



EEGA

Leibniz ScienceCampus

Who-is-who

**Eastern Europe –
Global Area**



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About EEGA

Founded in 2016, the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe – Global Area” (EEGA) is committed to developing new research perspectives on Eastern Europe. EEGA promotes young researchers and stimulates knowledge exchange together with other Eastern European stakeholders in this region. In this vein, EEGA contributes substantially to the integration of the Central German academic region, an area marked by the successful and longstanding cooperation of universities and research institutes. The EEGA research agenda addresses the overarching question of the positioning of Eastern European actors through and within global processes, conflicts and a new world order. A multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted examination of globalization processes is key for an informed understanding of societal developments.

Three main strategies serve as guidelines within the EEGA agenda:

- defining Eastern Europe through transregional entanglements rather than upholding compartmentalised approaches;
- connecting researchers, institutions and societies in Germany, Eastern Europe and beyond;
- promoting research, education and knowledge transfer through carefully targeted events and activities.

EEGA’s novel paradigm champions an informed understanding of Eastern Europe as world region marked by diverse traditions, positions, developments and dynamics. In doing so, EEGA raises academic and public awareness for this highly relevant, yet often neglected world region and its crucial role in global processes.

This brochure introduces you to the world of EEGA, to the many colleagues who shape EEGA, their research projects and interests, and it is hoped that this booklet will invite a wide range of collaborations.

Overview of the Research Areas

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe under the Global Condition

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.

Research Area 2

Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order

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

Research Area 3

Economic and Regional Development under the Global Condition

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

Research Area 4

Cultures of Internationalism and Internationalism of Cultures

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

Research Area 5

Populist Movements and Regimes in Eastern Europe

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.

Best of ...

EEGA



Leibniz ScienceCampus

**Working with and supporting EEGA fellows
from Eastern Europe and around the world.
So many great scholars that do so much
important, inspiring, and outstanding work!**

**... it was really rewarding seeing
so many motivated aspiring
scholars bonding, connecting
and exchanging ideas.**

**To me EEGA has become a thrilling
framework to explore Eastern Europe's
global nature from angles other disciplines
than my own bring into our joint work.**

**Discussions (formal and informal),
opportunities and the spirit of respect-
ful interdisciplinary community!**

**... our really nice discussion about
right-wing populism and the aftermath
with wine, beer, and clever talk.**

... the multi- and interdisciplinary exchange with colleagues in Research Area 3, which remained active even during COVID19.

... the interdisciplinary exchange and trans-regional collaboration related to my research interests, the possibility to develop collaborative projects and networks as well as to invite guest researchers from Eastern Europe.

I experience every moment with the people involved in EEGA as very inspiring.

There have been many good moments, but most satisfying has been to witness how the EEGA has grown, prospered, and put down sustainable roots.

I have fond memories of a number of workshops and meetings that gave me the rare opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from other research institutions in the region who are working on similar research questions.

... so many urgent questions need to be addressed, which can only be solved through joint interdisciplinary research and regular exchange of ideas.

Research Area Coordinators

—

Prof. Dr Jonathan Everts

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg /
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU),
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Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 1)

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About

Prof. Dr Jonathan Everts studied Geography and History at the University of Freiburg. He acquired his Doctorate in Geography at the University of Freiburg in 2008 and in 2015 his habilitation at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Geography, University of Bonn. After a PostDoc fellowship at the University of Sheffield, UK, between 2008 and 2009, he was senior lecturer at Geography departments at the University of Bayreuth from 2009 to 20013, and the University of Bonn from 2013 until 2015. In 2015, he became Acting Professor at the Chair of Economic and Social Geography, Institute of Geography, TU Dresden. In 2018, Jonathan Everts became Professor of Human Geography at the Department for Geosciences and Geography, MLU Halle-Wittenberg. At MLU, he is Co-Director of the Institute for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS) as well as the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS).

Current or planned projects

Jonathan Everts, currently, is working mainly on the transformation of post-industrial areas, especially the lignite mining districts in Germany, since the phasing out of coal was decided by the federal government in 2019. He is interested in the multiple and overlapping challenges for the region and beyond, reaching from questions of innovative entrepreneurial sustainability activities, social struggles around landscape restoration of open-pit mines to struggles for socially just transitions for the villages, towns, and their inhabitants. This includes questions of social and environmental change connected to (visible and invisible) migration and mobilities – in or out of the region, but also the lack of mobility. He is also working on socio-biological dynamics observable in the management of invasive alien species and its (often problematic) parallels to migration and integration discourses and policies.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

I am working on socio-material, socio-biological, socio-environmental, and socio-ecological change. From a practice theory point of view, I try to understand how societies and their material environs transform in and through their material practices including practices of consumption, invasive species management, disaster risk management, public health, post-migrant spatialities and contested socio-spatial inequalities, and just transition policies and practices for and in post-industrial areas of transformation.

Best of EEGA

Working with and supporting EEGA fellows from Eastern Europe and around the world. So many great scholars that do so much important, inspiring, and outstanding work!



© Universität Leipzig

Dr Steffi Marung

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Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 1)

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About

Dr Steffi Marung studied Political Science and German Literature in Halle, Berlin, and Prague. In 2011, she received her PhD in Global Studies at Leipzig University. She has been working as Lecturer at the Global and European Studies Institute, Leipzig University, the Graduate School Global and Area Studies, Research Academy Leipzig, and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University. She has also been Researcher at the Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe (GWZO), and the Centre for Area Studies, Leipzig University. In 2022, Steffi Marung became Director of the Global and European Studies Institute at Leipzig University.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Eastern European history with special emphasis on transregional linkages, especially with Africa and Asia in the 19th and 20th centuries
- › Global history of the Cold War
- › Mobility regimes
- › Global history of socialism
- › History of science
- › History of development policy
- › History of European integration

Current or planned projects

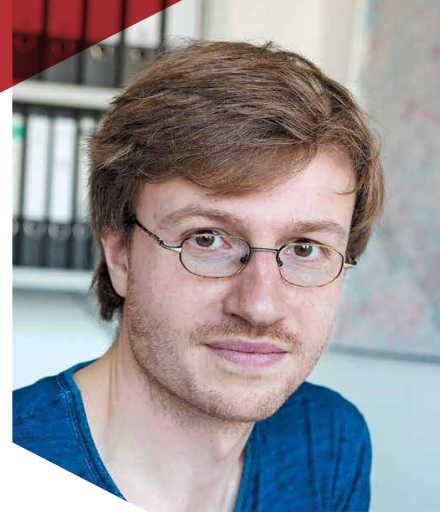
Currently, Steffi Marung is PI of “Free radicals? Political mobilities and post-colonial processes of re-spatialization in the second half of the 20th century” at the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1199 at Leipzig University. Starting from an understanding of “socialism” as a plurality of specific projects of respatialization in the second half of the 20th century, this DFG-funded project investigates the circulations of socialist actors. Focusing on experts in rural development and anti-colonial activists, the project addresses the spatializing effect of their mobilities, which were motivated by a transregional political agenda. The project aims at clarifying how these actors – as spatial entrepreneurs – have contributed to the shaping of a postcolonial spatial order.

Dr Wladimir Sgibnev

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde/
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL),
Department for Regional Geography of Europe

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 1)

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About

From 2002 to 2007, Dr Wladimir Sgibnev studied Political Science and European Studies in Nancy and Paris. He has been Head of advanced training in transborder construction management for Vinci Construction's international subsidiaries and a Visiting Lecturer at the Central Asian Seminar of the Institute of Asian and African Studies of Humboldt University, Berlin. From 2009 to 2012, he followed his Doctoral studies at the Central Asian Seminar. Since 2012, he is working at IfL. He is currently Head of the Leibniz Junior Research Group "CoMoDe" and Coordinator of the Research Group of Mobilities and Migration.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › production of space
- › peripheral urban regions
- › mobility
- › qualitative research methods
- › Regions: Central and Eastern Europe, post-Soviet region, Central Asia in particular

Current or planned projects

Wladimir Sgibnev is currently working on the project "Sustainable mobility in peripheralized regions (PeriMobil)", which challenges the one-dimensional socioeconomic and demographic narrative of "urban" versus "ural" in Germany. The project aims to improve knowledge about mobility patterns and the need for mobility services in structurally disadvantaged regions and make them usable for a future mobility transition.

His second project "Contentious Mobilities: rethinking mobility transitions through a decolonial lens (CoMoDe)" attributes the current failure of sustainable mobility transitions to technological fixations, Eurocentrism, and a misunderstanding of power relations. Instead, it emphasizes the multi-layered character of the mobility transformation and the underlying experiences of conflict in processes of modernization, digitalization, and globalization. The project therefore focuses on the unintended consequences and negative effects of the mobility transformation, its complex impact on the interaction between centres and peripheries, and its everyday negotiation. The project deliberately adopts a decolonial perspective in order to uncover dependencies, inequalities, and conditions of coloniality in relation to knowledge and power differences.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

Mobility studies are by default interdisciplinary. I am therefore looking forward to discussing the ways how goods, people, ideas have moved across time and space.

Best of EEGA

... was working with great scholars who came to Leipzig thanks to EEGA stipends and fellowships.



© GWZO

Prof. Dr Frank Hadler

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Department "Entanglements and Globalisation"

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 2)

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About

Prof. Dr Frank Hadler studied History at the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University of Brno (now Masaryk University) still in Czechoslovakia. His study was completed with the PhD title in 1984 for a thesis on the national division of the Moravian historiography the 19th century. In 1989 he acquired his Dr. phil. with a dissertation on "The beginnings of Czechoslovak foreign policy 1914–1919". He has been working as Research Associate at the Zentralinstitut für Geschichte (Central Institute for History) and the Institute for General History of the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic, since 1992 at the Max Planck Society's Research Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe, all in Berlin. In 1996, Frank Hadler started working at the GWZO in Leipzig, first as DFG Project Associate, then from 2000 on as Research Coordinator, Acting Director, and Project Leader. In 2011, he was appointed as Honorary Professor for Cultural History of East Central Europe at Leipzig University. Since 2017 he is in charge for Entanglements and Globalization as Department Head at GWZO.

Current or planned projects

Among the projects, Frank Hadler currently leads belong: "Eastern Europe's Turns and Shifts in Attempts at New Global Alignments" aims at reconstructing and explaining how the upheavals observable in Eastern Europe in the century following World War I shaped attempts at politically realigning the world – from the post-imperial turn, followed by a Communist shift, to the post-socialist turn, followed by a populist shift.

"History of natural sciences – transnational entanglements in glacial geology and ornithology" reflects that cultural history especially in the 19th century became deeply nationalised, while natural history remained a highly international discipline. The aim is connecting the history of research on animate and inanimate nature in Eastern Europe with the region's cultural history.

"Energy Spaces in East Central Europe", to be realized in the frame of the SFB 1199 from 2024 to 2027 focusses how in the Visegrád Region (CZ, SK, H, POL = V4) correlate global Climate politics with Energy politics on national, V4 and EU spatial formats.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Cultural history of East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries
- › History of transnationalization and globalization processes
- › History of historiography
- › History of international relations after the First World War
- › Czechoslovak history
- › History of science

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see connecting points in the dialog of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Historicization and theorization of Citizen science.

Best of EEGA

My best moment with EEGA was the joint Annual Conference of EEGA und GWZO held at the Saxon Academy of Science in July 2018, out of which my colleague at the GWZO department "Entanglements and Globalization" and later Spokesperson of the EEGA Steering Committee Katja Castryck-Naumann realized the volume *Transregional Connections in the History of East Central Europe* published in November 2021 within the series "Dialectics of the Global" at De Gruyter Oldenbourg.

Dr Marek Mikuš

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About

Dr Marek Mikuš studied Ethnology at the Charles University, Prague, and Anthropology and Development at the London School of Economics, where he also acquired his PhD in Anthropology in 2014. He has been a Research Fellow at the Comenius University, Bratislava, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (MPI) and the Trinity College, Dublin. Since 2019, he is Head of the DFG Emmy Noether Research Group “Peripheral Debt: Money, Risk and Politics in Eastern Europe” at the MPI.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Marek Mikuš is a social anthropologist working on economic and political transformations in contemporary South-East (Croatia and Serbia) and East-Central Europe. His research interests include finance (especially household debt), civil society and social movements, the state, public policy, and neoliberalism. He draws on materialist and pragmatic approaches in anthropology and engages with relevant scholarships in sociology, geography, and heterodox economics.

Current or planned projects

Marek Mikuš is currently leading the DFG-funded Emmy Noether Research Group “Peripheral Debt: Money, Risk and Politics in Eastern Europe”. The general objective of the research group is to complete the first comparative anthropological study of household debt in four Eastern European countries: Croatia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. This enquiry contributes to multiple debates in anthropology and social sciences: on credit/debt, money, risk, finance, and households, as well as those on the state, civil society, and politics in the region and beyond. The historical focus is on the proliferation of market-based household debt in post-socialist Eastern Europe, understood as part of the process of financialization – the increase in scope, power, and penetration of finance in recent decades. The group’s name refers to the concept of peripheral financialization that describes distinct and less studied forms of financialization in peripheral sites of global finance, characterized by dependence on foreign capital inflows, increased volatility, and more costly and risky credit than in cores. The research group develops so far neglected dimensions of peripheral financialization – the social relations, practices and experiences of affected individuals and households, including their engagements with the state, social movements, and other actors. Marek Mikuš’s personal research within the research group focuses on Croatia and Slovakia.

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

Currently, I am interested in comparative research on financialization and household debt in other geographical settings, especially financially and economically (semi-) peripheral settings in order to develop my analysis of household debt under peripheral financialization beyond the Eastern European context. I am also interested in work on household financialization and the societies, politics, and economies of contemporary Eastern Europe in other disciplines, especially sociology, geography, and heterodox economics.

Best of EEGA

My best experience with EEGA was co-convening the panel “Infrastructure of Finance and Finance as Infrastructure in Eastern Europe”, which was part of the EEGA Series on Infrastructures at the 2022 RSA Central and Eastern Europe Conference in Leipzig. I enjoyed coming with the idea for the panel in a conversation with EEGA RA Coordinator Lela Rekhviashvili, developing the concept with my co-convenors Martin Sokol and Leonardo Pataccini, and revisiting some of my unpublished material for the panel, which managed to attract an interdisciplinary audience as I hoped for. Inspired by this experience, I am planning to collect additional material for the paper I presented and turn it into a publication.



