentation feature perspectives from the fields of geography, history, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, global and transregional studies, as well as neighboring disciplines.

I Conference Outline

This congress aims to situate Eastern European actors in historical and recent dynamics of what is often referred to abridgedly as “globalization”. We start from two observations. First, we grasp “globalization” neither as something new or as a universal trend of increasing connectivity but rather understand it as result of a multiplicity of competing globalization projects, i.e. the efforts of a variety of concrete actors with different interests, imaginations, resources and strategies to “globalize” the world, to define the “rules of the game”, to find a most profitable position for themselves. Second, Eastern European actors and societies are neither newcomers nor outsiders to such projects. In contrast, they have been both their objects or developed their own in the course of history. The highly heterogeneous region, often perceived (from a Western perspective) as a geopolitical hinge between Asia and Europe, as a backward hinterland or breeding ground of competing empires, have to deal with the challenges of the global condition since the 19th century in their own ways. This includes particular issues related to overlapping empires, linguistic and cultural diversity and interconnectedness, large-scale free and unfree mobilities, post-imperial and post-colonial state-building, the distribution and use of (natural) resources as well as environmental and climatic conditions, and post-Soviet developments and transformation processes. Hence, the dynamics of the last years – from the pandemic to the war in Eastern Europe – do not herald the end of “globalization”, yet they have marked a profound rupture for the orientation and strategies of Eastern European actors with their globalization projects.

Actors from Eastern Europe, like in other regions of the world, perceive and address global challenges in various fields. They develop a multiplicity of strategies and practices on different spatial levels. Some respond on a local level by developing grassroot activities in rural areas and villages; others seek alliances on a regional level or attempt to establish solutions within international frameworks. There is no question that these already existing processes have been given a completely new dynamic by the current developments in Eastern Europe. The war on Ukraine has destroyed many established notions of a global/globalized world and the hopes attached to it. At the same time, it created new interconnections (ranging from the military to reconstruction aid, from donations for children to organising refugee movements), all of which have not yet been sufficiently examined, and it requires us to rethink the positionality of actors in it. To gain a systematic understanding of this diversity, the guiding question of the congress is “How do Eastern European actors respond to these new global challenges? How do they reconfigure their globalization projects?”

Recent scholarship in the fields of Transregional Studies and Global History has shown that a broad spectrum of actors enables, and controls flows of people, goods, and knowledge. In the realms of economy and culture, in social affairs as well as in international organisations, to name but a few, individuals navigate between local, national, regional, and international spaces, using the frameworks that the state provides while at the same time challenging national control mechanisms. This perspective has so far only partially informed the study of Eastern Europe. By

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applying a rigorous actor-centred perspective, panels at the conference do not take the nation-state as the main frame of reference but contextualizes the national in the multitude of other spaces people use to cope with global dynamics. In an interdisciplinary approach, we seek to combine studies from Cultural History, Economics, Political Science, Geography, Anthropology and Sociology with perspectives from Comparative and Entangled Area Studies. By so doing, this congress brings to the fore a new global history and new global studies from the perspective of Eastern Europe and suggests pathways for the productive communication with and integration of yet other histories and historiographies from different world regions.

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At the first day of the conference, panels and roundtables will explore these themes in interdisciplinary perspectives. Day 2 of the congress is centred on transregional connections beyond the region. The history of the ties that existed between the socialist bloc and African liberation movements in the decades in which African countries moved to independence are in the focus of a book presentation in cooperation with the University of Évora (Portugal). A guest lecture on *Überreichweiten* (Engl: “overreaches”) in cooperation with ReCentGlobe Leipzig extends the discussions to perspectives of a global history of ideas. Opening the view to other regions of the world, those contributions respond to another facet of EEGA’s global perspective, rounding off the conference programme.

The EEGA Annual conference is an established format that attracts scholars from around the world each year. After a successful congress in April 2021 on “Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements” in cooperation with the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), then still online, a joint effort was made together with the Regional Studies Association (RSA) on „Bridging Old and New Divides: Global Dynamics & Regional Transformations“ in September 2022. The conference in 2023 continues the discussions along these lines.

