

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword

Dear Friends of ZOiS,

2025 seemed to pass very rapidly, a perception which reflected the – sometimes breathless – pace of developments within politics and society, shaping ZOiS's research agenda and daily routine. With news and opinions coming thick and fast, the academic and social policy relevance of our work is becoming increasingly clear. There is an urgent need for analyses that are based on long years of research and on the collection and evaluation of empirical data from current conflict and crisis settings. At the same time, the



challenges, both practical and ethical, in a world marked by war, authoritarianism and transnational repression are growing. These developments and their implications for our research must be communicated beyond academic circles as well.

In addition to an impressive and diverse array of academic publications and a broad range of research communication activities by ZOiS in 2025, Valentin Krüsmann, Sebastian Hoppe and Kostiantyn Fedorenko completed their doctoral studies with flying colours – a real highlight for our Institute last year. And as part of our efforts to support young researchers, we were delighted to continue our training programme in research communication, with Angelika Markowska joining the team in 2025.

Other notable successes in 2025 included the extension of the DFG-funded SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence, in which ZOiS plays an important and visible role, for a further seven years, and the approval of a two-year extension for the *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (KonKoop)* project, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), coordinated by ZOiS and delivered in partnership with five other research institutions.

At the end of the year, we hosted a strategy meeting, funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research, which created new synergies for ZOiS through our networking with institutions and academics in the field of peace and conflict research. We were also very active in Berlin's research landscape in 2025, notably through Berlin Research 50 (BR50), a network of non-university research institutions in Berlin.

October 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of ZOiS's founding. We see this as an opportunity for an entire year of reflection, discussion and celebration, starting this autumn.

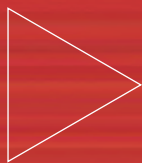
We are most grateful for your continued interest in our work.

With best wishes,

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. It 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, adapted or newly established. Yet, our goal is to carry out comprehensive research on the various political, economic and security-related implications of the war against Ukraine.

At the same time, democracy is coming under increasing pressure in our research region and elsewhere. The rise of authoritarian tendencies across the globe is curtailing fundamental freedoms, a trend reflected not least in attacks on academic freedom. ZOiS has taken a firm stance against this. We will continue to conduct methodologically and ethically sound research and communicate our findings to the public.

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 im-

portant 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

SENIOR RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCHERS

- ▶ **Prof. Irina Busygina**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva**
Social Anthropologist
Head of Research Cluster *Migration and Diversity*
- ▶ **Dr Iyaylo Dinev**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Nadja Douglas**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Beate Eschment**
Central Asia Expert
- ▶ **Kostiantyn Fedorenko**
Social Scientist
(from 01/10/2025 Research Affiliate)
- ▶ **Dr Nina Frieß**
Slavist
- ▶ **Dr Piotr Goldstein**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Sebastian Hoppe**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Félix Krawatzek**
Political Scientist
Head of Research Cluster *Youth and Generational Change*
- ▶ **Dr 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
(from 01/07/2025 Research Affiliate)
- ▶ **Lena Pieber**
Political Scientist

- ▶ **Sophia Winkler**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Tatiana Zhurzhenko**
Political Scientist

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT / ACADEMIC COORDINATION

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

COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ **Dr Stefanie Orphal**
Communications Director
Press
- ▶ **Dr Anne Boden**
English-Language Publications
Editor
- ▶ **Iaroslav Boretskii**
Infographic-Designer *KonKoop*
- ▶ **Hannah Guhlmann**
Communications Manager
Social Media
- ▶ **Anja Krüger**
Communications Manager
Event Management
- ▶ **Angelika Markowska**
Trainee
- ▶ **Belinda Nüssel**
Communications Manager *KIU*
- ▶ **Yvonne Troll**
Communications Manager
Editorial

ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ **Karin Casanova**
Head of Administration
- ▶ **Adrian Fiedler**
Finances
- ▶ **Diana Förster**
Personnel Administrator
- ▶ **Emily Kleine**
Recruiting / Assistant
to the Directors
- ▶ **Frauke Neumann**
Administrator

EDITORIAL OFFICE ZENTRAL- ASIEN-ANALYSEN

- ▶ **Richard Schmidt**
Editor

VISITING RESEARCHERS

- ▶ **Yulia Abibok** (UNET)
- ▶ **Prof. Ekaterina Bataeva** (KIU)
- ▶ **Dr Olena Bogdan** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Vicente Ferraro**
(Getulio-Vargas-Stiftung)
- ▶ **Dr Oleksandra Keudel** (UNET)
- ▶ **Oleksandra Kokhan** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Inga Kozlova** (KIU)
- ▶ **Nataliia Lomonosova** (UNET)
- ▶ **Tetiana Lukeria** (UNET)
- ▶ **Prof. Oksana Mikheieva** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Liana Moskalyk** (KIU)
- ▶ **Dr Nataliia Otrishchenko**
(UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Gaëlle Le Pavic**
(KIU, German Research
Foundation)
- ▶ **Dr Maryna Rabinovych** (UNET)
- ▶ **Michela Romano**
(National Recovery and
Resilience Plan Italy)
- ▶ **Prof. Hanna Shvindina** (UNET)

- ▶ **Dr Olena Strelnyk** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Natalia Tsybuliak** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Volodymyr Vakhitov** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Daria Yashkina** (UNET)

RESEARCH AFFILIATES

- ▶ **Dr Leandra Bias**
- ▶ **Dr Diana Bogishvili**
- ▶ **Dr Claudia Eggart**
- ▶ **Prof. Regina Elsner**
- ▶ **Dr Tatiana Golova**
- ▶ **Veronika Pfeilschifter**
- ▶ **Alexandra Prokopenko**

RESEARCH AND STUDENT ASSISTANTS

- ▶ **Laura Ackermann**
- ▶ **Marie Charlott Aust**
- ▶ **Noah Harris**
- ▶ **Linda Hofmann**
- ▶ **Felix Jehn**
- ▶ **Yuliia Karpenko**
- ▶ **Ali Kuzey Keles**
- ▶ **Alice Lackner**
- ▶ **Domas Lavrukaitis**
- ▶ **Alexis Liston**
- ▶ **Niklas Mariotte**
- ▶ **Julia Seeling**
- ▶ **Lasse Steinmayer**
- ▶ **Ronan Thiel**
- ▶ **Tim Wenzel**
- ▶ **Paul Wernig**
- ▶ **Philipp Wintermeyer**
- ▶ **Anastasiia Yuzyk**
- ▶ **Stella Alison Zilz**

INTERNS

- ▶ **Stella Alison Zilz**

Visiting Researchers

In 2025, ZOiS once again hosted visiting researchers from various regions and disciplines and at different career levels. Two networks in particular strengthen exchange activities relating to Ukraine. The Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET), funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, offers fellowships for Ukrainian researchers

at ZOiS and on the ground in Ukraine. ZOiS is also part of the Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU), which is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service. Four KIU fellows were affiliated with ZOiS as visiting researchers in 2025.

► **Yulia Abibok**

Independent researcher and journalist
1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Local and Displaced in Ukraine from 2014 to 2025: Patterns of (Mutual?) Exclusion and Inclusion

Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

► **Prof. Ekaterina Bataeva**

Open International University of Human Development 'Ukraine', Kyiv
1 October 2024 to 30 June 2025

Network: Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service

Project: Higher Education in a Frontline City: Institutional, Organisational and Personal Peculiarities of Educating during the Russian-Ukrainian War

Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

► **Dr Olena Bogdan**

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv
1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Orthodox Churches in Ukraine: Conflict Lines and State Policy Trajectories

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Regina Elsner

► **Dr Vicente Ferraro**

Getulio Vargas Foundation, São Paulo
27 January to 30 April 2025

Funding: São Paulo Research Foundation

Project: Education Professionals in Ukrainian Regions Occupied by Russia

Research cluster: Societies between Stability and Change

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Dr Oleksandra Keudel**

Kyiv School of Economics
1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Governing Diversity in Polycentric Political Systems: The Case of Ukraine before and during the Russian Full-Scale Invasion

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Oleksandra Kokhan**

1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Elderly Women's Experiences of the Russo-Ukrainian War

Mentors at ZOiS: PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva and Dr Olena Strelnyk (UNET Alumna)

► **Dr Inga Kozlova**

Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv
1 October 2024 to 30 June 2025

Network: Competence Network Interdisciplinary
Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service

Project: Work after the Frontline: Veterans
Coming Back Home

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Kerstin Bischl

► **Nataliia Lomonosova**

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology
and Space

Project: The Situation of Ukrainian Women Working
in Care Professions

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Irina Mützelburg

► **Tetiana Lukeria**

Kyiv School of Economics and National University
of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology
and Space

Project: Decentralisation and Social Cohesion
in Ukraine

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Dr Liana Moskalyk**

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
1 October to 31 December 2025

Network: Competence Network Interdisciplinary
Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service

Project: Techno-Political Approaches for Ukraine's
Economic Recovery and European Integration in
Times of Crisis

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Julia Langbein

► **Dr Nataliia Otrishchenko**

Center for Urban History of East Central Europe, Lviv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology
and Space

Project: Gaining Epistemic Authority: Ukrainian
Scholars in Global Academia

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Dr Gaëlle Le Pavic**

Ghent University
1 May to 31 July 2025 (KIU), 1 September to
30 November 2025 (German Research Foundation)

Network: Competence Network Interdisciplinary
Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)

Funding: German Academic Exchange Service,
Walter Benjamin Programme of the German
Research Foundation

Project: Displacement from Ukraine since 2022
and the Case of Transnistria

Mentor at ZOiS: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

► **Dr Maryna Rabinovych**

Kyiv School of Economics
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology
and Space

Project: Discourses on the West and Western Military
Support for Ukraine among Various Ukrainian Actors

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Julia Langbein

► **Michela Romano**

University of Bologna
5 May to 1 August 2025

Funding: National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Italy

Project: Contemporary Russian and Russophone
Dissident Literatures with a Focus on Migrant
Writers in the City of Berlin

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Nina Frieß



► **Prof. Hanna Shvindina**

American University Kyiv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Female Leadership in Times of Crisis

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Félix Krawatzek

► **Dr Olena Strelnyk**

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Family Care for the Elderly in a War-Torn Ukraine

