



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword

Dear Friends of ZOiS,

Following our first academic evaluation, which we successfully completed in early 2024, we used the momentum that it generated to review our current research. We also held extensive discussions within the team on how we could take forward and expand our research over the coming years in light of political developments in Eastern Europe. The outcomes of these discussions were integrated into a new research programme for 2024–2030. With it, we position ourselves as Germany's social science research institute providing in-depth analysis and information on the dynam-



ics and diverse impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine – with a focus not only on Ukraine and Russia, but also on regions such as the South Caucasus, Central Asia and East-

Central Europe. Three sets of themes – Democratisation/Autocratisation, Mobility/Immobility and Security/Insecurity – will frame and accentuate our research. We present the outlines of the new research programme in this Annual Report.

The conditions under which we conduct our empirical research have become more challenging in many areas, either because of the ongoing war or due to the active attempts by the Russian government to obstruct independent research. The tone of the public debate around scholarship on Eastern Europe – to which we at ZOiS actively contribute – has become harsher. The increased demand for the information that we provide, based on our many years of experience in research and our analysis of events, means that our institute and staff are more exposed to abuse. However, even though analysing facts and opinions takes a great deal of time and energy, we believe that academia cannot remain aloof from the public debate – quite the contrary.

As political events come thick and fast, we will do our utmost, once again, in 2025 to ensure that our research increases understanding of these developments. As before, we will focus particularly on social and political dynamics in the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia, which – as Russia's war has demonstrated – have direct relevance for regional and global security.

We are most grateful for your interest, which inspires us to continue our work.

With best wishes from ZOiS

PROF. GWENDOLYN SASSE
Director

DR CHRISTIAN SCHAICH
Managing Director

zois



The Institute

The Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) is an independent, international, publicly funded research institute. It focuses on foundational and socially relevant academic research on Eastern Europe and shares the results with policymakers, the media, and the broader public.

The importance of dedicated regional research undertaken in long-term projects for providing the necessary profound knowledge is clearer today than ever before. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine underscores the value of our nuanced view of the region. Russia's war against Ukraine is a watershed that presents major challenges not only to political actors worldwide but also to researchers. Data collection has become difficult or impossible in some cases, and cooperations have been terminated, or had to be adapted or newly established.

Our goal is to carry out comprehensive research on the various political, economic and security-related implications of the war against Ukraine. Only high-quality regional research across a wide range of academic disciplines can rise to the challenges that entails and provide crucial impetus for research, politics and public discourse.

Thematic focus

Our researchers' individual projects fall within five main topic areas: *Societies between Stability and Change*; *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions*; *Migration and Diversity*; *Youth and Generational Change*; and *Political Economy and Integration*. 'Eastern Europe' is defined in broad terms. Our research covers Eastern and Central Europe as well as the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

ZOiS is independent in how it sets its research agenda and implements its research projects. The topics chosen for its research priorities and projects reflect its aim of exploring and awakening interest in various aspects of Eastern Europe, with topical relevance and background analysis carrying equal weight here. However, we also think it is important to show that Eastern Europe is not confined to the

eastern part of our continent but is present in diverse forms in this country too, for example through (forced) migration or disinformation.

Detailed analysis of the complex developments taking place in Eastern Europe is only possible with a multi-perspective approach. ZOIS researchers therefore come from a range of disciplines, including political science, sociology, social anthropology, economic and social geography, political economy and cultural studies.

Our vision

Empirical data collection is a key element of the basic research conducted at ZOIS. We combine qualitative and quantitative methods, use interviews, surveys and text analysis, and adopt innovative methods in our fieldwork, for example by engaging with artistic research and other interdisciplinary collaborations. In particular, we place a high value on cooperation with colleagues from our research region. An Ethics Committee ensures compliance with research ethics standards, thereby contributing to the sustainable and transparent design of research processes at ZOIS.

However, ZOIS's work does not begin and end with research. We actively participate in public debate, shape current discourses and bring new perspectives on – and from – Eastern Europe. ZOIS researchers regularly share their findings with policymakers, the media and an interested public, using a variety of events and publication formats for this purpose. Research on Eastern Europe relies on new perspectives and a willingness to engage with unconventional topics. Supporting junior researchers is also a priority for ZOIS here.

For ZOIS, Eastern Europe is more than just an object of research. We actively engage with the research being produced in the region itself and collaborate with Eastern European and international scholars. And lastly, ZOIS sees itself as a place for networking and exchange for universities, research institutes, think tanks, foundations and other organisations with a connection to Eastern Europe.

Staff



MANAGEMENT

- ▶ **Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse**
Director
Einstein Professor for Comparative
Research on Democracy and
Authoritarianism at Humboldt-
Universität zu Berlin
- ▶ **Dr Christian Schaich**
Managing Director

RESEARCH

- ▶ **Diana Bogishvili**
Sociologist
(from 01/11/2024
Research Affiliate)
- ▶ **Prof. Irina Busygina**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva**
Social Anthropologist
Head of Research Cluster
Migration and Diversity

- ▶ **Dr Ivaylo Dinev**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Nadja Douglas**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Claudia Eggart**
Social Anthropologist
(from 01/10/2024
Research Affiliate)
- ▶ **Dr Beate Eschment**
Central Asia Expert
- ▶ **Kostiantyn Fedorenko**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Nina Frieß**
Scholar of Slavic and
Literature Studies
- ▶ **Dr Piotr Goldstein**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Tatiana Golova**
Sociologist
- ▶ **Dr Félix Krawatzek**
Political Scientist
Head of Research Cluster
Youth and Generational Change

- ▶ **Valentin Krüsmann**
Development Economist
- ▶ **Dr Julia Langbein**
Political Scientist
Head of Research Cluster
Political Economy and Integration
- ▶ **PD Dr Sabine von Löwis**
Social Geographer
Head of Research Cluster
*Conflict Dynamics and
Border Regions*
- ▶ **Oleg Lutohin**
Historian
- ▶ **Dr Hakob Matevosyan**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Irina Mützelburg**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Beril Ocaklı**
Geographer and
Institutional Economist
(until 31/01/2024)
- ▶ **Lena Pieber**
Political Scientist

- ▶ **Alexandra Prokopenko**
Expert for Economic Policy
and Sociologist
(from 01/04/2024
Research Affiliate)
- ▶ **Sophia Winkler**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Tatiana Zhurzhenko**
Political Scientist
(from 01/11/2024
Research Affiliate)

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT / ACADEMIC COORDINATION

- ▶ **Katrin Hoffmann**
External Funding and
Research Management
- ▶ **Dr Kerstin Bischl**
Academic Coordinator
KonKoop
- ▶ **Anastasiya Leukhina**
Academic Coordinator *UNET*
- ▶ **Johanna Mogwitz**
Academic Coordinator
MoveMeRU

COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ **Dr Stefanie Orphal**
Communications Director
Press
- ▶ **Stephanie Alberding**
Communications Coordinator
Social Media
- ▶ **Dr Anne Boden**
English-Language
Publications Editor
- ▶ **Iaroslav Boretskii**
Infographic Designer *KonKoop*
- ▶ **Hannah Guhlmann**
Communications Coordinator
Social Media
(until 30/09/2024 Trainee)

- ▶ **Anja Krüger**
Communications Coordinator
Event Management
- ▶ **Belinda Nüssel**
Communications Coordinator
KIU
- ▶ **Yvonne Troll**
Communications Coordinator
Editorial

ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ **Thomas Berthold**
Head of Finance
- ▶ **Karin Casanova**
Head of Administration
- ▶ **Adrian Fiedler**
External Funding Administrator
- ▶ **Diana Förster**
Personnel Administrator
- ▶ **Emily Kleine**
Recruiting / Assistant to
the Director

EDITORIAL OFFICE CENTRAL ASIAN ANALYTICAL DIGEST

- ▶ **Richard Schmidt**
Editor

VISITING RESEARCHERS

- ▶ **Vlada Baranova**
(ZOiS scholarship)
- ▶ **Andriy Fert** (UNET)
- ▶ **Prof. Ákos Kopper**
(Alexander von Humboldt
Foundation scholarship)
- ▶ **Matěj Korčák**
(Erasmus+ scholarship)
- ▶ **Nataliia Lomonosova** (UNET)
- ▶ **Prof. Oksana Mikheieva** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Alina Mozolevska** (UNET)

- ▶ **Dr Nataliia Otrishchenko** (UNET)
- ▶ **Helen Pidgorna** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Maryna Rabinovych** (UNET)
- ▶ **Lilit Saghatelyan**
(Erasmus+ scholarship)
- ▶ **Anastasiya Shurenkova** (UNET)
- ▶ **Prof. Hanna Shvindina** (UNET)
- ▶ **Tetiana Skrypchenko** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Olena Strelnyk** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Natalia Tsybuliak** (UNET)
- ▶ **Inna Volosevych** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Daria Yashkina** (UNET)
- ▶ **Natalia Zaika** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Kateryna Zarembo** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Olena Zinenko** (UNET)

RESEARCH AFFILIATES

- ▶ **Dr Leandra Bias**
- ▶ **Prof. Regina Elsner**
- ▶ **Veronika Pfeilschifter**

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

- ▶ **Noah Harris**
- ▶ **Linda Hofmann**
- ▶ **Lennart Hurny**
- ▶ **Felix Jehn**
- ▶ **Alice Lackner**
- ▶ **Domas Lavrukaitis**
- ▶ **Niklas Mariotte**
- ▶ **Thomas Nawrath**
- ▶ **Eugenia Scanferla**
- ▶ **Lasse Steinmayer**
- ▶ **Tim Wenzel**
- ▶ **Paul Wernig**
- ▶ **Anastasiia Yuzyk**
- ▶ **Noah Ziegler**
- ▶ **Jan Philipp Zimmermann**

INTERNS

- ▶ **Andrew Zonneveld**

Visiting Researchers

In 2024, ZOiS was a temporary base for visiting researchers from various regions and disciplines and at various career levels. Two networks in particular strengthen Ukraine-related exchange. The Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET) funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research offers scholarships to Ukrainian researchers at ZOiS and in Ukraine. ZOiS is also part of the Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU), which was launched in 2024 and is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service. Three KIU fellows were affiliated with ZOiS as visiting researchers in 2024.

► **Dr Vlada Baranova**

Senior Researcher

1 July to 31 July 2024

Funding: Centre for East European and International Studies

Project: Language Activism and New Identities: Ethnic Minorities from Russia in the Diaspora

Research cluster: Migration and Diversity

Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva

► **Prof. Ekaterina Bataeva**

Open International University of Human Development 'Ukraine', Kyiv

1 September 2024 to 31 May 2025

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service

Project: Higher Education during Russia's War against Ukraine

Network: Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies (KIU)

Research cluster: Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

► **Dr Andriy Fert**

Kyiv School of Economics

1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Project: Impact of Russia's War against Ukraine on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Regina Elsner

► **Prof. Ákos Kopper**

Humboldt Research Fellow

1 July 2022 to 31 August 2024

Funding: Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Project: Cooperation between Authoritarian Regimes and Citizens' Resistance

Research cluster: Societies between Stability and Change

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Matěj Korčák**

Charles University in Prague

29 April to 31 May 2024

Funding: Erasmus+ scholarship

Project: Aftermath of the Historical Events in the Sudetenland at the Czech-German Border

Research cluster: Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

► **Dr Inga Kozlova**

Ukrainian Catholic University of Lviv

1 September 2024 to 31 May 2025

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service

Project: Work After the Frontline: Veterans Coming Back Home

Network: Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies (KIU)

Research cluster: Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Kerstin Bischl

► **Nataliia Lomonosova**

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Project: The Situation of Ukrainian Women Working in Care Professions

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Irina Mützelburg

- ▶ **Prof. Oksana Mikheieva**
Ukrainian Catholic University of Lviv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Experiences of Ukrainian Forced Migrants
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva
- ▶ **Dr Alina Mozolevska**
Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: The Role of Digital Popular Culture in the Mediatization of the War against Ukraine
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Stefanie Orphal
- ▶ **Dr Nataliia Otrishchenko**
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe Lviv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Ukrainian Scholars in Global Academia
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse
- ▶ **Helen Pidgorna**
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Educational Strategies and Experiences of Ukrainian Refugee Families with School Children in Germany
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Félix Krawatzek
- ▶ **Dr Maryna Rabinovych**
Kyiv School of Economics
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Discourses on the West and Western Military Support for Ukraine among Various Ukrainian Actors
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Julia Langbein
- ▶ **Lilit Saghatelian**
Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest
10 April to 10 June 2024
Funding: Erasmus+ scholarship
Project: Intergenerational Transmission of Historical Perspectives among Armenians from Nakhchivan
Research cluster: Youth and Generational Change
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Hakob Matevosyan
- ▶ **Anastasiya Shurenkova**
Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Kyiv
1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Ukrainian Companies during the War
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Julia Langbein
- ▶ **Prof. Hanna Shvindina**
American University Kyiv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Female Leadership in Times of Crisis
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Félix Krawatzek
- ▶ **Tetiana Skrypchenko**
Sociological Rating Group, Kyiv/Lviv
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Processes of Reconstruction and Local Development in the Liberated Regions of Ukraine
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Nadja Douglas
- ▶ **Dr Olena Strelnyk**
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Family Care for the Elderly in a War-torn Ukraine
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Leandra Bias



In October 2024, visiting researchers from the Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS presented their research projects at ZOiS. Most of them travelled from Ukraine.

► **Dr Natalia Tsybuliak**

Berdiansk State Pedagogical University
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Mental Health of Ukrainian Academic Staff during Wartime
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Hakob Matevosyan

► **Natalia Zaika**

American University Kyiv
1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Evacuation Behaviour of Ukrainians since the Beginning of the War
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Regina Elsner

► **Inna Voloosevych**

Info Sapiens, Kyiv
1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024 (UNET), 24 October 2024 to 24 January 2025 (KIU)
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, German Academic Exchange Service
Project: The Ukrainian Labour Market during War
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET), Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies (KIU)
Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Dr Kateryna Zarembo**

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
1 October 2024 to 1 March 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Whole-of-Society Defence in Ukraine from the Perspective of Academics-Turned-Military
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Stefanie Orphal

► **Dr Daria Yashkina**

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: How Universities and Research Institutes Deal With Human Capital (Case Study Kharkiv)
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Dr Olena Zinenko**

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Project: Mediatization of War in Popular Culture Discourse
Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)
Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Nina Frieß

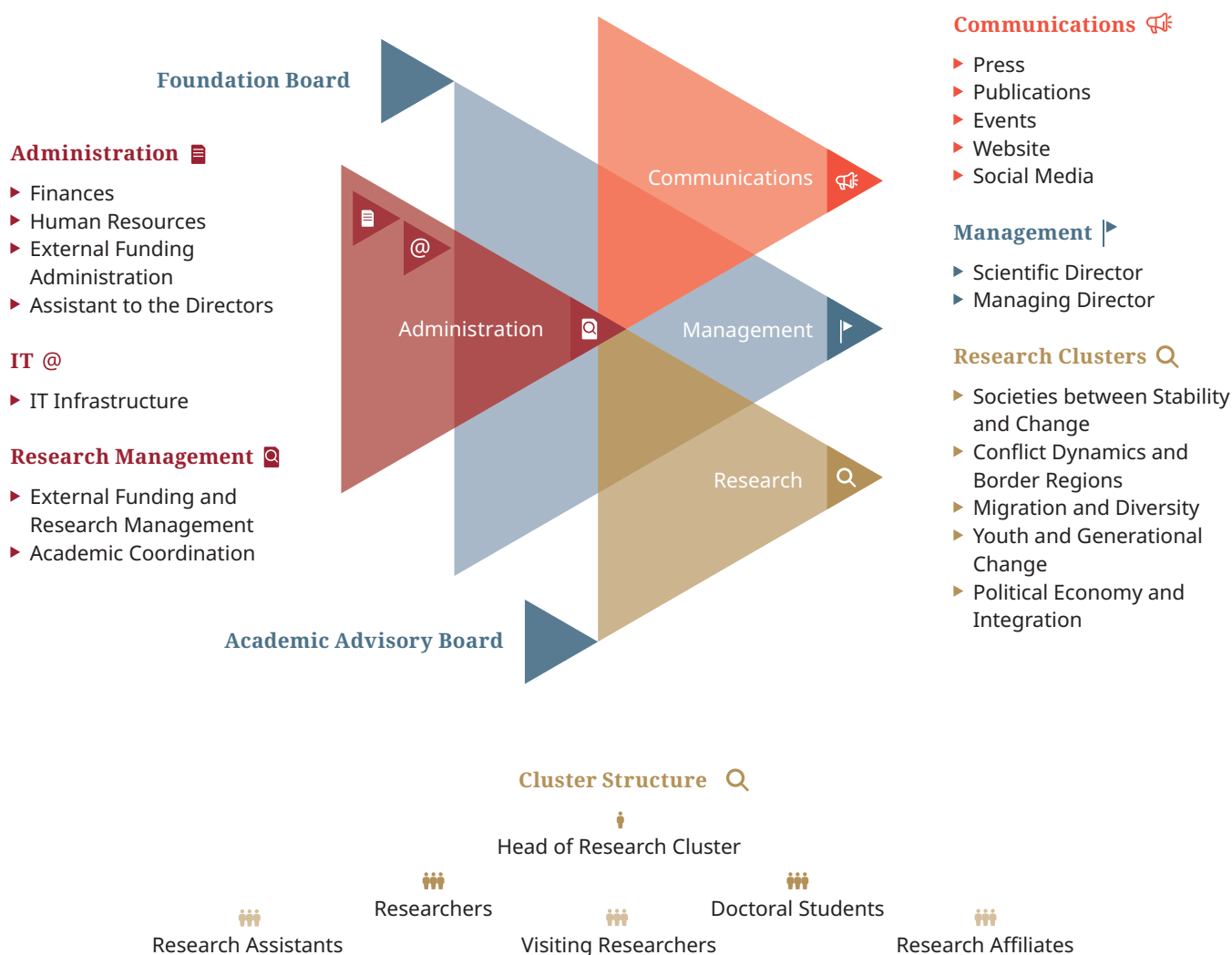
Structure and Finances

ZOiS was established in 2016 following a decision by the German Bundestag, with the Federal Foreign Office acting as the awarding authority. Additional funding is obtained in the form of research grants for third-party projects. The Centre is a not-for-profit limited company, which is supported by an independent foundation of the same name. Since 2023, Prof. Günter Stock has been chair of the Foundation Board.

An Academic Advisory Board assists the Centre on research matters. The Academic Advisory Board has an international membership and represents an array of disciplines and research regions. It fosters a lively culture of debate, despite

the geographical distance between members, and currently convenes once or twice a year. It is continuously involved in strategic development, staffing decisions, events, publications and the further expansion of the international ZOiS network.

All researchers have sole responsibility for carrying out individual projects they have selected themselves. The Centre's research programme is drawn up by the management and approved by the Academic Advisory Board. The awarding authority has no influence on the research work or its findings.



Members of the Academic Advisory Board

- ▶ **Prof. Margarita M. Balmaceda**
Seton Hall University
- ▶ **Prof. Timm Beichelt** (Chair)
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
- ▶ **Prof. Mark Beissinger**
Princeton University
- ▶ **Prof. Katharina Bluhm**
Freie Universität Berlin
- ▶ **Prof. Irina Busygina** (until July 2024)
Harvard University
- ▶ **Ivan Krastev**
Centre for Liberal Strategies
- ▶ **Prof. Sebastian Lentz**
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
- ▶ **Prof. Mikhail Minakov** (Deputy Chair)
Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- ▶ **Prof. Catherine Poujol**
National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO)

- ▶ **Prof. Ulrich Schmid**
University of St.Gallen
- ▶ **Prof. Silvia von Steinsdorff**
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

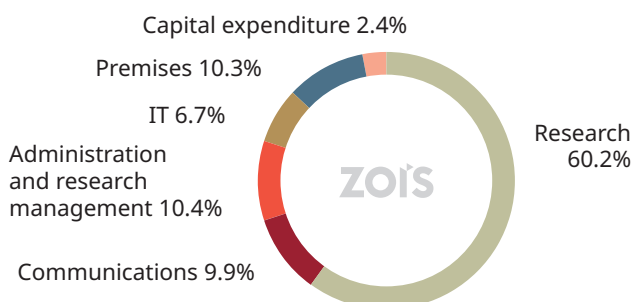
Members of the Foundation Board

- ▶ **Prof. Günter Stock**
Chair of the Foundation Board
- ▶ **Michael Scharfschwerdt**
German Federal Foreign Office
- ▶ **Angela Ganninger**
German Chancellery
- ▶ **Knut Abraham**
Member of the Bundestag
- ▶ **Dr Nils Schmid**
Member of the Bundestag
- ▶ **Prof. Susanne Schattenberg**
University of Bremen
- ▶ **Prof. Hermann Parzinger**
Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

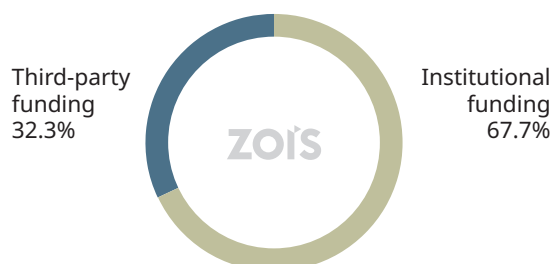
ZOiS's total funding for the year 2024 amounted to EUR 4,873,345, which represented an increase in funding of 22 per cent compared to the 2023 financial year. This was due

to an increase in institutional funding and to the fact that in 2024 ZOIS again acquired more third-party funding than in the previous year.

Distribution of ZOIS funds



Ratio of institutional funding to third-party funding at ZOIS



Cooperation Beyond Academia

Cooperation with actors beyond the scientific community is important for ZOiS in many ways, allowing us to access key target groups, increase knowledge on Eastern Europe, support young professionals beyond purely academic circles, and provide new impetus to academic and non-academic institutions and actors in Germany and abroad.

ZOiS Caucasus Network

Founded in 2019, the ZOiS Caucasus Network has established itself as a platform which connects researchers and other experts with an interest in the Caucasus region. The network encourages cooperation among experts from academia, politics and the media and fosters synergies between different disciplines. In addition to holding regular meetings on current developments in the Caucasus region, it publishes a newsletter with information on the current research projects, publications and events of the network members. The Caucasus Network is headed by social anthropologist Tsypylma Darieva and political scientist Nadja Douglas. In 2024, student assistant Paul Wernig helped with the coordination of the network.

A book talk on Tsypylma Darieva's new monograph *Making a Homeland: Roots and Routes of Transnational Armenian Engagement* took place in February 2024. Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder), Hakob Matevosyan (ZOiS) and Guzel Yusupova (Freie Universität Berlin) explored the monograph's theoretical and empirical contribution to international migration and diaspora research. In another event in July, Shushanik Minasyan-Ostermann (University of Bonn) and Harutyun Harutyunyan (American University of Armenia) discussed Armenia's new protest movement and the related challenges for domestic politics.

In November, a two-part workshop on grassroots engagement, societal dialogue and confidence building in Armenia and Azerbaijan took place in cooperation with the Berghof Foundation. 2024 was also a year in which the members of the network closely followed developments at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, and took a particular interest in the perspective of Karabakh Armenians expelled from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, Russian migration to Armenia and Georgia, and the protest wave in Georgia in connection with a 'foreign agent' law and the suspension of talks on EU accession.

The Colloquium for Children's Literature (KLK)

The Colloquium for Children's Literature (KLK) is an open networking platform whose aim is to foster academic exchange on Eastern European children's and young adult literature and increase the visibility of research in this subject area. Since 2020, the colloquium organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) and Karoline Thaidigsmann (Ruprecht Karl University Heidelberg) has been a forum for researchers with an interest in children's and young adult literature to discuss their work, collaborate on conferences, publications and other projects, and promote greater integration of this literature into research and curricula. The meetings take place once a semester online. In 2024 the Colloquium dedicated one session each to children's non-fiction and materialities of childhood. In addition, the KLK organisers successfully completed work on a special issue on imagined communities in children's and young adult literature for the *Zeitschrift für Slawistik* (Journal of Slavic Studies). The issue will be published in the second half of 2025.

Berlin Research 50 (BR50)

ZOiS is a member of the Berlin Research 50 (BR50) network, an initiative of the capital's non-university research institutions whose goal it is to strengthen Berlin as an international science metropolis. BR50 also serves to coordinate joint activities, such as supporting Ukrainian researchers, and is the main port of call for cooperation with the Berlin universities and exchange with society and politics. The communications departments of the BR50 institutions are also in regular contact with each other.

In 2024, BR50 organised a monthly online seminar on Chat-GPT in research communication from February to December. In addition to providing a hands-on introduction with practical examples, the seminar was also a forum for discussing ethical and legal issues. As part of the Berlin Science Week, ZOiS hosted the panel discussion *Bedrohte Wissenschaft: Infragestellung wissenschaftlicher Autorität* (Threatened Science: Questioning Scientific Authority). The event was part of the *Bedrohte Wissenschaft* series organised by the Cluster of Excellence Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS) in cooperation with the Berlin University Alliance and Berlin Research 50.

Contact Point for Scholars Facing Abuse

Academic freedom was a key topic in 2024, mainly due to the attacks on freedom of research in various regions and the online abuse to which academics have been increasingly exposed for some time. From ZOiS's perspective, academic freedom does not only extend to research and teaching. It also applies to the dialogue between scholars and society. However, assuming that society believes it is desirable for researchers to share their expertise with the public, these academics should not be left to deal with the reactions on their own. In cooperation with thefuturepast and HateAid, ZOiS has therefore set up a contact point for scholars who are the targets of abuse.

Strengthening academic freedom in practice

Together with thefuturepast, ZOiS produced a crisis manual that identifies various critical scenarios and outlines appropriate measures to counter abuse. These threats can take the form of targeted attacks on individual scholars, but they can also damage the reputation of ZOiS as a whole. As a result of their media appearances, particularly in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine, ZOiS's researchers are increasingly in the public spotlight. If they need support, they can now turn to Communications Coordinator Anja Krüger, who took on the role of contact person at ZOiS in 2024.