The conference is free of charge and open to everyone. However, pre-registration is required at <https://www.leibniz-eeга.de/event-calendar/eeга-annual-conference-2023/>

II Programme

16 May 2023

08:00 – 19:30

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84438660445?pwd=U1V4R09EOExhWXZuMEZ4OFV2ZnBrUT09>

Meeting-ID: 844 3866 0445, Code: 610895

Registration

08:30 – 09:00 Words of Welcome

- Welcome by the Conference Organisers (Sebastian Lentz, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig / Matthias Middell, Leipzig University)
 - Outline of the Conference Theme and Programme (Steffi Marung, Leipzig University)
 - Notes on Conference Organisation (Lena Dallywater, EEGA)
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09:00 – 10:30 Keynote Lecture: “The *Second Cold War* and the geopolitics of connectivity in (Eastern) Europe”

Seth Schindler, University of Manchester

Moderated by Thilo Lang, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

Abstract:

Relations between the US (and its allies) and China (and its allies) have deteriorated since the 2010s, and they are currently locked in an increasingly hostile rivalry. I conceptualize this state of affairs as the *Second Cold War*, and argue that it has become a master signifier shaping international relations and the domestic politics of many countries. In contrast to the Cold War in which great powers sought to gain control over territory and orient its concomitant networks towards a bloc, the US and China compete for centrality in four inter-related networks: infrastructure, digital, production and finance. Third countries are incentivized to remain *omni-*

aligned in ways that were not fathomable during the Cold War. For instance, a country can align its financial networks with Wall Street, while its integration into the global economy is mediated by lead firms in the EU, digital networks are underpinned by Chinese and American tech giants (e.g. Huawei and Google) and large-scale infrastructure is built by Chinese state-owned enterprises. I assert that victory in the Second Cold War will likely remain elusive, because these networks can be realigned rather quickly – a newly elected government can, for example, ban Huawei or cancel an infrastructure project. I conclude by drawing on recent insights from Cold War historiography to analyze how (Eastern) Europe is both shaping and responding to contemporary geopolitics of connectivity.

Followed by Q & A

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 Panel I: Historical Perspectives on Current Transformations

Panel Chair: Steffi Marung (ReCentGlobe, Leipzig)

Réka Krizmanics (University of Bielefeld): “A One-Time, Joint Solidarity Action”: Mass Organizations and the (Gendered) Practices of Socialist Solidarity in State Socialist Hungary

Christian Costamagna (University of Rijeka): Reflections about the future of Serbia and Kosovo in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine: the case of the Serbian TV show “Ćirilica”

Panel Abstract:

This panel offers historical perspectives on current transformations. Based on new research findings from different geographical settings in Southern Eastern Europe, panelists reflect both on practices of solidarity in the past, as well as outline present-day developments in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The papers shed light on institutional structures and organizations, foreign and security policies, and also on narratives and discourses in times of a changing world order. All presentations focus on the role, interests and engagements of actors in processes of change.

Paper Abstracts:

“A One-Time, Joint Solidarity Action”: Mass Organizations and the (Gendered) Practices of Socialist Solidarity in State Socialist Hungary

The Hungarian Solidarity Committee issued a call in March 1962 for a one-month long joint solidarity action, in order to help African and Asian people’s fight for independence. The call addressed all mass organizations that sent delegates into the committee, including the National Council of Hungarian Women, the main women’s organization during state socialism. In this paper, I will map the participating organizations in this solidarity drive and analyze how the women’s council shaped the agenda of solidarity work as well as women’s direct engagement in solidarity work through this organization. Studying this single solidarity action that was carried out in May 1962 will give an insight into the institutional structures behind solidarity work in support of the Global South during post-Stalinism. Second, it will give an insight into a yet understudied facet of the activities of the National Council of Hungarian Women, allowing for inquiring into gendered forms of solidarity work. Third, as the solidarity drive took place countrywide, I will address the specificities of the participation of the countryside. I am situating my case study within the flourishing literature of globalizing Eastern Europe, speaking to debates on the meaningfulness of socialist internationalism and solidarity. This paper is also a response to Celia Donert’s recent call for gendering socialist internationalism. Furthermore, I want to use my case study to demonstrate how archives of women’s organizations are a treasure trove for studying the transregional entanglements of state socialist Eastern Europe.

Reflections about the future of Serbia and Kosovo in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine: the case of the Serbian TV show “Ćirilica”

The case study of the relations between Belgrade and Pristina is to date among one of the most interesting examples of the relevance of the Eastern European actors in a globalized world. The main political responsibility in the dissolution of Yugoslavia have been reconducted to the creation of a Greater Serbia at the expenses of other former Yugoslav republics. Paradoxically, after the end of the Cold War, Serbia challenged the so called New world order declared by the Bush administration at that time. The 1990s have been perceived as the crucial years for the establishing of a globalized world, that was inevitably directed toward an unavoidable liberalism combined with free trade and freedom of movement. Still, the example of former Yugoslavia showed how Serbia, a small country with limited resources, that was under United Nation sanctions for almost a decade, with no effective allies in the rest of the world, was able to put under strains, not only the Balkans, but even the European Union, the United States and the United Nations. The Kosovo war in 1998-1999, and in particular the NATO intervention against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (composed by Serbia and Montenegro) in 1999, show the importance of the Kosovo Liberation Army, a non-state organization, in accelerating the historical events and entangling the NATO in a regional conflict, that was reshaping the role of NATO itself, as well as putting in question the legitimacy of the United Nation Security Council. Since the end of the Kosovo War in June 1999, and especially after the proclamation of independence of Kosovo