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Dr Lela Rekhviashvili

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About

Dr Lela Rekhviashvili studied Political Science and Transition in South Caucasus at the Tbilisi State University and the Central European University, Budapest. She was a Research Fellow at the Center for Social Sciences in Tbilisi from 2012 to 2013 and a PhD Fellow at Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) from 2013 to 2014. From 2010 to 2015 Lela Rekhviashvili was a PhD candidate at Doctoral school of Political Science, Public Policy, and International Relations at the Central European University. Since 2016, she is working at IfL.

Current or planned projects

Lela Rekhviashvili is currently working on the project “Contentious Mobilities: rethinking mobility transitions through a decolonial lens (CoMoDe)” attributes the failure to date to technological fixations, Eurocentrism, and a misunderstanding of power relations. Instead, it emphasizes the multi-layered character of the mobility transformation and the underlying experiences of conflict in processes of modernization, digitalization, and globalization. The project therefore focuses on the unintended consequences and negative effects of the mobility transformation, its complex impact on the interaction between centres and peripheries, and its everyday negotiation. The project deliberately adopts a decolonial perspective in order to uncover dependencies, inequalities, and conditions of coloniality in relation to knowledge and power differences.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Political economy
- › urban and regional geography
- › infrastructures, modernity, and coloniality
- › marketization and social embeddedness
- › urban transport and mobility
- › contentious action and politics of public space
- › post-socialist and post-/decolonial dialogues
- › Regional expertise in post-socialist Eastern Europe and Eurasia, particularly South Caucasus and Central Asia

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I find the cross disciplinary as well as cross regional learning opportunities enabled by EEGA very important. Currently, I try to comprehend how the recent infrastructure-led developmental politics in Eastern Europe and Eurasia is influenced by the changing world order and increasing geoeconomic and geopolitical competition between the old and emerging hegemonic powers. To start unpacking what is now understood as the new or the second cold war, I need to inevitably move beyond geographical research and learn from other disciplines, particularly historians, as well from the experiences of other world regions.

Best of EEGA

The best moment I had with EEGA was when we were organising a workshop on “Conjunctural Geographies of Postsocialist and Postcolonial Conditions” in early 2020. The pandemic hit just before the planned workshop, and we had to quickly transform the workshop into an online event. Despite such adverse conditions, and due to the help of the colleagues in the EEGA network, the workshop went very well and served as a basis for longer-term collaborations across various EEGA research areas, as well as a special issue with the e-journal *Connections. An e-Journal for Historians and Area Specialists*.

Prof. Dr Sebastian Henn

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About

Prof. Dr Sebastian Henn studied Geography, Economics, and Public Law at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mannheim. He was Research Associate at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) from 2001 to 2011, where he also earned his doctorate. From 2008 to 2009 he conducted field research in Antwerp, New York, and Surat/Mumbai. He has been a Lecturer at TU Dresden, MLU and the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and was Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto. From 2012 to 2014 he was Research Associate (from 2013 Deputy Head of Department) at the Department for Regional Geography of Europe at Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL). After completing his habilitation in 2014 at MLU, he was appointed Full Professor of economic geography at Friedrich Schiller University, Jena. Currently, Professor Henn holds the Chair in Economic Geography at the University of Jena, and since 2020, he has also been Dean of Studies at the Faculty of Chemical and Geosciences.

Current or planned projects

Amongst others, Sebastian Henn currently leads the projects “BMBF-Wecare-Bündnis: Intelligente Sensorische Telemedizin für die ganzheitliche Gesundheitsversorgung in strukturschwachen Regionen Thüringens” (Intelligent sensory telemedicine for holistic health care in structurally weak regions of Thuringia) and „Left-behind-Places unter dem Aspekt regionaler Gesundheitsversorgung“ (Left-behind places from a regional health care perspective), which both focus on the health care infrastructures in structurally weak regions, specifically Thuringia. Another project, „INWOK – Interkommunale Wohnflächenkonzepte als Instrument des nachhaltigen Flächenmanagements in großstädtischen Wachstumsräumen“ (Inter-municipal housing space concepts as an instrument for sustainable land management in metropolitan growth areas), aims to create inter-municipal housing concepts and to establish a monitoring system for the collection of neighbourhood-related data from various municipalities.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Health & Wellbeing
- › Spatial Perception & Planning
- › Peripheries & Polarization
- › Mobilities & Connectivities

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am interested in cooperation on the following topics:

- › Research ethics
- › Corporate networks and knowledge transfers over geographical distance
- › Reconfiguration of value chains in face of the war in Ukraine
- › Left-Behind-Places

Best of EEGA

There is no singular event; in fact, I experience every moment with the people involved in EEGA as very inspiring.



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Dr Nadir Kinossian

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Department for Regional Geography of Europe
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About

Dr Nadir Kinossian has a background in urban planning and political science. He earned his PhD in City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University for a thesis on urban governance in Russia (2010). Prior to joining the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in 2015, he worked in academia, public administration, and planning consultancy in Norway, Russia, and the UK. Currently, Nadir Kinossian is also Associate editor of the journal *Eurasian Geography and Economics*.

Current or planned projects

Nadir Kinossian is currently working on "Beyond 'Left Behind Spaces'", funded by the German Research Foundation. The project's aim is to understand the demographic and socio-economic change in peripheral regions in France, Germany, and the UK as social and spatial inequalities between and within core and peripheral regions have reemerged as a major economic and political issue in developed economies.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

My main research interest is in urban and regional development, including its institutional and policy dimensions. Connected to that is the interest in policy approaches to the predicaments of peripheral and left-behind regions in Europe. Less connected to the above is my interest in cultural landscapes and heritage.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be interested in cooperation on the following topics:

- › Comparative urbanism across various geographical contexts.
- › Policy approaches towards peripheral regions and places in the context of old industrial regions.
- › Political economy of urban and regional development in the context of the democracy, authoritarianism, and development debate.

Best of EEGA

In 2018, we have obtained EEGA funding for a conference on "Theorising Cities from the Global East", which was a very inspiring and productive event.

Dr Lena Kuhn

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Transformations-
ökonomien / Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in
Transition Economies (IAMO), Department for Agricultural
Markets, Marketing, and World Agricultural Trade

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 3)

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Development in Transition
Economies (IAMO) /
Markus Scholz

About

Dr Lena Kuhn studied Economics and Chinese Studies at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. From 2012 to 2017, she acquired her PhD on anti-poverty policy in rural China at the Faculty of Law and Economics, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU). Since 2016, Lena Kuhn is Coordinator of the China International Research Group and Speaker of the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies' (IAMO) research focus "Livelihoods in rural areas".

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Sustainable agricultural and rural development
- › Risk management
- › Innovation adoption
- › Digitalization
- › Experimental Economics

Current or planned projects

Lena Kuhn is currently coordinating the international research project "DITAC – Digital transformation of China's agriculture – resources, trade and food security" analysing and assessing digitalisation processes in China's agrifood sector with regard to their effects on production, use of resources, and trade. Furthermore, she is co-coordinator of the 2015 founded German-Sino Agricultural Centre (DCZ). The DCZ is a joint initiative by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China (MoA) and a key platform for promoting the bilateral cooperation in the food and agricultural sector.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am very much interested in interdisciplinary perspectives on the challenges of transformation processes on social and economic conditions in former planned economies. In particular, I am interested in the role of digitalization and innovation in influencing development trajectories across countries.

Best of EEGA

... the multi- and interdisciplinary exchange with colleagues in Research Area 3, which remained active even during the COVID19 pandemic.



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Dr Uwe Müller

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)
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About

From 1983 to 1988, Dr Uwe Müller studied History at Leipzig University, where he stayed as a PhD-student until 1992. In 1997 he acquired his Doctorate (Dr. rer. pol.) with a thesis on Prussian and Brunswick chausse construction policy in the 19th century. He has been working as Research Assistant at the German Museum of Books and Writing and Humboldt University, Berlin, and the European University “Viadrina”, Frankfurt (Oder), at the Chair for Economic and Social History of Modern Times and for Comparative European Economic and Social History. From 2008 to 2011 he was Research Associate at Saarland University, Saarbrücken. Since 2011, Uwe Müller is Research Associate at GWZO.

Current or planned projects

Uwe Müller is currently working on three projects focussing on Eastern Europe’s trade relations with other parts of the world. While the project “Comecon and the Global Economic Order” examines the European Com-econ states’ economic relations to countries of the Global South, “Global Trade” analyses the politics of foreign trade and infrastructure as essential elements of East-European positioning strategies within economic globalization in the 19th and 20th centuries. His third project “Institutions and Cultures of Economic Activity” investigates the transfer of economic institutions into Eastern Europe and their adaptation to regional parameters, value judgments and patterns of behaviour. It is searching for answers to what role processes of entanglement and globalization played in the formation and development of regionally specific cultures of economic activity. Within the framework of this project, he is working, among other things, on the development of rural cooperatives in Central and Eastern Europe since the middle of the 19th century.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Economic and Social History of Eastern Europe from the 18th to the 21st Century
- › Eastern Europe in processes of globalization and deglobalization
- › History of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance with a focus on the external relations, transport, and energy policies
- › Agrarian movements, land reforms and cooperatives in Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries
- › Central and Eastern European transport history from the 18th to the 21st century

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see the most important connecting points within the framework of EEGA in the research on regional economic development. I very much appreciate the exchange with colleagues from the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, the geographical institutes of the universities, and the guests of EEGA.

Best of EEGA

A highlight of the work within EEGA was the presentation of our manuscript “The Middle Income Trap in Central and Eastern Europe – Emergence and Ways out”. EEGA had already sponsored a conference on the topic (alongside the Herder Research Council) and organised this book launch in October 2021. We had the rare opportunity to discuss the papers revised for publication with the authors – in front of and with an audience.

Dr Katja Castryck-Naumann

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 4)

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About

Dr Katja Castryck-Naumann is an historian by training and received her PhD from Leipzig University with a study of the development of world history in the US (1918–1968). Currently she is senior researcher in the department “Entanglements and Globalization” at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) and teaches regularly at Leipzig University. As guest researcher she worked among others at the ENS Paris and the German Historical Institutes in Washington and Warsaw, while she taught at Science Po Lyon, Arhus University, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is an editor of *Comparativ. Journal for Global History and Comparative Studies and of Connections. An e-Journal for Historians and Area Specialists.*

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Working on global history with a focus on East Central Europe, Katja Castryck-Naumann’s research deals with international organisations and internationalism, the history of historiography, area studies, and social sciences. She has published on the development of world/global history in the US and Europe, as well as on the role of transnational actors and international secretariats in the League of Nations, the early UN and in UNESCO. Among her recent publications are the edited volume *Transregional Connections in the History of East Central Europe* (de Gruyter, 2021) and the articles “Competing Politics in Regionalizing the Social Sciences. UNESCO, CODESRIA, and the European Research Council, in: *Revue d’histoire des sciences humaines* (Special Issue “The South of Social Sciences”, 2022/4).

Current or planned projects

Katja Castryck-Naumann is currently writing a monograph on the politics of experts and civil servants in secretariats of the League of Nations and UN in the fields of health, trade, and disarmament (1920–1975). Within EEGA she served as a chief editor of the textbook “Eastern Europe: Global Perspectives” which will be published with Bloomsbury. She contributes to the “Palgrave Handbook on Global History” and is co-chair of the History of Humankind edited on behalf of International Council for Philosophy and the Social Sciences.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see connecting points in the fields of my expertise, of course, but also in new issues that we have begun to address, not the least the question on how the ongoing war between Russia and the Ukraine in the broader context of a changing world order transforms interrelation within Eastern Europe and above all its global connections.

Best of EEGA

My best moment with EEGA was when we began to work on a textbook for advanced graduate students in which we outline how Eastern Europeans positioned themselves proactively and influentially in globalization processes in past and present. I enjoy the productive discussions within the Research Area I co-coordinate and appreciate the stimulating exchanges in the Steering Committee as well as with scholars from EEGA partner-institutions. To me EEGA has become a thrilling framework to explore Eastern Europe’s global nature from angles other disciplines than my own bring into our joint work.



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Prof. Dr Stefan Keym

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University,
Musicological Institute (music history 19th–21st century)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 4)

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About

Prof. Dr Stefan Keym studied Musicology, History, and German Studies in Mainz, Halle, and Paris. In 2001, He acquired his doctorate at MLU Halle-Wittenberg with a dissertation on O. Messiaen's opera "Saint François d'Assise". Since 2002, he has been working as Researcher at Leipzig University, where he also acquired his habilitation with a book on German-Polish intercultural transfer of the symphony in 2008. After Guest Professorships at the University of Zurich and Humboldt University, Berlin, he became Professor for Modern Music History at University Toulouse – Jean Jaurès in 2016. Since 2019, he is Professor of Musicology and Director of the Musicological Institute at Leipzig University.

Current or planned projects

Stefan Keym currently leads the project "Carl Reinecke as key figure of musical life in late-19th-century Leipzig. Studies on his institutional networks and pedagogical impact" (DFG-funded). Herein, he investigates the extent to which a versatile musician and composer like Carl Reinecke was able to exert influence on the increasingly broadening and differentiating Leipzig musical life of the late 19th century. The project explores the influence of the tight network of the city's musical institutions, paradigmatically embodied by Reinecke, on the development of musical culture both inside and outside the city. Stefan Keym is also working on a textbook on music and intercultural transfers.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Modern European music history (17th–21st century) with regional focus on Eastern Europe, France, Germany:

- › Music in the field of tension between intercultural transfers, national identity constructions and other political contexts.
- › Repertoires and institutions (concerts, music publishers and press)
- › Music analysis and interpretation

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see connecting points in the studies on intercultural transfers, especially in and between Eastern Europe and other regions.

Best of EEGA

My best experience with EEGA was the international and interdisciplinary conference "Eastern European Emigrants and the Internationalisation of 20th-Century Music Concepts", organized together with Anna Fortunova in January 2020 and supported by EEGA.