Within the Institute, this work is already producing some visible successes:

- ▶ Prevention activities have increased awareness that abuse should be taken seriously and not played down
- ▶ Abuse loses its 'shock effect' if negative reactions are considered from the outset, without self-censorship
- ▶ A clear procedure for dealing with abuse has been established; this is reassuring for staff and strengthens their trust in the organisation
- ▶ Interinstitutional solidarity has been strengthened, thus ensuring more support and creating scope for the development of joint strategies and a firm stand against abuse

Networking and resources for other institutions

Based on these experiences, a set of guidelines on establishing internal anti-hate contact points was produced. The aim is to provide management teams at other research institutes with a practical introduction to dealing with hate mail and abuse, along with some initial recommendations.

The guidelines were published in April 2024 and can be downloaded from the ZOiS website; they are also available as a printed brochure.



The key guidelines are:

- ▶ Sensitisation and counselling
- ▶ Support for scholars in crisis situations
- ▶ Practical advice on setting up a contact point

Anja Krüger and Fatma Geisler (thefuturepast) unveiled the guidelines to the Knowledge Management Network (NWM) in September 2024. In addition, over the course of the year, Anja Krüger strengthened the links to Scicomm-Support, a joint initiative involving the Bundesverband Hochschulkommunikation and Wissenschaft im Dialog which provides support in cases of abuse and hate speech. These services are indispensable for universities and research institutes, but are not a substitute for internal discussions about abuse in the academic context.

Resilience through solidarity

The establishment of the contact point is an important step in supporting researchers in their public outreach. As well as assisting scholars who are directly targeted, the contact point raises awareness of how to deal with online abuse and its institutional impacts. Instead of having to counter this abuse on their own, researchers have access to a structured network and clear options for action, while the guidelines enable other research institutes to benefit from ZOiS's experience.



Together with thefuturepast and HateAid, ZOiS developed a set of guidelines for research institutions on establishing internal anti-hate contact points.

Equality and Diversity: First Gender Equality Officer at ZOiS

In its Gender Equality Plan, ZOiS states its commitment to promoting equal opportunities and providing a trustful, respectful and tolerant organisational culture for all genders. Since July 2024, ZOiS's first Gender Equality Officer Kerstin Bischl and her deputy Katrin Hoffmann have been working together to make these commitments a reality. In this interview, Kerstin Bischl offers some insights into her motivation, experience and vision.

What do gender equality and diversity mean to you?

Gender equality means eliminating injustice and barriers facing women in the workplace. They can exist at various levels – for example, if there is an assumption that women are not capable of performing certain tasks or if they are ‘overlooked’ when invitations to conferences are distributed or hiring decisions are made. But there are also internalised barriers; for example, a woman might think ‘I can’t do that’ or ‘I should be with my children, not on a training



Kerstin Bischl has been the Gender Equality Officer at ZOiS since July 2024.

course’. A balance between work and family life is very important, especially for women. And women tend to accept lower-paid jobs or provide invisible labour and they also take on a lot of emotional responsibility. Without them, a lot of things would collapse, but they don’t always benefit from their own efforts.

Diversity is different: to some extent, it challenges the idea of equality that is based around two genders. There is now this third category, namely ‘diverse’, and that’s a very good thing. But does this mean that everyone has to re-categorise themselves retrospectively? And then there is the question of how we address the effects of diversity-related dimensions such as social origin, sexual orientation, religion or

ethnic background. Not everyone wants these things to be made public. And that can certainly be relevant if we want to create a pleasant working environment in which diversity is a given. Another aspect of diversity is intersectionality – in other words, multiple forms of injustice. So it’s becoming more complex.

What motivated you to stand for election as ZOiS's Gender Equality Officer?

It’s a great job and it’s meaningful. I like making change happen and I have quite a strong desire for justice. At the same time, I think that ZOiS is already in a good place. Simply the fact that this role was created and a Gender Equality Plan was developed and made available on the ZOiS website shows that ZOiS has an interest in the topic. Before my time, there were many great women at ZOiS and elsewhere who initiated change and because of them, I felt this was an area where I could make a difference as well.

What are your first practical steps and priorities?

As one of my official tasks, I am the contact person for cases of sexual harassment. I would like to be equipped to deal with that type of situation, should it occur, so further training is one of the first steps here. There are also plans to run an annual workshop to raise employees’ awareness of gender issues, which I am organising. And there’s also my involvement in recruitment processes and the Institute’s internal bodies.

I am also keen to find out about people’s interests in gender equality and diversity here at ZOiS and where there is work to be done. So I’m having informal conversations to hear what’s on people’s minds. With gender equality, it’s often the fine detail that matters, so the first step is to make problems visible.

What would you like to achieve during your term in office?

I would like to see more awareness of gender issues so that we all learn and do better. And I would like us to recognise that everyone benefits from more gender equality. This applies to men as well, because ultimately, gender equality means more opportunities for everyone. A woman who has more options opens up more options for men too. We all know that a positive work/life balance between job, (chosen) family and leisure makes people happier. And happy employees make for a happy organisation.

ZOiS in Numbers





Research

Setting Priorities for ZOiS Research

In summer 2024, ZOiS adopted the Medium-Term Research Plan, which will apply in the period to 2030. It outlines the ethos and key principles underpinning ZOiS's research activities and maps out a strategic framework for research planning, thus providing guidance for various decision-making processes: 'The research plan helps us to set priorities – for example, in deciding which external funding programmes ZOiS should apply to, which visiting researchers we host or which other institutions we network with in order to address or further develop specific topics of research,' explains Senior Researcher Julia Langbein, who co-authored the paper.

Research clusters: a solid basis

ZOiS's work is organised thematically into five research clusters: Societies between Stability and Change; Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions; Migration and Diversity; Youth and Generational Change; and Political Economy and Integration. The research clusters were progressively expanded in the early years. 'The development process for this second research programme was quite different compared to the initial phase,' says ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse. 'We can now build on the existing research clusters, so there has been more input from a range of disciplinary, methodological and country- or region-specific per-

spectives. It was exciting to take this as a basis for defining specific cross-cutting themes that can connect and provide new inspiration for our work in an even more focused way.'

Three guiding sets of themes

Russia's war against Ukraine and the threat to European security, the rise of authoritarianism even in democratic societies, large-scale migration, processes of economic (dis)integration: in response to this current social and political context, ZOiS has identified – in addition to its existing structure – three sets of themes to guide its research in the period from 2024 to 2030. These conceptual pairs should not be understood as 'either / or' dichotomies, but are intended to map a dynamic field of interactions in highly diverse contexts and settings:

Democratisation/Autocratisation

Here, we focus on the factors that facilitate or undermine autocratic or democratic developments. They include interactions between state and society, patterns of social and political mobilisation, governance of cultural diversity, and the political effects of (forced) migration and economic (dis) integration.

Mobility/Immobility

The concept of (im)mobility refers to people, goods and (political) ideas. The

research focuses on a variety of migration dynamics and investigates how Russia's war of aggression is reshaping various kinds of (im)mobility, exchange and channels of trade. Ideas also circulate alongside and beyond physical mobility and shape perceptions and political action.

Security/Insecurity

In its research, ZOiS works with a concept of security that includes political, economic, resource- and identity-related conditions under which (in)security evolves. Security aspects and discourses are thus examined from a state-led, multilateral or military perspective but always include aspects of (in)security 'from within' and 'from below' as well.

Researching the dynamics and impacts of the war

Russia's war against Ukraine has repercussions across Eastern Europe and beyond, impacting all ZOiS research projects irrespective of their thematic and region- or country-specific focus. In the research period from 2024 to 2030, ZOiS will focus mainly on the various political, social, economic and security-related consequences of the war for Ukraine, comprehensively researching its impacts on state and non-state actors in the wider region, trans-regional/transnational linkages, and global interdependencies.

Research Cluster

Societies between Stability and Change

Head: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Emigration during War: A New Generation of Russian Migrants

Dr Félix Krawatzek, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2023

Regional Protests on Russian Social Media

Dr Tatiana Golova | Term: 2021–2024

Russia²

Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2019

Russophone Literatures: Between Politics and Poetics

Dr Nina Frieß | Term: since 2016

Public Initiatives and State Power Structures

Dr Nadja Douglas | Term: 2016–2024

Beyond NGOs and Protest Movements: Everyday Activism in Serbia, Poland, and Hungary

Dr Piotr Goldstein | Term: since 2015, based at ZOIS since 2019

Languages of Conflict: Ideas of Europe in European Memory

Dr Félix Krawatzek in cooperation with Dr Gregor Feindt (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz),

Dr Friedemann Pestel (University of Freiburg), Dr Rieke Trimçev (University of Greifswald)

Term: since 2011, based at ZOIS 2018–2024

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

The Implications of War for Centre-Regional Relations and Territorial Stability in Russia

Prof. Irina Busygina | Term: since 2024

Database on Protest Waves in Eastern Europe, 1980–2022

Dr Ivaylo Dinev | Term: since 2022

Part of the competence network *KonKoop*

RESEARCH AFFILIATES' PROJECTS

Between Independence and Security: Religion in Security Policy Debates

Prof. Regina Elsner | Term: since 2024

‘Traditional Values’ in the Service of Authoritarian Foreign Policy

Dr Leandra Bias | Term: since 2023

This research cluster examines the relationship between society and state. By focusing on the tension between stability and change, it is possible to gain a dynamic understanding of democratic and authoritarian systems. The projects investigate the interlinked processes of social, political, economic and cultural change, as well as processes that limit change or maintain existing systems. The projects in this research cluster focus inter alia on social attitudes and mobilisation ‘from below’, the role of institutions and strategies pursued by political actors, and various discourses and communication spaces. In essence, it is about contested spaces – social, institutional and discursive spaces in which political claims and legitimacy, values and identities, memories and legacies are constantly negotiated.

The research cluster gathers insights from sociology, political science, geography, anthropology, theology and cultural studies and brings them together in dialogue. Its methodological approaches include in-depth interviews and focus groups, opinion polls, social media analysis, and the use of various types of text data and visual data. The key questions addressed by this research cluster include the following: What are the conditions under which societal actors gain a hearing, and how do they inform state-society relations? How are political ideas articulated by societal and state (or state-affiliated) actors and embedded in discursive networks with the potential to undermine or support the state? How is the relationship between soci-

ety and state and between various political actors changing in the context of Russia’s war against Ukraine – in Ukraine, Russia and elsewhere?

Actors and institutions of regime stability

Irina Busygina’s project on the implications of war for Russia’s centre-regional relations and regime stability began at ZOIS in 2024 with funding from the German Foundation for Peace Research. The project focuses inter alia on regional governors in selected regions, whose legitimisation strategies and public discourses in the centralised system of power are gaining momentum, albeit without jeopardising the authoritarian system per se. In 2024, the preliminary studies undertaken for the project formed the basis for two monographs: *How Geography and Institutions Shaped the Development of Nations: Across Countries and Continents* (Routledge) and *Non-Democratic Federalism and Decentralization in Post-Soviet States* (Routledge, with Mikhail Filippov). The latter was showcased at an event at ZOIS. The model of ‘territorial stability’ developed by the authors and their empirical case studies were published in an article in the journal *Post-Soviet Affairs*, in the edited volume *The Impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Broader Region* and in blog articles, including in the PONARS Policy Memo, in 2024. The research also featured in presentations at international conferences, workshops, seminars and other events in New York, Boston, Washington D.C., Malmö and elsewhere.

Forms and contexts of social engagement

Drawing on her many years of research, Tatiana Golova was an academic consultant for a podcast series produced by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), focusing on civil society in Russia in the context of Russia’s war against Ukraine. She presented her research on activism in Russia and in Russian migrant and exile communities at public discussion events and international conferences, including the event series *Perspectives of Modernity* at the University of Bonn, a lecture at Central European University, the BASEES Annual Conference and the Aleksanteri Conference.

In 2024, Gwendolyn Sasse and Félix Krawatzek continued their cross-cutting research project on the characteristics, political attitudes and personal networks of new Russian migrants in Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Their analysis of comprehensive survey data from 2023 reveals great diversity among these migrants, both within and across countries. The significance of these migrants for the host societies and their positioning vis-à-vis the Russian political system are especially relevant for this research cluster (see p. 46).

In 2024, as part of his research on everyday activism in Serbia, Poland and Hungary, Piotr Goldstein worked on his new ethnographic documentary *Seeding Change*, which features activists in the Polish city of Łódź. The film,



A Russian bookshop and cultural centre in Istanbul: In their project, Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse explore the socio-economic profiles and political attitudes of Russian migrants who emigrated to countries like Turkey after February 2022.

due for release in 2025, tells the story of a guerrilla gardening project organised by a group of young parents and their friends and neighbours. In the multimodal research underlying his documentary, Piotr Goldstein calls for a concept of activism that transcends institutionalised forms of engagement and civil society.

Protest dynamics

In 2024, Nadja Douglas was involved in various Belarus research networks and, alongside security policy issues, continued to focus particularly on social dynamics in Eastern Europe. Her article on the role of trust in the Belarusian protests in 2020–21 was published in the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. Also in 2024, the German translation of her English-language dissertation, entitled *Öffentliche Kontrolle der Streitkräfte in der Russischen Föderation*, was published by Springer. This monograph examines control mechanisms at the interface between state and society in authoritarian Russia before the full-scale war against Ukraine.

As part of the BMBF-funded *KonKoop* network (see p. 43), Ivaylo Dinev continued his data-gathering on protests in Eastern Europe, which he published in the form of an interactive map and

presented at ceecon24 in Berlin, organised by the German Association for East European Studies (DGO), the Freie Universität Berlin and ZOiS. He shared his expertise on social and party-political dynamics in East (Central) Europe and their topical relevance in the context of elections and political instability in Bulgaria and Serbia at events hosted by various universities, including the University of Brussels, Leiden University and New Bulgarian University, as well as at ZOiS. He was also in demand for media interviews. He presented his research on bottom-up engagement for societal change in East (Central) Europe at three international conferences: at the University of Oxford, the University of Tirana and the 30th Conference of the Council for European Studies (CES) in Lyon.

Language concepts and memory discourses

In 2024, Nina Frieß was awarded funding from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation for a conference for the Russophone Studies network which she co-initiated. Entitled *Remapping the Study of Russian-language Cultures and Societies after 2022: Challenges, Concepts, and Paradigms*, this multidisciplinary conference will take place in Konstanz in 2025. It marks a further step in the development of a manual, co-edited by

Nina Frieß, on the concept of Russophone studies, which among other things will consider the meaning of terms such as ‘Russian’, ‘Russian culture’ and ‘Russian literature’ and examine relations between Russian and Russophone cultures in and outside of Russia.

In 2024, Félix Krawatzek concluded his long-standing collaboration on the monograph *Shades of Blue* (Cornell University Press), co-authored with project partners Friedemann Pestel, Rieke Trimçev and Gregor Feindt. The book investigates the political project of ‘Europe’ as it oscillates between integration and disintegration, and tracks various conceptions of Europe based on discourses in the national press in six case study countries, with a particular focus on the diverse historical narratives in these countries.

Russia: images and discourses

In 2024, Tatiana Golova published the results of her analysis of text data from Telegram channels that are involved in pro-Kremlin discourses; for this purpose, she used *Natural Language Processing*, a technique which enables natural language to be analysed systematically. She presented her findings in a lecture at Central European University and, together with Liliia



As part of his research into everyday activism beyond NGOs, Piotr Goldstein made the documentary film 'Seeding Change' in 2024. It portrays a guerrilla gardening campaign in Łódź, Poland.

Sablina, in a journal article entitled *Building Online Bridges for Hate*.

In 2024, Gwendolyn Sasse continued her research on multidimensional views of Russia in Germany, in this instance against the backdrop of regional elections in three East German states, the snap Bundestag elections announced in late 2024 and new security debates in Germany and Europe in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. Her book on this topic is currently in preparation.

Visiting researcher Ákos Kopper completed his Humboldt Research Fellowship at ZOiS in 2024. He shared his expertise on authoritarian discourses and practices, e.g. in the context of political developments in Hungary, in various ZOiS publications and events. His interest in the impact of discourses and images that shape the global reputation of politicians and states culminated in an article in the journal *Global Studies Quarterly*, which explores the changing depictions of Putin in international caricatures.

Gender in authoritarian systems

The dialogue on state/state-adjacent and social discourses was further enriched by the contributions made by two researchers affiliated with the re-

search cluster. Leandra Bias is in demand, both within her own field of research and in the public and policy-making arenas in the German-speaking region, as an expert on the role of gender in the context of authoritarian systems, conflict and peace efforts. As well as making numerous media appearances, she was a speaker at the 2024 *Imagine Forum: Bridging Divides – Fostering Dialogue for Peace* in Reykjavík on the significance of 'traditional values' in Russia's foreign and security policy. In 2024, the research cluster gave her additional space in which to focus on preparing a major project for which she secured external funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation's Ambizione programme in a highly competitive field. This project will analyse various ways in which gender is leveraged to legitimise the contrasting political systems in Russia and Ukraine. Leandra Bias is currently still based at the University of Bern but will relocate to the University of Fribourg for this four-year project.

Regina Elsner, Professor of Eastern Churches and Ecumenical Theology at the University of Münster, is also a research affiliate at ZOiS. Her research focuses on gender and 'traditional' values with reference to discourses in the Russian Orthodox Church. In 2024, she authored an article for *Canopy*

Forum, published by Emory University, on the 'invention' of traditional values. She also produced a chapter for an edited volume (Transcript Verlag 2024) on the links between religion and populism in Russia. For the lecture series *Rethinking and Reimagining Ukraine in Times of War – and After* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, she presented a new topic: the framing of political concepts such as 'independence' and 'security' in discourses at the interface between state and Church. Her contributions to international conferences in 2024 included a lecture in Münster on the search for a new paradigm for Orthodoxy in Ukraine and a lecture in Prague on approaches to conflict resolution in various theological traditions.

Research ethics

Before starting her parental leave in spring 2024, Nina Frieß and co-author Katrin Hoffmann, who is responsible for external funding and research management at ZOiS, investigated ethical aspects of empirical research on and with societies in times of war. They collated their findings in a ZOiS report, aimed at an academic readership in political institutions, the media and an interested public. Several researchers from this research cluster also contributed to this publication.

Research Cluster

Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Head: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2022

Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe: Between Personal Agency, Civil Society and the State (FORUM)

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2022

‘Unity in Diversity?’: The Situation of National Minorities in Kazakhstan

Dr Beate Eschment | Term: since 2018

Everyday Life in Conflict: Scope for Action and Coping Strategies in De Facto States

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis | Term: since 2017

Identities in Wartime: The Case of Ukraine

Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2016

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

In:Security in Eastern Europe

Dr Nadja Douglas | Term: since 2023 | Part of the competence network *KonKoop*

Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: The Consequences of the Reconfiguration of Political, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop)

Dr Julia Langbein, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse. Project coordination: Dr Kerstin Bischl
Term: since 2022

Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania

Dr Claudia Eggart | Term: since 2022 | Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

Education in Liminality: The Situation of Ukrainian Displaced Schoolchildren in Germany

Dr Irina Mützelburg | Term: 2022–2025 | Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

Living with Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectation in Ukraine and Moldova (LimSpaces)

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Dr Julia Langbein, Dr Claudia Eggart, Dr Irina Mützelburg | Term: 2021–2025

The Liberal Script in Ukraine’s Contested Border Regions

Dr Tatiana Zhurzhenko, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2019

Part of the *Contestations of the Liberal Script – SCRIPTS* cluster of excellence at the Freie Universität Berlin

RESEARCH AFFILIATES’ PROJECTS

Orthodox Peace Ethics and Militarisation in the Post-Soviet Space

Prof. Regina Elsner | Term: since 2020

This research cluster investigates conflict dynamics and border regions; in some instances, it also studies conflict dynamics in border regions. It focuses particularly on local state and non-state actors and structures that are affected by conflicts and influence their further development. These actors include refugees from conflict regions, populations of disputed areas, and local decision-makers. The research considers the multitude of shifting interactions between local and external actors and analyses the causes and management of conflicts, socio-spatial dynamics, the actions and practices of affected populations, and the effectiveness of those actions.

Displacement and its impacts

In 2024, many of the projects in this research cluster focused once again on migration and experiences of displacement. The *FORUM* network, coordinated by ZOIS and the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), continued to provide a platform for regular and inspiring online events at which members had the opportunity to discuss their respective research projects. The network also gained a number of new members (see p. 45).

The research project on displacement from and in Ukraine, coordinated by Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse, also used the network to present ZOIS Report 3/2024: *Displaced Ukrainian Youth: Displaced Futures?* The report, co-authored with former UNET Fellow Inna Volosevych, is based on data from a qualitative study and surveys of displaced Ukrainians. The three authors focused particularly on the experiences and future trajectories of young refugees. The respondents share a strong commitment to playing an active role in Ukraine's recovery, but their ideas about how to do so vary considerably. Some are waiting for the possibility to return, while others are making their lives and careers abroad and want to have a stake in Ukraine's recovery from there. Others, in turn, are unsure whether, how and when to return. The policy challenge

for Ukraine and its international partners is to facilitate support for Ukraine both locally and from abroad, rather than assume the large-scale return of young people.

Displaced persons' strategies of adaptation

Based on the interview data, Sabine von Löwis and Diana Bogishvili authored an article which explores the multidimensional uncertainties and experiences of displaced persons in liminality in specific life situations and contexts. For example, the experiences of young queer people differ from those of young mothers who are living abroad without their partner, or of people who have fled to a counterintuitive environment such as the Russia-backed de facto state of Transnistria. The article was discussed at a workshop at the University of Neuchâtel and is being revised for publication by Routledge as part of an edited volume.

Very young refugees are the focus of the research conducted by Irina Mützelburg, who investigates experiences of liminality among Ukrainian schoolchildren in the German education system. The article *'On the Verge of Two Worlds': The Liminality of Ukrainian Displaced Pupils in Germany* was discussed at an online workshop hosted by the *LimSpaces* project and will be included in a special issue of *East European Politics and Societies*. The topics of migration and experiences of displacement in the context of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine were also addressed at a workshop at ZOIS entitled *Narrating Borders, Displacement and Identity: Lessons from the Russo-Ukrainian War*, which was organised by Tatiana Zhurzhenko and Sabine von Löwis in cooperation with Paul Richardson from the University of Birmingham. The event brought together researchers from ZOIS and international scholars who were investigating the visual, structural and narrative repercussions of the war, not only for Ukraine but also for Kazakhstan, Moldova and the United Kingdom.

Contested borders

As another key topic in 2024, the research cluster also investigated dynamics, structures, perceptions and experiences in border regions that are undergoing multiple processes of change as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine. Here, the dynamics in the Ukrainian border regions and the discourse around border studies against the backdrop of war played a major role.

The connection between memory and border experiences, but also the conception of borderland studies in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine were central to Tatiana Zhurzhenko's research, which she presented and discussed in various international guest lectures, publications and panels. She focused particularly on shifting perceptions in the Ukrainian-Polish border region, a topic which she explored further in an article in the journal *Geopolitics* and a panel discussion at the Annual Conference of the Association for Borderlands Studies. Tatiana Zhurzhenko also contributed to research on the complex issue of memory, borders and conflict, notably at the workshop on *Memory Politics and the Russo-Ukrainian War* at Central European University in Vienna.

Local perceptions of border conflicts

The discrepancy between local border experiences and routines, on the one hand, and expectations and perceptions of EU border management procedures against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, on the other, was the focus of Claudia Eggart's research within the *LimSpaces* project framework. In an article for *Geopolitics*, she showed how expectations and perceptions of an EU-led border management regime clash with local and regional routines and structures and with national strategies.

Local impacts of a very different kind in border regions are investigated by Beate Eschment within the *KonKoop* framework (see p. 43). Water infrastructures

such as dams and water reservoirs can be a particular source of controversy if they are located close to a border or are even transboundary. One example is the Sardoba reservoir in northern Uzbekistan, only a few kilometres from the border with Kazakhstan. A breach of the dam in May 2020 also flooded localities and agricultural land in Kazakhstan. In her research on affected communities, Beate Eschment studies and analyses the representations and attitudes of state institutions, (state) media and the situation of populations on both sides of the border.

In the topic line *In:Security* as part of the *KonKoop* project, Nadja Douglas studies the changing security perceptions around the so-called Suwałki corridor. The project engages with regional fracture lines in the border region between Lithuania, Belarus, Poland and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. Audiovisual methods of documentation are used in this context, including video interviews. Preliminary findings were presented at the symposium *Multilat-*

eral Perspectives on the War in Ukraine at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin.

Visual and emotional geographies

Visual and emotional perceptions of geographies are closely connected to border dynamics. The history of borders and border regions plays a multi-dimensional role in this context. Visiting researcher and doctoral candidate Matěj Korčák from Charles University in Prague undertook a month-long residency in the research cluster in order to pursue his research on the long-term effects of historical events in the former Sudetenland in the German-Czech border region. His quantitative analyses show that both voting and social behaviours among inhabitants of this region differ from those observed elsewhere in the Czech Republic.

Borders in the context of war and the visual dimensions of research were also a topic of interest in the project *Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives*, in

which Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse use mental mapping as a research method. This technique enables respondents to express the emotional aspects of spatial experiences in visual form. Representations of the war and the role of visual images in messaging to the public were also discussed in an article by Sabine von Löwis, Iaroslav Boretskii and Tim Wenzel in *Ukrainian Analytical Digest*. In their article *Red Arrow/Error: A Map Designed to Justify the Russian Invasion of Ukraine Takes on a Life of Its Own in Media and Memes*, they analysed visual elements in cartographic imagery and their media impact, with reference to a map used by Belarusian president Aliaksandr Lukashenka at the start of Russia's war against Ukraine in order to justify Belarus's involvement.

As well as using a range of visual methods in their research practice, several projects in the research cluster examine the role of various forms of visualisation, such as visualisations of quantitative data or government mapping of



A Polish soldier at the border with Russia: Nadja Douglas's research focuses on changing perceptions of security in the border region between Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.

military-strategic content. Visualisations clearly shape our views and perceptions of the world, while the use of visual techniques enables information to be generated for the research process.