in 2008, the relations between Belgrade and Pristina have been a very sensitive issue and the object of several diplomatic mediations attempts, in particular from the EU. After 24 years since the end of the Kosovo War, there is not yet a definitive political solution between Belgrade and Pristina, because Serbia does not recognize the independence of Kosovo. Against the above described backdrop, this paper propose to understand, if, after the beginning of Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the discourse about the future of Serbia and Kosovo changed, and if so, how, in the Serbian political talk show *Ćirilica*. The relevance of this TV show is related to its mainly conservative approach in discussing Serbian politics and history, and the participation of several guests that encompass politicians, historians, diplomats and various intellectuals that are relevant to the Serbian nationalist narratives. More specifically, the aim is to understand if the war in Ukraine has affected the perception of the Kosovo issue in the Serbian conservative thought and if so which are the expectations raised by this conflict in Eastern Europe.

12:00 – 13:15: Lecture “Russia Beyond, Russia Within: Complications to a History of Russia's Territory”

Paul W. Werth, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Moderated by Gözde Yazici Cörut, Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig

Abstract:

This presentation represents a portion of a grand, synthetic territorial history of Russia across some seven centuries, with global implications. But whereas the bulk of that short book recounts Russia's territorial evolution in a fairly conventional fashion (about which the author will speak briefly), the two chapters at the foundation of the presentation represent complications to that narrative. If, on the one hand, Russia's exercise of territorial control sometimes took forms short of direct and exclusive sovereignty (protectorates, occupations, spheres of influence, etc.), then, on the other, the empire and later the USSR were faced with the challenge of delineating a "Russia" within those large imperial formations. The presentation takes up both of those complications, with hopes that a discussion of them can contribute both to an informed historical consideration of globalization and to a deeper understanding of Eastern Europe as a global area.

Followed by Q&A

13:15 Lunch Break

14:15 – 15:45 Panel II: Understanding Class politics of East European Social Movements and Civil Society, Part I

Panel convenors:

Agnes Gagyí, University of Gothenburg

Volodymyr Ishchenko, Free University of Berlin

Moderated by N. N.

Panel Abstract:

As a region historically contested by regional and global superpowers, Eastern Europe has tendentially been discussed in international debates through frameworks defined by the geopolitical stakes and political vocabularies of those contestations. Social movements and civil society have become a prominent topic of such discussions at the time of the collapse of the Soviet bloc, as part of a Western Cold War victory discourse that portrayed East European civil society as the local subject coveting democratic transition – at the same time also positioning East European civil society as a legitimation factor for the global wave of neoliberalization and NGOization at a time of Global South debt failures and IMF-enforced structural adjustments. As no corresponding activity of this idealized civil society took shape after socialist transitions, Western-dominated discourse on East European civil society soon turned into a more pessimistic one, this time explaining civil society weakness by social movements and civil society in Eastern Europe have been tendentially understood through frameworks defined by geopolitical stakes and political vocabularies as weak. Such weakness is often explained by backwardness, institutional and cultural deficiencies in East European societies vis-à-vis the West. This approach has been long debated by empirical researchers, but held out as a core element of East Europe's place within global discourse hierarchies for most of the post-socialist period. Today, new constellations of crisis and geopolitical conflict are rearranging the actors and stakes of reflections on social movements and civil society in the region. This panel brings together East European social movement researchers in order to discuss current developments from a perspective that considers local political dynamics as part of global transformations. Contrary to dominant narratives which portray East European politics in terms of an ahistorical cultural geographies projected from invested perspectives of geopolitical domination (like East vs. West, colonization vs. national liberation), this panel takes seriously semi-peripheral and peripheral embedding of East European societies in the capitalist world economy, and class differences that shape civil

society and social movements across the region. Our three panel contributors address this question drawing on already published or ongoing book projects on social movements, civil society and subaltern struggles in Hungary, Romania, Ukraine and Georgia.

Paper Abstracts:

— Agnes Gagy discusses post-socialist transformation as part of the long downturn of the post-WWII global capitalist cycle. Based on an empirical comparison of two countries with significantly different political regimes throughout the period, Hungary and Romania, this study shows how different constellations of successive late socialist and post-socialist regimes have managed internal and external class relations throughout the same global crisis process, from very similar positions of semi-peripheral, post-socialist systemic integration. Within this context, her recent book *Middle class politics and the global crisis in Eastern Europe* follows the role of social movements since the 1970s, paying attention both to the level of differences between local integration regimes and to the level of structural similarities of global integration. Her panel presentation will outline the main lessons of this study regarding current and possible trajectories for East European movements in the face of the current crisis.