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Leandra Bias

► **Dr Natalia Tsybuliak**

Berdiansk State Pedagogical University
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Mental Health of Ukrainian Academic Staff during Wartime

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Hakob Matevosyan

► **Dr Volodymyr Vakhitov**

American University Kyiv
1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Effect of Social Cohesion on Integration Efforts and Job Aspirations of Ukrainian Refugees in Germany

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Julia Langbein

► **Dr Daria Yashkina**

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: How Universities and Research Institutes Deal with Human Capital (Case Study Kharkiv)

Mentor at ZOiS: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

► **Dr Kateryna Zarembo**

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
1 October 2024 to 1 March 2025

Network: Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Funding: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Project: Whole-of-Society Defence in Ukraine from the Perspective of Academics-Turned-Military

Mentor at ZOiS: Dr Stefanie Orphal

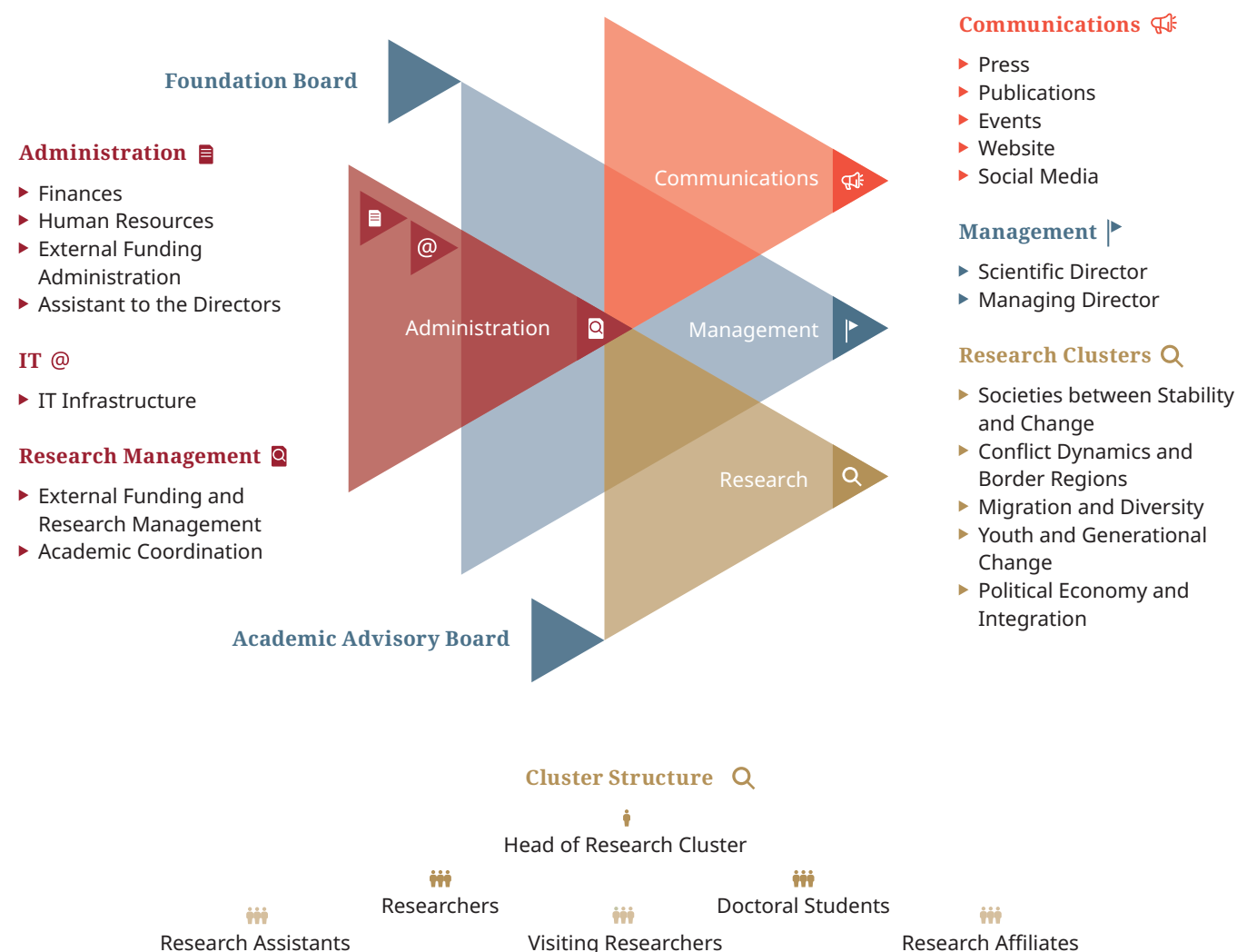
Structure and Finances

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, convenes at least once a year and is continuously involved in

conceptual development processes, events, publications and the further expansion of the institute's network. In 2025, most of the founding members of the Academic Advisory Board reached the end of their second four-year term and thus stepped down in accordance with the statutes. This meant that many new members of the Advisory Board were also appointed that year.

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. Luca Anceschi** (Deputy Chair from April 2025)
University of Glasgow
- ▶ **Prof. Margarita M. Balmaceda** (until March 2025)
Seton Hall University
- ▶ **Prof. Timm Beichelt** (Chair, until March 2025)
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
- ▶ **Prof. Mark Beissinger** (until March 2025)
Princeton University
- ▶ **Prof. Katharina Bluhm** (until March 2025)
Freie Universität Berlin
- ▶ **Dr Dace Dzenovska** (from April 2025)
Oxford University
- ▶ **Prof. Grzegorz Ekiert** (from April 2025)
Harvard University
- ▶ **Prof. Susanne Frank** (from April 2025)
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- ▶ **Ivan Krastev** (until March 2025)
Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia
- ▶ **Prof. Sabine Kropp** (from April 2025)
Freie Universität Berlin
- ▶ **Prof. Jan Kusber** (from April 2025, Ombudsman for
Good Research Practice since November 2025)
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
- ▶ **Prof. Sebastian Lentz** (until March 2025)
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig
- ▶ **Prof. Mikhail Minakov** (Deputy Chair,
until March 2025)
Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson
International Center for Scholars

- ▶ **Prof. Catherine Poujol** (until March 2025)
National Institute of Oriental Languages and
Civilisations (INALCO), Paris
- ▶ **Prof. Ulrich Schmid** (Chair from April 2025)
University of St.Gallen
- ▶ **Prof. Silvia von Steinsdorff** (until March 2025)
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- ▶ **Dr Lika Tsuladze** (from April 2025)
Centre for Social Sciences, Tbilisi

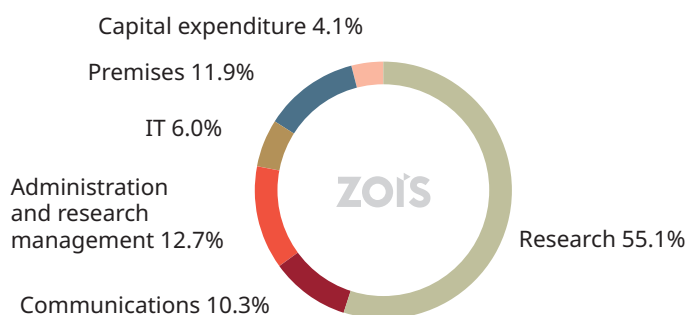
Members of the Foundation Board

- ▶ **Prof. Günter Stock**
Chair
- ▶ **Michael Scharfschwerdt** (Deputy Chair,
until May 2025)
German Federal Foreign Office
- ▶ **Dr Oliver Linz** (Deputy Chair, from May 2025)
German Federal Foreign Office
- ▶ **Angela Ganninger** (until June 2025)
German Chancellery
- ▶ **Maria Adebahr** (from July 2025)
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

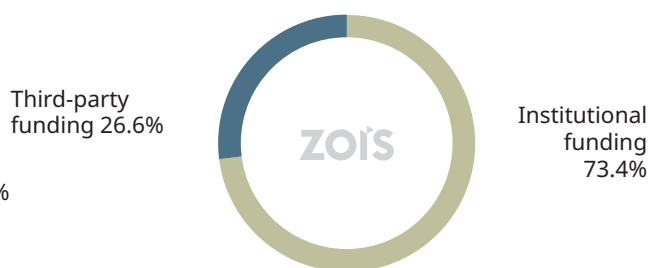
ZOiS's total funding for the year 2025 amounted to EUR 4,483,600. In addition to institutional funding, ZOIS secures project-related third-party funding through research-led competitive grants. The third-party funding providers in 2025 were the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Com-

munist Dictatorship in Germany, the German Research Foundation, the German Foundation for Peace Research, the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, the German Academic Exchange Service, and the European Research Council.

Distribution of ZOIS funds



Ratio of institutional funding to third-party funding at ZOIS



Topics That Concern Us

ZOiS is not only engaged in research – we also address cross-cutting issues of relevance to the working practices of the Institute as a whole. In 2025, the main focus was on the ethical principles guiding our research, the prevention and handling of abuse of scholars, and opportunities for sustainability in the context of a research institute.

Research ethics

Ethical principles are an integral element of research practice at ZOiS. Compliance with these principles serves to protect the rights and wellbeing of participants and preserves our academic integrity. These principles apply in all phases of the research process: from the design of our research to data collection and analysis, up to and including the utilisation of the findings. ZOiS adheres to the Code of Conduct adopted by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In order to guarantee the continuous implementation of this voluntary commitment, an Ethics Commission at ZOiS regularly reviews our research projects.

Furthermore, in 2025, the ZOiS Ethics Commission, together with research affiliate Veronika Pfeilschifter, organised a workshop on decolonial discourses and ethical issues in international research collaborations. The aim was to cluster critical reflections and experiences of structural hierarchies and inequalities arising in the research context and engage junior researchers on these topics. With a focus on inequality between EU and non-EU countries, the following key questions were explored: Under which conditions do unequal positionalities emerge in Eastern Europe? In which phases of research does ‘academic orientalism’ arise with particular frequency, and what might be a fair response by scholars? Good participatory practice in all phases of the research process was foregrounded here.

Awareness of abuse of academics

Part of ZOiS’s mission is to share its expertise and research findings with the public. Increasingly often, however – particularly in the online space – the criticism goes beyond the content of the research and directly targets the researchers themselves. This kind of abuse is particularly prevalent when scholars speak out on socially relevant and topical issues, such as Russia’s war against Ukraine.