Impacts of conflict and war

A further topic of interest for the research cluster is how experiences of war and conflict affect the lives of individuals and wider society. Here, a milestone was reached with the publication of an article by Gwendolyn Sasse and co-authors John O'Loughlin (University of Colorado Boulder) and Gerard Toal (Virginia Tech) on public opinion in the Donbas on the region's political status shortly before Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. The results of the survey were published in *Geopolitics*.

Gwendolyn Sasse presented insights and information on the war in a keynote, entitled *Questions about War and Democracy in Russia's War against Ukraine*, at the Aleksanteri Conference in Helsinki. She also participated in the panel discussion *Conversation on a Europe at War* at the 2024 Munich Security Conference alongside British historian Timothy Garton Ash.

In 2024, Gwendolyn Sasse launched a study on war-related trauma as part of the *KonKoop* project. This consists of an interdisciplinary panel survey, conducted in Ukraine in cooperation with clinical trauma researchers at King's College London, to investigate the prevalence and effects of trauma on attitudes, expectations and identities in Ukraine.

Within the framework of the *Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)* (see p. 42), Ekaterina Bataeva is studying developments at Ukrainian universities in cities near the frontlines. Her mentor at ZOIS is Sabine von Löwis. Together, they are investigating what characterises frontline cities and differentiates them from other cities in the context of war in Ukraine.

KonKoop topic line: In:Security

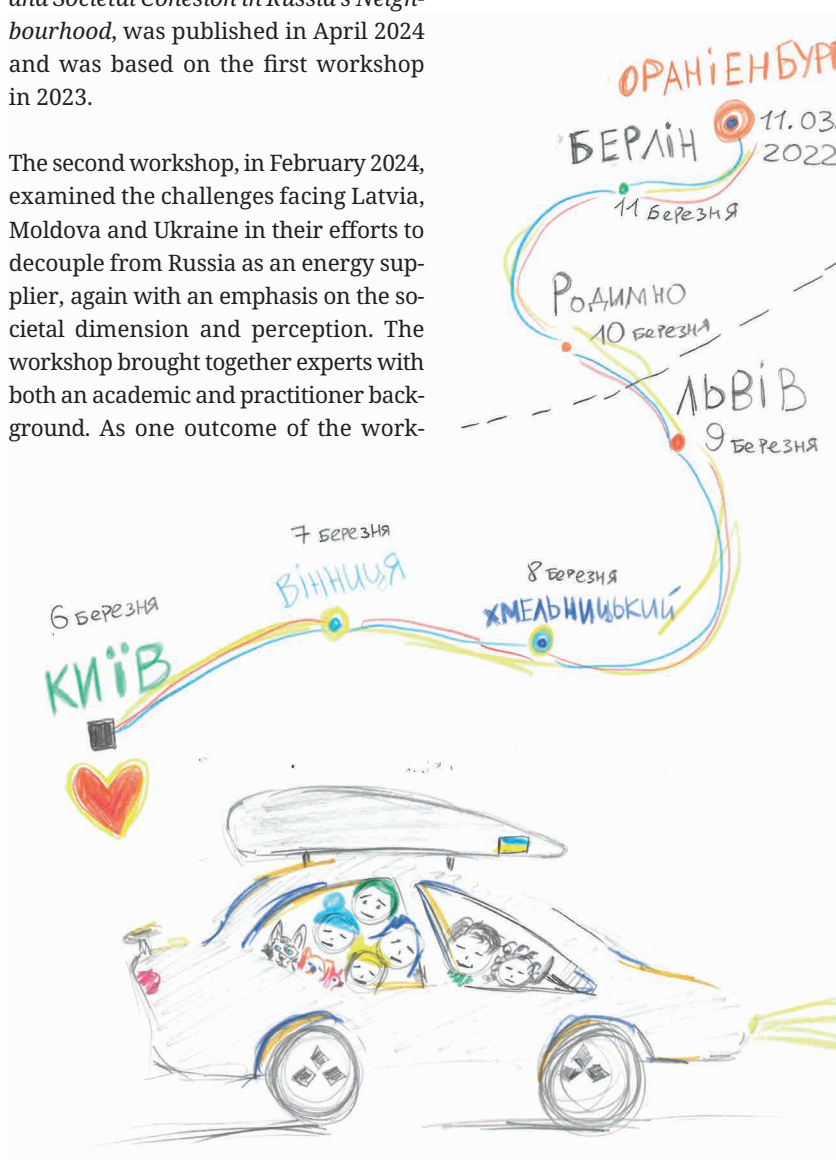
The research on issues around the perception and experience of security and insecurity in conflict contexts, border regions and everyday life began in 2023 and continued in 2024. In the context of the *KonKoop* thematic line *In:Security*, three workshops in 2024 examined this topic from diverse perspectives.

The findings are shared with the public in the *KonKoop In:Security Report Series*. The first of these reports, entitled *Old Fears and New Threats: Insecurity and Societal Cohesion in Russia's Neighbourhood*, was published in April 2024 and was based on the first workshop in 2023.

The second workshop, in February 2024, examined the challenges facing Latvia, Moldova and Ukraine in their efforts to decouple from Russia as an energy supplier, again with an emphasis on the societal dimension and perception. The workshop brought together experts with both an academic and practitioner background. As one outcome of the work-

shop, the second *KonKoop In:Security Report* was published in November 2024 and was well-received, not least due to its topicality, with energy security now an urgent issue again, especially in Ukraine ahead of the winter.

The third workshop organised as part of this topic line was entitled *Emancipatory Dimensions of In:Security* and took place in October 2024. It aimed to shed light on in:security in relation to gender, class, ecology and local communities and considered whether these dimensions have the potential to bring about a liber-



Using the method of 'mental mapping', people express emotional perspectives on experiences across space – like the flight of a Ukrainian family after Russia's attack on their country. Visualisation was a research method used in several projects in this research cluster.



Ukrainian refugees at the border with Poland: The Ukrainian-Polish border became particularly important in the context of Russia's war of aggression. In her research, Tatiana Zhurzhenko examines how the border is experienced and perceived by the local population.

ating effect for the people on the ground, in terms of emancipation as a tool of resistance against authoritarianism and insecurity. The workshop focused primarily on, but also looked beyond, the situation in Ukraine. It revealed that emancipatory responses are also utilised and framed as a means of resistance against Russian oppression and occupation. However, some participants pointed out that there are disparities between the state's institutional level and local initiatives, particularly in Ukraine.

Conflict dynamics among national minorities

Minority nationalities in Kazakhstan and the effects of the government's nationalities policy on their situation are

the topic of Beate Eschment's research project. She also analyses the role national interest groups play in promoting peaceful interethnic relations while also serving as a focal point for national identity formation (as members of an ethnic group or as Kazakhstanis). In 2019 and 2024, she conducted two opinion surveys among Almaty residents belonging to various nationalities, focusing on their satisfaction with the government's nationalities policy to date and their related expectations for the future. In 2024, she presented the results at an international conference in Kazakhstan. She found that behind the relatively stable and high average levels of satisfaction among all respondents, there are major differences between the individual nationalities and significant changes between the survey years.

The role of the churches and religion in war

In her research, Regina Elsner, a research affiliate at ZOIS, investigates various churches' positions on Russia's war against Ukraine and aims to enhance understanding of the interaction between theological doctrine, ecclesiastical practice and socio-political developments. In various publications, media contributions and lectures, Regina Elsner focused particularly on the Russian Orthodox Church against the background of war. She also examined the dynamics among the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine, the position of the Catholic Church under Pope Francis in relation to the Russian war in Ukraine, and the role and responsibility of the ecumenical community.

Research Cluster

Migration and Diversity

Head: PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Russian-speaking Pro-war Activism in Germany on Social Media

Dr Tatiana Golova, Liliia Sablina (Central European University) | Term: 2023–2024

Political Migration from Russia and Azerbaijan

PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva, Dr Tatiana Golova | Term: since 2022

Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2022

Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe: Between Personal Agency, Civil Society and the State (FORUM)

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2022

Migration and Value Transformation in Metaphors: The Transnational Lifeworlds of Young Georgian Migrants in Germany and their Families in Georgia

Diana Bogishvili | Term: 2019–2024

From Molotov Cocktails to Farewell Parties: Causes of Emigration for Participants in the 2013–2014 Euromaidan Protests in Ukraine

Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Term: since 2019

Visualising the Invisible: Using Visual Ethnography to Explore Extra-Institutional Activism of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities

Dr Piotr Goldstein | Term: since 2017, based at ZOIS since 2019

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-war Movements (ERDAM)

PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva, Dr Tatiana Golova | Term: 2023–2025

Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: The Consequences of the Reconfiguration of Political, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop)

Dr Julia Langbein, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse. Coordination: Dr Kerstin Bischl
Term: since 2022

Transnational migration and its impacts on politics and everyday life in Eastern Europe and Germany are the key topics for this research cluster. The role of Eastern European migrants, refugees and ethno-religious minorities as agents of social change is foregrounded in the research, along with questions relating to the social and political mobilisation of new and established migrant groups in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The individual projects are located at the interface between social science research on mobility and migration, on the one hand, and on social and political participation in the home and host societies, on the other. In response to Russia's war against Ukraine, the focus has shifted more strongly towards the social and political implica-

tions of new waves of migration and refugee movements for the host countries and migrants themselves. The actors, their networks and integration prospects are central to the research, with an emphasis on diverse forms of participation and factors that impede or inspire diaspora mobilisation.

Migration and diversity are interconnected processes. We investigate how mobility and displacement affect ethnic, religious, linguistic and gender diversity and how practices of coexistence shape migration processes and local societies in the long term.

Key questions for the research cluster

The research cluster addresses the following key questions: Which new forms of solidarity and dissent are

emerging in the context of forced and voluntary migration to Germany and Eastern European countries? Which conditions are conducive to the migration of activists, and which factors influence the emergence of new Eastern European diaspora communities? How is war-induced migration affecting social cohesion, exclusion and migrants' political mobilisation in Europe and Eurasia? What is the role of diaspora organisations and other civil society organisations at the interface between the state and refugees? Which strategies and loyalties bind members of diaspora groups to their home countries and political systems?

The research cluster covers a broad geographical range besides Germany and Russia. The Eastern Partnership countries (Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) have particular strate-



In an act of protest against Putin, a young woman symbolically shreds ballot papers in front of the Russian embassy in Berlin on the day of the presidential election in Russia. The white-blue-white flag draped around her shoulder is the symbol of the Russian opposition. This research cluster focuses, among other things, on the pro-democratic activism of Russian migrants.

gic significance. For Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, above all, regional re-configurations between ‘Europeanisation’, neutrality and a new alignment with Russia and China pose a complex challenge. The research cluster incorporates perspectives from sociology, anthropology, social geography and political science and offers a platform for interdisciplinary migration research. In methodological terms, the projects rely on a blend of qualitative and quantitative data collection, with multi-sited ethnography, qualitative interviews, visual ethnography and social media analyses making innovative contributions to advancing the research. In 2024, the latest results were made visible for academics and the general public alike.

Transnational lifeworlds

One of the milestones in 2024 was Diana Bogishvili successfully completing her doctoral studies and defending her thesis. Supervised by Magdalena Nowicka (DeZIM) and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS), the dissertation *Migration and Value Transformation in Metaphors* provides new social science data on transnational lifeworlds between Georgia and Germany and shows that migration is much more than physical relocation – it is a dynamic process in which cultural values, identities and familial relationships are reinterpreted and transformed. As well as being academically relevant, this insight is an inspiration on both a personal and a societal level. Based on her data-gathering among Georgian migrants in Germany and their relatives in the home country, Diana Bogishvili has made a significant contribution to the study of cultural dynamics in the context of Eastern European migration.

Visualising the invisible

Migrants’ civil society participation and multimodal research methods are foregrounded in Piotr Goldstein’s work, which is based at the German Centre

for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM) and ZOiS. In March 2024, Piotr Goldstein’s ethnographic documentary *Spółdzielnia/Cooperative* was screened at Ethnografilm – the ethnographic film festival in Paris. The film portrays the everyday work of a socially engaged café in Manchester, which is run mainly by Polish migrants.

Piotr Goldstein’s article *Language as a Diasporic Stance: Polish in a Migrant Urban Space*, co-authored with Yaron Matras (University of Manchester), was published in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* in July 2024. Later in the year, Piotr’s multimodal article *Spółdzielnia/Cooperative: An Experiment in Longitudinal Visual Ethnography of Migrant Activism* was accepted for inclusion in *Utopias of Sustainability – Sustainability of Utopias: A Multimodal Intervention*. This edited volume will be published by Morlacchi University Press in 2025.

War-induced migration and migrants’ mobilisation

The current political crisis, epitomised by Russia’s war against Ukraine and the rise of authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, is leading to the emergence of new patterns of forced and voluntary cross-border migration, requiring a reappraisal of how Eastern European migrant communities operate in transnational spaces and how they identify with the home country.

Motives for emigrating and shifting identities among Ukrainian former Euromaidan activists now living in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic are foregrounded in Kostiantyn Fedorenko’s social science research. His dissertation *From Molotov Cocktails to Farewell Parties: Causes of Emigration for Participants in the 2013–2014 Euromaidan Protests in Ukraine* entered its final phase in 2024. Analyses of social media surveys and 15 qualitative interviews with activists

were successfully presented at ZOiS’s doctoral colloquium and externally at the Prisma Ukraina workshop *Ukrainian Un/certainties* and the European Academy Berlin. The discussions focused on various factors that force Ukrainian activists to emigrate and on the potential risks posed by rising Eurosceptic attitudes in Ukraine. In addition, Fedorenko’s article *‘Europe Is Not Doing Enough’. Risks of Ukraine’s Postwar Euroscepticism* was published online in the edited volume *Ukraine’s Thorny Path to the EU: From ‘Integration without Membership’ to ‘Integration through War’* (Palgrave Macmillan). Kostiantyn Fedorenko gave several interviews to the Ukrainian media, particularly about aspects of German foreign and defence policy.

Political migration from Russia

After completion of the pilot phase of the project on political migration from Russia to Germany and Georgia, further interviews were conducted with Russian migrants of various generations in order to capture the latest developments. Tatiana Golova and Galina Selivanova (FernUniversität Hagen) published a study in *Russian Analytical Digest* that focuses particularly on intergenerational dynamics among Russian pro-democracy activists who have migrated to Germany.

In cooperation with Liliia Sablina (Central European University, Vienna, and a visiting researcher at ZOiS), Tatiana Golova completed the data analysis on pro-war activism on social media in Germany and presented the findings at various academic events. An article on war-induced Russian diasporas, titled *Umstrittene Diaspora in Kriegszeiten: Illiberale Mobilisierung der russischsprachigen Migranten in Deutschland* (Contested Diaspora in Wartime: Illiberal Mobilisation of Russian-speaking Migrants in Germany) was accepted for publication in a special issue of the journal *Demokratizatsiya*.

Pro-democracy diaspora activism

The migrant population in Europe and Eurasia has a reputation for not being easily mobilised for political purposes. The question which arises, then, is what motivates them to mobilise and engage for democracy in Russia. In the transnational sphere, which emerging barriers prevent Russian pro-democracy initiatives from gaining visibility? What role is played by challenges such as increasing transnational repression and anti-migrant narratives in some host societies, notably Georgia?

In 2024, Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova conducted further interviews with activists and migrants in Germany and Georgia and collated their research findings for publication in *Dynamics of Transnational Engagement: Russian Migrants' Activism in Europe*, a planned special issue of the journal *Post-Soviet Affairs*. Interim results were presented by both researchers at the Diaspora Dialogues symposium at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies (Harvard University) and at

ceecon24 at the Freie Universität Berlin. Furthermore, Tsypylma Darieva's article on conflictive Russian-Georgian encounters and social dynamics in Tbilisi is undergoing peer review prior to publication in the journal *Nationalities Papers*. She presented her research findings on the introduction of the Georgian public's informal sanctions against Russian migrants as a form of 'patriotism from below' at international conferences in Cambridge (BASEES) and Yerevan State University.

Displacement from and in Ukraine

Experiences, strategies, networks and attitudes among Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons are the focus of the *FORUM* project, which was established jointly by ZOIS and DeZIM. The network brings together scholars from various European countries with a range of disciplinary backgrounds and extensive expertise in the study of forced migration and Ukraine. In 2024, the network continued to grow and promoted regular online dialogue among its members. The findings of

research on displacement from and in Ukraine and on the experience of arriving in a new country were presented at various events (see p. 45).

As part of *FORUM*, in their project on forced migration from and within Ukraine Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse focus on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Poland and Germany and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. In qualitative interviews and using mental mapping as a method for pictorially representing spatial experiences, they explore the experiences of forced migration and arrival in new societies, while also addressing the sense of belonging and identity of specific individuals (see p. 45).

Development of the ERDAM research network

The *Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-war Movements (ERDAM)* international research network, initiated by Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova and funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research, underwent further intensive development in 2024. The network brings together renowned experts and young researchers in Western and Eastern Europe with a view to developing new research fields on war-induced migration from Russia, with a particular emphasis on democratic and peace engagement. In 2024, key steps were taken to achieve the objective of the intermediate project phase, namely *Development and Maintaining the Network*.

The coordination team, consisting of Tsypylma Darieva, Tatiana Golova and student assistant Domas Lavrukaitis, developed a new series of *ERDAM Online Events*. The online discussions, held four times a year, serve as a new platform for international cooperation, dialogue about research projects, research communication and the fostering of young talent. The team also made efforts to attract new associate



The ERDAM network organised a workshop in Tbilisi in cooperation with Ilia State University to discuss new waves of migration from Russia and anti-war movements in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine.

members with diverse country-specific expertise, including on Serbia, the Baltic states and Turkey. This has done much to enhance the research network's visibility.

A further communication tool is the *ERDAM* website, which serves as a central hub for information on the network's research goals, events and publications. The website helps to foster dialogue between scholars and the public at large and makes the network's research findings accessible.

A milestone in sharpening *ERDAM*'s profile was the workshop *Zooming In, Zooming Out: Contextualising Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-War Activism in Larger Europe*, which took place in April 2024 in cooperation with Ilia State University (Ketevan Gurchiani, Georgia). The event brought together 15 international and local scholars from various disciplines to discuss new transnational waves of migration and anti-war movements in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. Five panels explored theoretical approaches and examined case studies in various countries (from Norway to Mongolia). Thematically, the event focused on political activism, internal diversity, the impacts of Russian imperialism on the mobilisation of Russian minorities and new diaspora communities in EU countries, relations between newcomers and host societies in Eurasia, the visibility of anti-war movements, and historical questions relating to Russian exile communities.

Lived and contested ethno-religious diversity

Governance and everyday practices of ethno-cultural diversity are of particular relevance to the *KonKoop* network. Although provisions on religious freedom, multilingualism and recognition of ethnic minorities are enshrined in many countries' constitutions, regulatory interventions in this area are increasingly being used to

control or restrict diversity in the public space. In two projects conducted as part of *KonKoop*, Tsypylma Darieva and Piotr Goldstein are investigating the 'making' and 'unmaking' of ethnic and linguistic diversity.

In her data collection on the governance and practice of ethno-religious diversity and multilingualism, Tsypylma Darieva focused on Georgia and Azerbaijan. Here, she combined qualitative interviews with experts and stakeholders, selective observations at the local level, and statistical surveys (triangulation of methods), in order to gain insights into the management of ethno-linguistic diversity in (semi-) authoritarian societies. A further objective was to make visible the challenges and differences between government policy, civil society perspectives and everyday attitudes. In cooperation with Ketevan Gurchiani (Ilia

State University) and Yulia Aliyeva (ADA University), Tsypylma Darieva systematically documented 'contested' and 'lived' linguascapes (language landscapes in the public space) in Baku and Tbilisi; this included collection of visual data in the form of photographs, short videos, maps and sketches of multiethnic neighbourhoods. In cooperation with *KonKoop*'s VisLab and DataLab, these data and methods will be made available in a storytelling format on the *KonKoop* website and will be used in civic education and as auxiliary materials in the training of junior researchers.

Further highlights in 2024

A key event in the *KonKoop* framework was the international workshop *Re-searching Living with/in Difference Creatively*. In cooperation with DeZIM and the EASA's *Anthropology and Social Movements Network*, the workshop aimed 1) to share our interim findings on the latest developments in the study of conviviality and everyday peace patterns; 2) to provide a hub for international scholars to discuss innovative, creative methodologies, including visual, sensory and multimodal approaches, with a view to understanding the dynamics of coexistence. The South Caucasus and Balkans were the main geographical focus here.

Together with Franziska Smolnik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs) and Susanne Fehlings (Frobenius Institute), Tsypylma Darieva worked on *Connectivity and Disconnectivity in the South Caucasus*, a special issue of the journal *Mobilities*. Large-scale infrastructure projects and their socio-political impacts on local communities and their mobility in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are examined in six case studies. The findings were presented at the Annual Conference of the Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus (ASIAC) at Ca' Foscari University, Venice, in December 2024.



Trilingual sign in Baku: As part of the *KonKoop* network, Tsypylma Darieva is investigating the practice of multilingualism in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Research Cluster

Youth and Generational Change

Head: Dr Félix Krawatzek

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Imagining Communities in Post-Socialist Children's Literature

Dr Nina Frieß | Term: since 2024

Emigration during War: A New Generation of Russian Migrants

Dr Félix Krawatzek, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2023

Defining the Nation: Young Poles and Their Sense of Identity

Dr Piotr Goldstein, Dr Félix Krawatzek | Term: since 2022

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Forgot Your Protest? Reanimating Memories of the 1989 Uprisings

Oleg Lutohin | Term: 2024–2025

Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU)

Head: Dr Félix Krawatzek. Coordination: Johanna Mogwitz

Project team: Dr Hakob Matevosyan, Sophia Winkler | Term: since 2022

Belonging Between Two Worlds? Social Media and Young Russians' Identity Abroad

Sophia Winkler | Term: since 2022

Part of the *MoveMeRU* project

Education in Liminality: The Situation of Ukrainian Displaced Schoolchildren in Germany

Dr Irina Mützelburg | Term: 2022–2025

Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

RESEARCH AFFILIATES' PROJECTS

Concepts, Ideologies and Emotions: Taking Stock of the New Left in the South Caucasus

Veronika Pfeilschifter (in cooperation with Friedrich Schiller University Jena) | Term: since 2022

This research cluster explores a range of issues that enhance understanding of young people's role in politics and society. Geographically, the projects focus on the South Caucasus and Baltic states, Poland and Germany. Intergenerational and parent-child dynamics are a key topic; here, differences and similarities between migrants and non-migrants are of particular interest. A broad array of methodologies is used in the various projects, including (intergenerational) focus groups, surveys, media analyses and qualitative in-depth interviews. The research cluster covers multiple disciplines, such as sociology, political science, and media and cultural studies. Key questions addressed by the research cluster include the following:

- 1) In terms of their social and political values (on issues such as democracy, gender equality or views on the economy), which patterns are evident among young people and which forms of activism can be observed? In this respect, how do these patterns differ from their parents' generation?
- 2) Under which conditions do children adopt their parents' attitudes on history and politics?
- 3) To what extent do young adults in Russian migrant families and non-migrant families identify with their parents' homeland and view of history?
- 4) Which concepts of society and governance can be found in the cultural sphere, for example in children's literature?

Young Russians abroad and their sense of identity

In her doctoral research over the course of the year, Sophia Winkler analysed images of history on relevant social media platforms and how they are perceived by young people with a Russian background outside Russia.

She identified key actors and narratives and authored her first article on her findings. For her second article, she and Félix Krawatzek, with support from student assistant Macha Gharbi, conducted in-depth interviews in December with young adults with a Russian background living in Germany. The interviews mainly explored how the participants in the study respond to conflicting historical content on social media.

Post-socialist children's literature

In her new project *Imagining Communities in Post-Socialist Children's Literature*, Nina Frieß – a scholar of Slavic literatures and cultures – explores how authors of children's literature from 1991 to the present have contributed to nation-building and identity-forming processes, which themes and narratives they address and which concepts of community are embedded in their writing. Nina Frieß presented her preliminary findings on Kazakhstan in a guest lecture at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig. A further article was published on the Copernico portal as part of its thematic focus on *Childhood and Youth*. An episode of ZOIS's *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast and a ZOIS *Spotlight* for International Children's Book Day examined the importance of children's literature in social research and discussed the pressures faced by children's authors and their works in countries like Russia and Belarus, but also Ukraine and Poland.

Young people in Poland

Together with Paulina Pospieszna from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Félix Krawatzek co-authored an article on youth protest in Poland during the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be published in the journal *East European Politics and Societies and Cul-*

tures in 2025. The analysis of focus group data revealed that there is no desire for radical changes in the political and social system among broad sections of the Polish youth population. While protests are generally viewed as legitimate, the group discussions showed that young people believe it is important for protesters to play by the rules. Félix Krawatzek is also collaborating with Hakob Matevosyan on an article on aspects of political socialisation in Poland; the aim is to identify social issues on which young people's attitudes converge with those of their parents and under which conditions this alignment takes place.

Emigration from Russia

The project on the recent wave of migration from Russia, particularly since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, was presented at various conferences in Europe and the US. Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse published the results of their joint research in a ZOIS *Report* and in a series of short-format contributions to various media. The findings add nuance to the prevailing image of these new Russian migrants as a largely Kremlin-critical group and underline the importance of the reception context. In order to gain insights into the situation of the Russian community in Turkey, Félix Krawatzek spent a short period conducting research in Istanbul and Antalya (see p. 46).

Displaced Ukrainian schoolchildren in Germany

Further data-gathering was the main focus of the research project on displaced Ukrainian schoolchildren, led by Irina Mützelburg. Data evaluation, which had commenced the previous year, continued in parallel. The findings were collated in an academic article for a special issue of the journal *East European Politics and Societies*, titled

On the Verge of Two Worlds: The Liminality of Ukrainian Displaced Pupils in Germany. Beyond the research project, Irina Mützelburg authored a contribution to the *Handbook on EU External Relations*, focusing on civil society as a category in the EU's external action.