— Volodymyr Ishchenko draws on the case of Ukraine's 2014 Euromaidan revolution to discuss how the class and political asymmetries of civil society impact the puzzling outcomes of contemporary civic revolutions. Unlike the social revolutions of the past, contemporary revolutions lack radical utopian ideologies and develop primarily as unarmed mobilizations of diverse civic coalitions rather than as armed insurgencies. Even if they expand the political opportunities and resources of civil societies, they typically fail to consolidate liberal democracies, weakening states, exacerbating social inequality and ethnic tensions. Ishchenko argues that one of the crucial factors behind such paradoxical outcomes is class and political asymmetries within civil societies. In the post-Soviet context, this manifests itself in the weakness of labor organizations and the relative strength of middle-class sections whose economic and national-geopolitical agendas are not necessarily representative of the political diversity of their societies.

15:45 *Coffee Break*

16:00 – 17:00 Panel III: Understanding Class politics of East European Social Movements and Civil Society, Part II

Panel Chair: Stefan Rohdewald, Leipzig University

Daniela Ana, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle together with Antje Jantsch, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle: Living, not leaving the village: place attachment and rural livelihoods in the Republic of Moldova

Ksenia Maksimovtsova, Uni Gießen / HSE St. Petersburg: The Securitization and Desecuritization of Sanctions against Russia Imposed by the USA after the Ukraine Crisis: Insights from Russian Digital Media (online)

Panel Abstract:

Part II of this panel picks up the discussions from the previous session on how new constellations of crisis and geopolitical conflict are reordering reflections on civil society in the region, to lead them further to questions of rural livelihoods and place attachment, and to most recent developments in, and effects of, sanctions against Russia after the attack of the Russian army on Ukraine in February 2022. Based on ethnographic approaches and a comparative analysis of narratives, these presentations point to the interplay of language strategies, identities and identifications in a moment of (economic) threat.

Paper Abstracts:

Living, not leaving the village: place attachment and rural livelihoods in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova has become one of the countries with the highest rates of outmigration in Europe. Temporary labor migration is the most common form of emigration since the main push factor for Moldovan migrants is economic. Some of the country's main productive sectors have been drastically affected by geopolitical tensions and regional crises, accelerating outmigration. The Moldovan wine sector is one such example, which in the last two decades suffered several export bans from Russia, its long-time main trade partner until recently, forcing winemakers to seek new trade partners in the global wine markets. Despite the vulnerability of the wine trade, in rural regions with a winegrowing tradition and where commercial winemaking companies are present, a larger part of the active labor force is motivated to stay and not migrate. To gain insights into how some rural areas can withstand potentially detrimental population dynamics, this paper explores the interaction of rural residents with the local environment, and their acquirement of a sense of place and rootedness in a Moldovan winegrowing region. Drawing on ethnographic methods, this paper analyses data collected through participant observation and in-depth interviews during one year of fieldwork carried out in a wine region in southeastern Moldova. The ethnographic perspective provides a holistic understanding of the existing narratives and individual circumstances that support staying in this rural area through the lens of place attachment. The paper seeks to capture the way in which actors in an Eastern European region have dealt with a crisis in its globalizing wine industry, as well as with the hypermobility of

rural labor force. In particular, we analyze the interplay between local identities, place-making, and population dynamics. Results show that the presence of a long tradition in both industrial and artisanal wine production plays an important role in the interlocutors' attachment to place. Nevertheless, other aspects such as owning or building a house, family cohesion, owning land, or appreciating the landscape and rural lifestyle are at least as important in their decision to stay. The presence of a recognized 'taste of place' expressed in wine and other local foods is an embodied, sensory experience of place that accompanies the cluster of socio-economic and ecological dimensions of place attachment.

