



EEGA

Leibniz ScienceCampus

Report

2022 – 2023

**Eastern Europe –
Global Area**



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01 Preface

In summer 2023, the Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA) is looking back on the third year of its second funding phase, a year of crises and war, of devastation and escalation, but also academic encounters in post-pandemic times. In response to the dramatic events that have taken place in Ukraine since 2022, this year’s annual conference asked: »What comes beyond the collapse?« International guests and EEGA researchers met onsite in Leipzig, city of EEGA’s headquarters, to scrutinize globalisation projects in Eastern Europe before and after 2022. After a joint effort on the topic of »Bridging Old and New Divides: Global Dynamics & Regional Transformations«, together with the Regional Studies Association (RSA) in September 2022, EEGA in May 2023 continued the discussions along these lines. Scholars at the annual conference discussed how Eastern European actors respond to the new global challenges, and how they reconfigure their globalization projects. EEGA further developed its research agenda against the backdrop of recent developments in the region and the many ways this has affected our lives and work. However, despite these massive effects on all realms of life and society, academic exploration and cooperation was not, and could not possibly be, limited to this theme.

In this annual report 2022/23 we would like to offer a review of highlights of the last year, whilst also taking you into current developments and future projects. Highlights of the last year were, amongst others, the Leipzig Science Festival GLOBE22 with a round table discussion under the topic »Can Politics Secure Transformation?«. The round table discussion on »How can we critically rethink research productivity during mass repression: The case of Belarusian researchers?« and a follow-up event on »Quantitative data in public discourse during the Russian invasion of Ukraine« took place online in November 2022. It was part of the Science at Risk Lecture Series in cooperation with the Science at Risk Emergency Office, funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also dedicated to those highly relevant topics was the EEGA Science Lounge in March on »The war against Ukraine in the media and the public – What is expected of science? What can it achieve?«. It was moderated by Gemma Pörzgen who talked with her guests the journalists Gesine Dornblüth, Moritz Gathmann, the scholar Alona Shestopalova, and the audience. Thematical workshops organised by EEGA's research areas, for example on »Construction and (Re-)Presentation of Cultural Heritage. Imperial, national and international constellations in Eastern Europe« in May 2023, rounded off the programme. The Forum »International Agricultural Trade, Geopolitics and Global Food Security«, organised by the partner institute IAMO in June 2023 in Halle, attracted numerous researchers from all over the world.

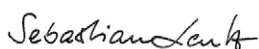
Fostering and developing its internationalization strategy, EEGA was active again at international conferences and congresses, such as the Seventh European Congress on World and Global History (ENIUGH) in July 2023 in The Hague. It took care of knowledge transfer at the nexus of science and media, for example with a sum-

mer school on publishing in academic journals with reference to Eastern Europe in cooperation with the Young DGO (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V.). Several postdoc fellows enriched EEGA's intellectual portfolio with expertise on art history, visual representations of women, and post-Soviet space, and the political history of late-socialist Yugoslavia in the context of the Cold War, to name but a few of their topics.

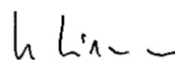
What the future holds for the region, and global politics and infrastructures, we can only speculate. Concerning the science region Leipzig, Halle and Jena, new initiatives are in the making. The Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1199 »Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition«, part of the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe) at Leipzig University and one of EEGA's main partners, applied for a third phase of funding and is currently being evaluated. A Research Training Group on Eastern Europe in a Global Perspective is being planned, though the application has been postponed somewhat due to the events in 2022 and the necessary adjustments. In the Research Group's central focus will be Eastern European actors and their projects. EEGA's Board of Directors has conducted initial discussions on the continuation of the collaborative research network after the end of its second phase in September 2024. Further planning on possible structures and activities is in progress – also in view of the current call for proposals of the German Excellence Initiative, of course. We thus look into a future of structure and capacity building in the region of Halle, Leipzig, and Jena, together with partner institutions in Eastern Europe.

We are looking forward to future cooperation with you – within and beyond the scope of the Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA – and hope you enjoy reading this report.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Dr Sebastian Lentz
(Spokesperson)



Prof Dr Matthias Middell
(Spokesperson)

02 EEGA Members

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03 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.

Affiliate Researchers: **Kristine Beurskens** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) / **Bettina Bruns** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) / **Larissa Fleischmann** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Diana Forker** (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) / **Karin Wiest** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography)

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.

Affiliate Researchers: **Lyubomir Pozharliev** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) / **Stefan Rohdewald** (Leipzig University) / **Elisa Satjukow** (Leipzig University) / **Asta Vonderau** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Paolo Zucconi** (FGZ – Institute for Social Cohesion)

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.

Affiliate Researchers: **Azar Aliyev** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Corinne Geering** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) / **Marco Zimmermann** (Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy IMW)

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.

Affiliate Researchers: **Patrick Becker-Naydenov** (Leipzig University) / **Christoph Brumann** (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) / **Linda Cimardi** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Jan Gerber** (Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow) / **Beáta Hock** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) / **Sven Jaros** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Nadine Menzel** (Independent Researcher) / Klaus Näumann (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) / **Martin Rohde** (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies)

Research Area 5

Populist Movements and Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **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.

Affiliate Researchers: **Hana Antal** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) / **Yvonne Jaeckel** (Leipzig University) / **Astrid Lorenz** (Leipzig University)

04 Annual Conference and General Assembly



Seth Schindler (on the left), keynote speaker of this years annual conference, in vivid discussion during one of the panels. © EEGA



Annual Conference:

»Beyond the collapse: Globalization projects in Eastern Europe before and after 2022«

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 continued the discussions along these lines.

Against the backdrop of recent developments in the region, EEGA's Annual conference from 16 to 17 May, 2023, asked »How do Eastern European actors respond to the new global challenges? How do they reconfigure their globalization projects?« The in-person event took 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 presented their research on globalization projects about and from Eastern Europe in keynote lectures, panel sessions, book talks, and round table discussions. Presentations featured perspectives from the fields of geography, history, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, global and transregional studies, as well as neighbouring disciplines. The conference situated Eastern European actors in historical and recent dynamics of what is often referred to abridgedly as »globalization«.

Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Seth Schindler (University of Manchester) opened the conference with a **keynote lecture on »The Second Cold War and the geopolitics of connectivity in (Eastern) Europe«**. In his talk he conceptualised the rivalry between the US (and its allies) and China (and its allies) since the 2010s, arguing that it has become a master signifier shaping international relations and the domestic politics of many countries. Furthermore, he drew on recent insights from Cold War historiography to analyze how (Eastern) Europe is both shaping and responding to contemporary geopolitics of connectivity.

Day one included three thematic panels. Panel I on »**Historical Perspectives on Current Transformations**« featured **Réka Krizmanics** (University of Bielefeld) with her presentation »A One-Time, Joint Solidarity Action: Mass Organizations and the (Gendered) Practices of Socialist Solidarity in State Socialist Hungary« and **Christian Costamagna** (University of Rijeka), EEGA fellow in 2023, with a talk on »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 II, »**Understanding Class politics of East European Social Movements and Civil Society**«, was divided into two parts. At first, **Agnes Gagyi** (University of Gothenburg) discussed post-socialist transformation as part of the long downturn of the post-WWII global capitalist cycle, based on an empirical comparison of Hungary and Romania. This presentation was followed by **Volodymyr Ishchenko** (Free University of Berlin), who drew 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.



↑
Ksenia Maksimovtsova (on the screen)
answers a question by conference
participant Volodymyr Ishchenko.
© Swen Reichhold



↑
Sofia Gavrilova (on the right) in
conversation with Steffi Marung about
her book »Russia's Regional Museums«.
© Swen Reichhold

Panel part two, chaired by **Stefan Rohdewald** (Leipzig University), picked up the discussions from the previous session 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. **Daniela Ana** together with **Antje Jantsch** (both Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Halle) gave insights into their research on »Living, not leaving the village: place attachment and rural livelihoods in the Republic of Moldova«. Online participant **Ksenia Maksimovtsova** (Uni Gießen/HSE St. Petersburg) introduced the topic »The Securitization and Desecuritization of Sanctions against Russia Imposed by the USA after the Ukraine Crisis: Insights from Russian Digital Media«.