Prof. Dr Yvonne Kleinmann

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg /
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU),
Institute for History
Aleksander-Brückner-Zentrums für Polenstudien /
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Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 4)

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About

Prof. Dr Yvonne Kleinmann studied Eastern European History, Slavic Studies, and Theatre, Film and Television Studies in Cologne, Mainz and Paris (1989–1996). From 1996 to 2001, she has been a Research Fellow at the Institute for Eastern European History, University of Mainz, and the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Yvonne Kleinmann acquired her PhD in East European History in 2003 and continued working as Researcher, Lecturer, and Project Coordinator at Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish history and culture, Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), and Leipzig University. From 2008 to 2013 she was Head of the Emmy Noether Group “Pathways of Law in Ethno-religiously Mixed Societies. Resources of Experience in Poland-Lithuania and Its Successor States” at the Institute for Slavic Studies, Leipzig University. Since 2014, Yvonne Kleinmann is Professor of Eastern European History at MLU Halle-Wittenberg, and Executive Director of Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies, Halle.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Poland-Lithuania in the Early Modern Period
- › History of the Russian Empire and Comparison of Empires
- › Jewish Life in Eastern Europe
- › Urban history
- › Religion and political rule
- › Legal history and anthropology
- › Migration in theory and empiricism

Current or planned projects

„Getrennt gemeinsam. Religiöse Heterogenität und Recht in einer städtischen Verfassung des frühneuzeitlichen Polen“ (Separate Together. Religious Heterogeneity and Law in an Urban Constitution of Early Modern Poland)



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Sven Reichhold

Prof. Dr Gert Pickel

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University,
Department for Sociology of Religion and Church
Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt /
Research Institute for Social Cohesion (FGZ)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 5)

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About

Prof. Dr Gert Pickel studied Sociology and Political Science at the University of Bamberg from 1985 to 1992. Afterwards, he has been a Researcher at the Social Science Research Centre, University of Bamberg, and the Chair for Comparative Cultural Sociology of the Europa-University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), where he also acquired his doctorate in 2002. In 2007, Gert Pickel changed to Leipzig University, where he has been working since. He has been Chair Representative of the Department for Sociology of Church and Religion from 2007, became Vice-Dean in 2009, and Dean in 2013 of the Faculty of Theology. Since 2019, Gert Pickel is Deputy Equal Opportunity Commissioner at the Faculty, Co-Speaker of the Research Institute Social Cohesion, the collaborative project "Racism and Institutions" and of the Competence Centre for Research on Right-Wing Extremism and Democracy, Leipzig.

Current or planned projects

Gert Pickel is Co-Project Leader of the BMI-funded study "Institutionen & Rassismus" (Institutions & Racism), which is a key element of the final report and catalogue of measures on combating right-wing extremism and racism adopted by the German government. Furthermore, he is also leading the projects "Configurations of individual and collective religious identities and their potential for civil society. Representative results for Germany and Switzerland in comparison" (DFG-funded), "Political Cultural Change? – Legitimacy of Democracy and Social Cohesion in Times of Increased Populism and Growing Rejection of Islam", and the "Knowledge network on right-wing extremism. – Subproject: Support of young scientists through the platform for research on right-wing extremism." (both BMFB-funded).

Best of EEGA

... our really nice discussion about right-wing populism and the aftermath with wine, beer, and clever talk.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › National and international Comparative Sociology of Religion (esp. empirical study of developments such as secularization and religious pluralization)
- › Political Sociology and Political Culture Research (Germany and international comparative)
- › Social Capital and Integration Research (esp. social cohesion, spread of populism and radicalism as well as Islamophobia, social integration of migrants)
- › Sociology of Youth and Family
- › Research on elections and attitudes
- › Studies on Prejudice, Racism, and Radicalization

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am very interested in comparative studies. I think especially in the discussion of right-wing populism and right-wing extremism, we need more common and transnational work. This includes the bridge-constructions of racism, sexism, and antifeminism. Especially the role of religion in these processes are interesting.

Dr Alexander Yendell

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University
Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt /
Research Institute Social Cohesion (FGZ)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Area Coordinator (RA 5)

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Sven Reichhold

About

Dr Alexander Yendell is a Sociologist and Researcher at the Research Institute Social Cohesion in the project "Political Culture Change? – Legitimacy of Democracy and Social Cohesion in Times of Increased Populism and Rising Islam Rejection". He is the Spokesperson for the Sociology of Religion-section of the German Sociological Association, a Board Member of the Competence Centre for Research on Right-Wing Extremism and Democracy at Leipzig University, and a member of the Research Centre Global Dynamics. He has conducted research at several academic institutions, including the Universities of Potsdam, Muenster, Warwick, Loughborough, Bern, and the McGill University in Montreal. In 2019, he represented the professorship of Sociology of Religion and Church at Leipzig University.

Current or planned projects

Alexander Yendell currently is head of three research projects: "Anti-Muslim Racism, Anti-Black Racism and Antiziganism in the Institutional Action of Public Authorities", "Combating and Preventing Racism in Public Authorities and Sports Associations – International Comparison of Best and Worst Practices" and "„A Proactive approach for Communities to enable Societal Transformation".

"Combating and preventing racism in public authorities and sports federations – International comparison of best and worst practices" investigates the content and implementation of programs to combat racism in selected authorities and sports associations in Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands and the USA. In the sub-project "Anti-muslim racism, anti-black racism and antiziganism in the institutional actions of public authorities" he asks what forms and causes of racism and racist discrimination can be identified in official contexts. The project considers the perspectives of people affected by racism, employees of (migration) counselling centres and associations as well as employees of public authorities. Alexander Yendell is also Principal Investigator within the EU-Horizon-Project "A PROactive approach for COMMunities to enABle Societal Transformation" (PRO-COAST). The goal of the project is to gather knowledge on how to stimulate and empower local communities and civil society in general, to support restoration and maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

The focus of his work is research on right-wing extremism and authoritarianism, political protest, religious plurality, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, social inequality, and socio-ecological transformation from a sociological, political scientist and socio-psychological perspective.

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am interested in what is currently threatening the world and humanity. Here I see two big issues: Violence, which manifests itself in racism, sexism, extremism, and wars, for example, and man-made climate change and the need for a socio-ecological transformation. I work on both of these issues and see a considerable need for research and international cooperation and learning from different research perspectives and theories.

Best of EEGA

I find it excellent that we can support researchers from Eastern Europe and get into exchange with them on workshops or by working together with them on joint research proposals and projects.

Affiliate Researchers



Dr Kristine Beurskens

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Department for Theory, Methodology and History of Geography

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 1)

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About

Dr Kristine Beurskens is a Senior Scientist at IfL. She studied Geography, Political Science, and Sociology at Humboldt University, Berlin, and continued to research positions at the ISO Institute for Research on Social Chances in Cologne, the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS) in Erkner and the Bologna Lab at Humboldt University, Berlin. At the same time, she completed her doctoral degree at the University of Potsdam in 2012 with a reconstructive study of everyday practices in Polish/Ukrainian and Finnish/Russian borderlands. Since 2014, she has been working at the IfL, currently as Coordinator of the Research Group for Geographies of belonging and difference.

Current or planned projects

Kristine Beurskens is currently heading the DFG-funded research network “Visualising qualitative geographies”, addressing the growing importance and the current lack of visualisation in qualitative geographical research. The project aims to establish an in-depth discussion and further development of visual approaches.

Next to that, Kristine Beurskens continues her work in border studies with a new consortium on researching insecurities in European border regions, with partners from various Eastern European countries. In the thematic field of difference, belonging and their negotiations among distinctive European groups, Kristine is also exploring options to cooperate with former EEGA fellow Špela Drnovsek Zorko, possibly expanding research fields beyond Eastern Europe until Japan.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › borders, bordering processes in everyday life, differentiation, stigmatization
- › emotional geography, insecurity, populism
- › Qualitative/visual/creative methods, arts and geography
- › Regions: Europe, with field research experience in Germany, Poland, Czechia, Finland, Ukraine, Russia

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be interested in cooperation with in the following fields:

- › Studies of bordering processes on various spatial scales
- › Questions of belonging and territorialisation
- › Studies of emotions, emotionalising politics/discourses/practices, populism
- › Qualitative research methods, field work practice and experience, research ethics

Best of EEGA

... taking part in an EEGA workshop and finding people from Eastern Europe with very similar research interests and really fascinating input and backgrounds. This has happened on several occasions. Mainstream spatially related research in Germany doesn't touch issues in Eastern Europe very much. EEGA does a lot to overcome this gap.



© private

Dr Bettina Bruns

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Department for Theory, Methodology and History of Geography

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 1)

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About

Dr Bettina Bruns studied Cultural Studies at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) with semesters abroad at the Universidad de Chile (Santiago de Chile) and at the Uniwersytet Wrocławski (Wrocław) (1997–2003). She has been a Research Assistant at the Institute for Applied Research for Family, Children and Youth at the University of Potsdam and the Institute for World Society Studies at the University of Bielefeld. She has been working at the IfL since 2007. Until 2009, she pursued her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Sociology at the University of Bielefeld and from 2011 to 2020 she has been leader of a Schumpeter junior research group. Currently, Bettina Bruns is Senior Researcher and Vice Coordinator of the Research Group “Geographies of Belonging and Difference”.

Current or planned projects

Bettina Bruns' current project “We want to be prepared – studies on the paramilitary production of security in local social contexts in Poland” explores the growing popularity of paramilitary groups in Poland, their effect on local security establishment, and the relationships between state and non-state actors. Situated within critical military studies, the project sheds light on current militarisation processes in Poland and their spatialities.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Critical security and border studies
- › Critical military geography
- › Qualitative methods
- › Ethnography
- › Regions: East-Central Europe, in particular Poland and Belarus

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be particularly interested in cooperation on the following topics and fields:

- › Critical security and border studies
- › Critical military geography
- › Qualitative methods
- › Ethnography
- › Regions: East-Central Europe, in particular Poland and Belarus

Best of EEGA

The best moment I had with EEGA was the organisation of an EEGA funded workshop, because it allowed the invitation of international colleagues and the exchange with them on their inspiring research.

Dr Larissa Fleischmann

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg /
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU),
Institute of Geosciences and Geography

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 1)

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© Department of Human
Geography/MLU
Halle-Wittenberg

About

Dr Larissa Fleischmann is Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer in the Department of Human Geography at MLU Halle-Wittenberg. She earned her PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Konstanz in 2019, where she was a member of the Cluster of Excellence “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration” from 2014 to 2019. For her dissertation, which is available as an Open Access Publication at Transcript entitled “Contested Solidarity. Practices of Refugee Support between Humanitarian Help and Political Activism”, Larissa Fleischmann conducted qualitative-ethnographic research on the contested practices of solidarity with refugees that emerged around the migration summer of 2015. She studied African Development Studies (B.A.) and Geography (B.Sc. and M.Res.) at Bayreuth University and at the University of Glasgow. Her research interests include critical migration and border studies, more-than-human geographies, as well as solidarity and living-together in migration societies.

Current or planned projects

In Larissa Fleischmann’s ongoing research project “Animals, Power and Space – More-than-Human Political Geographies of Animal Health”, which is funded by the German Research Foundation, she looks at different governmental techniques in the handling of animal diseases, such as African Swine Fever in contemporary Europe and Foot and Mouth Disease in Southern Africa, focussing on how practices of fencing, zoning, mapping, and killing are implemented in order to stop the spreading of disease. For this project, she conducted qualitative fieldwork in the German-Polish borderlands and in Namibia, where she was particularly interested in the postcolonial (dis)continuities in the handling of animal diseases.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › (Im)mobilities and more-than-human border studies
- › Biosecurity and animal health from a critical social sciences perspective
- › Civil society, solidarity, and political mobilization in migration societies
- › Regional foci: Europe (EU, Eastern Europe) and Sub-Saharan Africa

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am particularly interested in interdisciplinary collaborations on mobilities, migration, and border regimes in Eastern Europe and beyond. In addition, I would like to engage in exchange on posthumanist and more-than-human approaches. Beyond that, my research foci also connect with many of the other Research Areas at EEGA.

Best of EEGA

... was at the workshop “More-than-Human Borderlands and Mobilities in Central and Eastern Europe” because it brought together a selected group of like-minded scholars from across Europe and featured thought-provoking face-to-face discussions, which gave me a lot food for thought for the time to follow.



© Diana Forker

Prof. Dr Diana Forker

Institution Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena / Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Institute of Slavonic Languages and Caucasus Studies

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 1)

Contact diana.forker@uni-jena.de

About

Prof. Dr Diana Forker studied Philosophy, Linguistics, and Logic at the Universities of Pisa and Leipzig (1999–2007). Afterwards, she has been a Research Assistant at the MPI-EVA Leipzig Department for Linguistics. After her Dissertation „A Grammar of Hinuq“ (2011), she became Academic Councillor at the University of Bamberg Institute for General Linguistics, where she also habilitated in 2016. Since then, Diana Forker has been working at the FSU Jena, where she became Professor of Caucasian Studies with a focus on Caucasian linguistics in 2019.

Current or planned projects

Diana Forker is currently leading two projects. The Jena-Cauc project explores the prospects and challenges of a new EU foreign policy concept – resilience in the South Caucasus (BMFB-funded). Her second project “Language contact in the Caucasus” is aiming to systematically study language contact phenomena between Russian and East Caucasian languages from a structural and sociolinguistic perspective (DFG-funded). She is also involved in a further DFG-funded project on folklore and traditional oral literature from Dagestan.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › languages of the Caucasus from different language families, main focus on East Caucasian
- › language documentation and electronic corpora and dictionaries for minority languages
- › language contact, language change, and language history of the Caucasus
- › grammatical description and functional linguistics
- › sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology
- › language typology and areal linguistics

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am particularly interested in mobility, migration, and translocality, the connections my main areal focus – the Caucasus as the south-eastern boundary of Europe – and surrounding Eurasia. And in everything that involves language use in (trans-)local practices.

Best of EEGA

... were informal exchanges and discussions with members of various research areas. It happens again and again that you meet people who are working on similar topics and are based in geographically close institutions, but you don't know about them and their research. EEGA offers a meeting space for such encounters.

Dr Sofia Gavrilova

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde/
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 1)
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© Sofia Gavrilova

About

Dr Sofia Gavrilova is a postdoctoral researcher at Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, at the department of Cartography and Visualizations. Sofia has received her PhD at 2019 at the University of Oxford, and published it as a monograph *Russia's Regional Museums: Representing and Misrepresenting Knowledge about Nature, History and Society* by Routledge.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Spatial imaginations
- › Critical cartography
- › De-colonisation in the knowledge production

Current or planned projects

De-colonisation in the production of the school geographical knowledge in former Soviet republics.

Where do you see connecting points/ in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am interested in the questions of identity construction in the former Soviet space, especially in the Central Asia. I would very much benefit from the cooperation with researchers who work in this region on the similar questions.