The Securitization and Desecuritization of Sanctions against Russia Imposed by the USA after the Ukraine Crisis: Insights from Russian Digital Media

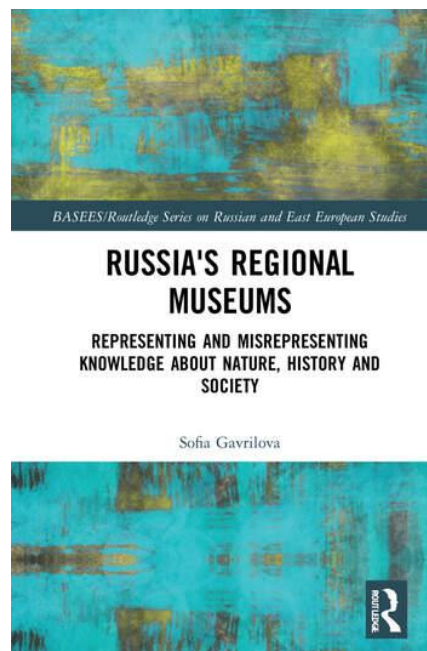
When thinking about the main argument of Samuel Huntington's seminal work, *The Clash of Civilizations*, it is possible to argue that the factor of religion, which was described as a new dividing line between different civilizations, is becoming less important as the political and economic confrontation between the West and the 'non-Western' world. As the recent events in Ukraine have convincingly demonstrated, the 'war of sanctions' between Russia and the collective West, intensified after 2014, continues to define political agenda-setting in the international arena up to the present moment. A fully-fledged intervention of the Russian army in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has fostered a series of harsh targeted sanctions against the Russian economy and political elites implemented by the West. The war of Russia in Ukraine has not only encompassed the economic sphere but also reshaped diametrically the world order and East-West relationship. In contrast to much research that deals with the economic and political impact of sanctions on the 'target' country and the prospects of democratization, this article employs a communicative approach to sanctions and, instead, focuses on the language of sanctions. A comparative analysis of threat narratives articulated in popular Russian digital media in the period of February-March 2022 has been done to prove that media play an indispensable role in the process of securitization/desecuritization of the West and U.S. sanctions in particular. The study is informed by the theory of securitization of the Copenhagen School of Security Studies and the social constructionist theory of social problems. It is argued that mutual US-Russian economic sanctions established after February 2022 have contributed to and have become one of the main reasons why Russia and the USA securitize each other as a 'threat' to international order and peace. The analysis of publications which appeared in 2022 in popular Russian digital media outlets has vividly shown that Russian political elites have successfully exploited 'threat' rhetoric and confrontation with the collective West to legitimize the ongoing war in Ukraine and create a juxtaposition to the 'non-Western world' where Russia plays a leading role as a bearer of 'non-Western values'.

17:00 Book Talk “Reproducing the Colonial – Empire-Periphery-Relations in and beyond the Soviet Union”

Sofia Gavrilova, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig

Abstract:

Gavrilova's most recent book (2023, Routledge, London/New York) is dedicated to the Soviet project of establishing kraevedenie museums (local history museums) as a central initiative for enforcing place identities in the Soviet Union. The book presents both the history and the current state of the network. The first part of the book is devoted to the history of kraevedenie as a knowledge production system, showing how the grassroots initiative of the XIXth century developed into the Kraevedenie. It traces the development of kraevedenie and charts its trajectories in the Soviet schools of geography, ethnography and history. Gavrilova traces the development from the 1930s to the present and how the guidelines for the presentation of kraevedenie have evolved. The second part of the book is based on the author's extensive work in the 15 Russian regions and more than 45 museums in 2014 – 2017. The main question the study tries to answer is whether the Soviet-imposed identities are confronted, and if so, - how. Theoretically, Gavrilova develops the concept of the "common unsaid", that is, what the museums do not show, and traces this silence back to its origins in the Soviet era. In terms of colonial relations, she engages with Soviet colonial debates on several levels. First, Gavrilova discusses the extent to which the kraevedenie production system was colonial per se. Second, the author sets out how museums were part of the "colonisation package" in the Far East and Siberia, where they were introduced in the 1930s – 1940s. Thirdly, she discusses the content of today's museums and how they continue to reproduce the colonial approach towards national minorities and the production of places. Gavrilova spans an arc of tension between the "common unsaid", so, the silences and omissions, to the present and the transformations to new (or revived) strategies and structures of 'erasing forces' (and their main actors). In the book talk she discusses how today's museums continue to reproduce colonial attitudes and how these newer dynamics and manifestations of the colonial relate to global influences, networks and projects.



The book talk is moderated by Steffi Marung (ReCentGlobe, Leipzig).

18:00 – 19:00 EEGA General Assembly

EEGA's second General Assembly will take place under the direction of the spokesperson of EEGA's steering committee, Katja Castryck-Naumann (online), together with the coordinators of the ScienceCampus. After a report on EEGA activities and events, a festive get-together will form the celebratory ending of day one of the EEGA Annual Conference 2023.

19:00 – 19:45 Networking Meeting

Informal get-together with reception. All guests are welcome to join and to network with EEGA Affiliate Researchers and Research Area Coordinators over a light dinner.