Another highlight of the first day was a lecture by **Paul W. Werth** (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), moderated by **Gözde Yazici Cörut** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig). In his talk on

»Russia Beyond, Russia Within: Complications to a History of Russia's Territory«, **Paul W. Werth** represented a portion of a grand, synthetic territorial history of Russia across some seven centuries, with global implications.

An open conversation between moderator **Steffi Marung** (ReCentGlobe, Leipzig) and **Sofia Gavrilova** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig) about Gavrilova's most recent book *Russia's Regional Museums. Representing and Misrepresenting Knowledge about Nature, History and Society* (2023, Routledge, London/New York) rounded off the programme.

The finale was EEGA's second **General Assembly** with EEGA Affiliate Researchers, Research Area Coordinators and conference participants under the direction of the spokesperson of EEGA's steering committee, **Katja Castryck-Naumann** (online), together with the coordinators of the Leibniz ScienceCampus. After a report on EEGA activities and events, a festive get-together formed the celebratory ending of day one.

Transregional Connections Beyond the Region

Whilst the first conference day explored the guiding themes in interdisciplinary perspectives, the second day was centred on transregional connections beyond the region. Under the title »Legacies and Ruptures in Culture and Economy – Wars and Crises as Turning Points?« panel IV, chaired by **Markus Sattler** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig), looked at moments of wars and crises as potential caesura in global history. **Karina Khasnulina** (Leipzig University) presented her research on »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, Leipzig) presented the paper »Londongrad: The Dark Geography of Dirty Money« written together with **Kevin Morgan** (Cardiff University).



↑
EEGA PhD Student Karina Khasnulina focussed on parts of her research in a talk on »Reconstructing the Memory of Industrial Projects in Mao’s China: The Industrial Turn and Narratives of Soviet Aid in 20th Century Chinese History«.
© Swen Reichhold

→
Lena Dallywater, one of the editors of the volume »Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Africa« shows the book to the audience on site and online.
© Swen Reichhold

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 were in the focus of a book presentation in cooperation with the University of Évora, Portugal. **Chris Saunders** (University of Cape Town, South Africa), **Helder Adegar Fonseca** (University of Évora, Portugal), and **Lena Dallywater** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig), the editors of the volume *Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Africa. New Perspectives on the Era of Decolonization, 1950s to 1990s* (De Gruyter, Oldenbourg, 2023), together with some of the authors gave insights into the various projects and chapters.

A guest lecture by **Martin Mulsow** (University of Erfurt) on Überreichweiten (Engl: »overreaches«) in cooperation with ReCentGlobe Leipzig extended the discussions to perspectives of a global history of ideas. Opening the view to other regions of the world, those contributions responded to another facet of EEGA’s global perspective.

Taken together, the conference brought to the fore a new global history and new global studies from the perspective of Eastern Europe and suggested pathways for the productive communication with and integration of yet other histories and historiographies from different world regions.



05 **Co-operations and Events**

In the reporting period, EEGA co-financed and co-organised various workshops, conferences, panel discussions, and public events that were visited by national and international guests.



Former EEGA fellow Gilad Ben-Nun illustrates the implications of the energy and food crises for existing and new social tensions.

© Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics

Conversation: »Can Politics Secure Transformation?«

As part of last year's science festival GLOBE22, **Gilad Ben-Nun** (ReCentGlobe, Leipzig University) and **Sara Ashour** (Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry) discussed on October 12, 2022, with **Lena Dallywater** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) the question »Can politics secure transformation?« with a focus on issues of climate change, food security, and social solidarity in the context of social market economies, and transformation dynamics in Eastern Europe and their global implications. The developments of the last months, caused by Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, were particularly highlighted against this background. **Sara Ashour** from Cairo talked about political dimensions of food security, climate risks and trade nexus and asked: Can Trade Policies Mitigate the Food Security Crises in the MENA region? **Gilad Ben-Nun**, an expert on security issues in the Middle East in its global contexts, illustrated the implications of the energy and food crises for existing and new social tensions. After a presentation of most recent findings by Ashour and Ben-Nun, the audience was invited to discuss with the two scholars. Questions of food security, trade, political reactions and societal tensions were in the centre of the conversation, both from a historical perspective as well as with a view to the future.



Workshop: »More-than-Human Borderlands and Mobilities in Central and Eastern Europe«

The workshop »More-than-Human Borderlands and Mobilities in Central and Eastern Europe«, organised by **Larissa Fleischmann**, **Jonathan Everts** (both Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), **Kristine Beurskens** and **Bettina Bruns** (both Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig) for EEGA's research area 1, took place at the premises of Leipzig University at Strohsackpassage in the city centre of Leipzig. Over the course of two consecutive days on 1 and 2 December, 2022, twenty participants from Germany and several Eastern European countries and beyond came together to explore potentials for a more-than-human perspective on borderlands and mobilities. The workshop acknowledged the limitations of a solely human-focused approach in understanding the complex bordering processes that have emerged in Central and Eastern Europe and intended to examine the interactions between human and nonhuman elements, like viruses, animals, objects, and technologies.



Cooperative atmosphere in the workshop »More-than-Human Borderlands and Mobilities in Central and Eastern Europe«. © Fachgebiet Anthropogeographie, MLU

The five workshop's thematic sessions including twelve talks covered topics such as African Swine Fever, tourism, the chicken industry, fruit trade, and the Covid-19 pandemic in regional contexts like Bosnia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Germany. The participants aim was to conceptualize borders and mobilities as more-than-human compositions.

The first two thematic sessions brought together five presenters. First, **Miha Kozorog** (University of Ljubljana) discussed fencing in human-wildlife conflicts along the Slovenian-Hungarian border. Participating online was **Asel Murzakulova** (University of Central Asia, Bishkek), who presented research on apricot cultivation and trade in the Kyrgyz-Tajik borderlands. Historian **Anna Kolářová** (Charles University Prague) introduced her dissertation project on tourism and border formation in the Šumava and Bayerischer Wald region 1870–1950. **Danko Simić** (University of Graz) gave empirical insights into chicken commodities in Southeastern Europe and Europeanization processes in that context. **Eva Mihalovics** (Durham University) delivered a talk on onto-epistemic borderlands in Central Eastern, presenting details from rural Hungary.

The third session of the day focused on more-than-human mobilities. **Michael Wollrath** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) explored how invasive species

might be transformed into economic resources. **György Varga** (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) investigated how pet dogs appear and move with their owners in public spaces. **Mirela Tase** (Aleksander Moisiu University, Durrës) talked on perceptions of travel risk and behaviour during the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the second day, two thematic sessions examined more-than-human borderlands and mobilities in the context of African swine fever. **Andrzej Jarynowski** (Free University Berlin) discussed border-related ASF mitigation strategies in Poland. The organiser of the workshop **Larissa Fleischmann** (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) presented empirical insights from her research project on veterinary fencing in the Eastern German borderlands. **Laura Matt** (University of Bayreuth) examined the establishment, maintenance, and contestation of boundaries in the context of African Swine Fever in Brandenburg. Rounding up the conference was **Jordan Oelke** (Technical University Dresden) presenting the research on the boundary drawing of boars as pests and virus carriers in Germany.

The organisers are looking forward to continuing the enriching conversations in future collaborations and are currently working towards the publication of a joint special issue in an open access Geography journal.

Book project presentation: »Judaism and Islam: Lessons from History and the Present«

Gilad Ben-Nun, former EEGA fellow and one of the editors of EEGA's textbook *Eastern Europe: Global Perspectives* (London: Bloomsbury 2024 – forthcoming) presented his newest book project at ADA University, Baku, Azerbaijan on 9 December, 2022. The book project with the working title »Judaism and Islam: Lessons from History and the Present« entertains the following question: Can the 1,300 years of deep-seated Jewish-Muslim bonds overcome the animosities of the last 100 years of modernity? Ben-Nun elaborated upon the deep faith-based aspects inherent to the binding relationship between Muslims and Jews. Weaving in new academic insights and developments, the book shall expose the deep-rooted synergies, commonalities, and longstanding cultural bonds which lie at the heart of this 1,400-year-old relationship. Consequently, this book, examining new developments in politics and law, offers a fresh look at what binds Jews and Muslims together, above and beyond more recent animosities.