Best of EEGA

Discussions (formal and informal), opportunities and the spirit of respectful interdisciplinary community!



Dr Karin Wiest

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Department of Theory, Methodology and History of Geography

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 1)

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About

Dr Karin Wiest studied geography and spatial planning at the Technical University of Munich (1985 to 1991). From 1991 to 1992 she worked at the district office of the Passau-county as scientific consultant for location analysis. In 1996, she earned her doctorate at the Institute of Geography of the TU Munich on the topic "The re-evaluation of old Leipzig neighbourhoods and changes in the residential milieu – social modernization and socio-spatial inequalities". Since 1992, Karin Wiest has been working at the IfL. Currently, she is project manager of the research group "Geographies of Belonging and Difference".

Current or planned projects

Karin Wiest's current project investigates sociospatial differentiations and urban change in the context of migration and digitalisation.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Comparative urban research
- › Housing market research
- › Urban-rural relations
- › Migration research
- › New federal states, European Union
- › Social geographic research methods

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be particularly interested in cooperation on the field of geographies and politics of difference and belonging.

Dr Lyubomir Pozharliev

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Research Group Mobilities and Migration / Department "Regional Geography of Europe"

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 2)

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About

Dr Lyubomir Pozharliev is Post-doctoral researcher at the IfL. Until 2021 he was Research Assistant/PostDoc in the Department of History and Cultural Studies at the University of Giessen within the DFG-funded Priority Programme "Transottomanica" (SPP 1981). He studied Comparative History of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe at the Central European University of Budapest, Hungary and obtained a PhD with a dissertation on "The Road to Socialism. Transport Infrastructure in Socialist Bulgaria and Yugoslavia (1945–1989)".

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Cultural history of technology and infrastructure;
- › History of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries;
- › Space and mobility research, Communist and totalitarian regimes;
- › Modernisation theories, nationalism, and identity;
- › Visual research with a focus on newsreels, propaganda and contemporary testimonies.

Current or planned projects

Contentious Mobilities: rethinking mobility transitions through a decolonial lens (CoMoDe)



© Stefan Rohdewald

Prof. Dr Stefan Rohdewald

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University, Historical Seminar
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 2)
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About

From 1992 to 1998 Prof. Dr Stefan Rohdewald studied Eastern European History, Slavic Literary Studies, and Social and Economic History at the University of Zurich, where he also acquired his PhD in 2005. He worked as Research Assistant at the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History of Eastern Europe and its Cultures at the University of Passau and at the Chair of Eastern European History of the University of Zurich. From 2013 to 2020 he was Professor of Southeast European History in Giessen. Since 2020 he is Professor for Eastern and Southeastern European History at Leipzig University.

Current or planned projects

Currently, Stefan Rohdewald is Chairperson of the DFG-funded priority programme (SPP 1981) "Transottomanica: Eastern European-Ottoman-Persian Mobility Dynamics". The aim of the up to 30 subprojects of the programme is to examine social and (trans)cultural ties between the Muscovite Tsardom/Petersburg Empire, Poland-Lithuania, the Ottoman Empire, and Persia from the early modern period to the 20th century, which have so far not been the subject of systematic historical study.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Shared History of Eastern Europe and the Middle East
- › Discourses of Memory
- › Urban History
- › The History of sport, technology, and knowledge between East and West
- › Transculturality, Transconfessionality

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

Transcontinental mobilities and migration regimes are at the core of the questions we try to answer with 'Transottomanica', too. Moreover, a transcontinental view should enable us to not least decentre our view on Eastern Europe, i.e., help decolonizing the eastern parts of Europe from Russia.

Best of EEGA

... the chance to contribute to the discussion on Transregional Dynamics in (Eastern) Europe at various events.

Dr Elisa Satjukow

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University, Department of History,
Chair for East and Southeast European History
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 2)
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About

Dr Elisa Satjukow is a Lecturer and Postdoctoral Candidate in East and Southeast European History at Leipzig University. She completed her award-winning dissertation on the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia “Die andere Seite der Intervention. Eine serbische Erfahrungsgeschichte der NATO-Bombardierung 1999” (The Other Side of Intervention. A Serbian Experience of the 1999 NATO Bombing, transcript 2020) in 2019 as a fellow of the PhD programme “Trajectories of Change” of the ZEIT-Foundation. Before that, she studied East and Southeast European History, Comparative Literature, and Russian Studies in Leipzig, Belgrade, and Volgograd. She also worked as a Coordinator for the Competence Center Central and Eastern Europe Leipzig and the International MitOst Festival.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › History of Science
- › Humanitarian Interventions
- › Gender History
- › History of Transformation, Post-Socialism
- › Cultures of Memory, Oral History
- › Postcolonial Studies
- › Digital Humanities, Internet Culture
- › Theories and Methods of Historical Studies

Current or planned projects

Elisa Satjukow currently works on her research project “Learning (about) Eastern Europe. The Role of East and Southeast European Studies in the Upheavals of the 1980s/90s”. 1989 marked a turning point for East and Southeast European Studies. As political advisors and academic bridge-builders, experts for these regions took on essential ad hoc and long-term tasks in the transformation process in and beyond German-speaking academia. At the same time, the end of the Cold War challenged them to renegotiate the institutional and discursive self-understanding of historical, contemporary, and future research on Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Elisa Satjukow’s historiographical project asks about the agency and agenda of scholars of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, and in particular of Slavic and historical studies, in the German and European upheavals of the 1980s and 1990s. Theoretically, she relies on reflexive and postcolonial perspectives brought forward in New Area Studies, placing the practices of knowledge production at the centre of her considerations. The resulting findings represent an important inventory of the achievements but also of the failures and challenges of current research on Eastern and Southeastern Europe, not least against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be interested in cooperation on the following fields:

- › Decolonizing Area Studies
- › Connections between Postsocialist and Postcolonial History

Best of EEGA

The best moment I had with EEGA was on a roundtable on “Untangling Gender – the Socialist Viewpoint” with great scholars showing how critical, feminist and decolonial scholarship on Eastern Europe can look like. I’ve had moments like this with EEGA many times in the past, and I’m very glad that EEGA offers such a progressive framework for this. Especially the wonderful work of Lena Dallywater and Melanie Mienert cannot be complimented enough here.



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Prof. Dr Asta Vonderau

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg / Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Department of Anthropology and Philosophy

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 2)

Contact asta.vonderau@ethnologie.uni-halle.de

About

Prof. Dr Asta Vonderau studied Baltic Philology, Scandinavian Studies, and European Ethnology at the University of Vilnius, the University of Copenhagen, and Humboldt University, Berlin, where she also acquired her PhD at the Department of European Ethnology in 2008. Between 2009 and 2018 she has been a Lecturer, Researcher, Assistant, Associate and Visiting Professor at HU-Berlin, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Stockholm University and Goethe University, Frankfurt (Main). Since 2018 she is a full Professor at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology (MLU Halle-Wittenberg). Asta Vonderau is also Co-director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS) and the Centre for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS) at MLU. Vonderau is a speaker of the commission “Globalization Europeanization: Ethnographies of the Political” at the German Society of Empirical Cultural Analysis (GDEKW), a speaker of the regional working group “Europe” at the German Anthropological Association (GAA), a member of the DFG Network “Public Anthropology”, and Advisory Board member of the ERC Project “Emptiness”.

Current or planned projects

Currently, Vonderau is:

- › Leader of the CityIndustries International Research Network
- › PI in the Marie Curie Doctoral Network “Anthropology of Global Climate Urgency” (C-Urge) (Horizon Europe 2023–2027) Project: “Urgent Repair: Technologies, Expertise and Rewilding of Post Coal Landscapes (Germany)” and Project: “Climate Urgency and Just Transition: Temporalities of Post-Carbon Democracy (Germany)”
- › PI in the research Project “Digitale Hochschulbildung organisieren lehren und lernen” (Digihub, 2022–2024)

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Anthropology of governmentality and politics: globalization, Europeanisation, post-socialist transformation
- › Anthropology of energy and resources: environmental and social consequences of digitalisation, (de)industrialisation, structural change, urbanity in post-growth
- › Methodology for the ethnological study of datafied worlds
- › Regional focus: Europe (Lithuania, Germany, Sweden)

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

My research on processes of political and economic transformations (in particular post socialist transformation and European integration, digitization, (de-)industrialization), and their local effects is related to research activities of EEGA. I am excited being able to expand my interdisciplinary collaborations and exchange on those topics. As director of the Centre for Just Transition and Sustainability (HALIS) and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS) at MLU I am also interested in strengthening institutional collaboration in middle Germany.

Best of EEGA

... the interdisciplinary exchange and transregional collaboration related to my research interests, the possibility to develop collaborative projects and networks as well as to invite guest researchers from Eastern Europe.

Paolo Zucconi

Institution Forschungsinstitut Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt /
Research Institute Social Cohesion (FGZ)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 2)

Contact paolo.zucconi@uni-leipzig.de



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About

Paolo Zucconi is PhD candidate at Leipzig University and Research Assistant at the Institute for Social Cohesion. Other roles include Research Associate at the Institute for Middle East, Central Asia, and Caucasus Studies of the University of St. Andrews, Research Fellow at the Global Center for Security Studies and former intern at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. He holds a postgraduate certificate in Intelligence and National Security, an MSc in International Security Studies and a BA in Political Science and International Relations.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Post-communist Eastern Europe and Russia
- › Geopolitics and international security
- › Energy security

Current or planned projects

In his current project, Paolo Zucconi investigates why and how the V4 functions have evolved from EU integration and cooperation since 2004 to the current sub-regional partnership conflicting with the EU master-narrative and political framework. His research interest and activities also include the polarization of political culture in the V4, its effects on social cohesion, and the role of Russia in East-central Europe.



© Markus Scholz

Jun.-Prof. Dr Azar Aliyev, LL.M.

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg / Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Faculty of Law and Economics, Legal Department
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 3)
Contact azar.aliyev@jura.uni-halle.de

About

Jun.-Prof. Dr Azar Aliyev studied law in Baku and Heidelberg. He worked as a lawyer in Moscow and completed research stays at the Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Dickinson School of Law, Penn State University (USA). In 2006 he began his doctoral studies at the Institute for Eastern European Law at the Christian Albrechts University, Kiel, where he also worked as a Research Assistant from 2008. He coordinated the Volkswagen Foundation-funded projects "Foreign Investment Law in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia: Balancing Interests" (2008–2012) and "Law of International Trade in the Central Asia and Caucasus Region" (2013–2016). In 2016, together with Prof. Dr. Christian Tietje, he was granted the project "Legal Transformation in Business Law and Infrastructure for Legal Research in Azerbaijan: Developments and Challenges" by the Volkswagen Foundation. Since 2017 Azar Aliyev is a Juniorprofessor of International Business Law and Comparative Law at MLU Halle-Wittenberg. Since 2021 he is also Co-Director of the Institute for Structural Change and Sustainability (HALIS) in Halle.

Current or planned projects

Azar Aliyev is currently investigated into the projects:

- › GRAD Graduiertenschule in den Rechtswissenschaften für ausländische DoktorandInnen – a PhD programme in Law for foreign lawyers. The Programme aims to prepare teaching staff for the partner Law Schools. More than a dozen PhD students, mostly from the Eastern Europe, are participating in the Programme.
- › Research on the legal aspects of the Just Transition into the post-fossil fuel future: regional and global dimensions – <https://strukturwandel.uni-halle.de/>

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › International and foreign commercial law with a focus on the Central Asia/Caucasus region
- › International arbitration law
- › law of Information Technologies

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am interested in cooperation on the following topics:

- › Law and society in a multidimensional transition (fuel, energy etc.)
- › Re-thinking the resources Cooperation with Central Asia and the Caucasus
- › Digital transformation

Best of EEGA

EEGA is a unique platform perfectly combining regional approach and transdisciplinarity.

Dr Corinne Geering

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 3)

Contact corinne.geering@leibniz-gwzo.de



© Corinne Geering

About

Dr Corinne Geering leads the junior research group “Contrasting East Central Europe” at Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig. Further, she is project leader in the collaborative research project “Cities. Building.Culture: Built Heritage in Post-Soviet Urban Development” (funded by BMBF) and speaker of a research lab in the Leibniz Research Alliance “Value of the Past”. She completed her studies in Zurich, Bern, and Prague, and received her PhD in History from the University of Giessen in 2018, with a scholarship from the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC). Corinne Geering has spent extensive periods working in archives abroad including in Paris, Moscow, Kazan, Petrozavodsk, Vienna, London, and Lviv.

Current or planned projects

In her current book project, Corinne Geering examines efforts to spur regional development across empires in Europe in the late 19th and early 20th century. The project looks at rural areas in Austria-Hungary and the British Empire and traces the transfer of national economic discourses and practices from East to West. These initiatives aimed at using handcrafts for development and social relief. Based on archival research in Ukraine, Austria, the Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom, the project connects rural workshops in Galicia and the Ore Mountains with those in Ireland and with the sale of handmade products at international exhibitions in metropolises in Western Europe and North America. Departing from this book project, Corinne Geering is working on offshoot projects connecting rural areas in Europe with those in overseas colonies. Moreover, she is interested in developing a *longue durée* history of regional development since the 19th century.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Transregional history of Eastern Europe from the 19th to the 21st century
- › Comparative and transimperial history
- › Rural history in a global context
- › Material culture and cultural heritage
- › History of regional and urban development
- › International cooperation during the Cold War

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

As an affiliate researcher of RA 3 at EEGA, I hold a particular interest in the contribution which historical research may offer for discussions on sustainable economic development and processes of structural change.

Best of EEGA

I have been involved in interdisciplinary research environments for more than a decade, and I believe that they both enrich and refine disciplinary approaches. EEGA has provided many opportunities to exchange with colleagues working across regions, and thus offered new perspectives for my own fields of expertise.