17 May 2023

08:30 – 19:00

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83827620229?pwd=Z2JVQVF4Um01NW43NWc1L3pNeThEdz09>

Meeting-ID: 838 2762 0229, Code: 930046

Registration

08:45 – 10:15 Panel IV: Legacies and Ruptures in Culture and Economy - Wars and Crises as Turning Points?

Panel Chair: Lena Dallywater, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)

Karina Khasnulina (Leipzig University): Reconstructing the Memory of Industrial Projects in Mao's China: The Industrial Turn and Narratives of Soviet Aid in 20th Century Chinese History

Nadir Kinossian, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig, together with Kevin Morgan, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University: Londongrad: The Dark Geography of Dirty Money

Panel Abstract:

This panel looks at moments of wars and crises as potential caesura in global history. With a special emphasis on economy and culture, papers shed light on ruptures, and their effects on long-standing structures of dominance and exploitation, as well as memory and commemoration. Presentations consider both the history of the 20th century, with a discussion of structures of Soviet industrial legacy and its relation to Chinese cultural memory, but also critically discuss recent developments, by tackling the question if and how geographies of globally connected capitalism have been challenged most recently by the war on Ukraine and what this does to narratives of secrecy, transparency, and neoliberal politics. In doing so, they span the full range of a truly global Eastern Europe.

Paper Abstracts:

Reconstructing the Memory of Industrial Projects in Mao's China: The Industrial Turn and Narratives of Soviet Aid in 20th Century Chinese History

In the last decade, an increasing number of researchers have focused on the (re)writing of modern Chinese history as part of the state's historical policy. This phenomenon has been analyzed through various cases, such as examining educational school programs, strengthening control over the interpretation of critical events in 20th-century China, the role of individual actors, "red tourism", and museum work. These cases suggest that the CCP has created a historical canon integrated into modern China's national and civilizational historical narrative. Additionally, Xi Jinping's fight against historical nihilism since 2010 includes the Soviet Union as an important actor, indicating the inclusion of the USSR in the new CCP's narratives, which demonstrates the correctness and incorrectness of the line taken by this former socialist state in different periods of its historical existence.

This work aims to enrich existing scholarship by analyzing the (re)construction of the memory of industrial and modernization projects during the Mao era. To interpret current dynamics in narrating 20th-century Chinese history, especially the period of Sino-Soviet cooperation, the work introduces the notion of the Industrial Turn, which indicates an increase in state and party actor support to promote the industrial legacy of the Mao era. This turn started in the mid-2000s with the crisis of SOEs and peaked after 2018 with the Sino-American Trade War. Additionally, the work shows how new narratives about the history of the industrial legacy of the Mao era produce a new image of the Soviet Union, giving this image different meanings in the context of Soviet aid to the industrialization of the 1950s. This phenomenon includes the localization of narratives and their new production forms.

The analysis is based on a case study of the First Tractor Factory (YTO) and cultural activities aimed at (re)constructing and promoting the history of this state-owned enterprise. It is part of a broader research project on the transnational history of the First Tractor Factory in China, a large SOE built as part of the Soviet assistance program in the 1950s.

Londongrad: The Dark Geography of Dirty Money

Londongrad is at once a place, a process and a paradox. As a place, it refers to the manifold ways in which London has acquired a reputation for being a safe harbour for dirty money largely on account of a secure system of property rights, a cluster of professional enablers and a neoliberal politics that actively cultivated it. As a process, it illustrates the premier role that London plays in the global system of secrecy jurisdictions. As a paradox it signals the bizarre alignment of two nominally opposed systems, authoritarian state capitalism in Russia and neoliberal capitalism in the UK. Before the war in Ukraine, it was assumed that Londongrad was impervious to reform because no single political jurisdiction had the reach or the remit to confront this baroque system. Dismantling Londongrad is therefore a belated attempt to regulate the dark geography of dirty money. The Londongrad case offers a new lens for understanding the dark side of globalisation by treating corruption (and the illicit wealth that it generates) not exclusively as a problem of institutionally weak countries, but as a systemic element in the architecture of globally connected capitalism, where London became one of the most egregious examples in the developed world. The backlash against the Ukraine war has inadvertently generated a serious attempt to regulate dirty money flows and sanction key Russian oligarchs and this could create a new political space to regulate dirty money enablers and subject dirty money flows to more transparency regarding who owns what and where. However, it remains to be seen if the war will prove to be a truly consequential turning point in the regulation of dirty money in and beyond the UK.