ZOiS has been working for some years on sharpening awareness of the abuse to which academics are exposed and providing backing for its own team on this issue. In 2023, ZOiS therefore established a contact point for its research staff, which is responsible for documenting and mobilising support in cases of abuse.

As a contribution to prevention, various workshops on this issue were held in 2025, including an internal workshop with Scicomm-Support, the national contact point that provides advice in cases of abuse and unobjective conflicts in science communication. Within the framework of Berlin Research 50, a network of non-university research institutions in Berlin, and together with Berlin’s State Office of Criminal Investigation (LKA) and Scicomm-Support, ZOiS shared its knowledge and recommendations with other institutions.

Sustainability

Sustainability is often thought about primarily in relation to the environment; on the face of it, the linkage to a social science research institute would seem rather abstract. The carbon footprint left by our research, for example, is likely to be smaller than in tech-intensive disciplines. However, if we take a broader view and include social and economic aspects as well, the relevance of sustainability to the social sciences becomes more apparent. For example, at ZOiS, ethical issues play a key role in the design of our research and in our interaction with cooperating partners, particularly those working in our research regions.

First on the agenda in 2025 was a stock-take of sustainability at ZOiS. Staff from the research clusters, administration, communications and IT teams reflected on sustainability in relation to ZOiS’s activities and identified priorities. Mobility came out on top, including ways to cut carbon emissions from business trips by reducing air travel.

Sustainability is not only a topic in the Institute’s working practices, however: it is also visible in the content of its research. For example, the *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (KonKoop)* project (p. 38) investigates climate change-induced conflicts in Central Asia. By sharing the resulting knowledge with the public, ZOiS helps to raise awareness of the impacts of human activities.

Equality and Diversity

ZOiS is firmly committed to equal opportunities for every person at the Institute and to establishing a work culture that values and respects diversity. In 2025, the topic gained even more attention thanks to the Institute's first Gender Equality Officer, elected the year before.

Statistics rarely tell the whole story – but they are certainly worth mentioning in some cases. Although the proportion of women is increasing, the research community in Germany and elsewhere is often still male-dominated. But not at ZOIS: 73 per cent of its employees are women, while the figure for leadership roles is 86 per cent.

Real equality of opportunity consists of more than just a high percentage of female employees, however. It is also about valuing the differences that characterise us as individuals. And it means recognising diversity in relation to lifestyle, nationality, ethnic and social background, religion/worldview, physical abilities, age, and sexual orientation and identity.

Workshop: Promoting equal opportunities

Since 2024, ZOIS's first Gender Equality Officer Kerstin Bischl has been addressing these topics both within the Institute and beyond. Together with Berlin-based coaching agency Scienza, she organised a workshop in March 2025 where the ZOIS team explored strategies for the structural embedding of diversity within the Institute. Who belongs? Who or what is perceived as 'normal'? Who can participate, have a say in decision-making, co-create? It is only through sensitisation to the characteristics of diversity that prejudices can be identified and discrimination dismantled.

Further training for ZOIS staff

ZOIS also provides a budget for individual measures to promote equality and anti-discrimination. This includes further training on issues such as empowerment, awareness, career advancement for members of structurally disadvantaged groups, work/life balance, and mental health. Kerstin Bischl provides advice to ZOIS employees who are interested in this type of training and assists them to access opportunities as required.



ZOIS uses gender-inclusive language to ensure equality and the recognition of diversity.

The BR50 Interest Group 'Gender Equality'

Kerstin Bischl is also a member of the Interest Group 'Gender Equality' set up by Berlin Research 50 (BR50), a network of non-university research institutions in Berlin. The Interest Group sees itself as a forum for mutual advice and support for women's and equal opportunities officers from the BR50 institutions and organises cross-institutional activities.

Academic housekeeping

In 2025 and 2026, the Interest Group is focusing on the topic of academic housekeeping. This refers to the time-consuming, often invisible administrative and organisational work arising in the academic context – work that is indispensable but rarely contributes to career development. It ranges from minute-taking and coffee-making for workshops to the planning of institutes' social activities, membership of low-prestige committees, voluntary roles as contact persons for so-called special interests, or other (academic) mentoring tasks. Women perform this work far more often than men but the benefit they derive from it is symbolic at best. The aim, therefore, is to raise awareness in the BR institutions and develop strategies showing how this additional burden can be appropriately recognised.

Cooperation Beyond Academia

Cooperation with actors beyond academia is important for ZOiS for many reasons, allowing us to access key target groups, increase expertise on Eastern Europe, support young professionals beyond purely academic circles, and generate synergies with other institutions and actors in Germany and abroad.

ZOiS Caucasus Network

The ZOiS Caucasus Network connects experts from academia, politics and civil society with an interest in the Caucasus region. It is headed by social anthropologist Tsypylma Darieva and political scientist Nadja Douglas, with support from student assistants Paul Wernig and Yuliia Karpenko. In 2025, the network focused on two highly topical developments in the region. Attention turned first to Armenia: the ambivalent positions within Armenian foreign policy and society towards plans for EU accession were the theme of an international panel discussion. A workshop organised in cooperation with Friedrich Schiller University Jena then explored geopolitical shifts and new regional power and security structures. Key topics at a public round table discussion included the role of the EU and Germany in regional development, as well as infrastructure projects and civil society.

Life in Dictatorships

Since autumn 2021, the Friends of the Berlin Wall Memorial, in cooperation with ZOiS, the Association for the Promotion of the Marienfelde Refugee Center Memorial and the Berlin Wall Foundation, have organised around two theme-based evenings per year on *Life in Dictatorships*, which examine societies' every-day experiences with authoritarian structures. Recollections of the GDR are a key starting point for the various panel discussions, which bring together contemporary witnesses, creatives and academics and often link in with exhibitions, films or publications. Many of the events include comparative analyses of aspects of life in the Central and Eastern European countries. Researchers from ZOiS participate regularly in these events: in 2025, for example, political scientist Nadja Douglas from ZOiS took part in the panel discussion on the topical issue *The Beginning of the End – 50 Years of the Helsinki Final Act*.

Berlin Research 50 (BR50)

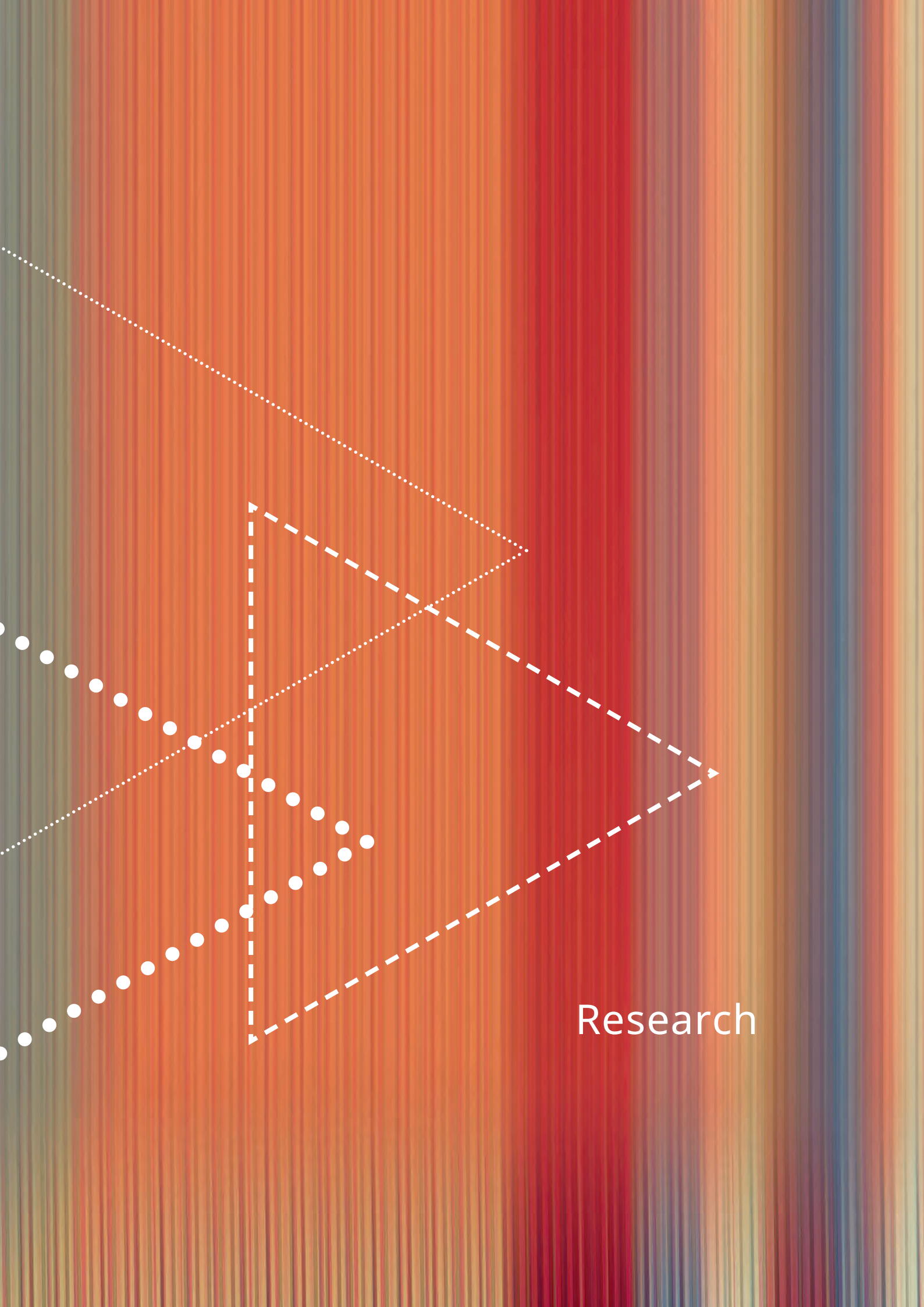
ZOiS is a member of the Berlin Research 50 (BR50) network, an initiative of the capital's non-university research institutions which aims to enhance Berlin's status as an international science centre. BR50 also coordinates joint activities, such as supporting Ukrainian researchers, and is the main contact point for cooperation with the Berlin universities and dialogue with society and policy-makers. The communications departments of the BR50 institutions are also in regular contact with each other. In BR50, ZOiS, together with the Forschungsverbund Berlin, heads the HR Interest Group, where human resource managers from the various institutes regularly exchange notes. In October 2025, ZOiS hosted a discussion on *Academia under Pressure – Strategies for Dealing with Abuse* for senior researchers and managers from the BR50 institutions and the BR50 press departments. Various contact points for handling cases of abuse were introduced during the event. Berlin's State Office of Criminal Investigation (LKA), the national contact point Scicomm-Support and ZOiS gave short inputs outlining their positions and offering insights into their support services.