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Dr Marco Zimmermann

Institution Fraunhofer-Zentrum für Internationales Management und Wissensökonomie / Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 3)

Contact marco.zimmermann@imw.fraunhofer.de

About

Dr Marco Zimmermann has been a research associate since September 2019 and deputy head of the staff department since April 2023. He is responsible for the professional support of acquisition talks of the Institute's management, the project coordination during the initiation and planning phases and the participation in institute strategic issues. After studying economics in Bamberg, Barcelona, and Göttingen, Marco Zimmermann completed his doctorate at the University of Düsseldorf with a quantitative thesis on the investor behaviour of institutional investors during the European sovereign debt crisis. From 2016 to 2019, Marco Zimmermann was responsible for representing the interests of small and medium-sized craft enterprises in Thuringia and worked in a state-funded project on entrepreneurial transformation processes in the course of digitalisation. He has been completing the predicate programme to become a "Fraunhofer Research Manager" since April 2023.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

The Fraunhofer IMW has an economic and social science research profile. The scientists develop innovative strategies, processes and instruments for optimised knowledge and technology transfer, which shortens the time-to-market and reduces risks in the innovation process at an early stage. In this way, the Institute supports its customers and partners from strategic foresight to the development of new business models.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be particularly interested in interdisciplinary cooperation on research questions concerning the further design of Central and Eastern European innovation systems, networks and political framework conditions as well as on research questions concerning knowledge and technology transfer.

Prof. Dr Christoph Brumann

Institution Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung /
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (MPI),
Research Group Constructing Urban Futures in Asia

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)

Contact brumann@eth.mpg.de



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Social Anthropology

About

Prof. Dr Christoph Brumann studied Anthropology, Japanese Studies, and Chinese Studies at the University of Cologne and Sophia University Tokyo, and later earned his doctorate (1997) and habilitation (2005) at the University of Cologne. Since 2010, he has been Head of Research Group at the MPI. He is also an Honorary Professor of Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and a member of Academia Europaea.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Urban Anthropology
- › Traditions and cultural heritage
- › UNESCO and other international organizations
- › Anthropology of Buddhism
- › Culture as an anthropological concept
- › Globalization
- › Utopian communities
- › Gift exchange
- › General social and economic anthropology

Current or planned projects

Christoph Brumann is currently leading the MPI research group “Constructing Urban Futures in Asia”. Looking at the growing prosperity, ongoing rural-urban migration, and unprecedented building boom across the cities of East, Southeast and South Asia, the project asks what does this hold in store for current and future urban governance, commerce, and human lives – is the social fabric transformed as thoroughly as the physical one? The main ethnographic focus will be on the professionals in the building sector, such as architects and planners.

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see connecting points in the field of urban anthropology and the social and life and politics of cultural heritage.

Best of EEGA

The benefit of EEGA ScienceCampus is to me that the scholarly study of a crucial world region has a suitable institutional home base.



© Michael Bodi

Dr Linda Cimardi

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg /
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Musicology Department
Institute for Music, Media and Language Studies (IMMS)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)

Contact linda.cimardi@musikwiss.uni-halle.de

About

Dr Linda Cimardi obtained her PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University of Bologna in 2013. She conducted archival and field research on traditional performing arts in Italy, Uganda, Croatia, Bosnia, and Austria. Cimardi was a visiting scholar in Ethnomusicology at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz from 2017 to 2018 and an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow in the Department of Media (Ethnomusicology, Berlin Phonogram Archive and Visual Anthropology) at the Ethnological Museum in Berlin from 2018 to 2021.

Current or planned projects

Since September 2022, Linda Cimardi has been leading the DFG-funded project "Black Music in the Region of (Former) Yugoslavia" at MLU Halle-Wittenberg. Her research focuses on the dissemination, performance and representation of Black music (African and African-American music) in the Yugoslav region and analyses how Black music is situated in the global history of music and connected to imaginings of race and otherness.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

A part of Cimardi's work focuses on the traditional musics and dances from Eastern Africa (especially Uganda), as well as from Southeastern Europe (in particular Croatia and Bosnia) in relation with issues of gender, community and identity making, historical stratifications and re-significations.

The other important topic in Cimardi's research are politics and aesthetics of/in music dissemination during the Cold War and early postcolonial time, where she investigates the role of international politics, local and global aesthetics, and racial imaginings in shaping music circulation, understanding, and appreciation. This wide theme touches, on the one hand, the selection and promotion of world music through the UNESCO records series and, on the other hand, the presence and representation of Black musics in the Yugoslav region in the post-colonial time.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am interested in developing a dialogue and cooperation with scholars working on the international connections, global exchanges, and transnational circulation of ideas in Eastern Europe, especially for what concerns culture and the arts in connection with issues of race, gender, equality, and freedom.

Best of EEGA

As a scholar of a small but very interdisciplinary field – ethnomusicology – what I most appreciate of EEGA is that it gathers and facilitates the scientific exchange of researchers from diverse backgrounds and working on many different subjects, but sharing a wide regional/global focus.

PD Dr Jan Gerber

Institution Leibniz-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur – Simon Dubnow / Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (DI)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)

Contact gerber@dubnow.de



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About

PD Dr Jan Gerber works at the Dubnow Institute as a Research Associate since 2009. He became Chief Research Associate in 2010. Gerber is Head of the Research Unit "Politics".

Current or planned projects

- › The Transformation of Memory: Preconditions of Historical Knowledge about the Holocaust
- › The Grand Alliance: Jews, Socialism and the Left
- › The Short Life of Soviet Yiddish Literature (in collaboration with the University of Regensburg and the Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung ZfL)

Best of EEGA

- › the exchange of ideas
- › the interdisciplinary perspective

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › History and impact of the Holocaust
- › History of the labour movement and the political left
- › Intellectual history

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

- › the interdisciplinary perspective
- › the placement of developments in Eastern Europe in a pan-European and global context
- › the connections between past and present
- › the afterlife of imperial structures and the minority question



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Dr Beáta Hock

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Department "Entanglements and Globalization"

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)

Contact beata.hock@leibniz-gwzo.de

About

Dr Beáta Hock is currently Senior Researcher at GWZO. She studied Aesthetics and Comparative Literature at ELTE as well as Comparative Gender Studies at the Central European University (both in Budapest), where she graduated with a PhD in 2009. Beáta Hock had held visiting professorships at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London (2015–16); the University of Vienna (2021–22) and, in the academic year 2023–24, she is acting chair for East European Art History at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Beáta Hock also occasionally works as a curator of contemporary art.

Current or planned projects

Beáta Hock is currently project lead of the travelling seminar series "Linking (Art) Worlds: American Art and Eastern Europe in the Cold War and Since", which promotes a combined view at the post-war art scenes of both regions. She is also general editor of the 4-volume compendium *The Cultural History of the Avantgarde in East-Central Europe*, a publication-in-progress of Brill Publishing.

Her recent research project "Agents of cultural change: Subsidy for the arts around the regime change" has been a critical analysis of the motives that prompted transnationally active funding bodies to advance the production and worldwide dissemination of art from East Central Europe immediately after the end of state socialism.

She is currently developing a project to explore worldwide unique initiatives for the recognition of Romani arts and culture that have been launched in East-Central Europe from 1991 until today.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Cultural and art history of Eastern Europe in the 20th century
- › The cultural dimensions of the global Cold War
- › Cultural sponsorship during the post-socialist transformation
- › Gender history and feminist theory

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see connecting points in a) the multi-disciplinary approach of EEGA and b) the consequent consideration of Eastern Europe, not as an isolated region or a special case, but in its relation to the rest of the world.

Best of EEGA

The benefits of EEGA ScienceCampus to me are the opportunities it offers to (early career) researchers from the Eastern European region, and the efforts to also draw the cultural field into the sphere of a transnational inquiry.

Dr Sven Jaros

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg /
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU),
Institute for History
Aleksander-Brückner-Zentrum für Polenstudien /
Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)

Contact sven.jaros@geschichte.uni-halle.de



© Katrin Möller

About

Dr Sven Jaros studied History and Cultural Studies at Leipzig University. In 2013, he completed his master's degree in interdisciplinary Medieval Studies at Friedrich Schiller University of Jena. Afterwards he was a Research Assistant at the Chair of Medieval History at Leipzig University and completed his doctorate in 2020 on the topic of "Iterationen im Grenzraum (Iterations in the border area). Actors and Fields of Multiconfessional Negotiation of Rule in Crown Ruthenia (1340–1434)". Between 2021 and 2022 he worked at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg. Since August 2022, he has been a Research Assistant at the Chair of Eastern European History / the Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Pre-modern history of domination and migration
- › Border Studies
- › History of knowledge and diplomacy
- › Historical Discourse Analysis
- › History of Eastern (Central) Europe in the Late Middle Ages and modern Times

Current or planned projects

Sven Jaros is dealing with the period of scientification of public and political discourses in the 19th and early 20th century. His focus is on scholars, primarily from the Russian Empire, in Western exile. In his current project, he asks how they influenced the formation of public and political opinion on the future shape of the political map of Eastern Europe through their networks and publications. How did these actors move between the different imperial orders? How did they position themselves between the differentiating spheres of politics, academia, and the public sphere? On what basis did they formulate their ideas for the political reorganisation of Eastern Europe, be they national, federal, socialist or anarchist? In order to work out how competing ideas related to each other, the focus is on the eastern regions of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (today's Eastern Poland, the Baltic States, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine), which were claimed by various political movements. The project combines approaches of historical discourse analysis, network research and collective biography. It will contribute to the understanding of Eastern Europe as a highly entangled, transnational laboratory of political discourses in both imperial and post-imperial contexts.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

At EEGA, Eastern Europe is studied in its transnational and global interconnections. Research Area 4 in particular is dedicated to these interconnections with an actor-centred perspective and is therefore an excellent fit for my project.

Best of EEGA

The interdisciplinary and international exchange is enormously enriching. In addition, the network of current and former EEGA Fellows offers a wide range of connecting points. Last but not least, EEGA is also alive to the association of university and non-university research locations in Leipzig, Halle and Jena, which is naturally very close to my heart given my academic CV.



© Nadine Menzel

Dr Nadine Menzel

Institution Universität Bamberg, Institut für Slavistik /
University of Bamberg, Institute for Slavic Studies
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)
Contact nadine.menzel@posteo.de

About

From 2002 to 2009 Dr Nadine Menzel studied Slavic and English Studies at Leipzig University, including a one-semester exchange stay at the University of Manchester in 2005/2006. Afterwards, she has been a researcher and lecturer at the Institute for Slavic Studies (Leipzig University) until the end of 2022, focussing on Russian literary theory and history of the 19th to 21st century, Eastern Slavic cultural history (amongst others, Russian and Ukrainian fine arts of the 20th century – Avantgarde and Socialist realism). Since October 2023, she has been working as a researcher at the Institute for Slavic Studies (University of Bamberg).

Current or planned projects

Nadine Menzel is currently working on her habilitation thesis.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Human-animal-relationship in Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian literature and culture
- › Avantgarde movements and developments in Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia
- › Travel literature (dissertation: Nach Moskau und zurück (To Moscow and back), Köln 2018)
- › Connex between the arts in Russian and Belorussian culture

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am particularly interested in cooperation on East European history, especially regarding the relation between humans and animals, or related to GWZO, and Global Studies.

Best of EEGA

The benefits of the ScienceCampus EEGA to me are the possibility it provides for networking between researchers, for working on topics connected to Eastern Europe, and for the exchange of ideas (e.g., colloquia, meetings, project collaborations).

Prof. Dr Klaus Näumann

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg / Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Musicology Department
Institute for Music, Media and Language Studies (IMMS)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)

Contact klaus.naeumann@musikwiss.uni-halle.de



© Maïke Glöckner

About

Prof. Dr Klaus Näumann studied Music Education for Jazz / Rock / Pop and Comparative Musicology at the Carl Maria von Weber College of Music in Dresden and the Free University of Berlin, where he also acquired his PhD in 2004. He has been a Research Assistant in the DFG project "India and Europe. A music-sociological cultural comparison" (2006–2007) and a Junior Professor at the Institute for European Ethnomusicology at the University of Cologne (2011–2017). In 2015 he acquired his habilitation for ethnomusicology with a thesis on the music of the German minority in Poland. Since 2017 Klaus Näumann is Professor for Ethnomusicology at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Music of the Caribbean (Jamaica, Grenada / Carriacou)
- › Music (of the German minority) in Poland
- › Popular and hybrid music (e. g., in Belarus, Jazz Manouche, Progressive Rock)
- › Festival cultures, musical competition, and contestation
- › History of ethnomusicology / folk music research

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

- › I would be interested on cooperation on the topics:
- › Culture and Musics in the Carribbean
- › Culture and Musics in Belarus
- › Competitive cultures and musics in general

Current or planned projects

Klaus Näumann is currently working on his research project "Musics of Carriacou (Parang, String Band Music, and Big Drum)".

Best of EEGA

Best of EEGA is bringing scholars from different areas together.



© Yuriy D. Remestwenski

Dr Martin Rohde

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung /
Leibniz Institute for East- and South-East European Studies (IOS)
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 4)
Contact rohde@ios-regensburg.de

About

Dr Martin Rohde studied History, Slavic Philology and Eastern European History in Salzburg and Göttingen (2011–2016), followed by a dissertation on “National Science’ between Two Empires. The Ševčenko Society of Sciences, 1892–1918”, for which he received the Award of Excellence by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria. From 2017 to 2020 he worked at the University of Innsbruck. During this time, he led the research project “The Ševčenko Society of Sciences in the German-Speaking World. Interweavings of ‘Austrian’ and ‘Ukrainian’ Science, 1894–1914” (Tyrolean Science Fund, 2019–2020). From 2020 to 2022 he has been a Research Assistant (PostDoc) at the Department of Eastern European History at the MLU Halle-Wittenberg. Currently, Martin Rohde is Schrödinger Fellow at the IOS Regensburg.

Current or planned projects

Currently, Martin Rohde is working on the project “Transregional Region-Making in the Eastern Carpathians. Ukrainian Knowledge Production and its Challenges, 1921–1939”, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Transnational, transregional and transimperial history
- › Constructions of space
- › History of knowledge and science
- › Spatial foci: Ukraine, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Habsburg Monarchy, Soviet Union, Russian Empire

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be interested in cooperation on transregional exchanges in the history of science and knowledge production.

Hana Antal

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Junior research group East Central Europe in Comparison

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 5)

Contact hana.antal@leibniz-gwzo.de



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About

Hana Antal studied Social Sciences at Humboldt University, Berlin, until 2018, specialising in Political Theory and the History of Ideas as well as East-Central Europe. She completed internships at the editorial office of the journal *Zeitschrift Osteuropa* and the *Mehr Demokratie e.V.*, Berlin, worked on the project “German-Czech Relations in Numbers”, funded by the Association for International Affairs (AMO, Prague) and the German Association for East European Studies (DGO, Berlin). She also does translation work at the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Neutra (Slovak – German). Since April 2019, she has been a Research Assistant at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) in the junior research group East Central Europe in Comparison.