10:15 Coffee Break

10:30 CEST (09:30 UTC): Book Presentation “Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Africa” in cooperation with University of Évora



Venue: University of Évora, Colégio Espírito Santo, Sala dos Professores /
online

Live stream: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/92696992397>

10:30 Welcome by CIGP Director

10:45 Welcome by Lena Dallywater, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig, as representative of EEGA

11:00 Presentation by the editors Chris Saunders, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Lena Dallywater and Helder Adegar Fonseca, University of Évora, Portugal: An overview

11:30 Insights from João Fusco Ribeiro, University of Évora, Portugal

11:45 Insights from Alba Martin Luque, University of Florence, Italy

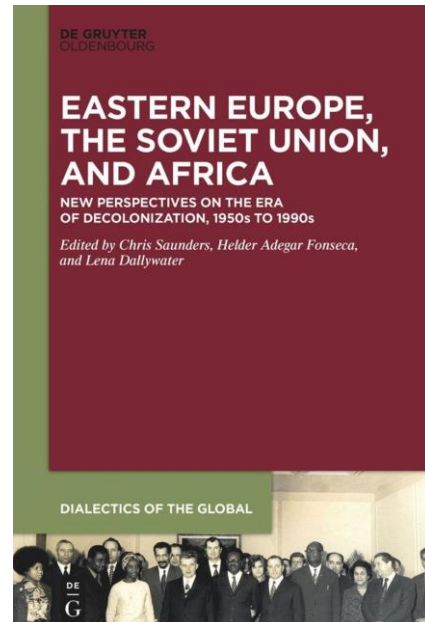
12:00 Insights from Barbora Menclova, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

12:15 Insights from Alexander Voevodskiy, School of History at HSE University, Moscow, Russia

12:30 Questions and answers

12:45 Closure by Helder Adegar Fonseca and Miguel Rocha e Sousa (CIGP)

13:00 Lunch Break



[Conversion work for GlobeLecture until 16:45]

17:00 – 19:00 GlobeLecture #2: "Überreichweiten – Perspektiven einer globalen Ideengeschichte" (in German)

Martin Mulsow, University of Erfurt

in cooperation with ReCentGlobe Leipzig

Venue: Tagungslounge / online

In his new book, Martin Mulsow interprets the early modern period as a time of over-reach, as an epoch in which sources and news from near and far overlapped without anyone coming to terms with this duplication or sometimes even noticing it.

Martin Mulsow studied philosophy, German and history in Tübingen, Berlin and Munich. He is Professor of Modern Knowledge Cultures at the University of Erfurt and Director of the Gotha Research Center. Previously he was Professor of History at Rutgers University, Member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin. He was awarded the Anna Krüger Prize and the Thuringian Research Prize for his work. Mulsow is a member of the Saxon and Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences.

The Lecture is moderated by Prof. Dr. Julia Schmidt-Funke, Professor of Early Modern History at Leipzig University.

A reception will be held after the event. Admission is free. Advance registration is requested at recentglobe.de/globelecture

III Conference Organisation

Conference Themes

The conference is set up in four themes:

- 1) Cultural imaginations, knowledge orders and their transformations in the wake of crises: How is “the global” imagined as well as the position of the region in it? How are transregional and intraregional (dis)connections represented, circulated and negotiated? How is knowledge about such connections produced, institutionalized, or applied?
- 2) Alliances, mobilities and global flows: Which partnerships and tensions do emerge between actors from the region and beyond? Which institutional arrangements are formed in the region to create infrastructures for such alliances? How are flows of goods and people organized, managed, controlled? How are mobilities enabled, enforced, controlled? How do societies react to mobilities of people and goods, including e.g. in the form of xenophobia and racism?
- 3) Resources and infrastructures: How are environmental and climate challenges addressed in the region? How are resources identified and framed to forge new globalization projects? How are the relevant infrastructures planned, implemented, used?
- 4) Crisis and reliance: How do societies in the region frame crises in military, economic, health, climatic aspects and how do they cope with it? Which effects can be observed for the reconfiguration of globalization projects in the region? How do ruptures in a global order relate to transformations in the region and vice versa?

Conference Panels

Conference Panels have a panel chair and up to three presenters. Panel chairs introduce the presenters and moderate the discussion. Each presentation shall be **15 minutes**, to allow for enough time for Q & A.

While we have data projectors at the venue, there are no computers in the rooms. Consequently we ask you to kindly take responsibility by bringing **your own laptop**. If a Mac/Apple is being used, please make sure to bring an adaptor.

Registration

Conference registration is open on both conference days in the morning, 30 minutes before the sessions start. The conference is free of charge.

Coffee, tea, water will be provided during coffee breaks. Please make sure to arrange for your own lunch. Several options (restaurants, shops, bakeries) are close to the conference venue.