The Colloquium for Children's Literature (KLK)

The Colloquium for Children's Literature (KLK) is a networking platform for researchers with an interest in Eastern European children's and young adult literature. It is organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) and Karoline Thaidigsmann (Heidelberg University). Since 2020, members have held one meeting per semester to discuss research, collaborate on conferences, publications and other projects, and promote greater integration of children's and young adult literature into research and curricula. In 2025, the colloquium's first meeting explored the topic of ecology in Slavic children's and young adult literature. At their second meeting, members presented new research projects in this field. As one of the outcomes of the colloquium's work, a special issue of *Zeitschrift für Slawistik* (Journal of Slavic Studies) was published in summer 2025. Focusing on imagined communities in children's and young adult literature, the special issue was curated by the colloquium's organisers.

ZOiS in Numbers





Research

East European Studies and Peace and Conflict Research – Towards More Joined-Up Thinking

Gwendolyn Sasse

How are East European studies and peace and conflict research connected? Russia's war against Ukraine has injected fresh momentum into these two fields of research. Social science-based research on Eastern Europe is increasingly focused on conflicts, while peace and conflict researchers are developing more Eastern Europe expertise. Although the urgent issues currently on the agenda have created obvious overlaps and give rise to related research questions, institutions and academics working in these two fields in Germany often still operate independently of each other. This entrenches stereotypical notions of who has the authority to definitively interpret specific local events or issues – or, indeed, the 'bigger picture'.

In practice, scholarly inquiry in both fields – social science-based East European studies, and peace and conflict research – is empirical, theory-driven and builds on case studies and comparative approaches. At an international level, the division between these two diffuse interdisciplinary fields is less marked than in the German research landscape. What's more, many social scientists working on Eastern Europe and conflicts do not identify as part of the East European studies or peace and

conflict research community, but follow the logics and career paths of their own disciplines.

New research approaches in the context of war

A different approach would therefore seem far more productive and timely: scholarship on Eastern Europe that focuses on war can surely be classed as peace and conflict research, and peace and conflict research relating to Eastern Europe qualifies as East European studies. Where the two fields intersect, crucial and far-reaching questions emerge: how can research be conducted in a context of war? Which empirical, methodological and ethical issues arise for research in such circumstances? How can the research itself and its findings be shared with policy-makers, the media and the public in a transparent and responsible manner? Which medium- and long-term research agendas are emerging from Russia's war against Ukraine and in response to the rapidly growing number of conflicts?

Given the wide-ranging implications of Russia's war, not only for Ukraine and Russia itself, but also for Europe and the global order, (self-)critical reflection on these two open-ended, mul-

ti- and interdisciplinary fields of scholarship offers scope to cluster complementary and overlapping research interests and unlocks potential – which has not been systematically utilised to a sufficient extent until now – to develop corresponding research agendas.

Networking and knowledge-sharing at ZOIS

ZOIS sees itself as a research institution that operates at the interface between East European studies and peace and conflict research. In December 2025, in cooperation with the Leibniz Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and the German Foundation for Peace Research, we hosted a strategy meeting at ZOIS, bringing together more than 50 scholars from 26 institutions for an interactive sharing of experience, connection-building and networking.

At the meeting, three thematic areas relating to Russia's war were identified as being particularly promising for a more joined-up approach: 1) linkage between global, regional and local security dynamics; 2) environmental and resource issues as causes and outcomes of war, as well as the methodological challenges arising in related research, and 3) issues around recovery and post-war systems. In research communication, too, there is scope for closer thematic cooperation across institutions and projects: opening up access to and sharing existing communication formats and collaborating on developing new formats can help to introduce more sustainability into the public debate.

- *ZOIS sees itself as a research institution that operates at the interface between East European studies and peace and conflict research.*

Gwendolyn Sasse

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

Russia²

Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2019

Russophone Literatures: Between Politics and Poetics

Dr Nina Frieß | Term: since 2016

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

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

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 *KonKoop* competence network

RESEARCH AFFILIATE'S PROJECTS

The Instrumentalisation of Gender by Russian and Ukrainian Elites: Political Strategies and Their Implications for Feminist Civil Society

Dr Leandra Bias | Term: since 2025

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

The research cluster *Societies between Stability and Change* focuses on tensions between state and society. It includes topics such as political and social mobilisation and the (non-)state discourses that challenge or underpin authoritarian or democratic systems. The overarching question is: Which processes help to stabilise and legitimise systems – and which lead to reforms and change? The three core themes identified in ZOIS's current research plan run through the projects within this research cluster: 1) it specifically addresses the actors, institutions and dynamics of democratisation and autocratisation; 2) it has sharpened its focus on (in)security, particularly in 2025; 3) and it explores issues around (im)mobility by examining the role of migrants as transnational political actors and exploring related ideas and discourses. The research cluster applies methodologies from political science, sociology, geography, cultural studies and theology and utilises its own specifically collected survey data, interviews with elites and the general public, focus groups, protest data, and discourse data available online.

Highlights in 2025

The theme of security continued to gain prominence in 2025 both conceptually and empirically. In the topic area of democratisation/autocratisation, several empirically based conceptual contributions to academic and public debates were made in 2025.

(In)security in Germany

With an extensive multimodal study on societal perceptions of security in Germany, conducted in late 2025 within the framework of the DFG-funded SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence, Gwendolyn Sasse was able to broaden her previous focus on views about Russia in the eastern and western German states and thus introduce a new dimension into ZOIS's research. The preliminary results of this study, which consisted of a nationwide representa-

tive survey, focus groups and individual interviews, already reveal an interesting ambivalence: although around two-thirds of the population feels relatively secure, a two-thirds majority also believes that Russia's war against Ukraine concerns Germany. The general public thinks about security primarily in terms of daily life – personal security in the public space, the family, and financial security. Amidst the political debates on these topics, the war in Ukraine, Russia, the United States, the Bundeswehr, NATO and the EU are not the primary entry points for an individual sense of security for most people.

Orthodoxy and security

As a research affiliate, Regina Elsner (University of Münster) continued her work at the interface between theology and social science research. This perspective enables her to explore the relationship between national security, the Church, religion and religious freedom and introduce it into various discursive spaces. In doing so, she not only analyses the instrumentalisation of the Orthodox Church(es) in war, but in 2025, also focused particularly on

the theological paradigms that shape conflict escalation and conflict transformation and are significant for social cohesion and the relationship between politics and religion. Her article on this topic was published in the journal *Canadian Slavonic Papers*.

Authoritarianism and stability in Russia

In 2025, Irina Busygina's project, which is funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research, focused conceptually on the adaptation strategies and legitimisation mechanisms utilised by authoritarian Russia under conditions of war. Using online sources, Irina Busygina showed how Russian President Vladimir Putin's vertical power structure guarantees stability not through total control but through a combination of political centralisation, economic independence for the regions, and space for new elite networks. She thus succeeds in opening the black box of authoritarianism. Busygina published articles on this topic in the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* and the *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, among others.



Barricades at the Reichstag in Berlin: In the context of the threat posed by Russia and the war against Ukraine, Gwendolyn Sasse is researching the Germans' sense of security.



An anti-government protest in Bulgaria: In his project, Ivaylo Dinev developed the concept of 'protest democracy' to reflect the fact that protests are a central form of political participation in Southeast European countries.

'Anti-feminist foreign policy' as an analytical concept

Leandra Bias (University of Fribourg) continues to make a valuable contribution to the research cluster as a research affiliate. Taking Russia as a case study, she showed how the state's narrative of 'traditional values' is used in foreign policy to justify authoritarianism and, in her publications, posited the emergence of an 'anti-feminist foreign policy'. Her article on this topic, entitled *Traditional Values in the International Realm*, was published in *Foreign Policy Analysis*. 2025 also marked the start of her new project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation's Ambizione programme, at the University of Fribourg. Within the framework of this multiannual project, she explores how gender narratives are utilised in different ways in Russia and Ukraine.

'Protest democracy' as regime logic

Taking Southeast Europe as an example, Ivaylo Dinev developed the concept of 'protest democracy' as a sepa-

rate type of regime logic. Based on a new dataset on protest waves over an extended time period, he showed how mass protests in societies with low levels of trust in institutions can become the primary form of democratic participation and hence emerge as a structural characteristic. With eight parliamentary elections in four years and frequent mass protests, Bulgaria featured prominently as a case study in his analysis and reconceptualisation.

Russian emigration since 2022: minimal political opposition

In the year 2025, Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse continued the analysis of their ZOIS survey data from 'new' Russian migrants in Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. They focused particularly on the issue of (dis)continuities in political engagement among migrants from Russia and possible mobilisation abroad. Their analysis contradicts the assumption, originally formulated by other researchers, that this war-related migration constitutes a potentially significant source of transnational

opposition. In September 2025, ZOIS hosted an international workshop that brought together the most comprehensive data gathered on this topic to date.

Russophone Studies as a new research paradigm

Nina Frieß organised the international conference *Remapping the Study of Russian-language Cultures and Societies after 2022: Challenges, Concepts, and Paradigms*, which was held in Konstanz in September 2025 and brought together scholars of literary and cultural studies, linguistics, history, anthropology, and political science in a process of critical self-reflection. As its core question, the conference considered whether there is scope for the traditional framework that takes Russia as its territorial reference point to be superseded or enhanced by a language-based perspective. The outcome is a proposal for a new research field, known as 'Russophone Studies', which, in differentiation from the ideology of the 'Russian world', takes account of the plurality of Russian-language literatures and cultures worldwide.