Current or planned projects

Hana Antal is currently working on her dissertation “Populism in East-Central Europe. Comparative analysis of political discourses on the euro crisis, the refugee crisis, and foreigners and minorities in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Austria between 2010 and 2018”, in which she comparatively examines the manifestations of populism in different political contexts on the basis of selected political discourses.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Populism
- › Democratization- and transformation processes in East-Central Europe
- › Civil Society

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be particularly interested in cooperation on the topics:

- › Interregional Comparative Research on Populism
- › Eastern Europe in intra- and interregional comparison
- › Democracy in post-socialist political contexts.

Best of EEGA

EEGA is an important platform for scientific exchange, the further development of its own projects and new research impulses.



© Yvonne Jaeckel

Yvonne Jaeckel

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University, Theological Faculty, Institute for Practical Theology, Department Sociology of Religion
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 5)
Contact yvonne.jaeckel@uni-leipzig.de

About

Yvonne Jaeckel studied Protestant Theology at Leipzig University and Charles University of Prague. She is Researcher in the field of Sociology of Religion and a member of the Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe).

Current or planned projects

Yvonne Jaeckel is currently working in the project "Attitudes towards the Bible and Use of the Bible and its different media and cultural forms in Germany". Further she is involved in the "Working group Secular Worldviews (AKsäk)". In 2024 she will be researcher in the EU-Horizon-Project "A PROactive approach for COMMunities to enAble Societal Transformation" (PRO-COAST), focussing on religion and social change.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Yvonne Jaeckel is working on following topics from a sociological and theological perspective:
- › Religious and non-religious identities among adolescents and young adults
- › Religious plurality and migration
- › Religious polarization
- › Non-Religion

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I'm especially interested on interdisciplinary or transregional cooperation regarding youth, religious identity or non-religion.

Best of EEGA

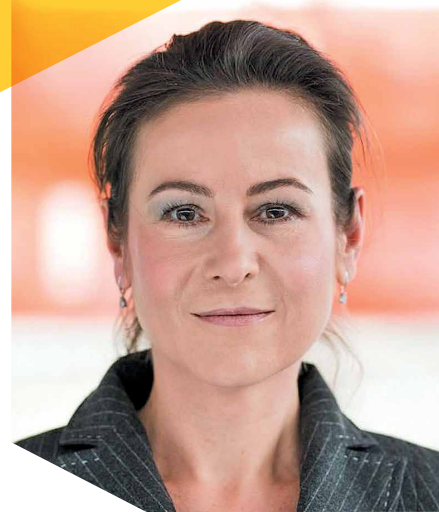
... the social exchange between researchers from different countries or disciplines. I remember nice co-working time with people from Romania and Hungary.

Prof. Dr Astrid Lorenz

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University, Institute for Political Science, Working Area Political System of Germany, and Politics in Europe

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 5)

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About

Prof. Dr Astrid Lorenz studied Political Science and Eastern European Studies in Berlin. From 1998 to 2001, she completed her doctorate as a scholarship holder of the DFG. For her habilitation thesis “Constitutional Changes in Established Democracies” she received the Science Award of the German Political Science Association in 2009. Since 2011, she has taught at the Leipzig University as a professor of the German Political System and Politics in Europe.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Democracy in Europe
- › Constitutional Politics and the Rule of Law
- › Politics in multi-level systems
- › Transformation of political systems, esp. Germany and East-Central Europe
- › Processes of Europeanisation and de-Europeanisation
- › Interrelationship between institutions and actors
- › Emergence, stability and change of political institutions

Current or planned projects

Currently, Astrid Lorenz is leading the project “The European Union and its rural Periphery in East-Central Europe” at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, which aims to promote an active European citizenship, especially among young people. In the interdisciplinary project “The Rule of Law in East-Central Europe”, she investigates rule of law narratives in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I’m interested in cooperation in all aspects related to democracy, the rule of law, society, and politics in East-Central Europe.

Best of EEGA

... because so many urgent questions need to be addressed, which can only be solved through joint interdisciplinary research and regular exchange of ideas.



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Prof. Dr Solveig Richter

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University, Institute of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Research Affiliate (RA 5)

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About

Prof. Dr Solveig Richter studied political science, history, and communication science in Dresden and Strasbourg. From 2008 to 2012, she worked as a Senior Researcher at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik Berlin (SWP) in the EU External Relations research department. There, she focused primarily on EU enlargement policy and political change in Southeastern Europe, as well as on the European security architecture. Subsequently, she became Junior Professor for International Conflict Management at Willy Brandt School of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt. Since January 2019, she has been co-editor of *Zeitschrift für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung* ("Journal for Peace and Conflict Studies", ZeFKo), the most important journal in the field of peace and conflict research in the German-speaking world. Since October 2020, Solveig Richter has held the Heisenberg Professorship for International Relations and Transnational Politics at Leipzig University.

Current or planned projects

Solveig Richter is currently implementing her Heisenberg project on the legitimacy of non-state actors at local level. She looks at the political dynamics of peace processes from a comparative perspective, including post-conflict societies in Eastern Europe (e.g. Kosovo) but also beyond, in the Global South (e.g. Colombia). New ideas for projects centre on transnational (criminal) networks in Eastern Europe, and environmental peacebuilding.

Best of EEGA

As a newcomer to EEGA in 2023, there are the best moments yet to come: But I was pleased to be invited to join EEGA and feel excited to experience all the nice moments that my colleagues already had.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Democratic peace, democratization and external democracy promotion
- › Post-conflict peacebuilding and instruments of conflict transformation
- › EU external relations and Europeanization effects in the near abroad of the EU
- › Dynamics of the peace process in Colombia,
- › European security architecture and security regimes, e.g. OSCE
- › Regional focus: Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, Colombia
- › Perspectives and concepts from the Global South in peace and conflict studies
- › Environmental conflicts and peacebuilding

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would like to see the network collaborating on different practices of knowledge production in Eastern Europe and the way how we create common understandings, e.g. of power and politics. My interest is also to explore new forms of university cooperation across different scientific fields (e.g. natural and social sciences).

Board of Directors



Prof. Dr Claudia Becker

Institution Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg /
Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU-Rector)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

Contact rektorin@uni-halle.de



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About

Prof. Dr Claudia Becker studied statistics and computer science at the University of Dortmund, where she also received her doctorate (1996) and habilitation (2002). In the winter semester 2001/2002, she took over a substitute professorship at the Institute of Statistics at Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, and subsequently worked again at the University of Dortmund as a lecturer in the field of data analysis. In 2002, she was appointed Professor of Statistics at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and has since also been involved in the university's academic self-administration. From 2012 to 2014, she served as Vice Dean of the Department of Economics, and subsequently as Dean of the Faculty of Law and Economics from 2014 to 2018. In July 2022, Claudia Becker was elected as the new Rector of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Claudia Becker is statistician and expert in

- › statistical method development
- › robust statistical procedures and methods
- › planning and evaluation of surveys
- › collection of sensitive data

Since September 2022, she has been Rector of Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The Rector represents the University internally and externally.

Current or planned projects

A special event at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in 2023 was the tenth anniversary of the Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies, a cooperation project of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, which was celebrated with a three-day programme.



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Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Thomas Glauben

Institution Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO – Director) / Professor at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

Contact glauben@iamo.de

About

Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Thomas Glauben is the Director of the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) and a full Professor at the University of Halle. He studied agricultural economics at Kiel University, where he obtained the doctorate and the habilitation. He is a member of several national and international academic and policy-related advisory and management bodies. Thomas Glauben has assumed short-term assignments with international institutions including The World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). His work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals. His areas of interest include agricultural and food economics, development economics, geopolitics and econometric methods.

Current or planned projects

Current projects include e.g. studies on the digitalization of the Chinese and the Serbian food economy, on (climate) risk management of Central Asian small scale farmers, on the dynamics of Russian grain exports, on the effects of the Open Balkan Initiative on trade relations, and on the growing importance of the BRICS on international agricultural markets and global food security.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

(De-)Globalization of agricultural markets and value chains in the context of global food security, climate change and geopolitics.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

EEGA covers IAMO's target region perfectly and topics such as "globalized markets" and "rural development in a global context" fit well with IAMO's profile.

Best of EEGA

I find it extremely enriching to get to know people from other regions of the world and to get to know and understand their perspective on global developments.

Prof. Dr Sebastian Lentz

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde / Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL – Board and Director)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

Contact S_Lentz@leibniz-ifl.de



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Peter Himsel

About

Prof. Dr Sebastian Lentz is Director of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography and Vice President of the Leibniz Association. He is also Professor for regional geography at Leipzig University. Prior to that, he worked as freelance cartographer, Private lecturer for geography at the University of Mannheim and Professor for anthropogeography at the University of Erfurt. Within social geography, he specialized in the areas of Europe, Eastern Europe, the territory of the former Soviet Union, and Central Asia.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

My thematic focus is regional geography, social geography, geography, urban geography, transformation research, and knowledge transfer in geography. Regionally I mainly concentrate on successor states of the Soviet Union.

Current or planned projects

The continuation of the ScienceCampus EEGA in joint responsibility with the partners beyond the end of the funding by the Leibniz Association is a matter close to Sebastian Lentz's heart.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

An important objective is to maintain the actor-centred perspective and to focus on how the region is globalising and how it is positioning itself under global conditions. This goal remains an ever-present challenge at the same time.

Best of EEGA

EEGA has established networks with recognised international organisations (e.g. BASEES) and participated substantially in the Regional Studies Association (RSA) Conference 2022, which brought together many different interests and stakeholders.



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Universität Leipzig

Prof. Dr Matthias Middell

Institution Universität Leipzig / Leipzig University
(Vice-Rector for Campus Development:
Cooperation and Internationalisation;
Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

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About

Prof. Dr Matthias Middell is Vice-Rector for Campus Development: Cooperation and Internationalisation, professor of cultural history as well as spokesperson of the Collaborative Research Centre 1199 and the Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics. Since 1991 he serves as editor of *Comparativ. Journal of Global History* and since 2015 he sits on the board of the International Committee of Historical Sciences. Matthias Middell studied history at Leipzig University, where he also obtained his doctorate and habilitated.

Current or planned projects

Matthias Middell is currently working on a History of the French Globalization Projects from the 15th century to the present. A second project is dealing with the transnational history of East Central Europe during the first half of the 20th century and its global environment.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Global History, its historiography, methodology, and practice

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

The study of globalization projects implies to see globalization in the plural and as an actor-driven process; this concerns Eastern Europe as well as all other regions of the world and allows for comparisons as well as for entangled histories of these regions.

Best of EEGA

My best experience with EEGA was meeting people from the region and specialists of the region's history to learn about the specificities of globalization projects being influential in the region. This has happened both at conferences held by the EEGA and when attending guest lectures organized by the Leibniz ScienceCampus.

Prof. Dr Thorsten Posselt

Institution Fraunhofer-Zentrum für Internationales Management und Wissensökonomie / Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW – Executive Director)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

Contact thorsten.posselt@imw.fraunhofer.de



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About

Prof. Dr Thorsten Posselt is the executive director of the Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW) and a professor of innovation management and innovation economics at Leipzig University. He studied economics at J. W. Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main and Stanford University. He obtained a PhD in economics and his “habilitation” in business administration (BWL). He was full professor of business administration, service management, at Leipzig University and afterwards professor of commerce, e-commerce and services at the University of Wuppertal. He was visiting scholar at the UC Berkeley and UC Davis. From 2008 he filled the position of director of the Fraunhofer Center for Central and Eastern Europe in Leipzig (from 2016 on Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy) and professor of innovation at Leipzig University. He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and has been involved in several commissions for the development of the research and knowledge transfer landscape, both in Germany and abroad, including an EU commission for bringing Ukraine closer to the European research landscape.

Current or planned projects

Roughly 100 research projects in the areas mentioned above.

Best of EEGA

The EEGA is a complex institutional construct with many partners coming from different backgrounds. Therefore, I appreciate in particular the open conversations on steering the EEGA.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

The Fraunhofer IMW has an economic and social science research profile. The scientists develop innovative strategies, processes and instruments for optimised knowledge and technology transfer, which shortens the time-to-market and reduces risks in the innovation process at an early stage. In this way, the Institute supports its customers and partners from strategic foresight to the development of new business models.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

Important connecting points are interdisciplinary cooperation on research questions concerning the further design of Central and Eastern European innovation systems, networks, and political framework conditions as well as on research questions concerning knowledge and technology transfer.



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Prof. Dr Ursula Rao

Institution Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung /
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
(MPI – Director, Department “Anthropology of Politics and Governance”)
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors
Contact office.rao@eth.mpg.de

About

Prof. Dr Ursula Rao is Director of the Department “Anthropology of Politics and Governance” at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Saale). Her research explores questions of politics and governance in India, with a specific focus on urban dynamics. Currently, she is involved in several research projects about the social consequences of biometric technology and e-governance. Other fields of interest include questions of urban citizenship and social justice, as well as journalistic practices, ritual theory and urban Hinduism. Before joining the Max Planck Institute in 2020, Ursula Rao was Professor of Anthropology at Leipzig University. She has also held academic positions at the University of Heidelberg (1999 to 2002), the MLU Halle-Wittenberg (2002 to 2006), and the University of New South Wales, Sydney (2007 to 2012). She is Adjunct Professor for Social Anthropology at both Leipzig University and MLU Halle-Wittenberg. In 2023 she became a member of the German Science and Humanities Council (WR) and a fellow of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW). She is the Spokesperson of the International Max Planck Research School ‘Global Multiplicity’ (IMPRS), which was established in 2023.

Current or planned projects

Ursula Rao’s current work on the biometric registration of Indian citizens raises questions of embodiment. How can a living organism be transformed into a quasi-fixed document-like thing that the government then uses to manage citizens? What new identities emerge when people struggle to become machine readable and thus recognized as bearers of rights? The project is situated in India and follows the application of fingerprinting in multiple field sites, taking note of the development ambitions of the government and the struggles of poor people to be seen and recognized by the government. Officers, intermediaries, and citizens quickly learn that currently available biometric technology is extremely error-prone and creates a plethora of biometric misfits. In order to function, the biometrically organized administration must deal with such exceptions. Sometimes these are granted generously; other times, the unbiometrifiability of a large number of people is silently welcomed because it helps reduce costs. The project explores the situational use of technology as well as its flaws and studies the consequences of applying biometric filters for remaking subject positions.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › E-Governance
- › Biometric technology
- › State–citizen relations
- › Urban citizenship
- › Social justice
- › Media practices and journalism
- › Ritual theory and urban Hinduism
- › India

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

As head of the Department “Anthropology of Politics and Governance”, Ursula Rao promotes dialogue among researchers who study how people around the world, in different places and from different backgrounds, deal with the pressing challenges of our time. What is experienced as crisis and what are individual and collective responses to crisis? As a political anthropologist, Ursula Rao’s work is primarily concerned with questions of everyday politics, a politics that operates from the margins but can nonetheless influence the mainstream. What are the processes by which seemingly marginal ideas gain traction and enter dominant ways of thinking? The conversation about such ‘minor’ politics touches on a range of topics, such as the issue of bodily constitution, the transformative power of new technologies, and changing ecologies.