As one of three key places in the world today where Jews and Muslims live in intimately close and highly amicable relations, Azerbaijan, along with Bosnia and Morocco, serve as touchstones for the possibility of deep-seated friendly and intertwined relations between Judaism and Islam. Therein lie key lessons to be drawn from the Azeri case – lessons that were elaborated on in the Q&A session of the lecture.

The event, hosted by the university's Vice rector and the Dean of the law faculty, **Rashad Ibadov**, was attended, among others by two judges from the bench of Azerbaijan's supreme court, and many more interested guests. It was agreed to explore further avenues for a further structured cooperation, concerning a broader possible project about Muslim/Jewish cooperation across the identified places where such a deep-seated symbiotic relationship indeed exists today: Morocco, Bosnia, and of course Azerbaijan.

Science Lounge: »The war on Ukraine in the media and public sphere- What is expected of science? What can it provide?«

On March 22, 2023, EEGA organised a Science Lounge in a restaurant in Leipzig's city centre as part of the IfL Research Workshop 2023. Participants of the Research Workshop joined EEGA researchers and invited guests in a moderated discussion. The EEGA Science Lounge explored the question »The war on Ukraine in the media and public sphere – What is expected of science? What can it provide?« Prominent guests from science and the media, namely **Gesine Dornblüth** (journalist and author of »Jenseits von Putin« [2023]), **Moritz Gathmann** (chief reporter for *Cicero*), and **Alona Shestopalova** (researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at Hamburg University), discussed those pressing issues with free journalist and moderator **Gemma Pörzgen**.



Gesine Dornblüth (on the left) discusses with the audience, Alona Shestopalova listens attentively.

© EEGA



In line with the topic of the workshop, research in and about challenging environments – as conflicts, wars and authoritarianism –, questions of responsibility, accountability, the power of language and the violence of representation were addressed. Together with the interested audience, the speakers debated what a researcher can and should do, what the strengths of scientific discourse and the challenges of representation in the media are, and what, last but not least, people expect from reporting about wars and crises. The discussion was followed by an informal exchange over drinks and Spanish tapas.

BASEES 2023 Annual Conference

On March 31 – April 2, 2023, the annual conference of the British Association of Slavic and East European Studies (BASEES) was held at the University of Glasgow (UK). More than 300 researchers from more than 25 countries took part in the conference. EEGA, partner of the 2021 BASEES regional conference on »Globalising Eastern Europe – New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements«, supported an entire panel and two individual contributors with travel grants. **Shaban Darakchi** (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia) presented his research on »Anti-gender campaigns in Bulgaria: Actors, tendencies, and recent developments«, whereas former EEGA fellow **Nataša Jagdhuhn** spoke about »The Memorial Centre ›Lipa Remembers‹: Metamuseological strategies in narrating the history«.

The panel »**Border in/securities – at the nexus of space and emotions in Central- and Eastern Europe**«, chaired by **Kristine Beurskens** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig) was subdivided into two parts. **Sabine von Löwis** (Centre for East European and International Studies, Berlin) acted as discussant for both sections. On the basis of recent and current research, the panelists discussed the influence of current events on the discursive negotiation, material representation and prac-

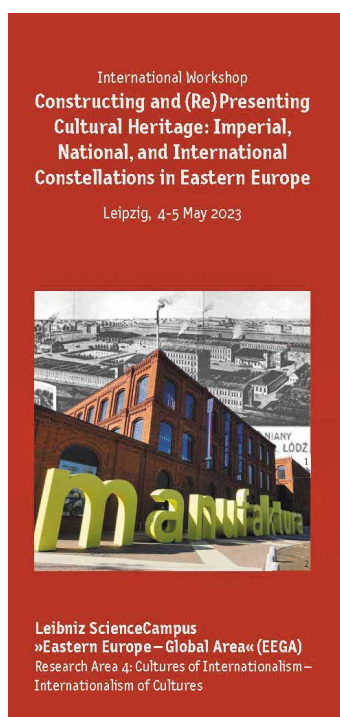
tices that make borders in CEE and how they relate to local as well as global dimensions of security and insecurity. The various topics were accompanied by the following questions: Which actors are involved and in which way do contradicting effects occur in in/securing the border? How do these processes play out across different scales, affected by conflicting concepts and structures of in/securities, e.g. everyday needs vs. national, supranational, global geopolitical security aims? And last but not least, what emotions are connected or evoked with representations and perceptions of (in/secure) borders by different actors?

Valeria Korablyova (Charles University, Prague) introduced her research on »A Un/Bordered Nation: Ukraine's new ›flickering diaspora‹ and its ›long-distance relationship‹ with the home country«. **Kathryn Cassidy** (Northumbria University, Newcastle) brought up the topic »Alter-geopolitics and de-bordering Romania and Poland in the context of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine«. **Gela Merabishvili** (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) offered insights into his research about »Peripheral geopolitical orientations: Borderland views on geopolitical questions in Georgia and Hungary« and **Ekaterina Mikhailova** (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg) discussed »Projecting and Experiencing Informational Borders in Eastern Ukraine pre-2022«.

In the second part of the panel, the topic »Bee-keeping with/out borders in Moldova and Ukraine: Cooperation and Conflict in Defending Carpathian Honeybee Territory« was addressed by **Tanya Richardson** (Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo). **Sophie Lambroschini** (Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin) gave a talk on the highly topical issue of »Providing water and power across front lines: the actors, practices and limits of operating critical infrastructure in conditions of insecurity in the war Ukraine (2014-present)«. **Asel Murzakulova** (University of Central Asia, Khorog) rounded the panel up with the presentation of her research on »Sensuous Nostalgia: Insecurity in the Borderlands of the Fergana Valley«.

Workshop: »Constructing and (Re)Presenting Cultural Heritage. Imperial, National, and International Constellations in Eastern Europe«

What can be considered as cultural heritage is the result of not only a multitude of negotiations by a broad spectrum of actors that affect self-understanding as well as positioning in the world, but also of changing sociopolitical orders. In reflecting on this perspective, the workshop »Constructing and (Re)Presenting Cultural Heritage: Imperial, National, and International Constellations in Eastern Europe«, organised by the coordinators of EEGA's RA4 »Cultures of Internationalism and Internationalism of Cultures«, **Katja Castryck-Naumann**, **Yvonne Kleinmann** and **Stefan Keym**, focused on the multifaceted history of the cultural heritage of Eastern Europe.



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Folder of the workshop. Picture credits: Advertisement of the Barcinski wool factory in Łódź, 1909; Manufaktura of Łódź. Guillaume Speurt, 2012 (both Wikimedia Commons).

Cultural heritage in Eastern Europe has often been studied for individual countries in the region. Moving beyond this singular focus, the workshop looked at its construction and (re)presentation from a comparative and transregional point of view. We are guided by the assumption that increasing global interconnections and transfers have played a formative role in the understanding of cultural heritage in the region. Considering the multiple changing and overlapping sociopolitical orders in Eastern Europe, the interplay of imperial, national, and international constellations in debates and practices of cultural heritage under the global condition have been explored.

The workshop also addressed the question of how states, nationalities, and smaller social groups in Eastern Europe have represented themselves in the world and thus positioned themselves in global contexts. It was discussed whether the construction and representation of cultural heritage for the region in the 19th century was particularly important for the nations without a state as well as to what extent transnational and global references have (also implicitly) played a role.

One aspect of the long history of cultural heritage, which becomes increasingly important to consider in the light of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine, concerns the issue of protecting cultural heritage that is in danger of destruction in times of conflict. Currently, sites of cultural heritage in Ukraine are under threat – a situation that is similar to other parts of the world both past and present. Many artists and cultural workers are fleeing from war-ridden Ukraine or are facing enormous political pressure in Russia. Therefore, the workshop sought to bring back into focus the consequences of war for sites and activists of cultural heritage.

During the final discussion, the participants shared ideas on possible future events, bringing together multiple projects and building connections between academic researchers and »heritage workers«. Another topic of interest was to work more on conflictual and unwanted heritage, as their importance had made its way into the conference.