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

Localised Geopolitics and Everyday Europeanisation in Ukraine’s Western Border Regions: Between EU Integration and War with Russia

Dr Tatiana Zhurzhenko | Term: since 2025

In:Security in Eastern Europe

Dr Nadja Douglas | Term: 2023–2025 | Part of the *KonKoop* research network

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 Irina Mützelburg (all ZOIS), Dr Sophie Lambroschini (Centre Marc Bloch), Grégoire Le Gall, Prof Béatrice von Hirschhausen (both CNRS Géographie-Cités) | Term: 2021–2025

RESEARCH AFFILIATE’S PROJECTS

Orthodox Peace Ethics and Militarisation in the Post-Soviet Space

Prof. Regina Elsner | Term: 2020–2025



People in Kyiv seek shelter from Russian attacks in a metro station: Using surveys, Gwendolyn Sasse is investigating the effects of the war on Ukraine's civilian population, particularly in terms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

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.

Highlights in 2025

Concepts of in:security

A key focus of attention in 2025, as in the previous year, was the concept of *in:security*, addressed by Nadja Douglas as part of the KonKoop project, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space. Two

In:Security Reports were produced, which deal explicitly with Eastern European societies' perspectives on the changed security order. The aim was to decentre Europe-focused approaches to security concepts and systems.

The Orthodox churches in times of war

In her work on military pastoral care as a space where ethical principles become manifest in war, Regina Elsner, a research affiliate in this research cluster, has shown how the churches in Ukraine and Russia formulate a theology for war. A further important topic that she addressed in this context is whether and how religion can be integrated into juridical categories as an aspect of dehumanisation and war crimes.

Border regions in Western Ukraine

A major success for the research cluster was the approval, by the German Research Foundation (DFG), of a new research project on geopolitical con-

flicts and everyday Europeanisation in Ukraine's western border regions. Tatiana Zhurzhenko will focus primarily on the regions of Lviv, Transcarpathia and Chernivtsi bordering Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania.

Conclusion of the LimSpaces project

A further milestone in 2025 was the conclusion of the LimSpaces project. In this project, the Franco-German team investigated the everyday strategies of those living on Europe's periphery – particularly in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine – under conditions of political, economic and social uncertainty. The aim was to study how individuals and collectives in liminal spaces reach decisions about education, employment and the future, and to gain an understanding of the role played by the past, by norms and rules, and by supranational organisations in this context.

The researchers participating in the project, which was funded by the Agence nationale de la recherche and

the German Research Foundation, presented their research findings in January at a final workshop and panel discussion. The findings were also collated for publication in a special issue of *East European Politics and Societies* and presented at various conferences.

New research questions arising from Russia's war of aggression

Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, ongoing since February 2022, necessitated a conceptual and methodological reorientation to take account of the changed realities of life and conditions of research. Instead of a comparative study of Moldova and Ukraine as originally planned, attention now shifted to what it means to be so close to a conflict that poses existential threats and challenges to the region's population in so many different ways. Russia's invasion has also shown how important it is to give microsocial-level responses to war and conflict a central position in research.

On a theoretical level, the project has broadened the concepts of liminality and 'in-betweenness' and extended them to the context of war; it also recognised the multipositionality of diverse stakeholders as a resource in situations of existential uncertainty. While transitional phases and transitions are foregrounded particularly in relation to liminality and 'in-betweenness', multipositionality simultaneously captures stakeholders' localisation and agency in diverse contexts. Ukrainian pupils in the German and Ukrainian school systems are embedded in both contexts simultaneously.

LimSpaces projects at ZOIS

Three LimSpaces sub-projects were based at ZOIS: 1) The Situation of Ukrainian Displaced Schoolchildren in Germany (Irina Mützelburg); 2) Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania (Claudia Eggart); 3) Adaptation Strategies of Small Entrepre-

neurs in the Context of Moldova's Economic Integration with the EU (Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis).

Displaced schoolchildren from Ukraine

With reference to 'dual schooling' (Ukrainian online schools and local German schools), which was studied by Irina Mützelburg in Germany, 'in-betweenness' emerges as a form and state of ongoing uncertainty. Education becomes a space for negotiation of temporalities, identity traits and decisions on whether to return to Ukraine or to remain, and reveals a form of lived everyday liminality but also, and simultaneously, multipositionality.

Logistics in the border region between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania

In her research, Claudia Eggart investigated customs regimes as a space in which a logistics system and hybrid practices are created. She interprets the blockades and lengthy waiting times at the border in the triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania as real-world consequences of normative and experiential overlaps, revealing a liminality in which urgent

humanitarian aid, truck drivers' individual experiences and the application of European rules intersect.

Economic integration in Moldova

In a further project, Sabine von Löwis and Julia Langbein analysed the Piața Centrală market in Chișinău as a space for cultural bargaining, identity-forming and hybridisation. In their reading, Piața Centrală is an arena where post-socialist practices, on the one hand, and market logics that are characterised as 'Western' or EU-based, on the other, intersect and are negotiated. The market thus becomes a locus of social and economic realignment in relation to East/West dichotomies.

With reference to a range of sectors (housing, education, public works, markets, borders, infrastructures), LimSpaces revealed the relevance of the concept of liminality for capturing tangible forms of 'in-betweenness' and bargaining, even in an extreme context of instability and uncertainty. It also shows how multipositionality emerges as a way of dealing with uncertainty in ongoing transitional situations and is helpful in navigating these processes.



People at the Piața Centrală, a market in Chișinău: The LimSpaces project focused on the everyday strategies of people in peripheralised regions of Europe, in particular Moldova and Ukraine.

Research Cluster

Migration and Diversity

Head: PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Political Migration from Russia and Azerbaijan

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

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

Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Term: 2019–2025

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: 2023–2026

In 2025, the *Migration and Diversity* research cluster consolidated its profile as a key site for empirically grounded and theoretically innovative research on migration, exile and political mobilisation under conditions of war and political polarisation. Russia's war against Ukraine acts as a defining geopolitical rupture, reshaping flows and destinations of migration from Eastern Europe, transforming migrants' political engagement and intensifying debates about solidarity, disengagement and pro-democracy and anti-war movements across Europe and beyond.

The wartime uncertainties and the growing right-wing shift in many European societies have increasingly politicised migration governance. Against this backdrop, the research cluster's work has focused on migrants and exiles as political and social actors whose experiences illuminate the tensions between democracy, authoritarianism and social cohesion in contemporary Europe. Different migrant groups from different countries show a commonality: their transnational behaviour is shaped by both homeland politics and host-society discourses.

Highlights in 2025

Two developments stand out as key achievements this year: Kostiantyn Fedorenko's successful completion and defence of his doctoral thesis at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and a further consolidation of the *Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-war Movements (ERDAM)* international research network. These highlights demonstrate the research cluster's strength in connecting individual biographies, collective mobilisation and macropolitical transformations. At the same time, the

work of the cluster members – particularly Piotr Goldstein – has expanded this perspective by exploring the governance of migration, civil society engagement and everyday forms of activism through innovative methodological and public-facing formats.

Kostiantyn Fedorenko's doctorate successfully completed

In his doctoral thesis, Kostiantyn Fedorenko provides a nuanced analysis of the trajectories of Ukrainian activists after the 2013–14 Euromaidan protests and makes a significant contribution to debates about migration in times of political disillusionment and war. To that end, he developed a multi-method design which combines quantitative analysis of a cohort of 210 emigrant Euromaidan protesters in Europe with three different series of qualitative interviews.

Fedorenko's research demonstrates that emigration among former Euromaidan participants cannot be explained primarily in economic terms. Instead, political dissatisfaction – especially frustration with the pace and direction of post-2014 reforms – played a key role in shaping decisions to leave Ukraine. However, emigration did not mean political disengagement: instead, many activists transferred their experiences to new contexts. Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine marked a critical turning point in these trajectories. Many emigrants who had previously disengaged from political activism became politically active again in exile, mobilising in response to the war.

With his doctoral research, which was supervised by ZOIS Director Gwendolyn Sasse and Silvia von Steinsdorff at Humboldt-Universität

zu Berlin, Fedorenko makes an important contribution to the study of 'voice after exit' and the debate about (im)mobility and social movements.

Consolidation of the ERDAM network

The ERDAM research network has emerged as a cornerstone of the research cluster's work on migration from Russia and anti-war mobilisation in the context of war, repression and authoritarian consolidation. Established in late 2023 by Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova, ERDAM has rapidly developed into an internationally recognised and interdisciplinary hub for research on these topics.

In 2025, ERDAM had 18 full and associate members across 11 institutions in Western and Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Turkey. Regular online events, international workshops and



Protests by the Russian exile community in Kraków, Poland, against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with the white-blue-white flag symbolising opposition. The ERDAM network is focusing on war-induced migration from Russia and anti-war activism.



With his multimodal research, Piotr Goldstein is making the everyday activism of migrants visible – as seen here in the short film ‘Active (citizen)’ about a Romani man from Kosovo who works to keep the streets clean in Novi Sad, Serbia.

a major conference in Berlin in cooperation with the *Youth and Generational Change* and *Societies between Stability and Change* research clusters offered opportunities for in-depth academic exchange, the provision of support for young researchers and public engagement. Thematically, the network focuses on urgent geopolitical questions: How do Russian migrants and exiles position themselves politically in Europe? Under what conditions does exile foster anti-war activism, and when does it lead to demobilisation, fragmentation or burnout? How do European migration regimes and the anti-migrant attitude – shaped by mistrust and exclusion – in Eastern Europe impact opportunities for political engagement in exile?

The highlight of ERDAM’s activities in 2025 was the conference *Rethinking Migration, Mobilisation, and Diaspora in Times of War*, which brought together scholars, civil society actors and human rights practitioners. The conference foregrounded the long-term effects of exile and repression.

ERDAM’s flagship publication is a forthcoming special issue of *Post-Soviet Affairs*, to be published in 2026. The six articles show how Russian exile communities in various host countries navigate moral economies of guilt and responsibility, confront internal divisions and struggle with emotional and material constraints. The special issue thus advances a broader understanding of transnational diasporic mobilisation against authoritarian regimes.

Tsypylma Darieva submitted a follow-up research project application to the German Foundation for Peace Research, focusing on diversity in exile and the decolonial agenda. In addition, cooperation with the Norwegian social science research foundation FAFO facilitated the further expansion of the ERDAM network.

Research on everyday activism

Tatiana Golova’s work complements ERDAM’s micro-level perspective by focusing on the intersection between migration governance and civil socie-

ty engagement. Her article on migration assistance activism reveals how civil society actors actively negotiate restrictive policy environments, enacting solidarity in a political climate increasingly influenced by right-wing narratives that seek to limit protection for political migrants.