Best of EEGA

I have fond memories of a number of workshops and meetings that gave me the rare opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from other research institutions in the region who are working on similar research questions. In theory, I could meet each one of these colleagues at any time, but in real life we are all so busy that we rarely cross paths. At EEGA events, we learn together, share news, and make friends.

Prof. Dr Maren Röger

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europas / Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO-Director)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

Contact maren.roeger@leibniz-gwzo.de



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About

Prof. Dr Maren Röger is Director of the Leibniz Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe and Professor of History of Eastern Europe/East Central Europe at Leipzig University. She studied cultural studies, media studies, and history at the Universities of Lüneburg and Wrocław. In 2010, she concluded her PhD in Modern and Contemporary History with a thesis on “Flight, Expulsion and Resettlement. Media debates and memories in Germany and Poland since 1989”. From 2010 to 2015, she was a research associate at the DHI Warsaw as well as visiting professor at the University of Hamburg. From 2015 to 2021, she was assistant professor (Juniorprofessor) and from 2021 full professor for history with Eastern Europe at the University of Augsburg. From 2017 to 2021, Maren Röger was head of the Bukovina Institute in Augsburg.

Current or planned projects

Maren Röger has just completed a monograph on the “Visual History of the Multiethnic Borderland Bukovina” (published Dresden 2023). She is also working on an interdisciplinary project on “Images of German-Polish-Jewish Relations around 1900” and is planning a research project on anti-eastern European racism.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Modern and Contemporary History of Central and Eastern Europe
- › History of Violence
- › History of Mass Media and Public History
- › Gender History
- › Nationalism and Ethnicity Studies

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

What is special about the GWZO is its interdisciplinary orientation and its distinctive networks in Eastern Europe. We hope to further expand and consolidate our networks and hope for further synergies and new ideas thanks to our participation in the EEGA.

Best of EEGA

I had the pleasure to meet many interesting visiting researchers whose perspectives, often from another discipline and/or country, enriches my own thinking about my individual research projects, but also research projects in GWZO.



© Anne Günther
(Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)

Prof. Dr Walter Rosenthal

Institution Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena/
Friedrich Schiller University Jena (President until 10/2023)
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors
Contact praesident@uni-jena.de

About

From 2014 to 2023, Prof. Dr Walter Rosenthal, MD, was the first president of Friedrich Schiller University Jena after a distinguished career as a molecular pharmacologist and academic leader. He is recognised as a specialist in signal transduction (G-Proteins, G-protein-coupled receptors and anchoring proteins). As President of the University of Jena, he was Chair of the Executive Board and represented the University itself. In May 2023, he has been elected President of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Walther Rosenthal is a pharmacologist and has been President of Friedrich Schiller University Jena since 2014. The German Rectors' Conference (HRK) has elected Walter Rosenthal as its new president in May 2023. This new role will accompany him in the coming years and complement his previous leadership functions.

Current or planned projects

Walther Rosenthal wishes that the positive development of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena of the last few years continues and that it is successful in the national and international competitions. In his new position as President of the HRK, he seeks to strengthen the position of the universities in Germany. In particular, he would like to showcase the diversity of the universities, which he considers to be their great strength. Rosenthal will hold the new office on a part-time basis and will continue to serve as President of the University of Jena until his succession is settled.

Prof. Dr Yfaat Weiss

Institution Leibniz-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur – Simon Dubnow / Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (Director)
Leipzig University
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Board of Directors

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About

Prof. Dr Yfaat Weiss is Director of the Dubnow Institute and Professor of Modern History, especially Jewish history, at Leipzig University. She is also Professor of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

From 2010 to 2017 she was Director of the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Centre for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She founded and directed the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society at the University of Haifa between 2001 and 2007. She also held academic positions at the University of Haifa and the LMU Munich. Yfaat Weiss studied history and modern German literature at the University of Hamburg and received her PhD from Tel Aviv University in 1997 on the subject “The Encounter between German and Polish Jewry at the Time of Nazi Germany”. She spent time as a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna; Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University; Historisches Kolleg, Munich; Dahlem Humanities Center, FU Berlin; the Hamburg Institute for Social Research; the Remarque Institute, New York University; the International Institute for Holocaust Research Yad Vashem, and others.

Current or planned projects

Currently, Yfaat Weiss has been finishing her book “Sovereignty in Miniature. The Mount Scopus Enclave, 1948–1967”, which will be published in Hebrew and German in 2025. Furthermore, she has been editing together with Uzi Rebhun the anthology “The Nation State and Higher Education (The History of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Vol. 5)”, which will be published by Magnes Press, Jerusalem in early 2024. This year, the digital catalogue “In Their Surroundings. Localizing Modern Jewish Literatures in Eastern Europe” was published by the Dubnow Institute, a collaborative endeavor with her colleagues Efrat Gal-Ed, Natasha Gordinsky, and Sabine Koller. At present, she is also working on the further development of the Dubnow Institute’s newest essay series “Hefez. Studies on Jewish History and Material Culture”. The works in this series focus on Eastern European Jewish experiences in particular, addressing their trans-national and trans-regional impact in Europe, North America and Israel. As the volumes are published in parallel in Hebrew (with Magnes Press, Jerusalem), this project provides the unique opportunity to further connect the German-speaking and Israeli academia.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

I am dealing with German-Jewish history, Jewish history in East Central and Eastern Europe, and Israeli history, especially in the 19th and 20th century. My focus is on space, material culture, (Jewish) languages and literature, cultural restitution and memory. Also, part of my research interests are university history and transfer of knowledge. Some of my recent works have been devoted to a micro historical perspective.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

The transregional dimension of the Jewish language cultures, such as Yiddish and Hebrew, but also German, within Middle and Eastern Europe has been a long-term research interest of mine. This area provides a diverse field for interdisciplinary scholarly interaction and exchange. Furthermore, looking on tradition in contemporary Israel as well as in Israeli history makes the connection to Eastern Europe and its history clearly evident. I am also very much interested in different forms of transfer and its impact on the Israeli society and state.

Best of EEGA

... the signing of the cooperation agreement in October 2020 and the integration of the Dubnow institute’s digital lecture series “‘Let my people go!’ Jewish Emigration from Eastern Europe since the 1960s” in the programme of the new EEGA-Colloquium in 2020/2021.

Scientific Advisory Board



Prof. Dr Irina Busygina

Institution Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies
at Harvard University

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Scientific Advisory Board

Contact irinabusygina@fas.harvard.edu; ira.busygina@gmail.com



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About

Prof. Dr Irina Busygina received her doctorate and habilitation at the Moscow State Institute of International Relation. She has been Head of Division for Regional and Social Problems at the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences from 1996 to 1999, Professor for Comparative Politics at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations from 2000 to 2017. From 2017 to 2022 she was Professor of Comparative Politics and Director of the Center for Comparative Governance Studies at the Higher School of Economics in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Currently, Irina Busygina is Research Fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies (Harvard University, US).

Current or planned projects

Irina Busygina's current project deals with federalism and decentralization in the authoritarian settings of Russia and Kazakhstan.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Comparative Politics
- › Globalization and Regional Integration
- › European Integration
- › Comparative Federalism
- › Russian Foreign Policy
- › EU-Russia Relations

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am very interested in transregional cooperation.

Best of EEGA

I would be very eager to participate in EEGA conferences or conversations in the future.



© Ian Willoughby

Prof. Dr Olga Lomová

Institution Univerzita Karlova / Charles University of Prague,
Department of Sinology, Faculty of Arts

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Scientific Advisory Board

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About

Prof. Dr Olga Lomová studied Sinology – Oriental Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, where she has also been teaching since 1987. She acquired her PhD with a thesis on contemporary Chinese Literature and her habilitation in Theory and History of Literature in Asia and Africa with a thesis on construction of “nature” in the poetry of Wang Wei (699–759). In 2014, she was appointed full Professor of Sinology. From 1998 to 2005, and again from 2014 to 2017 she served as the Director of the Institute of East Asian Studies of the Faculty of Arts. She has also served as the vice-dean of the same Faculty, and she has been leading the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation International Sinological Centre of Charles University since 2001. From 2012 to 2023 Olga Lomová was a key researcher and a member of the academic management team of KREAS, a project of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education, call: Excellent Research. She has also translated Chinese literature (for many years served as board member of the Czech Literary Translators Guild) and she frequently comments on Chinese politics and Czech-Chinese relations in Czech media and on her blog. In 2016 co-founded the Sinopsis.cz project aiming at mediating academic knowledge about contemporary China to broader public.

Current or planned projects

Olga Lomová’s current main project is dedicated to research on the interpretation of domestic cultural traditions in contemporary China and its implications for a western understanding of China. This also involves explorations of ideas and ideology, PRC soft power projects and recent Chinese Global Civilization Initiative. These academic interests nourish into her participation in recent discussions about new possible paths for development of the area studies at the CU Faculty of Arts within the platform of the Centre for Strategic Regions.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Pre-modern Chinese literature and literary aesthetics
- › Intellectual transformation of China since late 19th century
- › Chinese modernization in cross-cultural perspective
- › General issues of transdisciplinarity in humanities and social sciences, including mediation of academic knowledge with broader public
- › Contemporary Chinese politics and ideology, with special focus on Chinese global initiatives and contacts with Eastern and Central Europe

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

The most inspiring connecting point for me as a professor at Charles University is the EEGA transdisciplinary and transregional approach and the way it helps to shape new knowledge about the world highly relevant for our future. Thus, I would like to further build up stronger institutional collaboration, particularly with the Centre for Strategic Regions (CSR) at the Faculty of Arts, in order to learn from the EEGA experience and develop similar approach, yet within the different environment we face in Prague. In terms of collaborative research, the CSR would be particularly interested in (and can contribute to) working together Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order, Cultures of Internationalism and Internationalism of Cultures and Populist Movements and Regimes in Eastern Europe.

Best of EEGA

The best moment was actually the opening keynote roundtable discussion “Globalising Belarus? - New Perspectives on Transregional Entanglements” in April 2021 within the framework of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Regional Conference in conjunction with EEGA’s Annual Conference, which included academic presentations as well as discussion with the press. I liked the overall approach to research interconnecting different disciplines, crossing established borders (disciplinary, political) and enabling new insights into our world. Besides I also very much appreciated the systematic effort to mediate the academic knowledge for journalism. I was delighted how successfully EEGA puts into practice some of the ideas about the future of area studies I have been struggling to bring into the attention of my colleagues and the Charles University administration.

Prof. Dr James Mark

Institution University of Exeter, History Department

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Scientific Advisory Board

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for Advanced Study in
the Humanities and Social
Sciences, Amsterdam

About

Prof. Dr James Mark is Professor of History at the University of Exeter and Principal Investigator on the “1989 after 1989” project. After having completed a M.Phil. in Russian and East European Studies and a D.Phil. at the University of Oxford he has been working in the History Department at Exeter since 2004. Most of his research has addressed the social and cultural history of state socialism and its collapse in central-eastern Europe, the politics of memory in the area during both socialism and post-socialism or aims to connect the region to broader global histories and processes through transnational, entangled and comparative methods.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Eastern Europe in global history
- › Eastern Europe and histories of whiteness
- › the relationship between Eastern Europe and global histories of imperialism, anti-imperialism, and race
- › Eastern European cultures of memory
- › the social and cultural history of Communism
- › oral history

Current or planned projects

James Mark is currently working on a co-edited collection entitled “Off White: Historicising Race in Eastern Europe” for Manchester University Press and a co-written monograph rethinking the history of modern Hungary through the lenses of global imperialism, anti-imperialism, race and whiteness for Cambridge University Press.

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

Most of work intersects with EEGA, in terms of rethinking nineteenth and twentieth century Eastern European history in global context!

Best of EEGA

I’m not sure I can pick out one best moment: there have been so many excellent conferences and exchanges. Broadly speaking, I have valued the sense of connection – and in some cases real collaboration – that has evolved over the last decade with Leipzig University in general and EEGA specifically. It has been very satisfying to see EEGA developed into one of the key international hubs for transforming/globalising Eastern European studies. Working with Steffi Marung on both the *Alternative Globalisations* and *Socialism Goes Global* books was intellectually very rewarding, and a real pleasure.



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Prof. Dr Judith Pallot

Institution University of Oxford
Aleksanteri Institute, Finnish Centre for East European Studies
(University of Helsinki)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Scientific Advisory Board
(until 11/2023)

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About

Prof. Dr Judith Pallot is Professor Emeritus of the University of Oxford and of Christ Church. In 2016, she won a European Research Council, Horizon 2020 Advanced Grant to research post-communist prisons systems in Europe, which, partly because of Brexit, she took to the University of Helsinki. This project is due to end in August 2024. In Finland she also was awarded an Academy of Finland grant to add former Yugoslavia to her research, which will run until September 2025. Throughout her career, she has been active in teaching and research and has promoted collaborations with colleagues across Europe and in the former Soviet Union. Her research has taken her to many countries where she has conducted field work and laboured over documents in archives. Her most recent trip was to interview prison officers in Lepoglava prison in Croatia. Judith Pallot is the author of numerous books and articles spanning topics from Soviet spatial planning to the historical geography of the Russian peasantry, to, most recently, to the treatment and experiences of gender and ethnic minority in the region. She has been active in area studies, professional organisations and was president of BASEES for three years from 2016.

Current or planned projects

Judith Pallot is currently PI of two projects: "Gulag Echoes in the multicultural prison: historical and geographical influences on the identity and politics of ethnic minority prisoners in the communist successor states of Russia and Europe" (ERC Horizon 2020: no. 788448) and "Yugoslavian Penal Nationalism" (Academy of Finland; no. 34309).