Left-wing youth in the South Caucasus

PhD student Veronika Pfeilschifter made further progress in her doctoral research and was also engaged in research communication. Her paper on the leftist generation in Georgia was published in the journal *Constellations* at the end of the year and her article on political and social attitudes among young people in the South Caucasus, co-authored with her supervisor Félix Krawatzek, was accepted for publication in *Europe-Asia Studies*. For her sub-project on left-wing young women in Armenia, she conducted focus groups in collaboration with the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) Armenia and is now working on an article on this topic. Together with Najmin Kamilsoy (Charles University, Prague), she also edited a special issue of *Caucasus Analytical Digest* on the

mobilisation of civil society in Georgia against the government and its increasingly anti-European stance.

Veronika Pfeilschifter presented her research findings at a number of international colloquia and conferences. Together with the exiled Dagestani writer Alisa Ganieva, she organised a colloquium, *The Mountain Utopia*, at Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin, which discussed past and present social utopias in the North and South Caucasus. Within the framework of an exchange visit arranged by the Institute for European Politics (IEP) and the Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP), she travelled to Georgia with a delegation of German experts to meet with representatives of Georgian civil society and the international community and present the findings of her research.

AI and historical memory

As part of a project funded by the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Germany, Oleg Lutohin explores how AI-generated content can reshape our memory of the non-violent anti-communist protests in 1989/1991. He has already con-

ducted initial interviews with witnesses and has worked intensively on the technical implementation of the project, particularly on ethical issues relating to the use of AI to generate historical content. These analyses form the basis for a theoretical exploration of issues of authenticity and the reliability of media content, the potential for the ideological manipulation of historical memory, and the broader risks associated with the misuse of digital technology, particularly as part of messaging about history that targets young people.

Public outreach

There were other highlights in 2024 for Félix Krawatzek, who acted as a panellist and gave lectures at various external events. The Falling Walls Science Summit, for example, was an opportunity to consider research on Eastern Europe in relation to electoral outcomes and public opinion in Eastern Germany. As part of the *Russland. Denken* lecture series at the Northeast Institute in Lüneburg, Félix Krawatzek explored the potential implications of the re-election of US President Donald Trump for Russia.



A woman holds the Armenian version of the book 'Feminism for the 99%. A Manifesto'. As part of her project on left-wing movements in the South Caucasus, Veronika Pfeilschifter is also investigating left-wing feminists in patriarchal Armenia.



Sophia Winkler, Hakob Matevosyan, Veronika Pfeilschifter and Head of Research Cluster Félix Krawatzek (from left to right) at a team meeting.

Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU)

The ERC-funded *MoveMeRU* project aims to compare the historical memories of migrants and non-migrants across two generations. It studies Russian migrant populations in what tend to be favourable, hostile and neutral reception contexts, looking at Germany, Estonia and Canada, respectively. Like many other autocracies, Russia uses historical memory narratives to appeal to Russian citizens at home and abroad and strengthen their sense of belonging to Russia. This project brings together several research approaches:

- 1) opinion surveys on views of history among young adults and their parents in migrant communities and in a reference group of non-migrant nationals in the three destination countries
- 2) cross-generational focus groups in the same countries
- 3) analysis of historical narratives in the media targeting Russian speakers in Germany, and in-depth interviews on media use.

For the *MoveMeRU* research project, 2024 was notable for its intensive phases of data-gathering; the members of the team also authored and presented initial academic papers and shared their preliminary research findings with a wider audience. Data collection was based on surveys, focus groups, media analysis and qualitative interviews. As before, the team consists of Principal Investigator Félix

Krawatzek, academic coordinator Johanna Mogwitz, post-doctoral researcher Hakob Matevosyan, PhD student Sophia Winkler and one further postdoc. An intern from Harvard University provided support during the summer, mainly for social media activities and general research.

Data-gathering in Germany, Estonia and Canada

In early 2024, the team, led by Hakob Matevosyan, began online data collection in Germany and Canada, which was successfully completed in summer. Data-gathering in Estonia concluded at the start of 2025. The surveys provide unique insights into the views of people with and without a Russian migration background on historical, political and social issues. In particular, they attempted to capture parent-child relations in order to refine understanding of inter-generational dynamics in perceptions of history, conceptions of democracy, ethnic belonging and multiculturalism. The cooperation with local partners in the project countries was essential in order to accurately assess local conditions and, above all, to develop suitable methods for recruitment to the surveys.

In the second half of the year, the team conducted focus groups in all three project countries. This was organised in two phases in which young adults and their parents – sepa-

rately at first, and then together – discussed historical events and political attitudes and how they were dealt with in the family. Here too, members of the public from the three countries were involved in the study, as were people with a (Soviet) Russian migration background. The latter group was sub-divided according to whether the individuals concerned had a more critical or a less critical attitude towards the Soviet Union. The results provide deeper qualitative insights into the process of intergenerational transmission of historical and political views and shed light on how the study participants themselves think about these processes.

Knowledge transfer via social media, events and publications

Sophia Winkler continues to be responsible for the project's online presence on Instagram and Facebook. This work encourages public engagement with MoveMeRU's research topics and trials new formats for research communication to ensure that the research process is accessible.

In 2024, the project team presented its interim findings at a number of international conferences and political events, notably the EPSA Annual Conference in Cologne, the ESA Conference in Porto, the ASEES Annual Convention in Boston, the Conference of the Aleksanteri Institute in Helsinki and ceecon24 in Berlin.

The findings of the surveys and media analysis in Germany also formed the basis for two *ZOiS Spotlights* and the project's first *ZOiS Report*. The project and its results also featured in various media reports. Félix Krawatzek authored a text on contested memory of the Second World War for the dekoder online platform.

Due to its topicality, the project continues to gain attention from the media and the political sphere. In May 2024, for example, the *CEU Review of Books* published a longer interview with Félix Krawatzek, which attracted considerable interest. The project is a topic of lively debate on social media and in people-to-people exchanges, including at the first public event on the survey data, titled *Geschichte im Spannungsfeld: Erinnern zwischen Vereinnahmung und Verantwortung* (History in a Field of Tension: Memory between Co-optation and Responsibility), which was hosted by ZOiS in November.



Sophia Winkler and Hakob Matevosyan presented some results of the MoveMeRU project at the Congress of Central and East European Studies – ceecon 2024 in Berlin.



Research Cluster

Political Economy and Integration

Head: Dr Julia Langbein

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Economic Integration with the EU and its Effects on Post-Soviet Regime Stability

Dr Julia Langbein | Term: since 2018, based at ZOIS since 2020

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Adaptation Strategies of Small Entrepreneurs in the Context of Moldova's Economic Integration with the EU: Insights from Piața Centrală in Chișinău

Dr Julia Langbein, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis | Term: since 2023

Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: The Consequences of the Reconfiguration of Political, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop)

Dr Julia Langbein, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse. Project coordination: Dr Kerstin Bischl

Term: since 2022

Economic Agency in the Context of De Facto Statehood

Lena Pieber | Term: since 2022

Part of the competence network *KonKoop*

China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia

Dr Julia Langbein, Dr Beril Ocaklı, Valentin Krüsmann | Term: 2021–2024

Part of the network *De:link//Re:link*

Multilateralisation with Chinese Characteristics? The Governance and Geo-Economics of a Financially Multilateralising Belt and Road Initiative

Valentin Krüsmann | Term: since 2021

Part of the network *De:link//Re:link*

RESEARCH AFFILIATES' PROJECTS

Crisis Habit: Why Russia's Economy Has Been So Resilient to Sanctions

Alexandra Prokopenko | Term: 2023–2024

With its focus on the interplay between economic, political and social developments, the *Political Economy and Integration* research cluster has added a new dimension to ZOiS's research programme. The research cluster also explores the global context, e.g. in its analyses and comparative studies of the economic integration strategies pursued by the EU, Russia and China in Eastern Europe. Core topics of relevance to all its projects are: 1) economic (dis)integration processes, 2) economic agency and development strategies, and 3) market integration and its impacts on power relations in the domestic and foreign policy fields.

In 2024, the research cluster's activities focused on four thematic priorities: 1) linkage between Ukraine's recovery and EU accession process, 2) the implications of the financial diversification of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with insights for Eastern Europe and Eurasia, 3) the role of economic factors in the emergence and resolution of conflicts, and 4) adaptation strategies of local entrepreneurs in the context of economic integration. In addition, through her affiliation with ZOiS, Alexandra Prokopenko was able to contribute her expertise on Russia's economic development in the context of Western sanctions and the ongoing war against Ukraine.

Ukraine: Recovery and the EU accession process

The European Council decision of December 2023 to open accession negotiations with Ukraine has given Ukraine a tangible prospect of EU membership. At the same time, Ukraine must press ahead with recovery while the war is still ongoing. It cannot be taken for granted that Ukraine's integration into the EU and its recovery will go hand in hand, as the underlying logics of the two processes are not necessarily identical. Against this background, Julia Langbein and Gwendolyn Sasse hosted a workshop in January 2024 which brought together experts and

policy-makers to discuss how the accession negotiations and recovery process can reinforce each other and create synergies. Outcomes of the workshop included a Policy Brief, co-authored with Julian Bergmann from the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) and Miriam Kosmehl from the Bertelsmann Stiftung, and an episode of ZOiS's podcast *Roundtable Osteuropa* with Clare Lockhart from the Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE) and Inna Pidluska from the International Renaissance Foundation.

Further publications by Julia Langbein and Gwendolyn Sasse on the importance of inclusive participation in Ukraine's recovery and EU accession and on the social dimension of recovery followed, ahead of the *Ukraine Recovery Conference* which took place in Berlin in mid-June. In addition, Julia Langbein became a member of the Enlargement Hub, which was initiated by the Central European University (CEU), the European University Institute (EUI) and the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE) in order to generate knowledge from previous EU enlargement rounds and share it with policy-makers, thereby benefiting Ukraine's accession process. In this context, Julia Langbein and László Bruszt (CEU) produced an academic paper on how the lessons learned from EU enlargement can benefit the EU's economic integration strategy for Ukraine. The paper is currently undergoing peer review.

Financial diversification of the BRI

Further important milestones were reached in the China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia project, which is part of the *De:link//Re:link: Local Perspectives on Transregional Processes of (Dis)En-tanglements* joint project.

In 2024, Valentin Krüsmann focused mainly on finalising his dissertation, which he submitted to the Freie Universität Berlin in January 2025. His

research shows that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is undergoing a process of financial multilateralisation. This enables Chinese state-owned enterprises to deliver infrastructure projects with multilateral funding within the BRI framework. As the examples of the Rikoti highway in Georgia and the Zhanatas wind power plant in Kazakhstan show, there are still major deficits relating to transparency, social impact management, and labour and environmental standards. This suggests that multilateral financing does not significantly improve governance standards in projects delivered by Chinese enterprises, particularly in countries with weak institutional frameworks.

In the study, the BRI is understood as a geo-economic strategy involving China's deployment of economic instruments in pursuit of strategic goals. These objectives and, to some extent, their attainment are not limited by the multilateralisation of the BRI. Both projects studied are closely integrated into Chinese strategic narratives that are intended to convey an image of prosperity and development through cooperation with China. They encourage political relationship-building with China and create economic dependencies in sectors of strategic relevance in the recipient countries. The study concludes that the BRI should be understood less as an initiative whose main purpose is to finance infrastructure projects; rather, the initiative is aimed at the construction of infrastructure per se. By pursuing this approach, China can achieve strategically advantageous outcomes without mobilising financial resources of its own. The study thus provides a basis for more nuanced debate about the geopolitical implications of the BRI.

New funding phase for De:link//Re:link

As the first phase of funding for the joint *De:link//Re:link* project ended in late May 2024, a successful application

was submitted to the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, enabling the second three-year funding period to start in October 2024. The sub-project at ZOIS focuses on the expansion of the Middle Corridor between Europe and Asia, whose significance has increased as a result of Russia's war against Ukraine. Specifically, the research aims to identify which external and local actors and context-related conditions support or impede China's efforts to expand the Middle Corridor and how this will affect the transit countries' relations with China and Russia.

As part of the SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence, in which Julia Langbein is now a Principal Investigator alongside Gwendolyn Sasse, key research findings, including from *De:link//Re:link*, were discussed with Chinese scholars at a workshop on *The EU, China and the Liberal International Order* at Shanghai's Fudan University in October 2024.

The role of economic factors in conflicts

In 2024, within the framework of the *KonKoop* research network (see p. 43), Lena Pieber continued work on her dissertation, which explores the relationships between economic structures and conflict dynamics in de facto states. As part of her cumulative PhD research, her article *Conceptualizing Economic Agency of De Facto States: The Case of Abkhazia*, which she presented inter alia at the ASN Annual World Convention 2024 in New York, was submitted for publication in a leading academic journal. The article focuses primarily on a theoretical conceptualisation of 'economic agency'. With reference to the autonomous region of Abkhazia, which is recognised as part of Georgia's territory under international law, Lena Pieber shows that economic agency is subject to continuous bargaining processes and, in most cases, is only temporarily visible due to the strong economic ties to the respective patron state.

Local adaptation strategies in the context of economic integration

The joint sub-project conducted by Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis as part of the DFG-funded *LimSpaces* project explores how economic integration processes impact the everyday life of the local community, taking Piața Centrală, a public market in Chișinău, as an example. Numerous interviews were therefore conducted with traders, representatives of the market management and municipal administration, and the European Commission. The aim was to identify challenges affecting the market as a result of trade liberalisation and the proposed alignment with EU standards and to explore the different narratives that exist among interviewees about its capacity to survive. The findings are currently being summarised in an academic article, which will be published as part of a special issue in 2025 (see p. 47).

Russia's economic policy in the context of sanctions and war

The funding phase for Alexandra Prokopenko's project on the impacts of sanctions on the Russian economy ended in March 2024. Alexandra Prokopenko – now a research affiliate at ZOIS – is continuing her research on economic development in Russia, with a particular focus on how Russia has coped with crises and what factors make the Russian economy resistant to sanctions. There was considerable demand from the media for her economic policy expertise: in an interview for *Der Spiegel*, for example, she explained why the Russian economy is so resilient and what can be done to boost the effectiveness of Western sanctions policy. She also published an article in the journal *Foreign Affairs*, exploring how the war against Ukraine is affecting the Russian economy.



Reconstruction of residential buildings in Zaporizhia in southern Ukraine: As part of this research cluster, Julia Langbein and Gwendolyn Sasse emphasised the importance of a participatory approach to Ukraine's reconstruction and EU accession process.

Cross-cutting Projects

Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)

Coordinator: Dr Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)
Funding: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Term: 2024–2028

The *Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)* is a project to strengthen Ukraine-related research, teaching, networking and transfer activities in the Berlin-Brandenburg region and worldwide. The network, initiated and led by the European University Viadrina, includes the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), the Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (VUIAS) at Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and partner institutions from Ukraine and other European countries.

The KIU research programme focuses on three main topics relating to Ukraine: history and culture; state and society; and conflict, war and multiple crises in the global context. Two fellowship programmes for scholars of Ukraine based in Ukraine itself or at the European University Viadrina promote international academic exchange. In addition, a structured PhD programme, starting in June 2025, will enable 12 doctoral students to undertake research on Ukraine-related topics.



Susann Worschech, coordinator of the *Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin*, at the official opening of the project in July 2024 at the European University Viadrina.

The international and collaborative teaching programme includes a Ukrainian Studies certificate programme as an additional offer for students, which will be expanded into a Master's programme over the course of the project. To support Ukraine-related teaching, a guest residency programme has been established, with each visiting professor spending one semester at the European University Viadrina. One-month residential fellowships are also available to support Master's students who are writing Ukraine-related theses.

Various event and information formats are used for sharing knowledge about Ukraine with the public and policy-makers. A role for a Communications Coordinator for KIU was therefore created at ZOiS, which Belinda Nüssel has held since August 2024.

Activities in 2024

In April 2024, the German Academic Exchange Service approved a grant of around 2.5 million euros to fund KIU. The network's opening ceremony took place at the European University Viadrina on 11 July 2024. The event included a panel discussion on *Ukrainian Self-determination: Challenge and Prospect for Europe*, with ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse one of the panellists.

Gwendolyn Sasse also leads the *State and Society* research group, which started work in 2024 and consists of researchers from member institutions and the KIU Fellows. In autumn 2024, three KIU Fellows joined ZOiS and are benefiting from academic mentoring by researchers at the Institute: Inna Volosevych, mentored by Gwendolyn Sasse, Inga Kozlova, mentored by Kerstin Bischl, and Ekaterina Bataeva, mentored by Sabine von Löwis.

The 2024/25 winter semester saw the launch of the public Ukraine Lecture Series, which university members of the network host in rotation. The first of these lecture series, organised by Susanne Frank and Gwendolyn Sasse, focused on *War in Ukraine: Destruction of Heritage – Mastering Legacy* and took place at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. It explored, from various perspectives, the tension between cultural heritage and legacies in the form of imprints, legacies and traumas. The same topic was adopted for KIU's first two-week summer school at the European University Viadrina in September 2024, which was attended by 20 students from Germany and abroad.

As part of a one-month KIU scholarship for teaching residencies, UNET alumna and political scientist Yuliya Bidenko delivered seminars on *War(s) in the Post-Soviet Space: Legacies of the Past, Present Dynamics, Future Scenarios* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Chair of Comparative Democracy and the Political Systems of Eastern Europe) during the 2024/25 winter semester.

In November 2024, together with the US Embassy in Berlin, KIU hosted a screening of the documentary *20 Days in Mariupol*, accompanied by a lecture by Professor Michael Kimmage. A two-day network meeting in Frankfurt (Oder) at the end of 2024 brought together KIU Fellows, researchers from member institutions and representatives of partner organisations in order to discuss the potential of Ukrainian Studies and explore possible collaborations and funding opportunities.

In December 2024, a series of monthly KIU Brown Bag Lunch Lectures began at the European University Viadrina as a platform for KIU Fellows to present their research.

For 2025, the KIU team has prepared various new publication formats, including the *KIUrious* interview series, as well as the first of KIU's academic publications in the *Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies* series. As part of ZOiS's *In Conversation with ...* format, selected KIU Fellows will discuss their research and its relevance for society.

Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: The Consequences of the Reconfiguration of Political, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop)

Heads of project:	Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse Dr Julia Langbein PD Dr Sabine von Löwis
Coordination:	Dr Kerstin Bischl
Funding:	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
Term:	2022–2026

The *KonKoop* research network started work in April 2022 and comprises six institutions from across Germany: the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) as the coordinating body, the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg, the Leibniz

Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig, Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU Jena), Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE) and the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF) in Potsdam. Various national and international partners are also associated with the network.

The network is made up of several interdisciplinary research teams that seek to identify how conflicts arise in Eastern Europe, which actors are involved and which factors contribute to escalation and de-escalation, but also which conditions guarantee security or enable cooperation. The teams focus on regions in Southeast and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The projects conducted as part of *KonKoop* cut across all five of ZOiS's research clusters. The thematic fields are: post-imperial nation-building processes; religious and ethnic diversity; economic (dis)integration; environmental change and ecological resources; interactions and interdependencies between conflict and cooperation; and security and perceptions of insecurity in Eastern Europe in the context of the war against Ukraine.

Project team at ZOiS

KonKoop is coordinated by Kerstin Bischl at ZOiS. A team of ZOiS researchers is working on several projects within the *KonKoop* framework, including PhD student Lena Pieber with her doctoral research on economic agency in the context of de facto statehood (see pp. 39–41). Other more wide-ranging projects by Ivaylo Dinev and Nadja Douglas focus on protest waves in Eastern Europe (see pp. 24–28) and perceptions of insecurity and related discourses (see pp. 20–23), respectively. Infographic designer Iaroslav Boretskii devises visualisations for the research projects and is part of the *Multi-perspective Laboratory for Peace and Conflict Cartography* at the IfL.

Activities in 2024

2024 was the halfway point in the first funding phase for *KonKoop*: In all projects, literature and background research, field research and lecturing activities were continued and cooperation with local scholars and institutions in Germany was expanded. The focus lay on topics like ethnic minorities in border regions, political economy in de facto states, in:security and migration.

After two further workshops, the topic line *In:Security* was completed according to plan and the results published in the *KonKoop In:Security Report* series – the last two reports are due to be published in 2025. The topic line asks how Russia's war against Ukraine and global security developments are perceived 'from below', e.g. in Russia's neighbouring states, with a focus on critical infrastructure, energy supply and emancipatory movements. The Data Lab (see below) blog was launched in 2024 as another format for securing and discussing results. It offers a platform for researchers to present and discuss different methods, data sets or approaches to research ethics. Natalia Otrishchenko, then a *KonKoop* Fellow at the ZZf, got the ball rolling in September in a blogpost where she reflected on her role as a researcher during the Maidan protests and the genesis of an interview collection in that context.

A large-scale survey conducted in Ukraine was an important milestone in *KonKoop*'s research activities. It examines the effects of the war on attitudes and identities in Ukraine and breaks new ground by combining social science and trauma research. Initial results show that different kinds of traumas can correlate with a preference for more democratic or authoritarian forms of government.

In addition, a new project was born of the network: Together with external partners, Kerstin Bischl and Sabine von Löwis successfully applied for funding to explore the possibility of establishing a *Collaborative Data Network with Eastern Europe (KoDaNetOst)*. The project will start in 2025.

At the halfway point of the project, it was time to look to the future: In 2024, an evaluation report and a future concept were completed with a view to securing the approval of the BMBF for a second funding phase for *KonKoop*.

Multi-method Data Lab

Heads of project: Dr Ivaylo Dinev
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

The Multi-method Data Lab based at ZOIS is an interdisciplinary platform that processes and links quantitative and qualitative research data on political, social, economic and spatial dynamics in Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War. Ivaylo Dinev supports researchers with data collection and analysis and produces guidelines on the use of specific methods. He also runs workshops for junior scholars on research methods and techniques in the social and political sciences. In addition, the Data Lab publishes working papers, journal articles and reports for conferences and seminars on data gathering and processing.

Ukraine Research Network@ZOIS (UNET)

Heads of project: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis
Coordination: Anastasiya Leukhina
Funding: German Federal Ministry of
Education and Research (BMBF)
Term: 2022–2026

In response to the new challenges posed by Russia's war against Ukraine for research on Ukraine and Eastern Europe as a whole, ZOIS launched the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOIS (UNET)* in November 2022. *UNET* connects social science research on Ukraine and increases its visibility and impact. With this in mind, it grants fellowships to Berlin- and Ukraine-based Ukrainian fellows who do fieldwork on Ukrainian developments in times of war. In order to contribute to maintaining academic potential in Ukraine and provide a basis for reconstruction, Ukrainian scholars and academic institutions will be systematically included in the network. The project creates a space for regular exchange on research on Ukraine, connects various existing initiatives, and communicates Ukraine expertise to the general public and the political arena. ZOIS researchers offer individual mentoring to the *UNET* Fellows, thus strengthening the collaboration between countries the Ukrainian economy during the war and disciplines.

In 2024, there were two rounds of applications for scholarships and 10 scholars completed their *UNET* fellowships (see pp. 9–11). Their projects gave rise to various publications, research communication formats and events in 2024 and beyond. The topics covered ranged from civil society and digital popular culture to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the educational experiences of Ukrainian forced migrants, revitalisation in the recaptured regions, the Ukrainian economy during the war and evacuation behaviour.

The projects of the fellows that started work in September 2024 revolved around gender, care and science in the context of war (see pp. 9–11). All of the researchers in this cohort carried out their projects as sur-place fellows in Ukraine.

Activities in 2024

The fellows communicated their research findings to the academic community, for example by organising workshops or publishing academic articles. They also discussed the social and political implications of those research findings at international conferences. Through other formats the fellows shared their expertise on Ukraine with a wider audi-

ence: In the *Spotlight on Ukraine* series and the ZOiS podcast *Roundtable Osteuropa*, they addressed topics like the educational situation of Ukrainian refugees, reconstruction, the controversial Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and Ukrainian popular culture in wartime. With the panel discussion *War Trauma: The Effects on Ukrainian Society and Science*, UNET was represented at the second edition of Café Kyiv in 2024, a major public event on Ukraine in Berlin.

In addition to a retreat focused on mental health and trauma-sensitive research, in September UNET organised a public networking and closing event where the fellows provided insights into their research. The *Get your Research Out There* series also took place in 2024. In various online workshops, researchers shared tried-and-tested strategies for communicating their research to audiences within and outside academia.

Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe: Between Personal Agency, Civil Society and the State (FORUM)

Coordination: Dr Nora Ratzmann (DeZIM)
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS)
Term: since 2022

FORUM is a joint project involving the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) and the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). Launched in response to the Russian war against Ukraine, the network aims to connect scholars across Europe engaged in research on the experiences of Ukrainians who have sought refuge in other European countries. It currently brings together scholars from Germany, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Poland, Sweden and Denmark with a range of disciplinary backgrounds and extensive expertise in the study of forced migration and Ukraine.

Each of the researchers carries out their own projects on the experiences, strategies, networks and attitudes of the refugees, all of which are shaped by local and (trans-)national policies and practices. The network also encourages discussion of empirical, conceptual and ethical issues and preliminary research findings.

Activities in 2024

The FORUM network continued to expand in 2024 and met every two to three months online to exchange information and reports, propose panels for conferences and initiate new research. In a network event Sabine von Löwis,

Gwendolyn Sasse and UNET alumna Inna Volosevych presented and discussed the ZOiS Report *Displaced Ukrainian Youth: Displaced Futures?*

In cooperation with other ZOiS projects, e.g. UNET, and other institutions (e.g. Prisma Ukraïna) further events were organised with the aim of presenting research on displacement from and within Ukraine and arrival in different countries and contexts.

Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives

Heads of project: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis
Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse
Term: since 2022

Within the framework of the FORUM network, Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse are researching the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Poland and Germany and internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Ukraine. From 2023, 15–20 Ukrainians were interviewed at intervals of around eight weeks. The interviewees differ in age, place of origin and level of education, among other things. Qualitative guided interviews and the visual and participatory method of *mental mapping* were used; the latter is based on visually depicting subjective perceptions of spatial experiences. Data were collected in Lviv in Ukraine, in Warsaw, Berlin and Chişinău (capital cities) and in smaller cities (Magdeburg, Kassel, Rzeszów and Tiraspol) in the three countries. The aim is to investigate and make visible, over time and in depth, not only the experiences of fleeing and arriving in the new societies, but also questions relating to people's individual sense of identity and belonging.

The project is funded by ZOiS with the support of the SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence at the Freie Universität Berlin. At ZOiS, it straddles the *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* and *Migration and Diversity* research clusters.

Activities in 2024

In 2024, the last two rounds of surveys were conducted at intervals in the participating countries. This generated a comprehensive body of interesting data. The questions focused particularly on perceptions and visions of security, peace, individual futures, and the future of Ukraine.

Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse and their co-author Inna Volosevych published their preliminary findings in a ZOiS Report entitled *Displaced Ukrainian Youth: Dis-*

placed Futures? The mental mapping method was reflected upon and discussed in various contexts, including a research workshop at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig and a joint workshop with Tatiana Zhurzhenko (ZOiS) and Paul Richardson (University of Birmingham) on *Narrating Borders, Displacement and Identity: Lessons from the Russo-Ukrainian War*. Sabine von Löwis and Diana Bogishvili presented project findings at the international workshop *Rethinking Forced Migration Relationally: Agency, Liminality, and Migration Regimes* at the University of Neuchâtel in September 2024. In their paper, they discussed various forms of liminality associated with experiences of displacement, with reference to in-depth studies conducted within the project framework.

Emigration during War: A New Generation of Russian Migrants

Heads of project: Dr Félix Krawatzek
Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse
Term: since 2023

Russia's war against Ukraine has triggered significant emigration from Russia. Georgia and Armenia are popular destinations for Russian migrants, but also Turkey and countries in Central Asia. Young urbanites with higher levels of education are disproportionately represented in this wave of migration. Moreover, the large share of young men among those who have left Russia suggests that the wish to avoid the draft played a key role in the decision to migrate. Political opposition to the war, fear of repression, and negative assessments of one's own life prospects are other push factors. This project aims to gain insights into the characteristics, attitudes, expectations and behaviours of this new generation of migrants. The project straddles two research clusters: *Youth and Generational Change* and *Societies between Stability and Change*.

Activities in 2024

The project was presented at various conferences in Europe and the US. Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse published the results of their joint research in a *ZOiS Report* and in a series of short-format contributions to various media. The findings add nuance to the prevailing image of these new Russian migrants as a largely Kremlin-critical group and underline the importance of the reception context. The research team also started to prepare for a workshop at ZOiS in 2025 that will bring together researchers from different projects and world regions with a view to producing a joint publication. In order to gain insights into the situation of the Russian community in Turkey, Félix Krawatzek spent a short period conducting research in Istanbul and Antalya.

He was particularly interested in why the arrival of Russians in Turkey has run relatively smoothly and which role the interaction between conditions in the host country and attitudes among the newcomers played in this context.

Living with Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectation in Ukraine and Moldova (LimSpaces)

Head of project PD Dr Sabine von Löwis
Funding: German Research Foundation (DFG), Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR)
Term: 2021–2025

LimSpaces is a joint project conducted by ZOiS, the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in France and the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin. In its original conception, the project was intended to look at everyday life in the regions bordering the European Union (EU), especially in Moldova and Ukraine. However, in light of Russia's war against Ukraine, this plan had to be radically altered. The thematic focus of the sub-projects carried out at ZOiS was also adjusted as research stays in Ukraine have not been possible since February 2022. Two of the three sub-projects straddle several research clusters at ZOiS and are presented in this chapter. A new addition in 2023 was the work by Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis on individual trade, with a focus on Moldova (see below). A further sub-project on *Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania* is being carried out by Claudia Eggart in the *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* research cluster (see pp. 24–28).

As a result of Irina Mützelburg's parental leave, the project term was extended until July 2025 with no additional costs incurred. Research for the project continued in 2024 and the team began to analyse research results and prepare publications. Further surveys were carried out and the binational research group met online to discuss draft texts.

LimSpaces Sub-project Education in Liminality: The Situation of Ukrainian Displaced Schoolchildren in Germany

Head of project: Dr Irina Mützelburg
Term: 2022–2025

In this *LimSpaces* sub-project, which is located at the interface of the *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* and *Youth and Generational Change* research clusters, Irina Mützelburg explores the educational situation and strategies of Ukrainian pupils in Germany. These children and



Destroyed Russian tank in Kyiv: Several projects at ZOIS deal with the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine.

teenagers are attempting to learn German and establish social contacts in Germany, while also maintaining their connection with school in Ukraine so that they can reintegrate smoothly when they return home. The project uses a combination of qualitative in-depth interviews and online surveys among Ukrainian parents in Germany.

Irina Mützelburg is also looking into how German education authorities and schools are dealing with newly arrived Ukrainian pupils. To this end, she conducted semi-structured interviews with teachers and school administrators in Berlin, Baden-Württemberg and Saxony. The analysis of school policy at various levels shows that in the case of Ukrainian students, both standard practices and difficulties in dealing with non-German-speaking students come into play, as well as specific phenomena related, for example, to the uncertain plans of this group to stay in Germany long-term.

In 2024, Irina Mützelburg focused primarily on evaluating and analysing data gathered in interviews with school administrators, teachers, Ukrainian pupils and parents in Germany. She also presented and discussed her initial findings

in a series of academic lectures, for example at the Institut Convergences Migrations Paris, the Centre Marc Bloch and in internal ZOIS formats.

LimSpaces Sub-project
Adaptation Strategies of Small Entrepreneurs in the Context of Moldova's Economic Integration with the EU: Insights from Piața Centrală in Chișinău

Projektleitung: Dr Julia Langbein
 PD Dr Sabine von Löwis
Term: since 2023

Individual trade as part of large wholesale and consumer markets currently faces major challenges, the effects of which are investigated within the project framework. Russia's war against Ukraine and economic and political instability in Moldova are among the factors which put a question mark over the anticipated positive effects of the Association Agreement (AA) with the EU and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). Other challenges are the high short- and medium-term costs of implementing and aligning with EU standards, and the associated social impacts. In the medium term, this may lead to the closure of markets or individual traders' businesses, a scenario which is familiar from other Eastern European countries following EU integration and is associated with loss of jobs and access to social security systems.

With reference to Piața Centrală, a large traditional market in Chișinău (Republic of Moldova), the project analyses how traders and markets respond to changing conditions, such as those arising from the AA and DCFTA, and to their social and economic impacts. This project straddles the *Political Economy and Integration* and *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* research clusters.

In 2024, Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis continued to analyse the results of their field research with a colleague in Chișinău and worked on a text on *Bazaars as Liminal Spaces between European Integration and Diverse Economies? Insights from the Piața Centrală in Chișinău*. The article is due to be published in a special issue of *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*. In their analysis and interpretation of market dynamics, the structural developments of market liberalisation and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine are juxtaposed with concrete market developments and the expectations of key players. This reveals different expectations and narratives, ranging from a desire for reform to the anticipation of failure and alternative visions of development. The results were presented at ceecon 2024 in Berlin, the conference of the German Association for Eastern European Studies in cooperation with ZOIS.



Supporting Young Researchers

Support Structures for Young Researchers

Alongside research, supporting young people who wish to enter a career in research or research communication is a key area of work at ZOIS. These efforts to foster young talent are delivered at various levels and include dialogue, e.g. at the internal and external research colloquia; research cooperation and related academic training posts; lectures by our researchers; articles by junior researchers in ZOIS publications; mentoring programmes involving ZOIS researchers as supervisors; the traineeship in the Communications team; and opportunities for students to take up internships or positions as assistants in our research projects and Communications team.

Internal and external research colloquia

ZOIS's research colloquia are intended to facilitate dialogue between junior researchers and experienced professionals and provide impetus for research as part of the academic training process.

The **internal research colloquium** is aimed at ZOIS's own researchers and guest academics. It takes place every two weeks and offers an opportunity for discussion of current research projects and work in progress. A further aim of the internal colloquium is to explore challenges, risks and security in research, data management, methodologies and ethical issues. This makes the internal colloquium an ideal mechanism by which to integrate PhD students, visiting scholars and associated researchers into the academic community at ZOIS and promote discussion of research-related topics outside the framework of the projects and research clusters.

The colloquium's organisational team generally consists of a senior research-

er and a doctoral candidate. They are responsible for devising and coordinating the meetings over the course of the semester. In the 2024 summer semester, the internal colloquium, led by Tsypylma Darieva and Veronika Pfeilschifter, focused on methods and ethical dilemmas in authoritarian societies. Specifically, this involved exploring issues relating to fieldwork, the role of researchers, and data management strategies. In addition to discussing the specialist literature, the participants reflected on their own experiences. In the 2024/25 winter semester, Sophia Winkler, Kostiantyn Fedorenko and Tsypylma Darieva organised a series of readings on interdisciplinary studies in mobility/immobility.

The **external research colloquium** serves as a discussion forum for work in progress by scholars – from PhD students to established academics – engaged in social science research relating to Eastern Europe. In 2024, it took the form of a half-day workshop at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and was organised by the University in cooperation with ZOIS. Three topics were discussed: Aleksey Oshchepkov (Freie Universität Berlin) presented his research on war-related migration from Russia from an economic perspective. The presentation by Friederike Augustin and Kaja Kaźmierska (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) explored the de jure and de facto independence of the courts. And finally, Hakob Matevosyan and Félix Krawatzek from ZOIS presented their research on German support for Ukraine as a historical necessity as a topic for discussion.

Interns and research assistants

ZOIS offers students the opportunity to take up internships or research assistantships in order to gain practical work experience and training in research

or research communication. In the area of research, this involves a diverse range of tasks, from literature and background research, data compilation, processing and evaluation, and editing to involvement in academic networking. In the Communications team, assistants work on website editing, event organisation, research, and editorial tasks, for example. In 2024, 15 student assistants and one intern were employed at ZOIS.

Mentoring and supervision

Other important mechanisms for fostering young talent at ZOIS are mentoring of students and primary and secondary supervision of dissertations and theses up to PhD level. In 2024, Tsypylma Darieva, Beate Eschment, Tatiana Golova, Julia Langbein, Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan and Gwendolyn Sasse supervised studies at the University of Hamburg, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, the University of Passau, the University of Bamberg, the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Hungary.

Félix Krawatzek, Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse participated in the mentoring programme of the German Association for East European Studies (DGO). As a member of the Mentoring Working Group set up by young scholars in the DGO, Sophia Winkler, a PhD student at ZOIS, was involved in organising the 2024/25 mentoring programme. Many ZOIS researchers, as well as the Head of the Communications team at ZOIS, were available as mentors for *Ukraine Research Network @ZOIS (UNET)* Fellows: Nadja Douglas, Tsypylma Darieva, Nina Frieß, Félix Krawatzek, Julia Langbein, Hakob Matevosyan, Stefanie Orphal, Gwendolyn Sasse and Sabine von Löwis. Three

Fellows from the *Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)* were hosted by ZOIS as visiting researchers in 2024. Their contact persons were Kerstin Bischl, Academic Coordinator of the KonKoop network, and researchers Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse. Other international scholars who spent varying periods of time at ZOIS in 2024 were supervised by Tsypylma Darieva, Sabine von Löwis, Hakob Matevosyan and Gwendolyn Sasse.

As part of the BMBF-funded KonKoop network, Ivaylo Dinev organised monthly meetings for young scholars and ran a workshop on tools for research data analysis. For the PhD students based at ZOIS, Félix Krawatzek organised regular meetings in 2024 as forums for resolving academic, organisational and other research-related issues.

Doctoral students at ZOIS

In 2024, seven doctoral candidates were based at ZOIS or were involved in various ZOIS projects.

► Cooperation with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences

ZOIS cooperates with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in order to provide intensive training for postgraduate students from all disciplines with a focus on Eastern Europe. In parallel to working on their dissertations as part of the methodology training programme at BGSS, the doctoral candidates join one of ZOIS's research clusters, participate in events and contribute to ZOIS's publications. Two doctoral candidates – sociologist

Diana Bogishvili and social scientist Kostiantyn Fedorenko – were based at ZOIS from 2019. In 2024, Diana Bogishvili completed her research on how migration influences the values of Georgian migrants in Germany and their relatives in Georgia and successfully defended her dissertation at ZOIS in November. Kostiantyn Fedorenko's dissertation on motives for emigrating and identity shifts among Ukrainian Maidan activists in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic also entered its final phase in 2024.

► De:link//Re:link

Valentin Krüsmann, a doctoral student at ZOIS since May 2021, works on the project *China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia* as part of the *Local Perspectives on Transregional (Dis-)Entanglements (De:link//Re:link)* research network. For his doctoral research, now nearing completion, he studies the financial multilateralisation of China's global infrastructure project, the Belt and Road Initiative, with reference to construction schemes in Georgia and Kazakhstan.

► KonKoop

Political scientist Lena Pieber joined ZOIS in April 2022 as a doctoral student in the research network *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: The Consequences of the Reconfiguration of Political, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop)*. For her PhD thesis at Freie Universität Berlin, she is investigating the economic agency of de facto states that formed after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, comparing economic developments and linkages in Georgia and Abkhazia with those of the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria.

► LimSpaces

Claudia Eggart is a researcher in the project *Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania*, which is part of the project *Living with Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectation in Ukraine and Moldova (LimSpaces)*. For her PhD at the University of Manchester, she studied the re-scaling of market infrastructures and retail hubs in Odesa and Bishkek. She submitted her dissertation at the end of 2023 and defended it successfully in March 2024.

► MoveMeRU

Sophia Winkler joined ZOIS in September 2023 as a doctoral student in the project *Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU)*. For her doctoral studies at the University of Passau, she is analysing the Russian media landscape that is aimed at Russian speakers abroad. Her objective is to extract historical narratives and decode their functions, key actors and target groups in connection with questions of political attitudes and identity.

► Affiliated doctoral students

Veronika Pfeilschifter is a doctoral student at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and a research affiliate within the *Youth and Generational Change* research cluster. For her cumulative doctoral thesis on *Concepts, Ideologies and Emotions: Taking Stock of the New Left in the South Caucasus*, she looks at the new generation of young leftists in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. She is particularly interested in ideological self-positioning, understandings of justice and patriarchal structures.

Teaching and Events

Seminars and courses

- ▶ Nadja Douglas
Einführung in die Soziologie der Sicherheit
master seminar | Sciences Po Lille (Lille, January–March 2024)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Memory Politics in the Ukrainian-Russian Conflict
guest lecture | University of Vienna (Vienna, 16/01/2024) | as part of the special lecture *Eastern Europe in the Polycrisis*

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Memory Politics in the Ukrainian-Russian Conflict
guest lecture | Johannes Kepler University Linz (Linz, 23/01/2024) | as part of the lecture series *Eine Geschichte der Ukraine als trans-kulturelle Verflechtungsgeschichte*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Youth in Eastern Europe: Identities, Political Participation and Social Values | bachelor seminar | Aarhus University (Aarhus, February 2024)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Ukraine's Borders before and after the Russian Invasion
guest seminar | Aarhus University (Aarhus, 17/04/2024) | as part of the master seminar *The Borders of Europe and the EU* (Peter Bugge)

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Die Grundrechte in Rechtsprechung und Lehre nach dem deutschen und kasachischen Verfassungsrecht. Teil 1: Allgemeine Handlungsfreiheit und Freiheit der Person
block seminar (with Christian Reitemeier) | Maqsut Narikbayev KAZGUU University and other universities (Astana, 15–17/10/2024)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russia's War Against Ukraine and Its Implications for the Territorial Stability in Russia | seminar | Malmö University (Malmö, 15/10/2024)

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Migration, Diaspora and Activism in Central Asia and in the Caucasus | bachelor seminar | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, winter term 2024/25)

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Geographien der Grenzregion – die deutsch-tschechische Grenze | master seminar (with Judith Miggelbrink) | Leipzig University (Leipzig, winter term 2024/25)

Other events

- ▶ Beate Eschment
German Language Skills are Important, Less at University than in Everyday Life: On the Experiences of Central Asian Students in Germany | University of Göttingen (Göttingen, 12/04/2024) | presentation as part of the DAAD project *Europäische Perspektiven im Dialog: Zentralasien und die westliche Forschung*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
Data Training: How to Use Stata? | Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 18–19/06/2024) | workshop as part of the BMBF-funded *KonKoop* competence network

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
Fighting for Democracy in Exile | summer school | Deutsche Gesellschaft e. V. (Berlin, August 2024) | presentation *Repertoires of Activism, Repertoires of Protest: What Makes a (Migrant) Activist?*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis, Stefanie Orphal, Christian Schaich
CENTRAL Leadership Program | training course aimed at strengthening leadership skills of early-career researchers | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 02/09/2024)

- ▶ Beate Eschment
China in Kasachstan und Tadschikistan | Vienna University of Economics and Business (online, 19/09/2024) | expert interview conducted by a student for a Master's thesis

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Regional and Ethnic Perspectives on Russia | seminar | Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington D.C., 19/11/2024) | presentation *Personnel Changes in Russia: Regional Perspective*



Sociologist Diana Bogishvili successfully defended her dissertation on the changing values of Georgian migrants in Germany in 2024.

Research Communication

Research Communication Against Disinformation and Propaganda

How are disinformation and propaganda linked? And how can research communication help to combat them? To explore this issue, ZOIS invited academics Franziska Davies and Gwendolyn Sasse and disinformation expert Pia Lamberty to a discussion at the Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation 2024 in the Urania Berlin. The conversation was chaired by Stefanie Orphal.

Whether it's about the 'Nazi regime in Kyiv' or the supposed 'proxy war' – Russian propaganda narratives often follow the same line, namely 'to negate that Ukraine, as an independent state, can decide anything for itself,' as Gwendolyn Sasse observed. But disinformation, she said, is not always part of a coherent story; it also attempts to feed into a mood of uncertainty within society. Its goal is to hollow out the democratic system and portray it as weak and lacking legitimacy.

Disinformation needs a breeding ground

Disinformation takes hold particularly well if it finds a receptive audience, as Pia Lamberty explained. That's why it specifically aims to reach certain target groups – for example, via Telegram channels for individuals who are open to far-right ideas, who see it as confirmation of their worldview. This makes it difficult to determine to what extent the political discourse is genuinely influenced by disinformation. Which proportion of the population is indeed reached by disinformation and what role it plays in political opinion-forming is a topic of discussion among researchers as well.

As Franziska Davies made clear, Russian propaganda narratives have not only been disseminated within radicalised groups; until at least 2022, they

also featured in the mainstream quality media – for example, when supposed experts on political talk shows spread Russian narratives and had reputable publishers issue their books. So we are making it too easy for ourselves, Franziska Davies concluded, if we simply see ourselves as victims of malicious attempts at destabilisation. Instead, we should be asking ourselves why this has worked so well: 'And then we need to talk about the consequences of a German-Russian imperialism that operated at Eastern Europe's expense, which is a topic that society has yet to confront.'

Options for research communication

So what can research communication bring to a discourse that is at least partially informed by disinformation? One problem here, according to Pia Lamberty, is that our society has neither the skills to evaluate information nor the criteria to distinguish between verifiable facts and opinion. And isn't there a risk that in this highly politicised discourse, research communication will lose its credibility? 'I think it is important to address the notion that academia and activism must be mutually exclusive,' said Franziska Davies. It is possible – and important – to position oneself on the basis of expertise as long as one's own role is made clear. But in the media, especially social media, that is not always an easy task, as Gwendolyn Sasse pointed out. As she sees it, part of the role of research communication is to create spaces that also allow for discussion of complexity and uncertainty.



ZOIS Communications Director Stefanie Orphal, historian of Eastern Europe Franziska Davies, disinformation expert Pia Lamberty and ZOIS Director Gwendolyn Sasse (from left to right) at the Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation 2024 in the Urania Berlin.

ZOiS Events

Within its programme of events, ZOiS offers a variety of formats, tailored to diverse target groups. We differentiate between academic events and those designed to promote knowledge transfer to a wider audience. The first of these categories includes **lectures, panel discussions, workshops and conferences** that are mainly intended for the academic community, such as the **Research Colloquium**. In 2024, the Research Colloquium was organised jointly with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

ZOiS's knowledge transfer events focus on current debates, topics and research relating to Eastern Europe. The **ZOiS Forum** series, for example, aims to build a bridge between the arts and academia and is designed with the general public in mind. By contrast, the **In Conversation with...** series seeks to attract a specialist audience from political institutions, think tanks and foundations.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

Conferences

- ▶ **Abschlusskonferenz De:link//Re:link (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 23–24/05/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded network *De:link//Re:link* | with contributions by Valentin Krüsmann and Julia Langbein (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **Congress of Central and East European Studies – ceecon (Freie Universität Berlin, 07–08/10/2024)** | organised by the German Association for East European Studies in cooperation with the Institute for East European Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and ZOiS
- ▶ **Law, Politics and Transformation in Eastern Europe: Judicial Autonomy under Authoritarian Attack (ZOiS, 28–29/11/2024)** | in cooperation with the Center for Comparative Research on Democracy at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | organised by Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse (both ZOiS)

Public lectures and panel discussions

- ▶ **Making a Homeland: Roots and Routes of Transnational Armenian Engagement (ZOiS, 15/02/2024)** | book talk by Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS) | Hakob Matevosyan (ZOiS), Guzel Yusupova (Freie Universität Berlin). Chair: Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (Viadrina Center B/ORDERS IN MOTION)

- ▶ **The State of Science in Ukraine: Innovation and Regional Dynamics in Times of War (online, 16/02/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* | Anastasiia Lutsenko (Kyiv Academic University). Chair: Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Migration Research in Times of War: Quality Meets Quantity (ZOiS & online, 08/05/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* | Yevgeniya Bliznyuk (Gradus), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS) and Inna Volosevych (Info Sapiens)
- ▶ **Neue Migration aus Russland seit Februar 2022: Bewertung politischer Ansichten und Verhaltensweisen (online, 20/06/2024)** | organised by the DSF-funded network *ERDAM* | Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS), Margarita Zavadskaya (Finnish Institute of International Affairs). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Herausforderungen in der Friedens- und Konfliktforschung mit und über Osteuropa – Überlegungen zu Möglichkeiten und Grenzen partizipativer Forschung (ZOiS, 25/06/2024)** | organised by Kerstin Bischl (ZOiS) | Sophie Lambroschini (Centre Marc Bloch / Academic Advisory Board of KonKoop), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Patricia Romanowsky (German Federal Ministry of Education and Research). Chair: Stefanie Orphal (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Armeniens neue Protestbewegung: innenpolitische Herausforderung und mögliche Konsequenzen (online, 09/07/2024)** | organised by the *ZOiS Caucasus Network* | Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS), Harutyun Harutyunyan (American University of Armenia / Yerevan State University), Shushanik Minasyan-Ostermann (University of Bonn). Chair: Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Die Mobilisierung der Diaspora im globalen Süden neu konzipieren: der Fall der russischen Diaspora in der Türkei (online, 19/09/2024)** | organised by the DSF-funded network *ERDAM* | Bahar Baser (University of Durham), Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS). Chair: Inta Mieriņa (University of Latvia)
- ▶ **Behemoth Eats the Judiciary: What Can Judges Do? (ZOiS, 28/11/2024)** | in cooperation with the Center for Comparative Research on Democracy of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | Kriszta Kovács (WZB Berlin Social Science Center), Gábor Attila Tóth (University of Debrecen). Chair: Silvia von Steinsdorff (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

- ▶ **Politik der Angst: Muster des politischen Desengagements unter russischen Migrant*innen in Demokratien (online, 18/12/2024)** | as part of the DSF-funded network *ERDAM* | Tatiana Golova (ZOiS), Margarita Zavadskaya (Finnish Institute of International Affairs). Chair: Susanne Bygnes (University of Bergen)

Workshops

- ▶ **Linking EU Accession and the Reconstruction of Ukraine (ZOiS, 01/02/2024)** | funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the German Institute of Development and Sustainability and the Bertelsmann Foundation | organised by Julia Langbein and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **The Ethics of War and Post-war Research: Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kosovo (online, 06/02/2024)** as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* | organised by Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Narrating Borders, Displacement and Identity: Lessons from the Russo-Ukrainian War (ZOiS, 13/02/2024)** in cooperation with the University of Birmingham with the support of the British Academy-funded project *Rescaling the Border* | organised by Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Paul Richardson (University of Birmingham) and Tatiana Zhurzhenko (ZOiS)
- ▶ **From a Centralised Energy Supply to Decentralised Sustainability (online, 28/02/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* | organised by Kerstin Bischl (ZOiS), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Beril Ocaklı (ZOiS) and Martin Welp (Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development)
- ▶ **The Risks of Decoupling: Post-Soviet Critical Infrastructure Legacies, New Challenges and the Societal Dimension (online, 29/02/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* | organised by Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Virtual Battlefields of the Russo-Ukrainian War: Digital Media, Disinformation and Visualisation of the Conflict. Part 1: Beyond the Words: Examining the Role of Popular Culture in Communicating War (online, 14/03/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* | Svitlana Pidoprygora (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University), Orest Semotiuk (Polish Academy of Sciences), Oksana Starshova (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University). Chair: Alina Mozolevska (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University / ZOiS)
- ▶ **Virtual Battlefields of the Russo-Ukrainian War: Digital Media, Disinformation and Visualisation of the Conflict. Part 2: War Discourse and Public Opinion: The Reactualisation of Performativity in Digital Media during the Russo-Ukrainian War (online, 15/03/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* | Barbara Barreiro Leon (University of Aberdeen), Olena Melnykova-Kurganova (National Aviation University Kyiv), Artem Zakharchenko (Kyiv National University). Chair: Olena Zinenko (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Researching Living with/in Difference Creatively (ZOiS, 19–20/03/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* | in cooperation with the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research and the European Association of Social Anthropologists | organised by Tsypylma Darieva and Piotr Goldstein (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **Zooming In, Zooming Out: Kontextualisierung der entstehenden russischen Diaspora und des Antikriegs-aktivismus im größeren Europa (Ilia State University Tbilisi, 18–19/04/2024)** | as part of the DSF-funded network *ERDAM* | organised by Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS), Tatiana Golova (ZOiS) and Ketevan Gurchiani (Ilia State University Tbilisi)
- ▶ **Protest Legacies in Non-Democratic Regimes (Berlin, 30–31/05/2024)** | organised by Indiana University Europe Gateway in cooperation with the University of Michigan and ZOiS
- ▶ **Internal Research Workshop: SCRIPTS Research Unit 'Borders' (ZOiS, 03/07/2024)** | organised by Friederike Kuntz (Freie Universität Berlin), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) and Tatiana Zhurzhenko (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Orthodox Resources of Social Peace (ZOiS, 19–20/09/2024)** as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* | in cooperation with the Lehrstuhl für Ostkirchenkunde and Ökumenische Theologie at the University of Münster | organised by Kerstin Bischl (ZOiS) and Regina Elsner (University of Münster)
- ▶ **Emancipatory Dimensions of In:Security (online, 16/10/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* | organised by Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)
- ▶ **New Research on Crimean Tatars: Post-2014 Challenges and Strategies (ZOiS, 17/10/2024)** | organised by Elmira Muratova (European Centre for Minority Issues), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) and Mariia Shynkarenko (Institute for Human Sciences)

- ▶ **Other Visions, Other Voices: Muslim Minorities and Cultural Negotiations in Ukraine, Russia and Georgia (ZOiS, 18/10/2024)** | organised by Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS) and Jesko Schmoller (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

- ▶ **Building Confidence and Fostering Societal Dialogue: Insights from Armenia and Azerbaijan (hybrid, 06/11/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* and the *ZOiS Caucasus Network* in cooperation with the Berghof Foundation

Colloquia

- ▶ **Kinderliterarisches Kolloquium: Das Kindersachbuch (online, 31/05/2024)** | co-organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg) and Karoline Thaidigsmann (Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg). Chair: Nina Frieß (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Osteuropaforschung in Berlin/Brandenburg (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 19/07/2024)** | organised by Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) and Silvia von Steinsdorff (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) | with presentations by Friederike Augustin (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Kaja Kaźmierska (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS), Hakob Matevosyan (ZOiS), Aleksey Oshchepkov (Freie Universität Berlin)
- ▶ **Kinderliterarisches Kolloquium: Die Dinge der Kindheit. Materialität (in) der Kultur für Kinder (online, 15/11/2024)** coorganised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg) and Karoline Thaidigsmann (Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg)

ZOiS KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

ZOiS Forum

- ▶ **Zivilgesellschaft in Russland – Ist eine unsichtbare Öffentlichkeit möglich? (ZOiS, 24/01/2024)** | Denis Shedov (human rights project OVD-Info), Elena Stein (Center for Independent Social Research). Chair: Tatiana Golova (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Playback Theater Performance: 'Seeing the Difference' (Neue Bühne Friedrichshain, 02/07/2024)** | initiated and funded by ZOiS
- ▶ **Return/Wiederkehr 2023 – Katja Fedulova (Kino Krokodil, 17/10/2024)** | in cooperation with the cinema Kino Krokodil | Katja Fedulova (film maker), Elmira Muratova (European Centre for Minority Issues). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Geschichte im Spannungsfeld: Erinnern zwischen Vereinnahmung und Verantwortung (ZOiS, 13/11/2024)** Hans Gutbrod (Ilia State University Tbilisi), Jörg Morré (Museum Berlin-Karlshorst), Eva-Clarita Pettai (European Academy Schleswig-Holstein). Chair: Hakob Matevosyan (ZOiS)

In Conversation with...