Piotr Goldstein’s contributions broaden the research cluster’s analytical and methodological scope through ethnographic and multimodal research on migration, activism and everyday life. His work on cross-border labour, minority languages and migrant activism in the Polish-German context engages directly with geopolitical inequalities and bordering regimes shaped by both EU integration and its political contestation.

Through films, exhibitions and interactive installations, Goldstein makes visible the affective and experiential dimensions of migration and activism and offers innovative forms of knowledge transfer that reach beyond academic audiences.

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

RESEARCH AFFILIATE'S 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.

Highlights in 2025

Research on the intergenerational transmission of memories

The studies conducted as part of the ERC-funded MoveMeRU project were the focal point of the research cluster's work. The project aims to compare the historical memories of migrants and non-migrants across two generations. It studies people with a Russian mi-

gration background in Germany, Estonia and Canada, against the backdrop of Russia's use of historical memory narratives to appeal to Russian citizens at home and abroad and strengthen their sense of belonging to Russia. MoveMeRU utilises opinion surveys, cross-generational focus groups, media analyses and in-depth interviews on media use.

In 2025, the research team worked on initial academic publications based on data collected in the previous year. These publications were presented at numerous conferences in Europe and North America. Furthermore, it was possible to conduct additional surveys in Estonia in autumn 2025, focusing on perceptions of 20th-century history, but also on current political controversies across the generations.

In their co-authored working paper, Sophia Winkler and Félix Krawatzek explore how young migrants of the first and second 'Russian' generation in Germany respond to conflicting historical narratives on social media and how the process of navigating these interpretations of history informs dif-

ferent feelings of belonging. One of the key outcomes is a better understanding of how conflicting messages are dealt with and how historical narratives trigger or weaken national allegiances. These feelings of belonging at the interface between Russia and Germany are examined in more detail in a second article, in which Félix Krawatzek and Sophia Winkler show how geopolitical watersheds – particularly Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine – reinforce or overlap with migrants' national patterns of allegiance or create tension between them, and how this varies across the generations.

In a further paper, Hakob Matevosyan conducts a more detailed analysis of the data gathered in Canada. He investigates the conditions and mechanisms by which a bond is formed with the country of origin, focusing on young adults from migrant families, particularly Canadians with a (Soviet) Russian background. Matevosyan analyses the influence of family dynamics, transnational connections and the contexts in which social and political attitudes are formed.



Félix Krawatzek, head of the research cluster, at an event in the series 'Writing (Hi)stories: World War II in Literature and Research' organised in cooperation with the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst.



Celebrations to mark 9 May in Tallinn, Estonia: The MoveMeRu project explores the transmission of historical memories across two generations by people with and without a Russian migration background. Data is being collected in Germany, Estonia and Canada.

In 2025, the MoveMeRU team also collated their research findings on the intergenerational transmission of political views within families in which the parental generation was socialised under autocratic conditions, whereas the adult offspring underwent primary and/or secondary socialisation in a democracy. Here, innovative intergenerational focus groups were set up in Estonia, Germany and Canada, involving more than a hundred families with and without a Russian migration background. An initial article based on the Canadian focus groups analyses diverse conceptions of democracy and explores how people with a background of migration from Russia view life in a democracy and economic prosperity.

Article on political attitudes among young people in the South Caucasus

Another highlight was the article published by Félix Krawatzek and Veronika Pfeilschifter in *Europe-Asia Studies* on the lyrical structure of the political worlds of young people in the three South Caucasus states. Leveraging new qualitative and quantitative data, Pfeilschifter and Krawatzek show that Armenian youth demonstrate generational continuity, a positive view of the Soviet past and the imprint of a

left-wing monolithic nation-building process. In Azerbaijan, memories of Soviet times are ambiguous, the generational rupture is mild and the national self-understanding reflects patterns of ‘civic dominion’. In Georgia, memories of the Soviet Union are mostly negative, the generational rupture is noticeable and the nation-building project is informed by multiple conflicting perspectives.

Public engagement

Various formats were used to make the research findings available to a wider audience. From February to April 2025, the project team, in cooperation with Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, hosted a series of events entitled *Writing History: World War II in Literature and Research*. On three evenings, authors and translators read from their books and discussed key historical topics with academics, including *Women in the Transmission of History; Deportation and Exile; and Labour Camps/Gulag*. A fourth event, held in October in cooperation with Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, explored the topic of memory and identity in Estonia.

The MoveMeRU team also organised a three-day academic conference entitled *All Roads Lead to ... the Family?*

Political Socialisation Among Migrants and Non-Migrants, with participants from Europe and North America. As in the previous year, the findings were shared pro-actively with the general public and the political community in Berlin.

Special issue on children’s and young adult literature

A further highlight for the research cluster was the special issue of the *Zeitschrift für Slawistik* (Journal of Slavic Studies) on imagined communities in Slavic children’s and youth literature, co-edited by Nina Frieß. The special issue systematically explores, for the first time, the concept of ‘imagined communities’ in relation to Slavic literature for young readers. Through their examination of various cultural contexts, the authors offer fresh perspectives on models of identities and community found in children’s and youth literature, which invariably provide insights into the wider society from which such literature emerges. Nina Frieß’s study on Kazakhstani children’s literature shows how, in their texts, contemporary authors in Kazakhstan envision models of society that are much freer and more liberal than might be expected in a country under authoritarian rule.

Research Cluster

Political Economy and Integration

Head: Dr Julia Langbein

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Adaptation Brokers: Global Structural Change and the Political Economy of Russian Sovereignty (SOVBROKE)

Dr Sebastian Hoppe | Term: since 2025

Market Exclusion, Dependent Integration or Developmental Breakthrough: Ukraine's Integration in the EU Single Market in the Context of Recovery and EU Accession

Dr Julia Langbein | Term: since 2025

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*

Economic Agency in the Context of De Facto Statehood

Lena Pieber | Term: since 2022

Part of the *KonKoop* competence network

Russia's War against Ukraine and the Consequences for China's Infrastructure Ambitions in Eurasia

Dr Julia Langbein, Dr Valentin Krüsmann | Term: 2024–2027

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

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

Dr Valentin Krüsmann | Term: 2021–2025

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

RESEARCH AFFILIATE'S PROJECTS

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

Alexandra Prokopenko | Term: since 2023

With its focus on the interplay between economic, political and social developments, the *Political Economy and Integration* research cluster adds an extra 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 and taking effect in Eastern Europe. Core topics of relevance to all its projects are: 1) economic (dis)integration processes, 2) economic agency and development strategies, 3) impacts of economic (dis)integration on power relations in the domestic and foreign policy fields.

In 2025, the research cluster's activities focused on the following thematic priorities: 1) China's role as a geopolitical actor in Eurasia, analysed from an infrastructure project perspective. A key theme was how China utilises the expansion of the Middle Corridor strategically as a major trade route between Europe and Asia and how local actors respond; 2) linkage between Ukraine's recovery and EU accession process in the context of the Russian war of aggression, with a focus on economic resilience. In addition, the research cluster examines adaptation strategies of local entrepreneurs in Moldova and Georgia against the backdrop of economic (dis)integration processes with the EU and Russia/the CIS states; 3) Russia's political economy and associated processes of adaptation to a changing global environment. This topic was integrated into the research cluster in 2025 with the appointment of Sebastian Hoppe. Through her affiliation with ZOIS, Alexandra Prokopenko continued to share her expertise on Russia's economy in the context of Western sanctions and the full-scale war against Ukraine.

Highlights in 2025

The core of the research on China within this cluster is the network project *De:link//Re:link: Local Perspectives*

on *Transregional (Dis-)Entanglements*, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space and whose second funding period began to take shape in 2025.

Completion of doctoral studies on China's infrastructure initiatives in Eurasia

One of the key milestones was Valentin Krüsmann's successful completion of his doctoral studies at the Freie Universität Berlin in May. His dissertation shows that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is increasingly undergoing a process of financial multilateralisation, with growing numbers of projects financed by development banks such as the European Investment Bank or World Bank. However, most are delivered by Chinese state-owned enterprises which simultaneously perceive these projects to be part of the BRI. Case studies in Georgia (Rikoti highway) and Kazakhstan (Zhanatas wind power plant) reveal that governance problems such as a lack of transparency and deficits relating to labour, environmental and social standards persist even in multilaterally funded projects. Multilateral financing therefore does not necessarily improve project quality.

In the study, the BRI is understood as a geo-economic strategy involving China's targeted deployment of economic instruments in pursuit of its own interests. Despite benefiting from multilateral financing, the projects are embedded in narratives that frame close relations with China as offering the prospect of prosperity while simultaneously creating economic dependencies.

The study's key conclusion is that the BRI should be understood less as a financing initiative; rather, it is aimed at the construction of infrastructure per se. For the EU and its member states, this means that multilateral financing alone is not sufficient to safeguard governance standards and counter China's geopolitical influence. European infrastructure strategies require clear implementation mechanisms, more robust policy coordination and a strategic approach towards external actors such as China.

Journal articles on infrastructure projects in Eastern Europe

Based on research results from *De:link//Re:link*'s first funding period, two journal articles were published in early 2025: Julia Langbein and



Chinese state-owned enterprises played a key role in the construction of the Rikoti highway in Georgia. China's role as a geopolitical actor in Eurasia is a key focus of this research cluster.

Valentin Krüsmann, together with co-authors Tanja A. Börzel (Freie Universität Berlin) and Lunting Wu (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs), published their research on the BRI in the journal *Global Policy*. Against the backdrop of China's growing engagement in Eastern Europe, the BRI often appears to challenge the European Union (EU) approach to promoting development in the region. However, the differences lie on the programmatic rather than on the implementation level. While the EU's approach on the programmatic level is based on rules, values and conditionality, China presents the BRI as 'no strings attached' cooperation.

In practice, a decoupling of claims from reality can be observed in both approaches. The BRI often applies 'conditionality through the backdoor', e.g. through stipulations on the involvement of Chinese companies in the construction of infrastructure projects. The EU, for its part, often prioritises political stability over promoting necessary local reforms in the fields of de-

mocracy and rule of law. This decoupling reduces the potential for collision between Brussels and Beijing; however, it undermines the credibility of both models and requires more critical reflection by the EU on its own practice.