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Judith Pallot began her research career in 1971 by examining the social history of the Russian peasantry before the 1917 Revolution and continued this interest in rural Russia after communism's collapse, examining the adaptive strategies pursued by rural dwellers in remote Russian regions to the challenges of the transformation to a market economy. From the early 2000s, she became interested in geography of punishment in Russia and focused upon the impact of the wide dispersal of the penal estate in that country on prisoner experiences. Her current projects extended her interest to the whole post-communist region in Europe, focusing on the Soviet legacies on current penal practice. Inevitably, like many in East European area studies, since February 2022, Judith Pallot has turned her attention to the impacts of the Russian war on Ukraine on her field of study.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I entered area studies of the USSR and Eastern Europe in the 1970s from a disciplinary background in geography. To become an area studies specialist, it was understood that the scholar would not only learn the language of the region but would also immerse themselves in culture, economy, history, and politics of the countries making up the 'area'. Interdisciplinarity has therefore been embedded into my scholarly DNA. I have actively sought collaborations with colleagues and institutions across the region and have sought to bring young scholars from diverse backgrounds into area studies.

Best of EEGA

There have been many good moments, but most satisfying has been to witness how the EEGA has grown, prospered, and put down sustainable roots.

Prof. Dr Detlef Pollack

Institution Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster /
University of Muenster (WWU), Institute of Sociology

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Scientific Advisory Board

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Exzellenzcluster „Religion und
Politik“ Westfälische Wilhelms-
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About

Prof. Dr Detlef Pollack studied Evangelical Theology in Leipzig, where he also received his doctorate in 1984. After his habilitation at Bielefeld University, he moved back to Leipzig and became Professor of Sociology of Religion in 1994. In the subsequent years, he was Professor of Comparative Sociology of Culture and Director of the Institute for Transformation Studies at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). From 2003 to 2005 he held the Max Weber Chair at New York University. In the time between 2008 and 2022, Detlef Pollack was Professor of Sociology of Religion at the University of Muenster and Principal Investigator of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”. From 2015 to 2018, he was the speaker of the Cluster of Excellence. Since his retirement in 2022, he has been senior professor at the Cluster of Excellence.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Religious Change in Western and Eastern Europe and in the USA
- › Political culture in Eastern and East-Central Europe GDR research
- › Systems theory
- › Differentiation theory

Current or planned projects

Detlef Pollack is senior professor of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” at Muenster University. Therein, he is currently leading the sub-project “Threat Perceptions, Feelings of Belonging, Acceptance of Democratic Rule: A New Religiously Shaded Line of Conflict in Europe?”. The project will carry out a comparative investigation of the connection between threat perception, collective self-understanding, and acceptance of democracy in selected European countries.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I see many points of common interests in the field of the political culture and the acceptance of democracy in selected East and Central Eastern European countries. Also, I am interested in the analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Best of EEGA

The best moments I had with EEGA were the discussions we had in the Scientific Advisory Board. The dialogue always was very concentrated and to the point so that we progressed as smoothly as fast.



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Prof. Dr Gwendolyn Sasse

Institution Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien/
Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS)
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Scientific Advisory Board

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About

Prof. Dr Gwendolyn Sasse has been the Director of ZOIS since October 2016. Since April 2021, she has been Einstein Professor for the Comparative Study of Democracy and Authoritarianism at the Department of Social Sciences of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Prior to that, she was Professor of Comparative Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations and at the Oxford School for Global and Area Studies at the University of Oxford. She maintains her connection with Oxford as a Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College. She is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the think tank Carnegie Europe. Her academic career began with the study of history, Slavonic studies, and political science at the University of Hamburg and led her to an MSc and PhD in political science at the London School of Economics. After that, she took up a post as Assistant Professor at the Central European University, and then as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer at the London School of Economics before moving to Oxford in 2007 where she became a full professor in 2013.

Current or planned projects

- › Head of ZOIS research cluster “Societies between Stability and Change”
- › PI of “Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe” (KonKoop), a collaborative project with six institutional partners in Germany (incl. ZOIS and IFL), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- › PI in the DFG-funded Excellence Cluster “Contestations of the Liberal Script – SCRIPTS”
- › PI of Ukraine Research Network@ZOIS (UNET), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- › A series of interconnected projects on public opinion in Ukraine (e.g. DFG-funded project MOBILISE)
- › Pilot project on “Forced migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe” (with Sabine v. Löwis, ZOIS)

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Post-communist transition processes (with a particular focus on Ukraine)
- › Comparative democratisation and authoritarianism
- › War and ethnic conflicts in Eastern Europe
- › Migration from and within Eastern Europe
- › Protest dynamics
- › EU eastward enlargement/ Eastern Partnership

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

The transregional perspective of EEGA and its multi- and transdisciplinary ambitions are particularly interesting to me, as is the space for the discussion of methodological issues and research ethics. The latter has gained in importance during Russia’s war against Ukraine and we have begun to expand our EEGA-/IFL-ZOIS cooperation on these issues.

Best of EEGA

Anchoring young researchers (esp. post-docs) combining a disciplinary grounding with regional expertise in an international and hopefully sustainable network.

Advisory Board for Media and Knowledge Transfer



Leonid Klimov

Institution dekode.org

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Advisory Board for Media and Knowledge Transfer

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About

Leonid Klimov is academic editor of dekode.org. He studied history at the Vladimir State Pedagogical University and cultural and literary studies at St. Petersburg State University. From 2011 to 2012 Leonid Klimov was a guest lecturer at the Institute for Slavic Studies at the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel. In 2012 Klimov received his doctorate with his work on the phenomenon of intangible heritage and then completed an additional master's degree in culture and media management at the Hamburg University of Music and Theater. Since 2015, he has been academic editor of dekode.org and coordinates the work of academic experts in the fields of history and culture. From 2019 to 2021, he was a coordinator in the project "Knowledge Transfer squared – Russian Studies", which is carried out by the online medium dekode.org in cooperation with the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen and the University of Basel.

Current or planned projects

Leonid Klimov is currently working on three major projects: a data journalism project researching Russian propaganda, the history of civilian victims in the Soviet Union during the Second World War, and shadows of the imperial past in Russia today.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Leonid Klimov works mainly at the intersection of journalism and East-European studies and deals with various topics ranging from history and historical politics to the Russian media landscape and propaganda.

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

There are two main connecting points for me: first, at the latest since the beginning of Russia's large-scale war against Ukraine, the eastern European region has been undergoing a transformation with an absolutely open-end result, which should be researched and documented in an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral way. Second, journalism and academia tick very differently but have a lot in common – and I am very interested in these spheres working more closely together and enriching each other.

Best of EEGA

The best moment I had with EEGA was the Summer School 2020, which was an excellent format for a very diverse, intense, and deep encounter between scientists and journalists from several generations.



© Jessica Mijnsen

Ivo Mijnsen

Institution Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ)

Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Advisory Board for Media and Knowledge Transfer

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About

Ivo Mijnsen is the Eastern Europe correspondent of the Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (NZZ). Since the beginning of the war, he has worked in Ukraine on a regular basis. His articles cover the front lines, the political situation in the country, and the everyday lives of the people. Based in Vienna, he also covers Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

Mijnsen studied Eastern European history and sociology at Brown University, in Basel and at Stanford. In May 2015, he completed his dissertation on the political and social role of memory of the Second World War in the Soviet Union's so-called Hero-Cities. Indiana University Press published his monograph *Russia's Hero-Cities* in 2021. He is also the president of the Foreign Correspondents' Association in Vienna.

Current or planned projects

Reporting on the war.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Ivo Mijnsen's journalistic interests include the war in Ukraine, political consequences of social polarization, the East-West conflict in Europe, and the handling of migration and nationalism.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I would be interested in cooperation on the in-depth social analysis of war, historical backgrounds of current conflicts, and the usage of research data for journalism.

Best of EEGA

My best experience with EEGA was getting together with members of the Advisory Board.

Gemma Pörzgen

Institution OST-WEST. Europäische Perspektiven (Journal)/ Deutschlandfunk
Position in EEGA (Research Area) Member of the Advisory Board for Media and Knowledge Transfer
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About

Gemma Pörzgen is a freelance journalist focusing on Eastern Europe in Berlin. The journalist is editor in chief of the journal *OST-WEST. Europäische Perspektiven*, working as an online-editor for German national radio Deutschlandfunk, but also as an author, moderator, and media-consultant. She was born in Bonn and spent parts of her childhood and youth in Moscow. After studying Political Science, Slavic Studies, and Eastern European History in Munich, she completed a traineeship at the Frankfurter Rundschau (FR) and worked as a news editor. Gemma Pörzgen has a long career as a foreign journalist, for instance, as a Southeast Europe correspondent and a Middle East correspondent for *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Stuttgarter Zeitung* and other German newspapers. From 2010 till 2013 she worked as a media consultant for the "Uzbekistan Press Freedom Group", which published the news page "uznews.uz." on Uzbekistan. Furthermore, she was a scholarship recipient of the Robert Bosch Foundation with a book project and a fellow of the Institute for Human Science (IWM) in Vienna. She is co-founder and board-member of Reporters Without Borders Germany. She is member of the German Association for East European Studies (DGO).

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

- › Foreign Policy
- › Eastern Europe
- › Media

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am interested in the field of communication in science and the relationship between science and media.

Current or planned projects

The next edition of the journal *OST-WEST. Europäische Perspektiven*.

Best of EEGA

I had many good moments with EEGA, because I took part in many interesting events.

Coordination

—

Lena Dallywater

Institution Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde/
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© Lena Dallywater

About

Lena Dallywater is a researcher and coordinator of the Leibniz Science-Campus “Eastern Europe – Global Area” (EEGA) at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography Leipzig, Germany.

Current or planned projects

As an editor, Lena Dallywater has, among others, published *Southern African liberation movements and the global cold war ‘East’: transnational activism 1960–1990*, Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2019, and *Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and Africa: new perspectives on the era of decolonization, 1950s to 1990s*, Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2023, both together with Chris Saunders and Helder Adegar Fonseca. At the moment they are developing a follow-up volume on the subject of *Communist Actors in African Decolonial Transitions – A Comparison (1957–1994)*, to be published in winter 2024/25.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

My research focuses on transnational intellectual history, (Pan-) African philosophy, aesthetics and literature, and modes of Black solidarity in a global perspective. Recent publications include “African intellectuals in processes of intercultural transfer”, in: M. Espagne and M. Middell (eds.), *Intercultural Transfers and Processes of Spatialization*, Leipzig: Leipziger Universitätsverlag, 2022, pp. 131–158, and “Black fire: conceptualisations of black liberation and engaged views of African and black aesthetics in the United States and South Africa”, *Third text* 34 (2020), 4–5, pp. 551–567.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am particularly interested in the genesis, construction, reinvention, and critical interrogation of concepts of race, for example, in forms of Black consciousness movements, Afrocentrism, as well as Critical Whiteness and questions of race in Eastern Europe and the Far East. I am open to research ideas at the intersection with gender and religion, and particularly interested in visual media and literature.

Best of EEGA

... a joint panel at the VAD conference “African Connections” in Leipzig 2018, organised by the ScienceCampus, because it brought me in contact with some wonderful colleagues, whose cooperation I continue to value highly.



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Melanie Mienert

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About

Melanie Mienert is a researcher and coordinator of the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe – Global Area” (EEGA) at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography Leipzig, Germany since November 2017. She studied Communication and Media Studies, English and American Studies at Leipzig University. Melanie Mienert worked as a lecturer and research assistant at the Chair of Book Studies, Institute for Communication and Media Studies, at Leipzig University and as an employee at J.G. Seume Verlag, where she was responsible for editing, public relations and sales.

Current or planned projects

Melanie Mienert currently is writing her dissertation on the Berlin scientific publisher Walter de Gruyter from 1923 to 1967. Together with Stefan Welz and Dietmar Böhnke (both English Department at Leipzig University), she is also working on the edited volume *English Literature in Your Pocket: The Tauchnitz Edition and Related Paperback Series*, which will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in winter 2023/24. The book builds on a conference of the same title that they held in Leipzig in November 2021.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

My research focuses on the study of the history of German publishing houses, author-publisher relationships, and the history of Leipzig as a centre for books. I have great interest in the former Leipzig publishing house Bernhard Tauchnitz. Not only did I write my master’s thesis on this topic (“English Language Books in 19th Century Germany. – The publisher Bernhard Tauchnitz and his authors in the Collection of British Authors”), I also published the book *Baron der englischen Bücher. Der Leipziger Verlag Bernhard Tauchnitz 1837–1973*. Leipzig: Sax Verlag, 2017, together with Thomas Keiderling, Stefan Welz and Dietmar Böhnke.

Where do you see connecting points/in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

I am particularly interested in the exchange at the interface between science and media. With regard to Eastern Europe in a global context, I am especially interested in media transfer and networking.

Best of EEGA

There is not one best moment I have experienced with EEGA, but many. I have come into contact with so many different people, topics and disciplines at numerous events that genuinely enriched my understanding of Eastern Europe in its global entanglements.

Clara Seeber

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Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)
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About

Clara Seeber is student assistant of the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe – Global Area” (EEGA) since April 2023. As part of her degree in European Studies (MA) at Leipzig University, she spent a semester at Tallinn University, Estonia, and 3 months as an intern at Goethe-Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark. She completed her interdisciplinary bachelor’s degree in “European Cultures and Society” at the University of Flensburg. Next to her studies, she is a workshop leader in political education.

Current or planned projects

At EEGA, Clara Seeber supports the coordination team in arranging future conferences, colloquium events and publications and assist the fellows. Next to that, she is currently preparing her master thesis and organizes youth seminars that train first time voters to become election helpers during the European Parliament Election in 2024.

Which topics do you deal with (from which perspective, with which focus)?

Thematically, I like to engage with memory politics, foreign cultural policy and democracy building and sustaining. My bachelor thesis was on the German state influence on political education through the lense of ‘Beutelsbacher Konsens’. I am interested in political education from both a scientific as well as practical hands-on perspective, while showing young people how to use their right to actively participate in political processes, especially in Eastern Germany.

Where do you see connecting points / in which thematic fields and areas would you be particularly interested in (interdisciplinary, trans-regional, institutional) cooperation and new findings?

The intersection of the topics democracy, youth engagement and European integration in post-socialist Europe is something that I would like to follow up on.

Best of EEGA

I enjoyed attending and preparing the “Writing workshop on publishing in scientific journals” in July 2023, because it was really rewarding seeing so many motivated aspiring scholars bonding, connecting, and exchanging ideas.

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