Round table discussion: »Untangling Gender – the Socialist Viewpoint«

The discussion »**Untangling Gender – the Socialist Viewpoint**«, moderated by **Lisa Füchte** (Ph.D. Candidate Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe), focused on gender under socialism as a complex and multifaceted issue, with different perspectives on gender-based structures in the Soviet Union. It took place at EEGA member Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, May 11, 2023.

Prominent author and Professor **Keti Chukhrov** discussed parts of her recently published book *Practicing the Good. Desire and Boredom in Soviet Socialism* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020) that deals with the impact of socialist political economy on the epistemes of historical socialism. In her presentation, Keti Chukhrov presented the chapter: »Gender and its Social Paradigms«. Another perspective has been presented by Ph.D. candidate **Sasha Talaver** (Central European University, Vienna). In her research Sasha focuses on the history of the women's movement in the Soviet Union and in the discussion she addressed the topic of »Reproductive justice as the perspective for women's movement in (Post-)Soviet Russia«, comparing the Soviet and post-Soviet policy-making. **Marina Vinnik** from Leipzig University on the basis of her dissertation »Reimagining the Canon: Women Artists in the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Russian Federation« talked about women artists in the revolution-



ary and early Soviet years, analyzing their visual representation on the axis of gender and national identity.

In the discussion, the three guest speakers addressed broader questions such as potential pathways towards »untangling« gender in research and curatorial practice, ways of grasping the »socialist viewpoint« in a global perspective, and, ultimately, following an actor-centered approach, gave examples of strategies of individual actors and groups of actors to challenge pre-existing structures.

Wissenschaftskino (Academic Cinema): »Silent Invasion? China's Balkan strategy – and what it means for Europe«

The Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics, in cooperation with EEGA, the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe and ARTE Germany, organised a preview of the documentary film »Silent Invasion – China's Balkan Strategy« with subsequent discussion in the »Wissenschaftskino« series of the Zeitgeschichtliches Forum (Forum of Contemporary History) and the City of Leipzig on 11 May 2023. In this film and discussion series, experts from Leipzig's academic institutions discuss with the audience where reality ends and cinema begins, where cinematic exaggeration reaches further than academic knowledge. **Roman Krawielicki** (Research Centre Global Dynamics at Leipzig University) and **Marion Sippel** (ARTE Germany) introduced the topic and the event format before the film. Following the film screening, South Eastern Europe expert **Marina Vulović** (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin) and contemporary historian **Man Zhang** (Research Institute for Social Cohesion, Leipzig University) discussed the triangular relationship between the EU, the Western Balkans and China together with the audience, moderated by **Frank Hadler** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe), Coordinator of EEGA's Research Area 2.

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Keti Chukhrov (on the left) and Marina Vinnik listen to a question from the audience. © EEGA



The 9th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) took place in Cologne and the EEGA was well represented with a round table discussion and a book presentation.
© Sharon Nathan/Global South Studies Center Cologne

ECAS round table discussion: »Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and African Decolonization: New Perspectives« with Book Launch

The roundtable discussion »Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and African Decolonization: New Perspectives« at the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) 2023 in Cologne on »African Futures«, 31 May – 3 June was organised by EEGA in cooperation with De Gruyter publishers, Berlin. The »African Futures« conference aimed to explore the continent’s critical engagements with the past, present, and future of Africa’s global entanglements. 1900 delegates from 80 countries came together in Cologne addressing the theme by presenting 1400 papers across 245 panels/roundtables. The roundtable organised by EEGA drew on new sources to explore some of the networks that were shaped through the movement of individuals and ideas from Africa to the »East« and from the »East« to Africa in the decades in which African countries moved to independence. The roundtable was convened by **Lena Dallywater** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography), **Helder Adegar Fonseca** (University of Évora), and **Chris Saunders** (University of Cape Town), the editors of a collective volume published by the panelists in the first half of 2023. The presentation and discussion of selected aspects of that volume by some of the chapter authors, **Alba Martín Luque** (University of Florence), **Barbora**

Menclová (Charles University), and **Robin E. Möser** (University of Potsdam) was chaired by **Matteo Grilli** (University of Padova), being an author himself. The history of the ties that existed between African liberation movements and the socialist bloc were of particular interest.

Following the conference theme, participants in the round table on the one hand illuminated selected aspects of this history, whilst on the other hand emphasised legacies and reverberations of these contacts up until the present day. The global multilateral conflicts during the Cold War era were based not only on military clashes, recent research shows, but also on large-scale assistance to decolonised states such as humanitarian aid, trade exchange, scholarships, and transfer of expertise. Entanglements range from diplomacy in the field of nuclear policies to the circulation of imaginaries through movies and still images. Teasing out the economic, political and cultural dimension, the roundtable was designed as discussion of newest findings on aspects of the role of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the decolonisation of Africa, simultaneously serving as book launch with a small reception, kindly organised by De Gruyter, Berlin.

An evening get-together with the editors, authors and potential future authors rounded off EEGA’s presence at the conference. First ideas for a follow-up volume were discussed here.

Workshop: »Research in times of multiple crises? Challenges and Research Perspectives for Eastern European Studies«

What to do when access to Russian archives for the doctoral thesis on Europeans in 17th century Moscow is blocked, when the archives in Ukraine for the study of Soviet prisoners of war between 1941 and 1944 can no longer be visited, or when the interview partners on property relations in Belarusian villages as the most important data basis for the research are suddenly no longer accessible, simply have other priorities than interviews with academics, or would even put them in danger?!

If one looks at the academic vitae of many young academics, it becomes clear how strongly they are linked to recent crises. Revolution of Dignity, Crimean annexation and war in the Donbass in 2014; protests in Belarus and the Corona crisis since 2020 and now the escalation of the Russian war against Ukraine. In recent years, these events and developments have moved and affected all those researching Eastern Europe on various levels – in



Collection of keywords and thoughts of the participants on challenges and problems in their current research. © Sven Jaros



Intensive discussion between experts and participants at different World Café tables on how the respective possibilities presented in the workshop could be applied. © Sven Jaros



terms of content, research organisation, finances and emotions. This is particularly true for doctoral students and postdocs, because they are less flexible in terms of thematic and pragmatic »possibilities of evasion« for systemic reasons.

The workshop »Research in times of multiple crises? Challenges and Research Perspectives for Eastern European Studies« that took place at MLU Halle, 6 and 7 June 2023, was divided into three parts. The first block dealt with the specific challenges that the participants face when working on their research projects. At three World Café tables, the participants were able to discuss the topics of access to archives, access to the field and political framework conditions and clarify where there are obstacles and a need for discussion. In the second block, perspectives for solving these difficulties were presented. For this purpose, the invited experts who, based on their respective expertise and field of work, were able to point out alternatives for research and data collection. In the third and last block, the challenges met the perspectives. At three further World Café tables, the participants had extensive discussions with the experts and explored how the respective possibilities could be applied to the specific research of the participants and what further needs there might be for this.

The workshop, organised by **Lisa Füchte, Corinne Geering, Sven Jaros, Anne Kluger, Laura Krebs, Elisa Satjukow** and **Marie Schwarz**, opened up an important space for exchange. A more in-depth continuation of many of the points raised is planned within the framework of the Young DGO. The format was supported by EEGA, the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), the MLU with the Aleksander Brückner Centre for Polish Studies, the VOH and the DGO.

IAMO Forum 2023

The IAMO Forum on »International Agricultural Trade, Geopolitics and Global Food Security« took place in Halle (Saale) from 21 to 23 June 2023. The forum brought together leading representatives from research, civil society, agribusiness and politics to discuss the current challenges of international agricultural trade in the context of the fight against hunger. Topics ranged from international trade relations and food security to geopolitical risks and global cooperation. More than 170 guests from 24 countries attended the 21 sessions in total.

International agricultural trade is key to improving global food security. It ensures better access to more diversified and nutritious food, especially in low-income countries, and serves as a safety net against food shortages due to climate risks, crises, political tensions and other shocks. Massively increasing geopolitical dislocations, such as the escalating rivalry between China and the USA, the ongoing war in Europe, as well as increased calls for decoupling and national compartmentalisation, pose major challenges to the international (agricultural) trading system and global food supply.