- ▶ **Non-Democratic Federalism: Centre-Regional Relations in Russia (ZOiS, 22/01/2024)** | Irina Busygina (Harvard University). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Monitoring the Storm: War in Ukraine and the Biggest Migration Shift in Europe since WWII (ZOiS, 07/05/2024)** as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* | Evgeniya Blyznyuk (former Head of the Department of Analytics of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine). Chair: Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Collisions: The Origins of the War in Ukraine and the New Global Instability (ZOiS, 14/05/2024)** | Michael Kimmage (Catholic University of America). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **In Conversation with Serhiy Leshchenko (ZOiS, 25/09/2024)** | Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

Other events

- ▶ **ZOiS Osteuropa-Frühstück: Südkaukasus. Grenzüberschreitende Konnektivität und Delimitierung der Grenze (Paul-Löbe-Haus, 11/04/2024)** | with Tsypylma Darieva and Nadja Douglas (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **War Trauma: The Effects on Ukrainian Society and Science (Colosseum Berlin, 19/02/2024)** | organised by the German Association for East European Studies (DGO) with ZOiS as part of Café Kyiv | Christa Cocciolo (body therapist), Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOiS), Inna Volosevych (ZOiS). Chair: Gabriele Freitag (DGO)
- ▶ **Quo vadis, Belarus? Nationale Identität in Zeiten von Krieg und Repression (ZOiS, 30/05/2024)** | in cooperation with dekode | Tania Arcimovich (Justus Liebig University Giessen), Nelly Bekus (University of Exeter), Aliaksei Bratachkin (FernUniversität Hagen). Chair: Nadja Douglas (ZOiS) and Ingo Petz (dekoder)
- ▶ **Up to East #8: Europawahlen im Schatten des Krieges (ZOiS, 10/06/2024)** | in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education | Veronica Anghel (Johns Hopkins University), Julia Langbein (ZOiS), Michał Sutowski (Instytut Krytyki Politycznej), Volker Weichsel (Zeitschrift OSTEUROPA)

Bedrohte Wissenschaft

Infragestellung

wissenschaftlicher Autorität



At an event organised by the Cluster of Excellence 'Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)' at ZOIS, journalist Katja Weber, ZOIS Director Gwendolyn Sasse, editor-in-chief of Klimafakten.de Carel Carlowitz Mohn, the Berlin Senator for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care Ina Czyborra, and Michael Zürn from the WZB Berlin Social Science Center (from left to right) discussed the growing hostility towards science.

- ▶ **Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 2024 (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 22/06/2024)** | with contributions by Iaroslav Boretskii and Valentin Krüsmann (both ZOIS)

- ▶ **Viadrinum 2024 (ZOIS, 28/08/2024)** | organised by the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) in cooperation with ZOIS | with contributions by Ivaylo Dinev, Kostiantyn Fedorenko and Oksana Mikheieva (all ZOIS)

- ▶ **ZOIS Osteuropa-Frühstück: Zentralasien und Kaukasus (Paul-Löbe-Haus, 26/09/2024)** | with Beate Eschment, Valentin Krüsmann and Julia Langbein (all ZOIS)

- ▶ **Food for Thought on Contemporary Ukraine (ZOIS, 01/10/2024)** | as part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOIS (UNET)* | Yuliya Bidenko (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Andriy Fert (Kyiv School of Economics), Oksana Mikheieva (ZOIS), Alina Mozolevska (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University), Helen Pidgorna (ZOIS), Tetiana Skrypchenko (Rating Group), Volodymyr Vakhitov (American University Kyiv), Inna Volosevych (Info Sapiens), Olena Zinenko (ZOIS)

- ▶ **Die Ukraine zwischen Vielfalt und Einheit (Leibniz Hall of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 31/10/2024)** | in cooperation with the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities | Regina Elsner (University of Münster), Olena Palko (University of Basel), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOIS). Chair: Christoph Marksches (Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

- ▶ **Bedrohte Wissenschaft: Infragestellung wissenschaftlicher Autorität (ZOIS, 06/11/2024)** | organised by the Cluster of Excellence *Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)* at Freie Universität Berlin with support of ZOIS | Carel Carlowitz Mohn (Klimafakten.de), Ina Czyborra (Senator for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOIS), Michael Zürn (WZB Berlin Social Science Center). Chair: Katja Weber (journalist)

ZOiS Publications

ZOiS publications offer insights into our research findings, address current developments and provide background analyses. For this purpose, we have developed various formats which cover a broad range of topics related to Eastern Europe and are freely accessible on our website. The authors include ZOiS researchers and experts from our international network.

Reports

ZOiS Report is aimed at an expert readership from politics, administration, the education sector, and the media. Produced in medium-length format in English or German, it presents current data from ZOiS studies and surveys through graphics, as well as short explanatory texts and the latest results of projects conducted by ZOiS researchers. It is available in print and on the ZOiS website.

The **KonKoop In:Security Report** series makes the results of the workshops in the network's *In:Security* topic line accessible to a wider public. Researchers in this area explore security and insecurity in Eastern Europe from a bottom-up perspective. The *In:Security* Report series is published online in English on the *KonKoop* website.

- ▶ **New Arctic Realities: Between Conflicting Interests and Avenues for Cooperation** | ZOiS Report 1/2024 | Serafima Andreeva, Klaus Dodds, Nadja Douglas, Christoph Humrich and Thomas Nawrath (14/03/2024)
- ▶ **Old Fears and New Threats: Insecurity and Societal Cohesion in Russia's Neighbourhood** | KonKoop In:Security Report Series/1 | Nadja Douglas, Weronika Grzebalska, Kornely Kakachia, Andrei Kazakevich, Asbed Kotchikian, Yuliia Kurnyshova, Inna Şupac and Joni Virkkunen (17/05/2024)
- ▶ **Osteuropaforschung in der Verantwortung: Forschungsethik während Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine** | ZOiS Report 2/2024 | Nina Frieß and Katrin Hoffmann (17/06/2024)
- ▶ **Displaced Ukrainian Youth: Displaced Futures?** | ZOiS Report 3/2024 | Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse and Inna Volosevych (14/08/2024)
- ▶ **Die politische Vielfalt der neuen Migration aus Russland seit Februar 2022** | ZOiS Report 4/2024 | Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse (12/09/2024)

- ▶ **Mit Russlandhintergrund in Deutschland: Ansichten zu Politik, Gesellschaft und Geschichte** | ZOiS Report 5/2024 | Félix Krawatzek and Hakob Matevosyan (06/11/2024)
- ▶ **War and Religion: Views from Within Ukraine's 'Russian' Church** | ZOiS Report 6/2024 | Andriy Fert (10/12/2024)
- ▶ **Energy Security in Eastern Europe since Decoupling from Russia: The Fragile Balance Between Geopolitics, National Politics and Vernacular Perceptions** | KonKoop In:Security Report Series/2 | Nadja Douglas, Sophie Lambroschini, Michael LaBelle, Vineta Kleinberga, Ana Otilia Nuțu and Andrian Prokip (07/11/2024)

Spotlights

ZOiS Spotlight is a short weekly publication by ZOiS researchers and guest contributors featuring analyses, insights, and background information on current developments in Eastern and Central Europe as well as the South Caucasus and Central Asia. It is aimed at the broader public and published on the ZOiS website on Wednesdays in English and German. Since 2023, there has also been the special series **Spotlight on Ukraine**, in which Fellows of the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS* write about their research in the context of the war against Ukraine.

- ▶ **Climate Change and Water Security in Central Asian** | ZOiS Spotlight 1/2024 | Nafisa Mirzozamshedszoda (10/01/2024)
- ▶ **Geographic Differences in Ukrainian Refugees' European Experiences** | Spotlight on Ukraine 3 | Tetiana Skrypchenko (17/01/2024)
- ▶ **From War Zone to Conflict Region: Ukrainian Refugees in Transnistria** | ZOiS Spotlight 2/2024 | Sabine von Löwis (24/01/2024)
- ▶ **Russophone Authors Two Years After Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine** | ZOiS Spotlight 3/2024 | Alessandro Achilli, Nina Frieß and Marco Puleri (07/02/2024)
- ▶ **Belarus's Parliamentary 'Elections' Mark the Entrenchment of Lukashenka's Authoritarian Regime** | ZOiS Spotlight 4/2024 | Emma Mateo (21/02/2024)

- ▶ **Dealing with the Russian Aggression against Ukraine through Art** | Spotlight on Ukraine 4 | Alina Mozolevska (22/02/2024)

- ▶ **Turkey: A New Hub for Migration from Russia** | ZOIS Spotlight 5/2024 | Félix Krawatzek (06/03/2024)

- ▶ **The Lives and Hopes of Crimean Tatars after the 2014 Annexation** | ZOIS Spotlight 6/2024 | Elmira Muratova (18/03/2024)

- ▶ **Education Across Borders: Ukrainian Refugees' Perceptions of German Schools** | Spotlight on Ukraine 5 | Helen Pidgorna (22/03/2024)

- ▶ **Children's Literature Under Pressure** | ZOIS Spotlight 7/2024 | Nina Frieß (02/04/2024)

- ▶ **Migration, Tradition and Change in Georgia** | ZOIS Spotlight 8/2024 | Diana Bogishvili (17/04/2024)

- ▶ **Exploring the Uncertainty of Ukrainian Refugees** | Spotlight on Ukraine 6 | Natalia Zaika (24/04/2024)

- ▶ **Under the Pretence of Tradition: Media Repression in Kyrgyzstan** | ZOIS Spotlight 9/2024 | Aksana Ismailbekova and Zinaida Almazbekova (03/05/2024)

- ▶ **The Role of Popular Culture in Ukraine's War Effort** | Spotlight on Ukraine 7 | Olena Zinenko (07/05/2024)

- ▶ **The Sad Fate of Yandex: From Independent Tech Startup to Kremlin Propaganda Tool** | ZOIS Spotlight 10/2024 | Daria Kravets-Meinke (15/05/2024)

- ▶ **Is There a Russian Church in Ukraine?** | Spotlight on Ukraine 8 | Andriy Fert (27/05/2024)

- ▶ **Hungarian Diplomacy: Defying Accepted Norms** | ZOIS Spotlight 11/2024 | Ákos Kopper (29/05/2024)

- ▶ **Ukraine's Recovery and EU Accession: The Importance of Inclusive Participation** | ZOIS Spotlight 12/2024 | Julia Langbein and Gwendolyn Sasse (10/06/2024)

- ▶ **The War in Ukraine and Latvia's Russian-speaking Community** | ZOIS Spotlight 13/2024 | Inta Mieriņa (26/06/2024)

- ▶ **Rebuilding Amid Uncertainty: Reconstruction in Ukrainian Cities** | Spotlight on Ukraine 9 | Tetiana Skrypchenko (03/07/2024)

- ▶ **Kazakhstan's Ukrainians: Worried, But Neutral?** | ZOIS Spotlight 14/2024 | Beate Eschment (10/07/2024)

- ▶ **Warmth, Laughter, and the Smell of Buns: Perceptions of Home among Forced Migrants from Ukraine** | Spotlight on Ukraine 10 | Oksana Mikheieva (18/07/2024)

- ▶ **Online Lives between Germany and Russia** | ZOIS Spotlight 15/2024 | Sophia Winkler (23/07/2024)

- ▶ **The Political and Cultural Fate of Karabakh Armenians in Armenia** | ZOIS Spotlight 16/2024 | Ivaylo Dinev and Nadja Douglas (04/09/2024)

- ▶ **How Russia is Trying to Take the Sting out of Western Technological Sanctions** | ZOIS Spotlight 17/2024 | Ewa Dąbrowska (18/09/2024)

- ▶ **Propaganda and Fear: How Georgia's Ruling Party Mobilises Voters** | ZOIS Spotlight 18/2024 | Diana Bogishvili (02/10/2024)

- ▶ **What is at Stake in Moldova's Presidential Election and EU Referendum** | ZOIS Spotlight 19/2024 | Nadja Douglas (16/10/2024)

- ▶ **'Open for Business': Surveying the State and Prospects of Ukrainian Business** | Spotlight on Ukraine 11 | Anastasiya Shurenkova (29/10/2024)

- ▶ **The Endless Hourglass? The Living Legacy of Soviet History in Germany** | ZOIS Spotlight 20/2024 | Hakob Matevosyan (30/10/2024)

- ▶ **World Climate Conference in Baku: Azerbaijan's Balancing Act for Global Recognition** | ZOIS Spotlight 21/2024 | Veronika Pfeilschifter and Cesare Figari Barberis (11/11/2024)

- ▶ **The Role of Russia's Regions in the War Economy** | ZOIS Spotlight 22/2024 | Irina Busygina (27/11/2024)

- ▶ **Local Memory as Propaganda: Russia's New World War II Monuments** | ZOIS Spotlight 23/2024 | Maryna Rabinovych (11/12/2024)

- ▶ **Mental Health and Migration: Wartime Challenges for Ukrainian Academics** | Spotlight on Ukraine 12 | Natalia Tsybuliak (17/12/2024)

Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa

In the Podcast **Roundtable Osteuropa**, which is available on all the usual podcast platforms as well as on our website, ZOIS researchers and invited guests discuss their research on Eastern Europe. We address current events in politics and society, but also try to shed light on lesser-known topics from the perspective of various academic disciplines.

- ▶ **Zwischen „Extremismus“, Schweigen und Exil: zur Lage der belarusischen Literatur** | Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa 43 (01/03/2024) | With Alhierd Bacharevič and Nina Weller. Chair: Nina Frieß
- ▶ **Ukraine's Dual Challenge in the Midst of War: Reconstruction and EU Accession** | Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa 44 (12/03/2024) | With Clare Lockhart and Inna Pidluska. Chair: Julia Langbein
- ▶ **Research versus Ethics? Perspectives from the Social Sciences and Humanities** | Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa 45 (26/03/2024) | With Nina Frieß and Lela Rekhviashvili. Chair: Hannah Guhlmann
- ▶ **Jenseits von Bullerbü: Kinderliteratur in Polen und Russland** | Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa 46 (28/03/2024) | With Marina Balina and Karoline Thaidigsmann. Chair: Nina Frieß
- ▶ **The Future of Ukrainian Science** | Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa 47 (12/04/2024) | With Tymofii Brik. Chair: Julia Langbein
- ▶ **Faith and Fissures: The Contested Independence of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church** | Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa 48 (23/05/2024) | With Andriy Fert and Regina Elsner. Chair: Stefanie Orphal

Meet the Author

For **Meet the Author**, the Communications team conducts short interviews with authors about their latest publications. Our aim is to provide an insight into the current academic and cultural debate and show how it relates to topical political and social issues. The interviews are published in German and English on the ZOIS website.

- ▶ **'The regional governors in Russia are not the victims of the regime'** | Meet the Author with Irina Busygina (12/02/2024)
- ▶ **'When it comes to the West's efforts to deter Russia, the story is one of failure'** | Meet the Author with Michael Kimmage (23/05/2024)
- ▶ **'The term genocide risks conflating what are often very different experiences'** | Meet the Author with Hans Gutbrod (21/11/2024)

Expert*innenstimme

The **Expert*innenstimme** (*Expert Voice*) provides an interview-based analyses of selected current events and developments. ZOIS researchers give short answers to three questions in which they explain the significance, background and consequences of a news report with their respective professional expertise. These assessments are available in German on the ZOIS website.

- ▶ **Vorgezogene Präsidentschaftswahlen in Aserbaidschan** | Tsypylma Darieva (06/02/2024)
- ▶ **De-facto-Staat Transnistrien ersucht Russland um Schutz** | Nadja Douglas and Sabine von Löwis (01/03/2024)
- ▶ **Präsidentschaftswahl in Russland** | Tatiana Golova (13/03/2024)
- ▶ **Gesetz zu „ausländischen Agenten“ in Georgien** | Tsypylma Darieva and Julia Langbein (18/04/2024)
- ▶ **Der „Tag des Sieges“ und Zentralasien** | Beate Eschment (08/05/2024)
- ▶ **Anti-Gender-Bewegung und die Situation von LGBTIQ* in Osteuropa** | Regina Elsner (16/05/2024)
- ▶ **Stopp der EU-Beitrittsperspektive in Georgien: Auswirkungen auf Bildung und Migration** | Diana Bogishvili (03/12/2024)
- ▶ **Georgiens Ausstieg aus dem EU-Beitrittsprozess** | Julia Langbein (04/12/2024)



Election posters for the governing Georgian party Georgian Dream in Tbilisi: In a ZOIS Spotlight, Sociologist Diana Bogishvili analysed the election campaign of this increasingly anti-European party ahead of the parliamentary elections in October 2024.

Central Asian Analytical Digest

Central Asian Analytical Digest – part of the *Country Analytical Digest (Länder-Analysen)* journal series – consists of monthly analyses of political, economic, social and cultural developments in the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) by international researchers and experts. The Country Analytical Digest series are co-edited by the following institutions: the German Association for East European Studies, the German Institute for Polish Studies, the University of Bremen's Research Centre for East European Studies, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Leibniz Institute for East and South-east European Studies and the Centre for East European and International Studies. Since 2020, the Central Asian Analytical Digest series has been edited at ZOIS.

- **Baumwollsektor in Usbekistan / Zivilgesellschaft**
Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 161 (13/01/2024)

- **Kusch-Tepa-Kanal in Nordafghanistan / Kultureller Wandel in Turkmenistan** | Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 162 (28/02/2024)
- **Zentralasien und der Nahostkonflikt** | Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 163 (26/04/2024)
- **Nationalkurultai in Kirgistan / Arbeitsmigranten in Russland** | Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 164 (20/06/2024)
- **Grüner Wandel und Usbekistans Außenwirtschaft mit Russland und China / Zentralasien im dritten Jahr von Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine / Parlamentarische Aufarbeitung des deutschen Einsatzes in Afghanistan**
Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 165 (30/09/2024)
- **Zentralasien, die Taliban und der „Islamische Staat – Khorasan-Provinz“ / Parlamentswahl in Usbekistan / Nuklearreferendum in Kasachstan** | Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 166 (09/12/2024)

ZOIS in the Media

TV/Video

- ▶ **Geheimpapiere aus dem Kreml. Wie Putin seine Wiederwahl sichert** | Gwendolyn Sasse | ZDF (27/02/2024)
- ▶ **Abtrünnige Region Transnistrien bittet Russland um 'Schutz'** | Sabine von Löwis | ARD (28/02/2024)
- ▶ **Gwendolyn Sasse, Osteuropa-Expertin, zur Bedeutung von Putins Rede zur Nation** | Gwendolyn Sasse | ARD (29/02/2024)
- ▶ **'Transnistrien fühlt sich unter Druck'** | Nadja Douglas | tagesschau 24 (29/02/2024)
- ▶ **The political situation in Bulgaria** | Ivaylo Dinev | TV1 (08/03/2024)
- ▶ **'In autoritären Systemen kann natürlich auch etwas passieren', Gwendolyn Sasse, Osteuropa-Expertin, zu Putins neuer Amtszeit** | Gwendolyn Sasse | tagesschau 24 (18/03/2024)
- ▶ **Félix Krawatzek über Russland nach der Wahl** | Félix Krawatzek | 3sat (18/03/2024)
- ▶ **Georgien: Pro-europäische Proteste weiten sich aus** | Julia Langbein | ARTE (02/05/2024)
- ▶ **How the European Parliament elections will influence Europe** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | The Page (12/06/2024)
- ▶ **Election campaigns are changing abruptly, TikTok gives birth to politicians** | Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgaria On Air (14/06/2024)
- ▶ **Ivaylo Dinev: The political situation is – the old is weakening and the new is not strong enough** | Ivaylo Dinev | Nova News TV (25/06/2024)
- ▶ **The political situation in Bulgaria** | Ivaylo Dinev | TV 7/8 (16/07/2024)
- ▶ **С чем Шольц летит в Казахстан и Узбекистан** | Beate Eschment | Deutsche Welle (15/09/2024)
- ▶ **Қазақ-неміс қатынасы нығая түседі** | Beate Eschment | 24kz (16/09/2024)

- ▶ **Talks between Olaf Scholz and Vladimir Putin** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Pryamyi TV (09/10/2024)
- ▶ **'Полный раскол страны': западные эксперты о выборах в Молдове** | Nadja Douglas | Deutsche Welle (21/10/2024)
- ▶ **'Revival' made the political environment more conservative, more authoritarian politicians are expected** | Ivaylo Dinev | Nova News TV (23/10/2024)
- ▶ **Friedrich Merz and his stance towards Ukraine** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Pryamyi TV (05/12/2024)
- ▶ **Olaf Scholz loses vote of confidence** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Pryamyi TV (18/12/2024)
- ▶ **Olaf Scholz: 'Russia has already lost'** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Pryamyi TV (30/12/2024)

Radio/Podcast

- ▶ **With Ivaylo Dinev on political events and trends in 2024** | Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (04/01/2024)
- ▶ **Russia's Wartime Economy** | Alexandra Prokopenko | War on the Rocks Podcast (16/01/2024)
- ▶ **Ukraine-Krieg: Tausende Forschende haben inzwischen Russland verlassen** | Tatiana Golova | Deutschlandfunk (19/01/2024)
- ▶ **Soziologin: Großteil des Widerstands findet im Verborgenen statt** | Tatiana Golova | Deutschlandfunk (21/01/2024)
- ▶ **Wie steht es um die Zivilgesellschaft in Russland?** | Tatiana Golova | radioeins (24/01/2024)
- ▶ **Zwei Jahre nach dem Überfall: Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Nova (15/02/2024)
- ▶ **Zwei Jahre Krieg in der Ukraine – schwindet die westliche Unterstützung?** | Gwendolyn Sasse | NDR Info (22/02/2024)
- ▶ **Deux ans de guerre en Ukraine** | Félix Krawatzek | Radio-Canada OHdio (23/02/2024)

- ▶ **Putins imperiale Politik** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (29/02/2024)

- ▶ **Russia's war against Ukraine** | Gwendolyn Sasse | LSE European Institute Podcast (31/02/2024)

- ▶ **Russia's diversions in Germany: What is Scholz afraid of?** Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (05/03/2024)

- ▶ **Russlandexpertin: Putins Scheinwahl zur Bestätigung des Krieges** | Gwendolyn Sasse | rbb Inforadio (15/03/2024)

- ▶ **Präsidentenwahl in Russland: Alternativlosigkeit als wichtiger Faktor** | Gwendolyn Sasse | radioeins (15/03/2024)