Beril Ocaklı (University of Vienna) and Valentin Krüsmann published their research on the Rikoti highway in Georgia – a key project in the country's East-West connections – in the journal *Mobilities*. On the face of it, the Rikoti highway would appear to be a conventional transport corridor. However, the authors show that it is much more than just a highway: they define it as a globally conceived, China-built and Georgia-led 'sociotechnical assemblage'. Mega-projects such as the Rikoti highway, according to their main argument, create not only new connections but also new inequalities. They direct capital flows, shape political narratives and may entrench social exclusion while simultaneously reinforcing creeping authoritarianism. This even applies to projects that are part-funded by the EU.

Research on Chinese infrastructure projects in Serbia

Valentin Krüsmann also conducted research on infrastructure projects with Chinese involvement in Serbia, with a particular focus on the effects of processes of 'elite capture' in which local political and economic elites attempt to make targeted use of these projects for their own strategic purposes. Existing explanations mainly attribute elite capture to institutional weaknesses in the host country or to Chinese governance practices. With reference to the Belgrade Metro, however, Krüsmann argues in his paper that the increasingly transnational structure of BRI projects plays a hitherto underestimated role. Complex international project configurations, including those with European involvement, facilitate and increase the political manoeuvrability of elites that are able to control and utilise public projects for their own benefit.

The results of ZOiS's research on China was shared with a broad (non-)academic audience, including through events at ZOiS, in the German Bundestag, in federal ministries and at international conferences. The findings of the research on Georgia were integrated into a policy brief by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and thus fed directly into the foreign policy debate.

Outlook

In future, the cluster's research on China will focus mainly on Eurasian connectivity and the development of the Middle Corridor in Central Asia. It will address issues relating to the structure of this rapidly developing corridor, the role of regional and external actors and the conditions under which cooperation between China, the EU and other multilateral partners succeeds or fails despite de-risking, geopolitical change and strategic competition.



The entrance to the Moscow Stock Exchange: Since joining ZOiS in 2025, Sebastian Hoppe has been investigating how Russia is adapting its economic policy to a new global order and what role individual and corporate networks play in this process.

Cross-cutting Projects

Collaborative Data Network with Eastern Europe (KoDaNetOst)

Heads of project: Dr Kerstin Bischl, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis | **Funding:** Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) | **Term:** 2025

The *Collaborative Data Network with Eastern Europe (KoDaNetOst)*, which evolved from the KonKoop research network (p. 38), started work in January 2025. It comprises three institutions from across Germany: ZOiS as the coordinating partner, the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin, and the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg.

International networking as a goal

KoDaNetOst is a data network whose aim is to foster links between research institutes and scholars in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Central Asia and the EU countries who are engaged in the collection and utilisation of data in the social sciences and humanities. It serves as a platform for a diverse range of stakeholders who are conducting research in, with and on Eastern Europe, as well as for policy-

makers, multipliers, journalists and an interested public. KoDaNetOst thus facilitates cooperation at eye level and improves transnational access to data and expertise. However, when gathering data from interviews, surveys or archival material, and in professional exchange, particular obstacles can arise, notably authoritarian structures, corruption and, not least, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Differences in legal frameworks and research cultures also come into play.

Key thematic areas

Issues around research ethics, methodology and techniques and the law relating to data collection, storage and use are foregrounded in KoDaNetOst's work. In the research sphere, the focus is on topics such as democratic consolidation, economic development, cli-

mate policy and sustainability, human-environment relations, conflict dynamics and protest movements, (national) minorities, and cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.

Kickoff workshop and opportunities for collaboration

In 2025, the foundation for the network's establishment was laid at an opening workshop at ZOiS, attended by around 20 scholars and representatives of research institutes from Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. This was followed by visits to Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, with a focus on initiating cooperation. In addition, pre-existing, publicly accessible data were visualised on a dedicated page on the KonKoop website.



Kerstin Bischl (second from left), head of the KoDaNetOst project and coordinator of the KonKoop network (p. 38), at the ICCEES World Congress in London in July 2025.

Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine 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.

Focus 2025: Resilience and Ukraine as a European actor

In 2025, KIU's research and teaching programme addressed two thematic priorities: in the summer semester, it focused on Ukraine as a European actor, while the issue of Ukraine's infra-

structural fragility and resilience was foregrounded in the 2025/2026 winter semester. A milestone was the opening of the interdisciplinary KIU Graduate School, whose topic is *Resilience, Restoration and Transformation: Ukraine in a World of Turmoil*, in June 2025. Within the framework of the KIU Graduate School, Anastasia Rodi, supervised by ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse, is working on her PhD at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; her project explores the challenges that Russia's war of aggression poses to Ukrainian democracy. In addition, Kerstin Bischl, Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis, all from ZOiS, provided mentoring for KIU fellows Ekaterina Bataeva, Inga Kozlova, Gaëlle Le Pavic and Liana Moskalyk in 2025.

Sharing expertise on Ukraine

ZOiS also hosts KIU's Communications Manager. The post is currently held by Belinda Nüssel, whose task is to share the results of KIU's research and

activities with the general public and make Ukraine-related academic expertise available in the political sphere. With that aim in mind, a new event series, *KIU Briefing on Ukraine*, was launched at ZOiS in 2025. Joint events were also held with the Institute for European Politics (IEP), Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and the German Platform for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, which falls within the scope of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Topics included Ukraine's integration into the EU, reconstruction of its critical infrastructure, and resistance in the areas under occupation.

To support the focused sharing of KIU fellows' expertise, Belinda Nüssel set up a thematically structured specialist hub on the KIU website. She also coordinated *KIUrIOUS*, a series of short interviews on current developments in politics and society related to Ukraine.

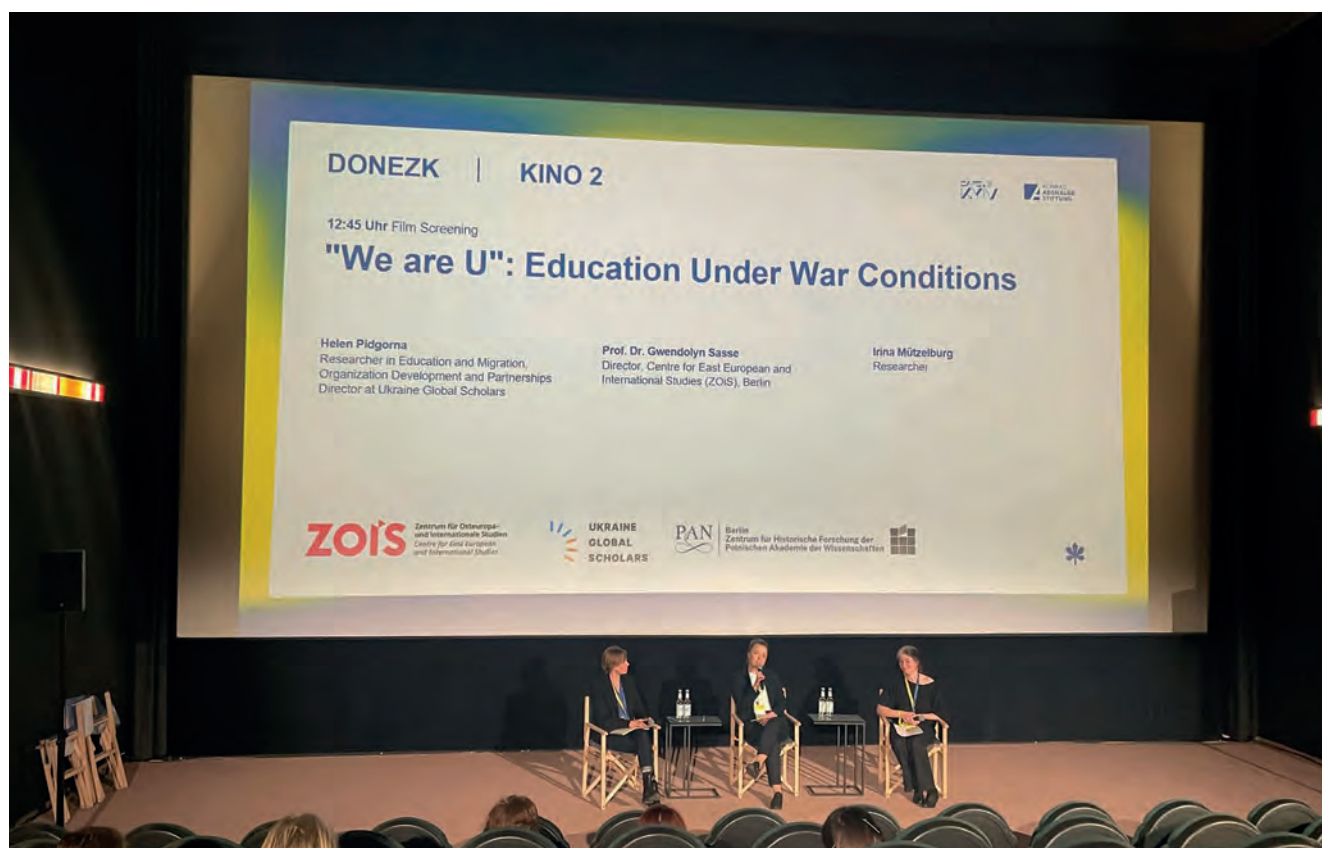
Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

Heads of project: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse, PD Dr Sabine von Löwis | Coordinator: Anastasiya Leukhina | Funding: German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) | 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 Ukrainian researchers

working in Berlin, as well as providing support for academics who remain in Ukraine and conduct their research locally. In order to contribute to maintaining academic potential in Ukraine and provide a basis for reconstruction, Ukrainian scholars and academic institutions are integrated systematically into the network. The project creates a space for regular ex-

change between researchers focusing on Ukraine, connects various existing initiatives, and shares Ukraine-related expertise with the general public and the political arena. The programme offers individual mentoring by ZOiS researchers to the UNET fellows, thus strengthening collaboration across countries and disciplines.



UNET participated in the 2025 edition of Café Kyiv, a day-long event on Ukraine in Berlin, with a panel discussion and a film screening on experiences of transnational education.