Against this backdrop, the participants on the first day of the conference mainly discussed the issue of the anti-globalisation sentiment currently being observed in the global economy. Day two focused on recent crises and the role of international trade in food security. How global value chains and food security can be ensured in times of geopolitical tensions and also fulfil sustainability goals was discussed on the third day of the conference.

The conference was jointly organised by IAMO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the German Agribusiness Alliance and EEGA.

ENIUGH Panel: »Transregional Perspectives on Peace and Security – Conflict Trends and Responses in ›Global East‹ and ›Global South‹«

At the panel »Transregional Perspectives on Peace and Security – Conflict Trends and Responses in ›Global East‹ and ›Global South‹« within the framework of the Seventh European Congress on World and Global History (ENIUGH) in The Hague, 29 June – 1 July 2023, international scholars from South Africa, USA and Germany discussed questions of peace and security in both a transregional and interdisciplinary perspective. Under the main theme »Conflict and Inequity, Peace and Justice: Local, Regional and International Perspectives«, the congress organisers aimed to discuss causes of conflict and inequity as well as the corollary features of various quests for peace and justice. Panels at the congress featured studies examining how historical narratives have been constructed around moments of peace and of conflict and reflecting on the long-term

impacts of conflict and inequity in relation to processes of reconciliation and peace-making. For the first time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the congress took place as face-to-face exchange, in an excellent place to discuss histories of conflicts and inequities: The Hague, Netherlands, the International City of Peace and Justice.

The discussion on conflict trends and responses in ›Global East‹ and ›Global South‹ organised by EEGA was convened by **Lena Dallywater** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography). Connecting individual research projects on everyday security practices at national borders in the ›Global East‹, with studies on conflict trends and prevention mechanisms in societies in the ›Global South‹, the panel related new empirical research findings to the overall issue of conflict and inequity in the first two decades of the 21st century. How do societies and larger entities react to violent extremism, xenophobic attacks, and border conflicts? How are communities reimaged and how does this effect bordering practices and security concerns?

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For the first time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the European Congress on World and Global History took place as face-to-face exchange, this time in The Hague, Netherlands.

© Florian Förster





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Katja Castryck-Naumann comments on the contributions of the panel. © Florian Förster

GSGAS Summer School: »Resources, Consumption, and Global Crises«

The 21st International Summer School of the Graduate School Global and Area Studies, Leipzig University, organised in close cooperation with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and with the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe), took place in Leipzig from 10 – 12 July 2023. The summer school is intended to provide participating PhD candidates with an opportunity to engage in an intense exchange with fellow PhD candidates and postdocs from different disciplinary and institutional backgrounds on topics of common interest and to network across disciplinary, as well as geographical, boundaries.

Jonathan Everts, Executive Director of ZIRS and EEGA Research Area Coordinator of Research Area 1, opened the event and held a lecture on »Resourcification and Crisis?« The 2023 summer school edition addressed questions of resource use and its connection to global and planetary crises. It focused on the historical, social, cultural and political processes of turning something into a resource, and the negotiations of scarcity and urgency connected to such processes. By asking why and when people understand something as a specific resource and what people do to act upon diagnoses of abundance, scarcity and urgency, the participants sought to engage with the historically and contemporarily varying efforts of people to cope with global and planetary challenges and ask about their role in the formation and transformation of multiple world orders.

The individual papers on *Conflict Trends and Peace-building Strategies in Africa* (**Felix Kumah-Abiwu**), *Polish Territorial Defence Forces as everyday geopolitical security agents* (**Bettina Bruns**), *Cross-Regional Comparisons on Violent Extremism* (**Gilad Ben-Nun**), and *Conflicts and Responses: Some Southern African Reflections* (**Chris Saunders**) embedded their studies in broader research trends and themes such as the »Global East«, »Eastern Europe as Global Area«, »Peace and Security in Africa«. The main aim of the panel was to introduce new angles on understanding reactions to conflict and insecurities – both perceived as well as lived everyday-experiences, and the security practices that result from them, from local individual levels, like the Polish Territorial Defence Forces, to international organisations such as the African Union. With a view on historical trajectories and legacies, the discussant, **Ulf Engel** (Leipzig University) summarised recurring themes and teased out connections and comparisons from a global perspective.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a national(istic) shift in many societies, and world and global historians have spent the last three years questioning the consequences that this would have for the field. The panel »Transregional Perspectives on Peace and Security« helped illuminating some of them.



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Moderator Anne Kluger (from left to right) with the two editors Fabian Burkhardt and Katharina Kucher on the podium presenting the »Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas« and the »Russland-« and »Ukraine-Analysen«, two completely different publication organs. © EEGA

Summer School: Writing workshop on publishing in scientific journals and in the field of knowledge transfer related to Eastern Europe

After the successful writing workshop last summer, the Leipzig regional group of Junge DGO, the young academics' organisation within the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V. (German Society for Eastern European Studies), and EEGA again worked together in encouraging and supporting young scholars on their way to being published in scientific journals and to publish in the field of knowledge transfer.

The workshop on the 13th of July 2023 at GWZO (Leipzig) was divided into two parts. In the first public part, moderated by **Anne Kluger** (University of Münster, Junge DGO), **Katharina Kucher** and **Fabian Burkhardt** (both Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies) presented the »Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas« and the »Russland-Analysen« and »Ukraine-Analysen« (as part of the Länder-Analysen consortium). As a historical journal, »Jahrbücher« contains articles (mostly in German and English) that undergo a double blind peer review process, book reviews and research reports. They are published quarterly in print and online. The »Länder-Analysen«, on the other hand, offer

twice-monthly analyses and commentaries on current political, economic, social, and cultural developments in Eastern Europe. The articles that are written by academics and experts are accessible online and aimed at the interested public.

In the second part of the workshop, the participants worked in separate groups. Katharina Kucher, editor of the »Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas«, provided an overview of the text genres included in the »Jahrbücher« and explained the entire working process between the first submission of the text to its publication. She stressed, that major reworks of articles after the review process are the norm and encouraged the participants to view the critique of reviewers as a rare chance for in-depth feedback and improvement of one's text. The participants also looked at different reviews that were published in the »Jahrbücher« and discussed what makes a good review. As Katharina Kucher explained, reviews are a good first step into publishing, especially if they fit thematically with one's own work. Another topic debated was that of gendered language. Kucher introduced the participants to the »Jahrbücher's« statement on the use of gendered language in German texts, which they praised for its flexibility and inclusiveness.

The other workshop was conducted by Fabian Burkhardt, editor of »Russland-« and »Ukraine-Analysen«. After a detailed introduction to the work of the »Länderanalysen«, a major focus of was on the importance of knowledge transfer and science communication, which the participants overwhelmingly considered significant, but time-consuming. Since there is no peer review at »Länderanalysen«, the publication process is short and

the timeliness of the publication is increased; comments can appear within a few weeks. With the help of two submitted drafts, the participants got into discussion about the writing criteria in the second half of the workshop. Fabian Burkhardt especially encouraged scholars who did not speak German as their mother tongue to submit texts, as all texts go through language editing again regardless and are important for the fostering diverse perspectives.



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Fabian Burkhardt's workshop covered details in depth, even spelling and phrasing issues were discussed intensively. © EEGA

In a final reflection round, moderated by **Paula Seidel** (Centre Marc Bloch, Junge DGO), the impressions of the day were collected and debated. The participants shared the highlights of their respective workshops with those from the other group. Strategies to become visible as a young scholar and the best timing for the first publication were especially important topics. The workshop day ended with an informal get-together at a restaurant in Leipzig's city center.

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Paula Seidel (Centre Marc Bloch) summarises the participants' thoughts on their impressions of the workshops. © EEGA



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

EEGA organises a colloquium for researchers, students and interested guests involved in the fields of Global, Trans-regional 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 both in the winter semester 2022/2023 and in the summer semester 2023.