- ▶ **Russland nach der Scheinwahl: Gespräch mit Gwendolyn Sasse, ZOIS** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (18/03/2024)

- ▶ **Soziologin Tatiana Golova: Russischer Widerstand im Verborgenen** | Tatiana Golova | NDR Kultur Radio (18/03/2024)

- ▶ **Waffen liefern, Waffenruhe debattieren?** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (20/03/2024)

- ▶ **Schmuggelparadies Transnistrien. Wo zwei Oligarchen den Takt bestimmen** | Sabine von Löwis | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (28/03/2024)

- ▶ **Sending troops to Ukraine does not mean NATO enters the war** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (29/03/2024)

- ▶ **The Liberal Exodus?** | Félix Krawatzek | Transformative Podcast (08/05/2024)

- ▶ **Ist 'Me Too' jetzt in Zentralasien angekommen?** | Beate Eschment | SRF (22/05/2024)

- ▶ **Angriff auf den Liberalismus** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (08/06/2024)

- ▶ **Ukraine-Wiederaufbau-Konferenz: Wer zahlt was und ab wann?** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (11/06/2024)

- ▶ **Expertin: Deutschland wälzt Probleme auf Usbekistan ab** Beate Eschment | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (21/06/2024)

- ▶ **Ivaylo Dinev: The debate about ideas and programs has totally disappeared among politicians** | Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (17/06/2024)

- ▶ **EU-Beitrittsverhandlungen mit Moldau** | Nadja Douglas | Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (25/06/2024)

- ▶ **Ivaylo Dinev: We need to strengthen civil society** | Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (26/06/2024)

- ▶ **Neuer Kompetenzverbund Interdisziplinäre Ukrainestudien (KIU)** | Gwendolyn Sasse | rbb radio3 (11/07/2024)

- ▶ **Abwanderung aus Russland** | Félix Krawatzek | BR Bayern 2 (24/07/2024)

- ▶ **German military support for Ukraine** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (18/08/2024)

- ▶ **Radikal durch ungelöste Konflikte** | Beate Eschment | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (11/09/2024)

- ▶ **TAURUS missiles for Ukraine: Will the US decision change Scholz's opinion?** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (11/09/2024)

- ▶ **Welchen Sinn macht die Partnerschaft Deutschland-Zentralasien** | Beate Eschment | SWR Kultur (17/09/2024)

- ▶ **Was bringt der Selenski Plan? Interview Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse, HU Berlin** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (28/09/2024)

- ▶ **Will Ukraine be carried into the EU and NATO in exchange for territories?** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (02/10/2024)

- ▶ **Moldau stellt die Weichen für die Zukunft** | Nadja Douglas | Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (19/10/2024)

- ▶ **Wahl in Moldau** | Nadja Douglas | WDR5 Morgenecho (21/10/2024)

- ▶ **Politologin: 'Russlands Einfluss in Georgien ist institutionalisiert'** | Julia Langbein | NDR Info (29/10/2024)

- ▶ **Russland: Deutsche Fachgesellschaft als 'extremistische Organisation' eingestuft** | Félix Krawatzek | Deutschlandfunk (31/10/2024)

- ▶ **Wahlen in Moldau, Georgien, Bulgarien** | Nadja Douglas | Radio FM 94,5 (06/11/2024)
- ▶ **Coalition collapse in Germany** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (09/11/2024)
- ▶ **Bangen in der Ukraine nach Trumps Wahlsieg** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Nova (13/11/2024)
- ▶ **Ivaylo Dinev: We are too cynical about the development of Bulgaria after 1989** | Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (18/11/2024)
- ▶ **China in Kasachstan: Nicht alles läuft nach Plan** | Beate Eschment | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (18/11/2024)
- ▶ **Germany's reaction towards nuclear threats from Russia** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (23/11/2024)
- ▶ **Proteste in Georgien: 'Brauchen Unterstützung'** | Diana Bogishvili | WDR 5 (16/12/2024)
- ▶ **Kaum Verständnis, kaum Kontakt: Ukrainisch-russische Sprachlosigkeit** | Félix Krawatzek | rbb radio3 (22/12/2024)
- ▶ **The West cannot help Ukraine in the same tempo as before. It reached the peak.** | Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Radio NV (28/12/2024)

Print/Online

- ▶ **'Varoitus sotatoimista: Ukrainan aika on käymässä vähiin'** Gwendolyn Sasse | Gwendolyn Sasse | Verkko uutiset (03/01/2024)
- ▶ **Nagorno-Karabakh, what future after the conflict?** | Nadja Douglas | Atlas of Wars and Conflicts (15/01/2024)
- ▶ **Homeland Calling: How the Armenian Diaspora Reconnects** | Tsypylma Darieva | Jerevan Press Club (31/01/2024)
- ▶ **Selenskyj und Saluschnyj: Rivalen inmitten des Krieges** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Augsburger Allgemeine (01/02/2024)
- ▶ **Die dunkle Seite von Kremlkritiker Nawalny wird bei uns verschwiegen** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Focus online (20/02/2024)

- ▶ **Zwischen Trauer und Kampf: Julia Nawalnaja fordert Putin heraus** | Alexandra Prokopenko, Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (20/02/2024)
- ▶ **'Informationskrieg' für Putins Wiederwahl** | Gwendolyn Sasse | ZDF heute (26/02/2024)
- ▶ **Fehlende Generation? Wie sich die Ukraine und Russland verändern** | Félix Krawatzek | BR24 (27/02/2024)
- ▶ **Caught off guard? Evaluating how external experts in Germany warned about Russia's war on Ukraine** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Intelligence and National Security (29/02/2024)
- ▶ **Transnistrien: Greift Putin nach der Ukraine auch Moldau an?** | Sabine von Löwis | BR24 (29/02/2024)
- ▶ **Ukraine-Zentrum an der Viadrina: Millionenförderung für Forschung und Austausch** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (12/03/2024)
- ▶ **Nur wenige sprechen offen** | Tatiana Golova | tagesschau (16/03/2024)
- ▶ **Putin e reeleito na Russia mas ultimo dia do pleito e marcado por atos dentro e fora do pais** | Tatiana Golova | O Globo (17/03/2024)
- ▶ **Wahl in Russland: Welche Rolle Russen in Deutschland spielen** | Tatiana Golova | Merkur (18/03/2024)
- ▶ **'Es wäre an der Zeit, Russlands Wirtschaft langsam ausbluten zu lassen'** | Alexandra Prokopenko | Spiegel Online (02/04/2024)
- ▶ **Двадцать лет спустя. Почему на востоке ЕС недовольны Брюсселем** | Félix Krawatzek | svoboda.org (01/05/2024)
- ▶ **Größer und besser? 20 Jahre EU-Osterweiterung** | Gwendolyn Sasse | hr INFO (02/05/2024)
- ▶ **Interview with Félix Krawatzek, MoveMeRU ERC-funded project** | Félix Krawatzek | CEU Review of Books (02/05/2024)
- ▶ **Putins Propaganda im Lehrplan** | Félix Krawatzek | Spiegel Online (09/05/2024)

- ▶ **Historical Significance of Zelensky's Presidency So Far**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Wilson Center (29/05/2024)

- ▶ **Political analyst Ivaylo Dinev told 'Telegraph': the fight for the young is in TikTok** | Ivaylo Dinev | Telegraph Bulgaria (20/06/2024)

- ▶ **Seidenstraße: 'Die Jungen wollen mehr Mitbestimmung'**
Beate Eschment | Merian (28/06/2024)

- ▶ **Ivaylo Dinev, political scientist: TikTok and videos are the lowest level of political information** | Ivaylo Dinev | Treta Vazrast (18/07/2024)

- ▶ **ZOiS: Новые мигранты из РФ – весьма неоднородное сообщество** | Referring to the ZOIS Report 4/2024 by Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutsche Welle (12/09/2024)

- ▶ **Социологи о различии политических взглядов новых мигрантов из России** | Félix Krawatzek | Афинские Новости (15/09/2024)

- ▶ **Rückblick auf Berlins Fehler in der Ukraine: 'Die deutsche Politik war über Jahre widersprüchlich'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (18/09/2024)

- ▶ **The West Cautiously Extends Migrant Worker Options For Central Asia** | Beate Eschment | Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (23/09/2024)

- ▶ **Три сектора релокантов в пяти странах: что происходит с новой российской диаспорой в Армении, Грузии, Турции, Казахстане и Кыргызстане** | Referring to the ZOIS Report 4/2024 by Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse | Re:Russia (23/09/2024)

- ▶ **Релоканты из России 'путинского разлива': где и чем живут?** | Referring to the ZOIS Report 4/2024 by Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse | Время и Деньги (25/09/2024)

- ▶ **Vorwürfe der Wahlmanipulation: Rückt Georgien nun noch näher an Russland?** | Diana Bogishvili | Tagesspiegel (18/10/2024)

- ▶ **Zwischen europäischer Annäherung und russischer Bedrohung** | Nadja Douglas | Die Zeit (19/10/2024)

- ▶ **Knapper Sieg für EU** | Nadja Douglas | Politico (21/10/2024)

- ▶ **Référendum sur l'UE en Moldavie : 'Les résultats très serrés montrent à quel point le pays est divisé', relève une chercheuse** | Nadja Douglas | France Info (21/10/2024)

- ▶ **La ingerencia russa al plebiscit moldau redobla la por a Putin** | Nadja Douglas | El Correo (21/10/2024)

- ▶ **'Für die Einheimischen ist Transnistrien real'** | Sabine von Löwis | Magazin Visual Journalism der Hochschule Hannover (25/10/2024)

- ▶ **Can Bulgaria break its political stalemate?** | Ivaylo Dinev | The Parliament (25/10/2024)

- ▶ **Pro-europäischer Zittersieg in Moldau: 'Russlands Einflussnahme wird nicht verschwinden'** | Nadja Douglas | Tagesspiegel (04/11/2024)

- ▶ **Выходцы из РФ в Германии чаще других поддерживают популистов** | Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan | Deutsche Welle (08/11/2024)

- ▶ **Als sich die Demokratie in Orange hüllte** | Gwendolyn Sasse | RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland (22/11/2024)

- ▶ **Ultrarechter zum Präsidenten Georgiens gewählt: Kann die pro-europäische Protestbewegung Neuwahlen durchsetzen?** | Diana Bogishvili | Tagesspiegel (14/12/2024)

- ▶ **'Es braut sich was zusammen'** | Félix Krawatzek | t-online.de (29.12.2024)

Guest contributions

- ▶ **Putin's Unsustainable Spending Spree: How the War in Ukraine Will Overheat the Russian Economy**
Alexandra Prokopenko | Foreign Affairs (08/01/2024)

- ▶ **TikTok Politics Breaks into Europe** | Ivaylo Dinev | Dnevnik (10/06/2024)

- ▶ **Meinung versus Fakten** | Gwendolyn Sasse | Süddeutsche Zeitung (06/09/2024)

- ▶ **For Three Years, the Political Compass Has Been Pointing more to the Right and Conservative** | Ivaylo Dinev, Stanislav Dodov | Dnevnik (22/10/2024)



External
Activities

Academic and Other Publications

Monographs

- ▶ Busygina, Irina. **How Geography and Institutions Shape the Development of Nations**. London: Routledge, 2024.
- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Filippov, Mikhail. **Federalism and Decentralization in Authoritarian Settings: Lessons from the Post-Soviet Region**. London: Routledge, 2024.
- ▶ Douglas, Nadja. **Öffentliche Kontrolle der Streitkräfte in der Russischen Föderation**. Cham: Springer VS, 2024 (translation of the English publication from 2017).

Editorships

- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma; Smolnik, Franziska; Fehlings, Susanne. **Connectivity-Disconnectivity in the South Caucasus**. Mobilities, Special Issue (forthcoming).
- ▶ Denzel, Markus A. (Hg.), in collaboration with Avagyan, Anahit; Grigoryan, Grigor; Matevosyan, Hakob; Melkonyan, Armine. **Das Armenische Kaufmannshandbuch des Lukas Vanandec'i (1699)**. Sandstein: Dresden, 2024.

Articles in refereed journals

- ▶ Busygina, Irina. **The Sources of Territorial Resilience in Putin's Russia**. In: Post-Soviet Affairs, 2024, pp. 250–261.
- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Paustyan, Ekaterina. **The Regional Dimension of Russia's Resilience during its War against Ukraine: An Introduction**. In: Post-Soviet Affairs, 2024, pp. 243–249.
- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma; Smolnik, Franziska; Fehlings, Susanne. **A Hub or Periphery? Connectivity/Disconnectivity in the South Caucasus. Introduction**. In: Mobilities (forthcoming).
- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma; Vakhtangashvili, Giorgi; Zimmermann, Philipp. **Informal Sanctions and Patriotism from Below: Georgian-Russian Encounters in Tbilisi's Housing Market in 2022**. In: Nationalities Papers (forthcoming).
- ▶ Dilling, Matthias; Krawatzek, Félix. **The Populist Radical Right as Memory Entrepreneur? The Prominence, Sentiment, and Interpretations of History in the German Parliament**. In: British Journal of Political Science, 2024, 54(4), pp. 1296–1317.
- ▶ Douglas, Nadja. **The Role of Trust in Belarusian Societal Mobilization (2020–2021)**. In: International Journal of Comparative Sociology, 2024, 65(4), pp. 537–557.

- ▶ Eggart, Claudia. **Waiting at Giurgiulesti Customs: Borders, Bureaucracy, and Geopolitics in between Ukraine, Moldova, and the EU**. In: Geopolitics, 2024 (online first).
- ▶ Goldstein, Piotr; Matras, Yaron. **Language as a Diasporic Stance: Polish in a Migrant Urban Space**. In: Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 2024 (online first).
- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Pestel, Friedemann. **The Political Force of Memory: The Making and Unmaking of Brexit as an Event**. In: Comparative Studies in Society and History, 2024, 66(1), pp. 4–31.
- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Soroka, George. **Defending History? The Impact of Context and Speaker in Russia**. In: Perspectives on Politics, 2024, 22(1), pp. 263–279.
- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Pfeilschifter, Veronika. **Bringing the Lyrical to the Political: The Socio-political Landscape in the South Caucasus through the Lens of Young People**. In: Europe-Asia Studies (forthcoming).
- ▶ O'Loughlin, John; Sasse, Gwendolyn; Toal, Gerard. **What Political Status Did the Donbas Want? Survey Evidence on the Eve of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine in February 2022**. In: Geopolitics, 2024 (online first).
- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **Everyday Europeanization and Bottom-Up Geopolitics at the Ukrainian-Polish Border**. In: Geopolitics, 2024 (online first).
- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **How War Is Rebordering Ukraine**. In: Current History, 2024, 123(855), pp. 249–255.

Chapters in edited volumes

- ▶ Busygina, Irina. **The Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Eurasian Economic Union**. In: The Impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Broader Region. PONARS Eurasia Policy Perspective (e-book), 2024, pp. 6–12.
- ▶ Eschment, Beate. **Политика Республики Казахстан в отношении этносов в суждении этнических групп Алматы – сравнительный анализ опросов (The Nationality Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan as Judged by Ethnic Groups in Almaty – A Comparative Analysis of Opinion Polls)**. In: Этнополитика и идентичность в Казахстане (Nationality Policy and Identity in Kazakhstan), ed. Шайкемелев М.С.-А., Almaty, 2024, pp. 273–295.

- ▶ Fedorenko, Kostiantyn. **‘Europe is Not Doing Enough’: Risks of Ukraine’s Postwar Euroscepticism.** In: Rabinovych, Maryna; Pintsch, Anne (eds.). *Ukraine’s Thorny Path to the EU: From ‘Integration without Membership’ to ‘Integration through War’.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2024, pp. 123–149.
- ▶ Matevosyan, Hakob. **Diasporic Authority and Cultural Identities in the Armenian Diasporic Field of Post-Socialist Hungary.** In: Jašina-Schäfer, Alina; Aivazishvili-Gehne, Nino (eds.). *Migration, Post Socialism and Diasporic Experiences. Fragmented Lives, Entangled Worlds.* De Gruyter, 2024, pp. 103–120.
- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **Ruptured Histories, Contested Memories, Fluid Borders: Monuments in the Northern Black Sea Region from Catherine II to the Russo-Ukrainian War.** In: Bumann, Ninja; Jobst, Kerstin S.; Rohdewald, Stefan; Troebst, Stefan (eds.). *Handbook on the History and Culture of the Black Sea Region,* De Gruyter, 2024, pp. 315–362.

Other publications

- ▶ Bergmann, Julian; Kosmehl, Miriam; Langbein, Julia; Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Multiple Missions in the Midst of War: Integrating Ukraine’s Recovery and EU Accession.** Policy Brief (11/2024), Bonn: German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), 2024.
- ▶ Busygina, Irina. **An ‘Elegant’ Solution: Because We Need Them More.** Riddle (27/04/2024).
- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Filippov, Mikhail. **After the Collapse: How to Prevent a Return to Another Variant of ‘Putinism’.** PONARS Policy Memo No. 887 (01/05/2024).
- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Filippov, Mikhail. **Center-Regional Relations in Russia during the War: Are There Signs of Model Erosion?** PONARS Policy Memo No. 872 (12/01/2024).
- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma. **Migration aus Russland nach Georgien und Armenien.** Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (18/04/2024).
Also in English: **Migration from Russia to Georgia and Armenia.** Federal Agency for Civic Education (02/07/2024).
- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo. **Bulgaria’s Political Turbulence Continues. But Is This Protest Democracy or ‘Stabilitocracy’?** The Loop (27/06/2024).
- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo. **Protest Event Datasets in Eastern Europe.** KonKoop, 2024.

- ▶ Douglas, Nadja. **Nagorno-Karabakh, what Future after the Conflict?** Interview with Ambra Visentin, Atlas of Wars (15/01/2024).
- ▶ Douglas, Nadja. **OSZE: Bereit für den Frieden.** In: Atlas der Abrüstung. Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (10/05/2024).
- ▶ Douglas, Nadja. **Machtfragen und ihre Aushandlung. Zum politischen System der Republik Moldau.** In: Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte. Republik Moldau. 28–29/2024 (03/07/2024).
- ▶ Eschment, Beate. **BMZ-Eskalationspotentialanalyse (ESKA) Kasachstan.** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (October 2024).
- ▶ Eschment, Beate. **BMZ-Eskalationspotentialanalyse (ESKA) Kirgisistan.** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (October 2024).
- ▶ Frieß, Nina. **„Widdewidde wie sie uns gefällt“. Wie Autor:innen aus Kasachstan mit Kinderbüchern neue Identitätsangebote schaffen.** Copernico (11/12/2024).
- ▶ Frieß, Nina. **(German) Translation of Anuar Duisenbinov’s short essay ‘Последний день января / Der letzte Tag des Januars’.** LCB diplomatique (26/02/2024).
- ▶ Goldstein, Piotr; Douzina-Bakalaki, Phaedra. **Doggy Bag.** Short ethnographic documentary, Greece/Germany, 2024.
- ▶ Goldstein, Piotr; Łojewska, Olga; Awuah, Maksymilian. **This Week Doesn’t Really Exist.** Short ethnographic documentary, 2024.
- ▶ Langbein, Julia; Sasse, Gwendolyn. **‘A Country Worth Living In’: Prioritizing Ukraine’s Social Recovery.** In: Internationale Politik Special (Ukraine Recovery Conference), 2024, pp. 23–27.
- ▶ Golova, Tatiana; Selivanova, Galina. **Intergenerational Dynamics among Russian-Speaking Anti-War and Pro-Democracy Activists in Germany.** In: Russian Analytical Digest No. 316, pp. 19–23 (10/09/2024).
- ▶ Löwis, Sabine von. **Phantomgrenzen auf der Spur.** Zeitschrift Ost-West Europäische Perspektiven, OWEP 3/2024, Editorial Leben mit Grenzen, 2024, pp. 180–186.
- ▶ Löwis, Sabine von; Boretskii, Iaroslav; Wenzel, Tim. **Red Arrow / Error: A Map Designed to Justify the Russian Invasion of Ukraine Takes on a Life of Its Own in Media and Memes.** In: Ukrainian Analytical Digest No. 8, pp. 22–27 (September 2024).
- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix. **Summer Suggestions: Purge, Food for Thought, and More.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (18/07/2024).

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Die Ansichten russischer Migranten in Kasachstan und Kirgistan zu Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine.** In: Central Asian Analytical Digest No. 165, pp. 26–28 (30/09/2024).

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix. **Erinnerung und Streit um den Zweiten Weltkrieg.** dekoDer (02/12/2024).

- ▶ Onuch, Olga; Arkwright, Cressida; Bodini, Astrid; Doyle, David; Ersanilli, Evelyn; Fedorenko, Kostiantyn; Glew, Anna; Goldstein, Piotr; Gonzales-Santos, Felipe; Sasse, Gwendolyn; Toma, Sorana; Van der Gaag, Marieke; Van Stekelenburg, Jacquelin. **MOBILISE: Migrant and National Online Surveys. Waves One and Two, 2019–2022.** Colchester, Essex: UK Data Service, 2024.

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Ukraine's New Year of Military and Political Challenges.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (16/01/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Rekonstruktion einer Annexion.** In: Krim Krym Qırım. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte, 74. Jhg., pp. 6–8/2024, pp. 10–16 (03/02/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **The Slippery Slope of Speculating on Ukraine.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (20/02/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Politische Einordnung von zwei Jahren Krieg.** In: Forschung & Lehre (23/02/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **The U.S. Aid Package to Ukraine Is a Short-Term Fix.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (23/04/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Zelensky's Diplomatic Offensive.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (11/06/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **The Instrumentalization of Russia's War in European Politics.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (05/09/2024).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Osteuropa – aber wo liegt es? Zur Entmythologisierung eines Begriffs.** Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, 2024.

Events

Lectures

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Die Krim und die Ukraine | Frohnauer Diskurse (Berlin, 11/01/2024)

- ▶ Nadja Douglas
Ordnung und Konflikt im postsowjetischen Raum
University of Hamburg (Hamburg, 16/01/2024) | as part of a 'Meet the Expert' session on Nagorno-Karabakh

- ▶ Nina Frieß
Auf der Suche nach einem neuen Kanon, goldenen Kelchen und Freunden für die Kropfgazelle: Kasachstans Kinderliteratur im Aufbruch | Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (Leipzig, 07/02/2024) | as part of the lecture series *Ein Panorama der Kinder- und Jugendliteratur im östlichen Europa*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Empirische Sozialforschung im Krieg | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 14/02/2024) | as part of the *Research Lounge „Krieg und Frieden“*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Building Online Bridges for Hate: Russian-Speaking Pro-War Activism in Germany | Central European University, Nationalism Studies Program (Vienna, 19/03/2024) | with Liliia Sablina

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Borderlands into Bloodlands: The Ukrainian-Russian Border and the End of the 'Post-Soviet' | Aarhus University (Aarhus, 17/04/2024)

- ▶ Nina Frieß
Von sowjetischen Traktoren zu dekolonisierten Trambahnen: Kasachstans Literaturlandschaft im Umbruch
Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Jena, 29/04/2024)

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Russian Civil Society in Exile | University of Bonn, Forum Internationale Wissenschaft (Bonn, 15/05/2024) | as part of the lecture series *Perspektiven der Moderne*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Studying pro-Kremlin Discourses on Telegram: The Case of Russian Speakers in Germany | Freie Universität Berlin, Institute for East European Studies (Berlin, 17/05/2024) | with Liliia Sablina

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Die Grenzen der Ukraine – Koordinaten der politischen Geographie | Geographische Gesellschaft zu Leipzig (Leipzig, 28/05/2024)

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Position Paper Central Asia by German Research, Intermediary and Funding Organisations | Volkswagen Foundation (Hanover, 10–12/06/2024) | as part of the *Final Symposium of Research and Higher Education in Central Asia and the Caucasus* (with Christopher Conrad and Ludwig Stroink)

- ▶ Christian Schaich
The Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) – Legal Construction of a Research Institute | DAAD Alumni Networking Workshop (Berlin, 02–03/08/2024)

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Herausforderungen und Chancen der akademischen Kooperation mit Staaten des postsowjetischen Raums | Scientific Committee of the German Academic Exchange Service (online, 03/09/2024)

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Zentralasien zwischen Russland, China und EU | Friedrich Naumann Foundation (online, 16/09/2024)

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Der Krieg in der Ukraine aus kasachischer Sicht | Deutsch-Kasachische Gesellschaft (Berlin, 24/09/2024)

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Das Grundrecht der Freiheit der Person nach dem deutschen Grundgesetz | Kazakh Constitutional Court (Astana, 15/10/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Questions about War and Democracy in Russia's War against Ukraine | University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute (Helsinki, 24/10/2024) | as part of the Aleksanteri Conference 2024

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Ukraine's Western Border Regions between the EU Accession and the War with Russia | Leipzig University (Leipzig, 05–06/11/2024) | as part of the conference *Reordering Europe: Consequences of the Russian Aggression and the Future of Ukraine's EU Accession*

- ▶ Fëlix Krawatzek
Russlands Zukunft: Politik und Gesellschaft nach Februar 2022 | Northeast Institute at the University of Hamburg (Hamburg, 03/12/2024) | as part of the series *Russland. Denken*

Panel discussions

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Russia's War Against Ukraine | London School of Economics, European Institute (London, 30/01/2024) | book talk

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Ukraine | Museum of Military History (Vienna, 20/02/2024)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Russia's Rule in Occupied Ukraine | Columbia University, New York University (online, 21/02/2024) | as part of the *New York-Russia Public Policy Series*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Kick-off Event 'European Book Club' | Center for Liberal Modernity (Berlin, 28/02/2024) | discussant on the book *Posttraumatic Sovereignty* by Jarosław Kuisz and Karolina Wigura

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Cyril Black International Book Forum: 'Russia's War Against Ukraine' by Gwendolyn Sasse | Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (Princeton, 18/04/2024)