Directions

The conference takes place at Tagungslounge, Katharinenstraße 6, 04109 Leipzig (4th floor), a 5-minute walk from Leipzig main station, approximately 10 minutes from the conference hotel Radisson Blu (Augustusplatz 5-6, 04109 Leipzig).

Panel sessions and lectures can also be accessed online.

Day 1:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84438660445?pwd=U1V4R09EOExhWXZuMEZ4OFV2ZnBrUT09>

Meeting-ID: 844 3866 0445, Code: 610895

Day 2:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83827620229?pwd=Z2JVQVF4Um01NW43NWc1L3pNeThEdz09>

Meeting-ID: 838 2762 0229, Code: 930046

Live stream for book presentation in Évora: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/92696992397>

Cafés close to Leipzig's city centre

Café Central (Reichsstraße 2, 04109 Leipzig)

Café Central is situated right in the heart of Leipzig and combines both the best Segafredo coffee and healthy, hearty dishes. Best coffee specialties, delicious focaccias, fresh organic bread, salads and pasta, everything is prepared right in front of you.

<https://www.cafecentral-leipzig.de/>

Milchbar Pinguin (Katharinenstraße 4, 04109 Leipzig)

In this traditional Eiscafé, Bar, Restaurant (since 1964) you find everything from breakfast buffet, fresh chicken salad, pasta, rump steaks, burgers, tarte flambee to homemade cakes and tarts.

www.milch-bar-pinguin.de

Café Kandler (Nikolaistraße 3, 04109 Leipzig or Thomaskirchhof 11, 04109 Leipzig)

Café Kandler is a place with tradition, innovative ideas, a lot of enthusiasm and the typical Leipzig coffee house charm. Located in the center of the Nikolai- and Thomaskirche, you can enjoy the great panorama of our city as well as the typical coffee house culture at the highest level.

<https://www.cafekandler.de/>

Restaurants close to Leipzig's city centre

Café Madrid (Klostergasse 3-5, 04109 Leipzig)

Café Madrid serves delicious tapas as well as many hearty fish and meat dishes. The Spanish temperament and culture can be experienced here.

<https://cafe-madrid.de/>

Auerbachs Keller (Grimmaische Strasse 2-4, 04109 Leipzig)

Auerbachs Keller is the most famous and the second oldest restaurant in Leipzig. It was one of the best spots for wine in the 16th century. Auerbachs Keller gained his worldwide reputation, mostly by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. At Auerbachs Keller you can have a taste of traditional German cuisine right in the heart of Leipzig's old city.

<https://www.auerbachs-keller-leipzig.de/en/auerbachs-keller.html>

Moritzbastei (Kurt-Masur-Platz 1, 04109 Leipzig)

Moritzbastei is open daily and offers diverse culinary services in the café, the pub, and its various bars. Right at Augustusplatz you can enjoy your breakfast or lunch/dinner.

<https://www.moritzbastei.de/gastronomie-kneipe-bistro-drinks/>

Spizz (Markt 9, 04109 Leipzig)

Spizz Café and Restaurant is located directly at Leipzig Markt. Stroll through the City Centre and enjoy your breakfast from up to 4,5€. Spizz also serves lunch and dinner and organizes music events with live music.

<https://www.spizz.org/index.php?index>

Osteria Don Camillo & Peppone (Barfußgäßchen 11, 04109 Leipzig)

The Osteria serves everything related to Italian cuisine. Whether antipasti or pizzas – here everyone finds something according to their taste.

<http://www.doncamillo-leipzig.de/speisekarte.html>

Umai. Restaurant (Klostergasse 7, 04109 Leipzig)

Umai serves traditional Japanese food. Here all kinds of ramen are freshly prepared and served according to your wishes. The restaurant does not cook with glutamate or other preservatives.

<https://www.umai.de/>

Language Policy

While the administrative and dominant communication language of EEGA is English, the conference also features German and Portuguese contributions. We encourage panel chairs to decide the best language option/s for the panel, including creative modes of translation as needed.

Conference Policy

The EEGA Annual Conference 2023 will welcome all students and scholars who oppose Russia's war on Ukraine. Anyone supporting Russia's war, or justifying it in any way, will not be welcome. Colleagues based in Russia or Belarus will participate in a personal capacity.

Remote Attendance

EEGA is welcoming remote paper presentations and panels that include remote attendees. If you wish to attend remotely, please indicate so early in advance.

Conference Programme Committee

This conference programme has been developed under the direction of Steffi Marung (Leipzig University), Sebastian Henn (University of Jena), and Lena Dallywater (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography).

We thank Katja Castryck-Naumann (GWZO) for her valuable remarks, and Josef Grus for his permission to use a picture from his personal archive as cover image.

Contact

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