**Guided tour of the »Jüdisches Album« exhibition
(in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for Jewish
History and Culture – Simon Dubnow)**

Julia Roos (Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow) guided the interested colloquium participants through the striking exhibition »Jewish Album. Photographs by Rita Ostrovská« in the Dubnow Institute that shows selected photographs of the series »Jews in Ukraine« and »Emigrants«. Rita Ostrovská was born in Kiev in 1953 and studied in Leningrad (St. Petersburg) and Kiev. The renowned artist's work has been exhibited around the world and is contained in numerous art collections. From 1989 until her emigration in 2001, she photographed traditional sites of Jewish life in Ukraine, the »shtetls«, and the changes these underwent following the mass emigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union. Since 1993, Rita Ostrovská moreover photographically documented the lives of Jewish emigrants from the former Soviet Union after their arrival in the USA, Israel, and Germany. She also documented her own family's emigration from Ukraine, their life in transit, and their arrival in Kassel.



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Rita Ostrovská, Self-portrait, 1993, in the Russian restaurant »Misha's Deli«, Washington, D. C.

Nadine Menzel: »Aesthetised Animals as Companions, Key and Memory Figures in the East Slavic Literatures of the 19th to 21st Centuries. A literary-scientific search«

The subject of the presentation by **Nadine Menzel** (Affiliate Researcher of RA 4) was the staging of animal figures in selected literary examples of Ukrainian and Russian literature. The framework is a habilitation project on the literarised human-animal relationship in literatures of the same name. This project is based on the thesis that essential narratives and topoi of East Slavic cultures are (or can be) reflected in »the animal« in fiction. Using approaches from memory culture and narrative theory, exemplary texts will be examined for the positions and functions of the animal figure and the resulting cultural meanings will be determined. **Philipp Kohl** (Research Assistant for Slavic Literary Studies at the LMU Munich) moderated the discussion.

Science at Risk Lecture Series

In the framework of the Science at Risk Lecture Series, the round table discussions **»How can we critically rethink research productivity during mass repression: The case of Belarusian researchers?«** and **»Quantitative data in public discourse during the Russian invasion of Ukraine«**, both moderated by **Andrei Vazyanau**, took place online in November 2022 in cooperation with the Science at Risk Emergency Office, funded by the Evaluating Office (Auswertiges Amt), and EEGA.

»How can we critically rethink research productivity during mass repression: The case of Belarusian researchers?«

The first round table discussion focused on a critical evaluation of research productivity during mass repression, conducted by six invited Belarusian researchers from the fields of history, sociology, anthropology, law, literature and gender studies. What unites them is that the mass repression, that followed the 2020 anti-Lukashenko protests disrupted their lives and academic careers, making it difficult to publish in reputable journals and participate in international conferences: Some were taken into administrative detention, some lost their jobs at state universities in Belarus, four had to leave Belarus and cannot return, two did not leave Belarus and therefore have to hide their names, one of them lives in Ukraine and is exposed to the hardships of the Russian invasion.

The objective of the discussion was to exchange experiences of coping with »academic exigencies« during times of war, mass repression, and forced migration among scholars who faced diverse social hardships in their respective countries. Discussions were held on how researchers and public intellectuals from and in Belarus navigate different paradigms of knowledge production, represent science in society, and how institutions respond to exceptional circumstances affecting some of their staff or applicants. They highlighted challenges such as visa restrictions for Belarusian citizens, limited participation possibilities in communities and events other than Russian, and growing security concerns. The lack of consideration by Western institutions regarding risks faced by the families of political refugees was also mentioned.

Finally, the participants acknowledged the disparity between Belarusian society's current expectations of social scientists and the theoretical contributions that foster academic competitiveness in Western Europe. Striking a balance between these two paradigms of knowledge production and dissemination necessitates compromise, creative solutions, and the solidarity of international institutions to foster inclusivity in the scientific field – a need shared by researchers from various countries, transcending the borders of Belarus.

»Quantitative data in public discourse during the Russian invasion of Ukraine«

The second event of the Science-at-Risk Lecture featured experts from state universities and a non-state think tank: **Andrii Gorbachyk** (National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv), **Ivan Verbytskyi**, **Natalia Lomonosova** (both Cedoss Think Tank) and **Natalia Glebova** (Melitopol State Pedagogical University). They discussed the challenges faced by research and data collection in Ukraine due to the ongoing war, while emphasizing the importance and demand for quantitative sociology in the media and public discourse.

SCIENCE AT RISK ROUND TABLE

Quantitative data in public discourse during the Russian invasion of Ukraine

22 NOV. 2022 | 15:30 (BERLIN)
16:30 (KYIV)

Natalia Glebova
Melitopol State
Pedagogical University

Ivan Verbytskyi
Cedoss Think Tank,
Ukraine

Andrei Vazyyanau
Moderator

Andrii Gorbachyk
Taras Shevchenko
National University of Kyiv

Natalia Lomonosova
Cedoss Think Tank,
Ukraine

SCIENCE AT RISK
Emergency Office

Auswärtiges Amt

EEGA
Leibniz ScienceCampus



The poster announcing the event
»Quantitative data in public discourse during
the Russian invasion of Ukraine«

In 2022, with the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, quantitative sociological data became crucial in public debates. The country systematically and decentrally collects sociological data without explicit censorship, earning a high level of trust, interest and practical use. Political attitudes, ethnic identity, mother tongue, electoral votes, criminal offenses, visas and residence permits issued, among other figures, became central to discussions on collective responsibility, cultural differences, and sanction policies. Surveys based on this data were utilised by the mass media, politicians, and decision-makers. However, there have been cases where qualitative sociological findings were ignored by those in power, despite their significance in shaping media discourse, particularly regarding support for the war in society.

The moderator Vazyanau stressed the challenge of accounting for potential biases resulting from numerous shifts and the need to improve knowledge about Ukrainians temporarily living abroad, which requires cooperation with qualitative researchers. Additionally, he highlighted the necessity of critically examining the outdated census data from 2001, challenging the stereotypical image of Ukraine's cultural, linguistic, and political divide between the West, Centre, and East. Ukraine's digitalization offered new survey opportunities but also created visibility disparities between users and non-users of digital tools.

The experts also emphasised the obstacles to data collection in regions heavily affected by the war and those under Russian occupation. Furthermore, the importance of needs assessment alongside attitudinal research in the context of a humanitarian crisis was stressed. Thanks to the rich tradition of quantitative sociological research in Ukraine and the current consolidation of professional circles, many emerging issues can be effectively addressed by experts.

Marina Vinnik: »Art and Defining Russian/Soviet Imperialism and Colonialism«

EEGA fellow **Marina Vinnik** presented her research on »Art and Defining Russian/Soviet Imperialism and Colonialism« on May 10, 2023 in cooperation with Leipzig University. During the presentation Marina Vinnik talked about the mosaic structure of the imperial and colonial identity in the Russian Empire and its implications for the early Soviet Union. There are several interesting case studies in the history of art: for instance The Wanderers – a movement whose goal was to break out from the Eurocentric Imperial Art Academy, or the artist Natalia Goncharova who was looking for the »true« Russian identity in herself and her art around the revolution, and finally Socialist Realists who were developing »Soviet« image though in all the Republics of the Soviet Union it was nationally coded. Marina Vinnik discussed how the mosaic project of Soviet Identity was reflected and perpetuated by the visual artists and what consequences it has for the modern post Soviet space.

Sven Jaros and Yvonne Kleinmann: »When Eastern European Archives are no longer accessible – Alternative Approaches and Collections from a Halle Perspective« (in cooperation with Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies)

The thematic research colloquium »When Eastern European Archives are no longer accessible – Alternative

Approaches and Collections from a Halle Perspective« concluded a two-day workshop at MLU Halle, 6 and 7 June 2023. **Sven Jaros** and **Yvonne Kleinmann** (both MLU, Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies) illustrated problems and possible solutions for alternative ways of accessing archival material and conducting field research and interviews in their respective fields of research during times of multiple crisis.