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Book Launch: Flexible Authoritarianism: Cultivating Ambition and Loyalty in Russia (Anna Schwenck) | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Center for Comparative Research on Democracy, Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 23/04/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Ukraine: Politics and Elections in Times of War | British Academy (London, 01/05/2024) | as part of the *International Forum Series*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Die Krim und die Krimtatar*innen – eine umkämpfte Halbinsel zwischen Mythen und Realität | German Association for East European Studies, Amnesty International (Berlin, 10/06/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Russia's War against Ukraine | King's College London (London, 13/06/2024) | book talk

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Ukrainische Selbstbestimmung: Herausforderung und Perspektive für Europa | European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Frankfurt/Oder, 11/07/2024) | as part of the opening of the *Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)*

- ▶ Julia Langbein
Georgien hat die Wahl: Europa oder Russland? | Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Center for Liberal Modernity (Berlin, 09/09/2024)

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Verborgene Netzwerke: Politische Ränder, Russland und die Macht der Propaganda bei russischsprachiger Wählerschaft | Bundesverband russischsprachiger Eltern e.V. (Berlin, 10/09/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
35 Jahre Mauerfall: Wie krisenfest ist unsere Demokratie? German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Wissenschaft im Dialog (Leipzig, 09/10/2024) | with Joachim Gauck, Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Emilia Henkel | as part of the event series *Freiheitsperspektiven im Wissenschaftsjahr 2024*

- ▶ Christian Schach
Demokratische Transformation an Universitäten: Belarus und die deutschen Erfahrungen | German Association for East European Studies (online, 11/10/2024)

- ▶ Nadja Douglas
Nach Präsidentschaftswahl und EU-Referendum – Wohin steuert die Republik Moldau? | Friedrich Naumann Foundation (online, 22/10/2024)

- ▶ Christian Schach
Wissenschaftler:innen und Druck – Ist die Wissenschaft ein feindliches Biotop? | Berlin Science Week (Berlin, 01/11/2024)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Germany's Eastern Vote: Impacts on Politics and Global Role | Volkswagen Foundation, Falling Walls Foundation (Berlin, 08/11/2024) | as part of the *Falling Walls Science Summit*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Displaced Ukrainian Youth: Displaced Futures? | German Centre for Integration and Migration Research, Centre for East European and International Studies (online, 12/11/2024) | with Inna Volosevych and Gwendolyn Sasse | as part of the FORUM network

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
After Ostpolitik: Germany and Ukraine in a New Europe University of Oxford, St. John's College (Oxford, 14/11/2024)

- ▶ Diana Bogishvili
Proteste in Georgien | Eastern Europe project of the taz Panter Foundation (Berlin, 17/12/2024)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
How Russia has Changed in the Course of the War: Regional Dimension | German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Berlin, 17/12/2024)

Conferences

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
New Reality. New Normality. Two Years after 24.02.22 Academic Bridges (online, 15–17/02/2024) | discussant at the panel *A Look from the Outside: Russian Studies after 24.02.2022*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Russian Human Rights Defenders in Exile: Empowering and Professional Reactivation for the Benefit of the EU, Host Countries and Russian Civil Society | WOT Foundation (Warsaw, 29/02/2024) | discussant at the panel *What's up in Germany? The Changes in German Policy Towards Russian HRDs in 2022–2024*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
A European Zeitenwende? European Security and Defence Policy in Light of Russia's War against Ukraine Hertie School, Centre for International Security, Centre for Military History and Social Sciences of the Bundeswehr (Berlin, 01/03/2024) | presentation *Conference Spotlight: Zeitenwende for Ukraine*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
Rethinking Europe's East-West Divide | University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations (Oxford, 14–15/03/2024) | presentation *Trade Unions in CEE*

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
(In)visible Russian (Anti)War Migration | University of Warsaw (Warsaw, 13–15/03/2024) | presentation *Exit is Not Passive: Russian Migrants' Activism in Georgia*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Alumni Conference for Egon Bahr Fellows | Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Berlin, 21/03/2024) | discussant at the panel *Russian Civil Society in Wartime: The Role of Opposition and Anti-war Activism in Russia and abroad*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
74th PSA Annual Conference 2024 | Political Science Association (Glasgow, 25–27/03/2024) | presentation *Different Memory Traditions and Radical Right Language Use Below the Subnational Level. Evidence from Germany's State Parliamentary Speeches* (with Matthias Dilling)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
ABS Annual Conference 2024 | Association for Borderlands Studies (San Antonio, 03–06/04/2024) | roundtable input *Rethinking Borders, Belonging and Identity after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
The Left in Southeast Europe: Identities and Discourses University of Tirana (Tirana, 04–05/04/2024) | presentation *The Political Left in Moments of Crisis*

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva, Tatiana Golova, Gwendolyn Sasse
BASEES Annual Conference 2024 | British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (Cambridge, 05–07/04/2024)
Tsypylma Darieva | discussant at the panel *Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-War Movements in Europe and in the South Caucasus*
Tatiana Golova | discussant at the roundtable *Remnants of the 'Russian World' in Europe's Online and Offline Spaces* | discussant at the roundtable *Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-War Movements in Europe and in the South Caucasus* | presentation *Pro-war Mobilisation on Telegram: A Case Study of Russian-speaking Migrants* (with Liliia Sablina)
Gwendolyn Sasse | discussant at the *BASEES/ZoIS Book Roundtable: The Many Voices and Faces of Ukraine* | discussant at the book panel *Russia and Ukraine: Entangled Histories, Diverging States* | discussant at the *BASEES/ZoIS Book Roundtable* (among others 'Russia's War Against Ukraine' by G. Sasse)

- ▶ Beate Eschment
The 6th IHE Annual Water and Peace Seminar: Conflict and Cooperation Dynamics around Large Infrastructure IHE Delft, Kazakh-German University (Almaty & online, 7/04/2024) | presentation *Cross Border Resentment or Peaceful Cohabitation? The Example of the Sardoba Dam Break for Understanding the Dynamics of Water (Non-)Conflict*

- ▶ Lena Pieber, Gwendolyn Sasse
ASN World Convention 2024 | Association for the Study of Nationalities (New York, 16–18/05/2024)
Lena Pieber | presentation *Beyond Dependency: Exploring Economic Agency in De Facto States: The Case of Abkhazia*
Gwendolyn Sasse | discussant at the book panel on Gwendolyn Sasse's *Russia's War Against Ukraine* | presentation *Identity, War Trauma and Political Attitudes* (with Olga Onuch)

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Looking Back and Moving Forward | Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Jena, 28/05/2024) | final conference of the JENA-CAUC project

- ▶ Sophia Winkler
Historical Past and Contemporary Propaganda in the Global Context | Bard College Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 07–08/06/2024) | presentation *Belonging Between Two Worlds? Social Media and Young Russians' Identity Abroad*

- ▶ Sophia Winkler
Rewriting the History: Changing the Reading of the Past Charles University (Prague, 13–15/06/2024) | presentation *Belonging Between Two Worlds? Social Media and Young Russians' Identity Abroad*

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Armenian-German Day of Science: Achievements and Perspectives of Armenian-German R&I Cooperation German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Yerevan State University (Yerevan, 27–28/06/2024) | presentation *Current Research and Cooperation of ZoIS and the Countries of the South Caucasus*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev, Félix Krawatzek
30th International Conference of Europeanists Council for European Studies (Lyon, 03–05/07/2024)
Ivaylo Dinev | presentation *Historical Processes and Movement Strategies: Tracing the Divergent Paths of the New Left in Southeast Europe*
Félix Krawatzek | presentation *New Russians in the World: Fusion, Social Attitudes and Political Behavior* | presentation *The Shifting Mental Maps of Europe during Refugee Crises, 2015–2022* | presentation *Surveying Ukraine: An Experiment as to Historical Memory* (with George Soroka)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan
14th Annual Conference of the European Political Science Association | European Political Science Association (Köln, 04–06/07/2024) | presentation *Support for Ukraine as a Historical Necessity? A Study of Germany*

- ▶ Claudia Eggart
EASA Barcelona 2024 | European Association of Social Anthropologists (Barcelona, 18–26/07/2024) | organisation of the panel *Locating the Geopolitical: Thinking Anthropologically about Spatialised Power Politics* | presentation *Lived Geopolitics. Re-scaling the Power Politics Involved in the Cross-Border Mobilities of Goods and People*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan
16th ESA Conference 2024 | European Sociological Association (Porto, 27–30/08/2024) | presentation *Convergence and Divergence in the Political Socialisation of Youth in Poland*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Societies on the Move: Migration, Mobility and Displacement in Eastern Europe | University of St. Gallen, University of Zurich, Ukrainian Research in Switzerland (Ascona, 01–06/09/2024) | presentation *Russians in Canada: An Invisible Minority or Simply Part of a Multicultural Mainstream? [Insights Into Attitudes on Politics and Historical Events Based on a Multigenerational Survey]*



Together with former German President Joachim Gauck, the then Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger and historian Emilia Henkel, ZOIS Director Gwendolyn Sasse (2nd from right) participated in a discussion on '35 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall: How crisis-proof is our democracy?' in Leipzig in October. The event was moderated by Anja Heyde.

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
120th APSA Annual Meeting | American Political Science Association (Philadelphia, 05–08/09/2024) | presentation *National-Level Norms and Regional Divides: Populism, Nativism and the Memory of World War II in German State Parliaments* (with Matthias Dilling)

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
PECSRL Conference 2024 | Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape (Lublin-Zamość, 09–13/09/2024) | organisation of the panel *Borderscapes Legacies: Tracing Afterlives of Conflict Demarcation Lines in the Landscape* (with Mela Žuljević)

- ▶ Sophia Winkler
ECREA Pre-Conference 2024: The Informational Influence of Autocracies Abroad | European Communication Research and Education Association (Ljubljana, 23/09/2024) | presentation *Online Lives Between Russia and Germany: Transnational Scrolling and Spaces of Belonging*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
4th Vienna Anthropology Days 2024 | University of Vienna (Vienna, 23–25/09/2024) | presentation *Everyday Migrant Activism Meets Activism Across the Life Course: Insights from 10+ Years of Research with (Everyday) Migrant Activists* | organisation of the panel *More-than-text, less-than-? Reflections on Multimodality in Mobility and Migration Studies*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Politik in der Polykrise: 29. Wissenschaftlicher Kongress der Deutschen Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft | University of Göttingen (Göttingen, 24–27/09/2024) | presentation *Different Memory Traditions and Radical Right Language Use Below the Subnational Level. Evidence from Germany's State Parliamentary Speeches* (with Matthias Dilling)

- ▶ **Congress of Central and East European Studies (ceecon24)**
German Association for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 07–08/10/2024)
Tsypylma Darieva | presentation *Diasporic Mobilization in the Time of Crises: Perspectives of Russian Migrants' Activism in Georgia* | chair of the panel *Migration to and from the South Caucasus* | chair of the panel *Religious Belonging in Georgia's Religious Revival*
Ivaylo Dinev | presentation *When Do Protests Succeed? First Evidence from Protest Waves in Eastern Europe Dataset*
Tatiana Golova | presentation *Russian vs. Russian: Diasporization Projects by Anti-War vs. Pro-Kremlin Migrant Activists in Germany* (with Liliia Sablina)
Sabine von Löwis | presentation *Bazaars as Entangled Spaces between Market Liberalisation and European Integration: Insights from the Piața Centrală in Chișinău*
Hakob Matevosyan | presentation *History and Intergenerational Agreement on Politics in Germany*
Irina Mützelburg | chair of the panel *Self-Positionings Between Past, Present and Future in Moldova and Ukraine*
Gwendolyn Sasse | discussant at the panel *War in Ukraine: Socioeconomic Implications*
Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan, Sophia Winkler | presentation *Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU)*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova, Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan
Aleksanteri Conference 2024 | University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute (Helsinki, 23–25/10/2024)
Tatiana Golova | presentation *Reframing the Past: Memory Contestation among Post-Soviet Migrants amid the Full-scale Invasion of Ukraine* (with Liliia Sablina)
Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan | presentation *Support for Ukraine as a Historical Necessity? Experimental Evidence from Germany*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan
Social Changes in Post-Communist Eastern Europe
University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (Sofia, 24–25/10/2024) | presentation *Convergence and Divergence in the Political Socialisation of Youth in Poland*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
The Role of Media Trust in Integration | Cultura Foundation (Helsinki, 29/10/2024) | presentation *Russian-Speakers in Germany and Finland: A Comparative Perspective*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
(In)visible Networks: Reconfiguration of the Russian Civil Society and Journalism in Uncertain Times | Södertörn University, Center for Independent Social Research Berlin, University of Helsinki, Tampere University (Turkey, 07–11/11/2024) | presentation *Intergenerational Dynamics Among Russian-Speaking Activists in Germany: Migration Trajectories and Political Practices* (with Galina Selivanova)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
New Russian Exodus and Host Societies: Impacts and Responses | Yerevan State University (Yerevan, 15/11/2024) | presentation *Russian Immigrants in Turkey: A Deviant Case in Migration Studies?* (with Ayşem Biriz Karaçay and Nermin Aydemir)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Stiftungskonferenz 'Wissenschaftsfreiheit international und national' | Max Weber Foundation (Berlin, 20/11/2024) | discussant at the panel *Wissenschaftsfreiheit in Osteuropa*

- ▶ Irina Busygina, Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan
ASEEES Annual Convention 2024 | Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (Boston, 21–24/11/2024)
Irina Busygina | presentation *The Sources of Territorial Resilience in Putin's Russia* | roundtable *Domestic Origins of International Assault: Russia against Ukraine*
Félix Krawatzek | presentation *History and Intergenerational Agreement on Politics in Germany* | presentation *United with the Group? Identification of Russian Migrants and Their Political Attitudes and Behaviour*
Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan | presentation *Support for Ukraine as a Historical Necessity?: A Study of Germany* | presentation *Explaining Parental Homeland Attachment among the Second Generation in Canada: Russians in Context* | organisation of the panel *Belonging in Flux: Homeland Attachment, Perceptions of Belonging, and Historical Legacies in Russian Diasporas*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
IASGP 2024 Annual Conference | International Association for the Study of German Politics (Darmstadt, 12–13/12/2024) | presentation *Protest, Ideology, and Value Infusion: Insights into Far-Right Party Institutionalization from a New Dataset on AfD Party Congress Speeches* (with Matthias Dilling)

- ▶ Nadjia Douglas, Gwendolyn Sasse
Multilateral Perspectives on the War in Ukraine
Centre Marc Bloch (Berlin, 13/12/2024)
Nadjia Douglas | presentation *Security Perceptions at the Border Triangle(s) between Poland and Lithuania*
Gwendolyn Sasse | co-organisation, chair and discussant at the panel *Multilateral Diplomacy at Work*

Workshops

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Memory Politics and the Russo-Ukrainian War | Central European University (Vienna, 08–09/02/2024) | presentation *Ukrainian Memory Diplomacy and Memory Activism in the EU Countries during the Russo-Ukrainian War*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
U-CORE Internal Seminar for Interviewers | Centre for Urban History (online, 27/02/2024) | as part of the project *U-CORE: Researching the Collecting, Preserving, Analysing and Disclosing of Ukrainian Testimonies of the War* | presentation of the ZOIS project *Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Postsowjetische Lebenswelten in Deutschland | Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Steinbach, 01–02/03/2025) | expert workshop on networking and target group identification among post-Soviet migrants in Germany

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Exploring Affects and Emotions in Current Spatially Related Research: Established Methods and New Approaches | Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Leipzig, 20–21/03/2024) | presentation *Exploring Mental Mapping as a Method to Capture Emotions of Displacement and Flight of Ukrainian Refugees*

- ▶ Lena Pieber
Fourth Emerging Scholars Workshop on De Facto States
University of Tartu, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies (online, 11–12/04/2024) | presentation *Wirtschaftliche Handlungsfähigkeit im Kontext von De-facto-Staatlichkeit*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
The Relationship between the Left and Democratic Trajectories In East-Central Europe | Coventry University (online, 24/04/2024) | presentation *The Future of Politics: Protest Democracy*

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Fragen der Realisierung der staatlichen Nationalitätenpolitik in der Republik Kasachstan | Institute for Philosophy, Political Science and Religious Studies KN MNVO RK (Almaty, 10/05/2024) | presentation *The Situation of Ethnic Groups in Almaty in 2019 and 2024 – Comparative Analysis of Opinion Polls*

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Memory Laws and Politics of History in Russia and Ukraine | European University Institute, MEMOCRACY (Florence, 30/05/2024) | discussant at the panel *Politics of History in Russia, Ukraine and Beyond* | Presentation *'Tomorrow was War': Ukraine's Decommunisation Laws of 2015 in Light of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion*

 - ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Protest Legacies in Non-Democratic Regimes | Indiana University Europe Gateway, Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 30–31/05/2024) | discussant at the roundtable *Setting a Research Agenda for Studying Protest Legacies*

 - ▶ Beate Eschment
Pro-Russian, or Not Quite? Local Agency and Moscow Patronage in Political Movements and Russian-Speaking Milieus in the Post-Soviet Space from 1991 until Today | Imre Kertesz Kolleg (Jena, 31/5/2024) | chair and discussant at the panel *Milieus, Sentiment, Discourse: (Pro)Russianness as a Minority Position*

 - ▶ Valentin Krüsmann
Connectivity in the Eastern Neighborhood of the EU | German Council on Foreign Relations, Georgian Institute of Politics (Tbilisi, 01–03/07/2024) | presentation *Chinese Construction Contractors in Georgia: European Funding, Strategic Interests, and Policy Concerns*

 - ▶ Sabine von Löwis
The Use of Mental Mapping in Research on Refugeehood | University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute (online, 10/07/2024) | presentation *Narratives and Mental Mapping of Displaced Ukrainians*

 - ▶ Sabine von Löwis, Diana Bogishvili
Rethinking Forced Migration Relationally: Agency, Liminality, and Migration Regimes | Université de Neuchâtel (Neuchâtel, 12–13/09/2024) | presentation *Varieties of Liminality of Refugees from Ukraine*

 - ▶ Irina Busygina
Russia after Putin | Harriman Institute, Columbia University (New York, 27/09/2024) | presentation *Regional Political Elites: Incentives after Putin's Departure*

 - ▶ Julia Langbein
Refugee Entrepreneurship in the EU: Sparking Grass-roots Innovation, Civic Empowerment and Transnational Connectivity by the Ukrainian Refugee Communities | University of Greifswald (online, 27/09/2024) | discussant at the panel *The Economic Dimension of Refugee Entrepreneurship*

 - ▶ Julia Langbein
The Transformation of Global Order and China-EU Relations | SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence, Freie Universität Berlin, Fudan University (Shanghai, 06–10/10/2024) | presentation *Is the BRI a China-Centered Initiative?*

 - ▶ Sophia Winkler
Overcoming the Divides? Towards Global Inclusivity in Communication Studies in Times of Uncertainty | German Communication Association (Salzburg, 14–15/11/2024) | presentation *Belonging Between Two Worlds? Social Media and Young Russians' Identity Abroad*

 - ▶ Kostiantyn Fedorenko
Ukrainian Un/certainties: Mobilities, Memories and Representations in Times of War | Forum Transregionale Studien, Prisma Ukraina (Berlin, 14–15/11/2024) | presentation *Former 'Euromaidan' Activists Abroad: Causes of Emigration and Transnational Activism*

 - ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
Digital Humanities and Visualisation Methods in Peace and Conflict Research | Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Centre for East European and International Studies (Leipzig, 04–06/12/2024) | as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop* | panel *Data Training: How to use Stata?*

- Other events**
- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Buddhist Patriotism in Russia | Nazarbayev University (Astana, 25/01/2024) | organisation and chair of the lecture series (with Nikolay Tsyrempilov) | as part of the *Working Group on Lived Religion in Eastern Europe and Eurasia* in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

 - ▶ Beate Eschment
EU-Central Asia Policy and Connectivity | expert discussion | German Council on Foreign Relations (Berlin, 14/02/2024)

 - ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Munich Security Conference | Munich Security Conference Foundation (Munich, 16–18/02/2024) | discussant at the book talk *Russia's War Against Ukraine* | discussant at the panel *A Conversation on Europe at War*

 - ▶ Nina Frieß
Frauen in der deutschen Wissenschaft | expert talk | German Embassy Minsk (Minsk, 14/03/2024)

 - ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Diaspora Dialogues | symposium | Harvard University, Davis Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies (Cambridge, 25/03/2024) | presentation *Political Migration from Russia* | discussant at *Roundtable C*

 - ▶ Piotr Goldstein
Spółdzielnia/Cooperative | film screening and discussion | Ethnografilm Festival 2024 (Paris, 28–31/03/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Ukraine | diplomats' training course | German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin, 30/04/2024)

- ▶ Julia Langbein
Integrating Ukraine's Recovery and EU Accession in the Midst of War | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin, 06/05/2024) | expert discussion as part of the *Sounding Board of Experts on Recovery and Reconstruction of Ukraine*

- ▶ Julia Langbein
Das Potenzial russischer Frauen für politische/soziale Veränderung in Russland | German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin University Alliance (Berlin, 13/05/2024) | organisation of the 4th workshop of the working group *Russlands Angriffskrieg gegen die Ukraine* as part of the Excellence² knowledge exchange programme between the German Federal Foreign Office and the Berlin University Alliance

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
10th International European Forum 'Europe with a View to the Future' | European Solidarity Center (Gdansk, 03–04/06/2024) | discussant at the roundtable *Zeitenwende: The Challenges of a New European Policy*

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Landesanalyse Kirgisistan | Academy for International Cooperation (Bonn, 05–07/06/2024) | counselling for an employee's assignment in Bishkek

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Research and Higher Education in Central Asia and the Caucasus | symposium | Volkswagen Foundation (Hanover, 10–12/06/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Ukraine Recovery Conference | chair of the panel *Resilient Municipalities – Strong Local Self-Government for Ukraine's Recovery* with Svenja Schulze and others (Berlin, 11–12/06/2024)

- ▶ Sophia Winkler
Polcomm Kolloquium | University of Passau (Passau, 18/06/2024) | paper *Between Two Worlds? Transnational Scrolling and Spaces of Belonging*

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
Bridging the 'Definitional Divide': State-diaspora Relations in Central and Eastern Europe | research seminar | University of Warsaw, Deutsches Polen-Institut (Warsaw, 27/06/2024) | presentation *After 1993: A Catalyst for Understanding the Armenian Diaspora in Hungary as a Social Field*

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
Global Armenian Summit | Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (Yerevan, 17–20/09/2024) | discussant at the panel *Language & Identity in the Diaspora*

- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Formen des Aktivismus in einer demokratischen Gesellschaft | seminar | Bundesverband russischsprachiger Eltern e.V. (Berlin, 20/09/2024) | as part of the workshop *Partizipationsräume gestalten* for Russian-speaking multipliers in political education

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Munich Security Conference: Zeitenwende on Tour | discussant at the townhall event (Frankfurt/Oder, 10/10/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Reclaiming Europe – Kick-off Young Network TransEurope | network meeting | Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, European Solidarity Center (Gdansk, 13–15/10/2024) | input for the working group *Ideas for Reclaiming Europe – Democracy*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russia's War against Ukraine and Its Implications for the Territorial Stability in Russia | seminar | Malmö University (Malmö, 15/10/2024)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
War in Ukraine: Destruction of Heritage – Mastering Legacy | European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Centre for East European and International Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 21/10/2024–10/02/2025) | co-organisation and chair of the *KIU Lecture Series*

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Landesanalyse Kasachstan | Academy for International Cooperation (online, 27–30/10/2024) | counselling for an employee's assignment in Astana

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Regional and Ethnic Perspectives on Russia | seminar | Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington D.C., 19/11/2024) | presentation *Personnel Changes in Russia: Regional Perspective*

- ▶ Ivalyo Dinev
How Can You Explain the Political Instability in Bulgaria? What New Political Cleavages Are in Birth? | Centre d'Etude de la Vie Politique, Centre for East European and International Studies, Centre for the Study of Political Parties and Representation, New Bulgarian University (online, 20/11/2024) | webinar as part of the BMBF-funded competence network *KonKoop*

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Partnership Forum Germany – Central Asia | Stiftung West-Östliche Begegnungen (Berlin, 25–27/11/2024) | discussant at the panel *Current Civil Society Cooperation between Germany and Central Asia*
- ▶ Tatiana Golova
Zivilgesellschaft in Russland im Kontext des russischen Kriegs gegen die Ukraine | Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Berlin, 2024) | academic consulting for a podcast series

Briefings

- ▶ In 2024, ZOIS researchers participated in briefings and expert discussions in the political sphere, including at the German Bundestag, the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German Federal Ministry of Defence, the Bundeswehr, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the European Commission, the British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Berlin, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the Embassy of the Netherlands in Astana, and the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Advisory and Executive Boards

Tsypylma Darieva

- ▶ Member of the Academic Advisory Board of the project *Resilience in the South Caucasus: prospects and challenges of a new EU foreign policy concept (Jena-Cauc)*

Piotr Goldstein

- ▶ Convenor of the Anthropology and Social Movements Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists. Since September 2024, member of the Convening Collective.

Julia Langbein

- ▶ Member of the Sounding Board of Experts on Ukraine's Reconstruction and Recovery (initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

Gwendolyn Sasse

- ▶ Member of the Foundation Board of the German Foundation of Peace Research
- ▶ Nonresident Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe
- ▶ Vice President of the Executive Board of the German Association for East European Studies (DGO)

- ▶ Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz ScienceCampus 'Eastern Europe – GlobalArea'
- ▶ Member of the Advisory Board of the Ukrainian Research Network in Switzerland (URIS), University of Basel
- ▶ Member of the Advisory Board of the Berlin Wall Foundation
- ▶ Member of the Sounding Board of Experts on Ukraine's Reconstruction and Recovery (initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
- ▶ Co-coordinator of the working group *Russia/Eastern Europe* as part of the Berlin University Alliance
- ▶ Member of the strategy group *International Engagement – Europe* as part of the Berlin University Alliance

Tatiana Zhurzhenko

- ▶ Member of the Advisory Board of the University of New Europe (UNE) book series *New Europes*
- ▶ Member of the Academic Council of the project *Świadectwa wojny* at the Centre for Urban History of East Central Europe

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