Further guests and topics in the colloquium included:

- **Martin Bauch:** Die »Kornkammer Ukraine« in der vormodernen Globalisierung: Die Bedeutung der nördlichen Schwarzmeerküste für die Getreideversorgung des Mittelmeerraums im Mittelalter (in cooperation with Leipzig University)
- **Caroline Breitfelder:** Schreiben in der Krise. Der Journalist Paul Scheffer (in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)
- **Iwona Dadej:** Frauenbewegung in Polen um 1900: lokal, transimperial, transnational? (in cooperation with Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies)
- **Corinne Geering:** Neue Waren aus L'viv, Dnipro und Charkiv: Eine transimperiale Wirtschaftsgeschichte um die Jahrhundertwende (in cooperation with Leipzig University)
- **Helmut Loos and Stefan Keym:** Musik in der Ukraine – ukrainische Musik? Eine vertrackte Geschichte (in cooperation with Leipzig University)
- **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett:** Why Jewish Museums Matter: The Creation of POLIN Museum of History of Polish Jews (in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow)
- **Katarzyna Kopycka:** Prekäre Arbeitsmarktlagen in Polen: Internationale Vergleiche und definitorische Fragen aus soziologischer Sicht (in cooperation with Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies)
- **Petru Negura:** When Does National Indifference End and Resistance to Nationalism Start? Peasant Responses to Nation-Building in the Romanian, Polish, and Soviet Borderlands (in cooperation with Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies)
- **Gert Pickel:** Fluch oder Segen? Die politische Bedeutung von Religiosität im östlichen Europa (in cooperation with Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies)
- **Kai Struve:** Das sowjetische Feindbild des ukrainischen Nationalismus: Elemente, Verflechtungen und Wirkungen bis in die Gegenwart (in cooperation with Leipzig University)
- **Panel discussion:** »Moving Beyond the »Post-Soviet: Future Approaches of Urban Studies in the Region(s)« (in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

07 Interns and Postdoc Fellows

The EEGA supports researchers from within and outside the science region Leipzig – Halle – Jena. In the reporting year three Postdocs received an EEGA fellowship (between 8 days and 3 months) and stayed at one of our partner institutions.



Rebekah Manlove
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Marina Vinnik
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› **Marina Vinnik** (Research Area 2): two months stay at Leipzig University; research project: The End of Dialogue: the state of dialogue between Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian societies in the fields of art and activism.



↓
Christian Costamagna
© Swen Reichhold

› **Christian Costamagna** (Research Area 2): three months stay at Leipzig University; research project: The 1999 NATO intervention against Yugoslavia: Global dimensions of a local conflict, its historical controversies and the politics of memory in Serbia.

The Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA was able to welcome **Rebekah Manlove**, its first intern in funding phase II. She studies Southeast European Studies at the University of Jena. Her main focus is on the (post-)Yugoslav region and its neighbours, with the region's history and linguistic diversity being her most prominent interests. In the span of her six week compulsory student internship, **Rebekah Manlove** not only visited the IfL and the GWZO in Leipzig, but also the MPI and the IAMO in Halle, as well as the Institute of Geography at the University of Jena. The tasks during her internship ranged widely. Among others, she got to attend a conference on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, several colloquia events and a workshop on publishing in scientific journals for young scholars. Rebekah Manlove also carried out a number of tasks for different researchers, looking into a variety of topics, and compiling data.

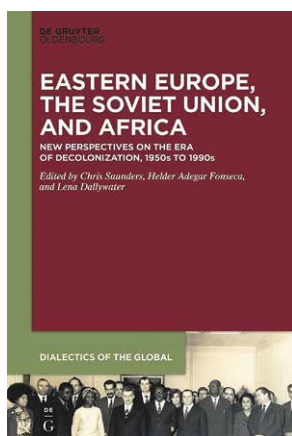


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Špela Drnovšek Zorko
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› **Špela Drnovšek Zorko** (Research Area 1): eight days stay at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography; research project: Migrant geographies and creative methodologies of race, European-ness, and belonging.

08 Publications

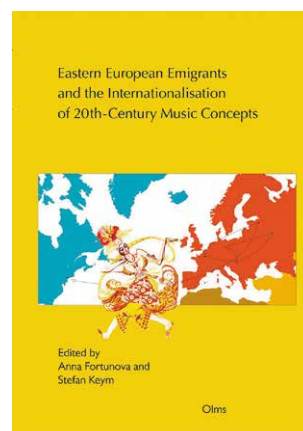
In the following a selection of the latest EEGA-related publications from EEGA, its partner institutions, EEGA Fellows and Affiliates are presented.



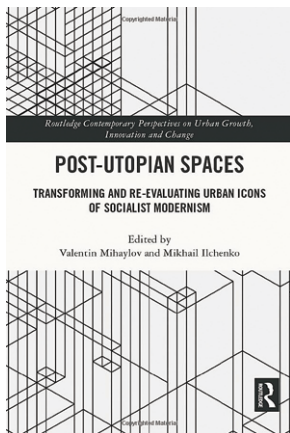
It is now widely recognised that a Cold War perspective falls short in unfolding the complex geographies of connections and the multipolarity of actions and transactions that were shaped through the movement of individuals and ideas from Africa to the »East« and from the »East« to Africa in the decades in which African countries moved to independence. Adopting an interdisciplinary, transregional perspective, the edited volume *Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Africa. New Perspectives on the Era of Decolonization, 1950s to 1990s* (ed. **Christopher Saunders**, **Helder A. Fonseca** and **Lena Dallywater**, De Gruyter Oldenbourg: Berlin 2023.) casts new light on aspects of the role of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the decolonisation of Africa. Taking further themes explored in a collection of essays published by the editors in 2019, the twelve case studies by authors from South Africa, Czech Republic, Portugal, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Canada, Serbia, and Germany draw on new sources to explore the history of the ties that existed between African liberation movements and the socialist bloc, some of which continue to influence relationships today.

The history of 20th-century music is particularly characterised by the phenomenon of emigration – often for political reasons, such as the persecution of musicians by totalitarian regimes. Many of these musical emigrants came from Eastern European countries. They also transferred their artistic and cultural heritage to their temporary or long-term host countries, where their music concepts came into interaction with local traditions and thus contributed to the internationalisation and global melting of ideas.

The collective publication *Eastern European Emigrants and the Internationalisation of 20th-Century Music Concepts*, edited by **Anna Fortunova** and **Stefan Keym**, reinvestigates the paths of these émigré composers, music scholars and other artists. It examines their more or less fruitful interaction with their host cultures as well as their impact on the rise of new global trends of culture. A large part of the 14 articles, written by musicologists and other scholars from six countries, is dedicated to Russian émigrés who left their country after or even before the October Revolution. This first part is complemented by case studies on Slovenian, Czech, Polish, Lithuanian and Hungarian musicians, from the avant-garde to popular music cultures. The edited volume, published by Georg Olms in 2022, arose from the conference of the same name, supported by EEGA in January 2020.

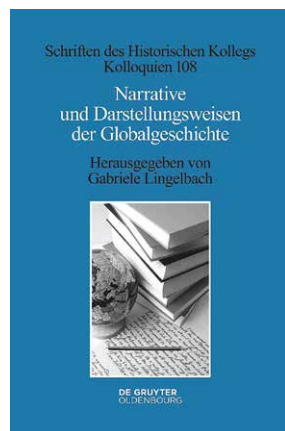


Kevin Morgan and EEGA Research Area Coordinator **Nadir Kinossian** published the article »Dismantling London-grad: the dark geography of dirty money« in 2023 (*European Planning Studies*). Both also wrote about »Authoritarian state capitalism: Spatial planning and the megaproject in Russia«, an article that was published in the journal *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* (Volume 55, Issue 3).



Featuring recent and perceptive analyses and comparative case studies from a variety of countries, the book *Post-Utopian Spaces. Transforming and Re-Evaluating Urban Icons of Socialist Modernism* (London: Routledge) edited by **Valentin Mihaylov** and former EEGA fellow **Mikhail Ilchenko** explores ›ideal‹ socialist cities and their transformation under new socio-economic and political conditions after the fall of communism.

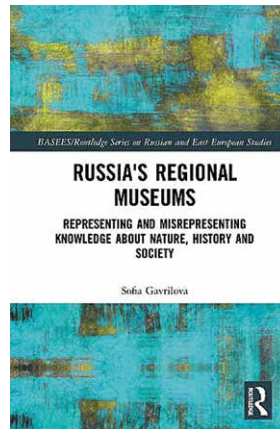
Katja Castryck-Naumann and **Matthias Middell** both contributed to the edited volume *Narratives and Representations of World History* (Narrative und Darstellungsweisen der Globalgeschichte), volume 108 in the series *Schriften des Historischen Kollegs* edited by Gabriele Lingelbach and published by De Gruyter, Oldenbourg.



The volume addresses the question of how authors narrate the history of global connections, transnational cultural contact, colonialism, migration, economic globalization, and knowledge transfer. How do they differentiate their representations from those of other historical disciplines? Do they utilise different narratives and concepts? What specific problems do they face?

In her article, **Katja Castryck-Naumann** focusses on »The debates on world history in the USA and the transformation of world history narratives in teaching« (Die Debatten um world history in den USA und der Wandel von welthistorischen Narrativen in der Lehre). **Matthias Middell's** contribution is about »Telling world

history«. The example of »Cambridge World History« (Weltgeschichte erzählen. Das Beispiel der »Cambridge World History«).



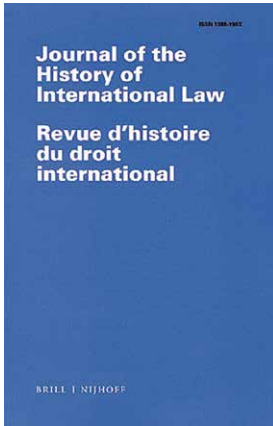
Sofia Gavrilova's book *Russia's Regional Museums. Representing and Misrepresenting Knowledge about Nature, History and Society* (2023, Routledge, London/ New York) is dedicated to the Soviet project of establishing kraevedenie museums (local history museums) as a central initiative for enforcing place identities in the Soviet Union. The book presents both the history and the current state of the network. The 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.

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 Fellows and Research Area Coordinators since September 2022:

- **Laura Kemmer; Wladimir Sgibnev; Tonio Weicker; Maxwell Woods: Railway conjunctures: post-colonial and postsocialist trajectories of urban renewal.**
- **Ana Moledo:** review on **Doing Global History. An Introduction in 6 Concepts** (by Roland Wenzelhuemer).
- **Balint Varga:** review on **The World beyond the West. Perspectives from Eastern Europe** (by Mariusz Kałczewiak and Magdalena Kozłowska).

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



Gilad Ben-Nun, one of the editors of EEGA's textbook *Eastern Europe: Global Perspectives* (London: Bloomsbury 2024 – forthcoming), is an expert on the history of international law. His article »How Jewish is International Law?«, which appeared in the *Journal of the History of International Law*, has won the »Spotlight Award« as the

Journal's best article for 2021. The journal is published by Brill and ranks #1 in the field. In his article, Ben-Nun attempts to explain why so many East-Central European Jewish international jurists played such cardinal roles in the elaboration of some of the most important treaties of modern international law post World War II. Taking a comparative approach, the paper points to structural similarities between Talmudic law and international law, which help further explain the evident ›Jewish disproportion‹ in the making of many of the international system's bedrock treaties post World War II.

Podcasts

In the framework of the **Transformative Podcast** of the Research Center for the History of Transformations (RECET), which takes the year 1989 as a starting point to think about social, economic, and cultural transformations in the wake of deep historical caesuras on a European and global scale, **Anna Calori** (RECET) in conversation with

EEGA Research Area Coordinator **Steffi Marung** spoke about »Dialectics of (Im)Mobility: Historical Transformations Through the Lens of Movement«. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced governments across the world to rethink (free) movement of peoples and things, and to revise mobility regimes in the face of new constraints. To a certain extent, each moment of major socio-economic or political transformation in the 20th century has been also characterised by a change in our understanding of, and attitudes towards, mobility. Steffi Marung reflects on how we can better understand historical transformations and caesuras by looking at mobilities.



In episode 30 »What exactly is meant by ›the East‹ of Europe?« (Was soll denn bitte »der Osten« Europas sein?) of the **SpacEconomics** podcast (Department of Economic Geography of Friedrich Schiller University Jena) **Björn Braunschweig** (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) discussed with **Lena Dallywater** (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) about her work at the Leibniz Science-Campus. Among other things, they reflected on the challenges and opportunities of interdisciplinary work, the role of interpretive sovereignty and »the other« in the search for identity, and how looking at individual entanglements can change the view of entire regions.

The list below provides a selection of further EEGA related publications by EEGA Research Area Coordinators, members of the Scientific Advisory Board, EEGA Affiliate Researchers and (former) EEGA Fellows.

- Alff, Henryk; Sgibnev, Wladimir. Almaty: modernisation through spatial reordering – stratification, transport sector reforms, and Eurasianism. In: Hu, Richard (ed.) *Routledge handbook of Asian cities*. London: Routledge (2023).
- Bruns, Bettina. Security through emotions: narratives of temporal and spatial belongings of the Polish Territorial Defence Forces. *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 64 (4): 445–467 (2022).
- Burton, Eric; Mark, James; Marung, Steffi. Development. In: Mark, James; Bett, Paul (eds.): *Socialism Goes Global. The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the Age of Decolonisation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 74–113 (2022).
- Costamagna, Christian. Brief n. 8/Dicembre 2022 Crisi nei Balcani? Una disamina storica e una rassegna su alcune interpretazioni occidentali e russe degli eventi più recenti (2022).
- Drnovšek Zorko, Špela. »The Language of here: Tukaj Smo.« *Andragoska Spoznanja* 28, no. 2, 141–144 (2022).
- Drnovšek Zorko, Špela; Debnár, M. Comparing the racialization of Central-East European migrants in Japan and the UK. *CMS* 9, 30 (2021).
- Gavrilova, Sofia. Learning About the Soviet State: The Establishment of Soviet Educational Cartography in the 1920s and 1930s, *The Cartographic Journal* (2022).
- Hock, Beáta. »Re-Imagining Art History from a Non-Core European Location«, in A. Kantilal Petal, Y Siddiqui (eds.), *Storytellers of Art Histories: Living and Sustaining a Creative Life*. Bristol: Intellect, (2022).
- Hock, Beáta. »Evolving networks. International sponsors of post-socialist art scenes.« In *Multiple Transformations: Lived Experiences and Postsocialist Cultures of Work*, special issue of *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe*, 30 (2023).
- Horvat, Lea. »From Mass Housing to Celebrity Homes: Socialist Domesticities in Yugoslav Popular Magazines«. In: *WohnSeiten: Visuelle Konstruktionen des Wohnens in Zeitschriften* (edited by Irene Nierhaus, Kathrin Heinz and Rosanna Umbach), Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 358–377 (2021).
- Kinossian, Nadir. Rethinking the post-socialist city. In: *Urban geography*, 43 (2022), 8, 1240-1251 (2022).
- Meier, Katja, Lorenz, Astrid; Wendel, Mattias (eds.). *Rule of Law and the Judiciary*. Baden-Baden: Nomos (Open Access) (2023).
- Mikuš, Marek. The anthropology of financialization in Eastern Europe. In: Aldenderfer, Mark S. (ed.). *Oxford research encyclopedia of anthropology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2021).
- Mikuš, Marek; Gagyi, Agnes. Housing finance in the aftermath of the foreign-Currency mortgage crisis in Eastern Europe: editorial. *Critical Housing Analysis* 9(1): 39–47 (2022).
- Pallot, Judith. I was a Special Operations Officer in a Russian Correctional Colony, but I'll Speak Georgian: The Politics of Language in Qualitative Research in the Former Soviet Union. In C. Bading, K. Kazzazi, & J. Wintzer (Eds.), *(Foreign) Language and Qualitative Social Research: Research Strategies in Intercultural Contexts* Springer (Accepted/In press).
- Pickel, Gert; Pickel, Susanne. *Die Bürger in der Demokratie*. München: Kohlhammer (2023)
- Pickel, Gert; Pickel, Susanne. From Prejudice to Polarization and Rejection of Democracy. *Analyse & Kritik* 45 (1): 55–84 (2023).
- Ristić, Katarina; Satjukow, Elisa. The 1999 NATO Intervention from a Comparative Perspective: An Introduction. *Comparative Southeast European Studies* 70(2), 189–201 (2022).
- Varga, Bálint. The Two Faces of the Hungarian Empire. *Austrian History Yearbook*, 52, 118–130 (2021).

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