Gender dynamics and resilience of the research system

In 2025, a group of seven researchers completed their 12-month UNET fellowships (p. 9). Their research projects focused on two key topics: fellows working on the topic of gender dynamics investigated the leadership qualities of women and the specific stresses to which they are exposed in times of war. Other fellows explored resilience in Ukraine's academic systems: they analysed how scholars continue to conduct and globally communicate their work at universities in frontline cities while simultaneously preserving their mental health.

Unity and diversity

In September 2025, ZOiS welcomed a new cohort of UNET fellows (p. 9), whose research projects for the 2025/26 academic year revolve around the dual concepts of unity and diversity. Topics

covered in the new cohort's research include decentralisation and diversity management at local level, religious tensions and government policy, the lifeworlds of older women, and integration of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Discussion and publication of the research findings

The fellows presented their research findings to the academic community by organising workshops and publishing journal articles. They also discussed the social and political implications of these research findings at international conferences.

Other formats, notably the *Spotlight on Ukraine* series and the *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast, were utilised by the fellows to share their expertise on Ukraine with a wider audience. In 2025, UNET was represented at the third edition of Café Kyiv – a major

public day-long on Ukraine-related topics in Berlin organised by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung – with a panel discussion and film screening titled *'We are U': Education Under War Conditions*, which focused on transnational educational experiences.

In September, in addition to its annual retreat on mental health and trauma-sensitive research, UNET hosted a public networking event and a series of presentations in which the fellows provided insights into their research. *The Get Your Research Out There* series also took place in 2025. In various online workshops, UNET fellows met with researchers and communication professionals for a dialogue on proven strategies for effective academic publishing, research communication for political target groups, tips on academic writing and titling, and effective communication strategies for conferences and academic career planning.

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 | **Coordinator:** Dr Kerstin Bischl | **Funding:** German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) | **Term:** 2022–2026

The KonKoop research network started work in April 2022 and comprises six institutions from across Germany: ZOIS as the coordinating body, the Leibniz Institute for East and South-east European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg, the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig, Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU), 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 factors contribute to escalation and de-escalation and which actors are involved, but also which conditions guarantee security or enable cooperation. The teams focus on regions in Southeast and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Key thematic areas of KonKoop research

KonKoop is structured around six topic lines: post-imperialistic 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 the context of the Russian full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

In 2025, KonKoop was coming to the end of its first phase of funding. Fieldwork and data gathering continued across all the projects, and the findings were incorporated into publications on an ongoing basis.

Expansion of networks

In addition, the KonKoop team continuously expanded its networks, e.g. through workshops at the Viadrinicum

Summer School *Urban Dis/locations: Ruptures and Reimaginings*, hosted by the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), and at the Hans Böckler Foundation; through a round table on ethical and practical issues in research under conditions of war; at the ICCEES World Congress in London; through a presence at the BMFTR Status Conference on Peace and Conflict Research; and at a strategy meeting on *East European Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies: Towards a Common Research Agenda*, jointly organised by the German Foundation for Peace Research in cooperation with ZOIS and the Leibniz Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF).

KonKoop shares its research findings inter alia through its own publication formats, notably the *In:Security Report* series. Two reports were published in this format in 2025 (p. 51). In addition, datasets, methods and challenges arising in academic data gathering were discussed in eight articles on the blog of the Multi-Method Data Laboratory (DataLab).

Multi-Method Data Laboratory (DataLab)

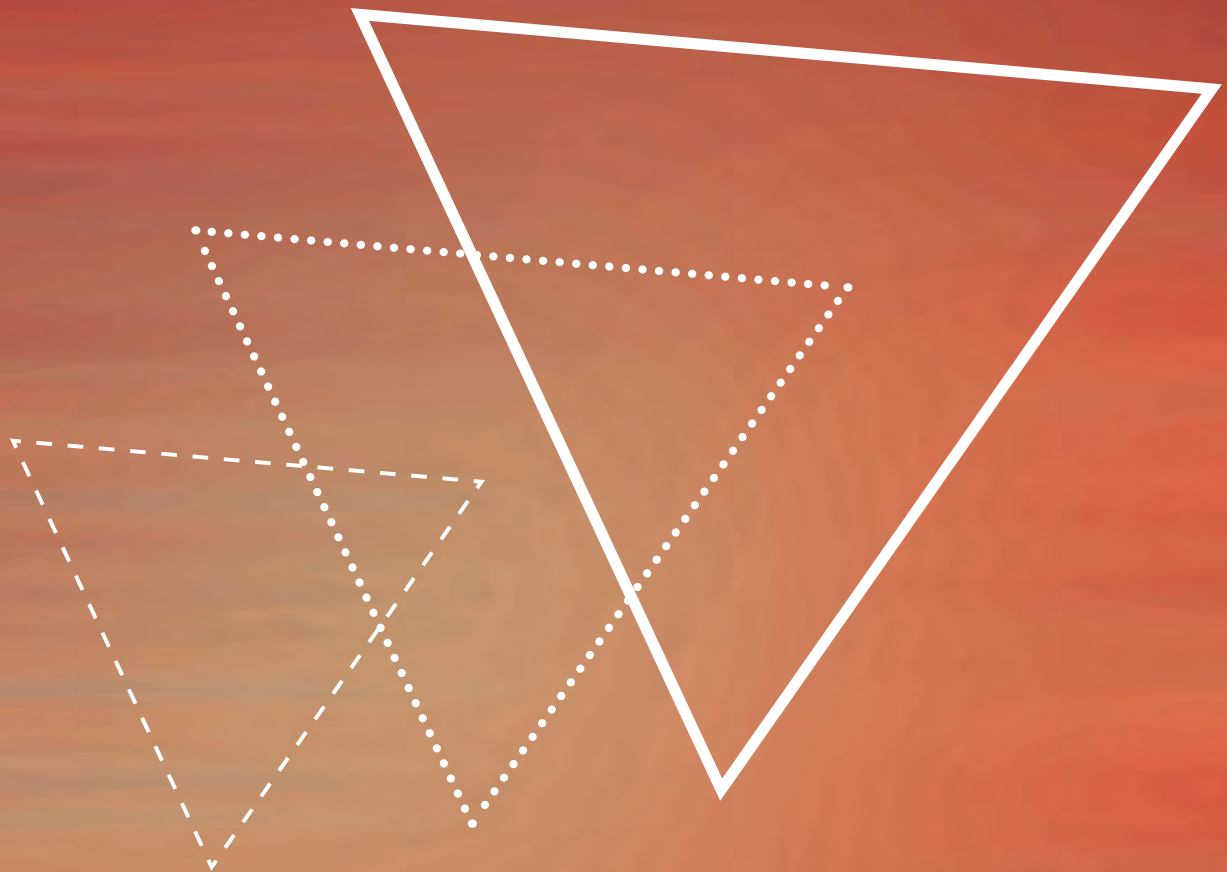
Head of project: Dr Ivaylo Dinev

The Multi-Method Data Laboratory is an interdisciplinary platform that processes quantitative and qualitative research data on the political, social, economic and spatial dynamics of Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War. In addition, coordinator Ivaylo Dinev provides KonKoop researchers with support on methodologies issues, research ethics, and data collection and analysis.

The DataLab publishes working papers and journal articles on data gathering and processing. As a special service for the research community, the *Conflict and Cooperation Database* provides datasets related to the project's themes and regions. These datasets are available on the KonKoop website with brief descriptions and search functions.

Successful application for second funding phase

A key focus of activity in 2025 took place behind the scenes: thanks to a positive evaluation early in the year, the KonKoop network was able to apply for a second round of funding and was notified of the successful outcome in November, with the project being extended for a further two years. During this second phase, the network will focus particularly on sharing knowledge and experience gained during the first funding period.



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 field of activity for ZOiS. These efforts to foster young talent are delivered at various career stages across diverse areas of the Institute's work.

Internal research colloquium

The internal research colloquium facilitates dialogue between junior researchers and experienced colleagues on work in progress. Here, ZOiS's own researchers and guest academics provide impetus for research as part of the academic training process.

A further aim is to explore challenges, risks and security in research, data management, methodologies and ethical issues. This makes the 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 research clusters. In the 2025 summer semester and 2025/26 winter semester, the colloquium was organised by Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis, who head up research clusters at ZOiS.

Trainees, interns and research assistants

ZOiS offers graduates the opportunity to undertake a traineeship in research communication. This enables them to acquire basic media relations and communication skills in the context of a research institute. Students can take up internships or research assistantships in research or research communication and thus gain practical experience and skills for their future careers. In the area of research, this involves tasks such as literature and background research, data processing and editing. In the Communications team, students work on website editing, event organisation, research and editorial tasks, for example.

Mentoring and supervision

Other important mechanisms for fostering young talent at ZOiS are the mentoring of students and guest researchers and supervision of theses from Bachelor's up to PhD level. In 2025, Félix Krawatzek, Tsypylma Darieva, Gwendolyn Sasse, Sabine von Löwis, Hakob Matevosyan and Julia Langbein supervised theses at Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, the University of Padua, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Leipzig University, Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest and Freie Universität Berlin.

Sebastian Hoppe, a political scientist in the *Political Economy and Integration* research cluster at ZOiS, was a Visiting Professor for International Environmental and Resource Politics at the University of Kassel during the 2025/26 winter semester.



Kostiantyn Fedorenko successfully defended his PhD thesis in 2025. His supervisors were ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse (left) and Silvia von Steinsdorff (right) from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

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 and 2025/26 mentoring programmes.

Many ZOiS researchers were available as mentors for fellows of the ZOiS-based *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)*. Visiting academics from the *Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)*, in which ZOiS is a partner institution, were also mentored by ZOiS researchers, as were scholars on other external funding programmes (p. 9).

Workshops and events for young researchers

For PhD students whose projects are based at ZOiS, Félix Krawatzek organised a workshop in 2025 where participants presented their work in progress to the institute. This increased the visibility of PhD projects at ZOiS and fostered interdisciplinary dialogue. This format has evolved year on year since its introduction in 2024.

The ZOiS Ethics Commission also organised a workshop in 2025 that was aimed primarily at junior researchers at ZOiS and beyond. It focused on analysing and discussing decolonial discourses and ways of dealing with structural hierarchies and inequalities in East European studies.

As part of the *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe* research network (KonKoop), which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, DataLab (p. 38) coordinator Ivaylo Dinev supported young researchers in building their methodological and data skills.

Furthermore, in 2025, ZOiS and Berlin Research 50 (BR50), a network of non-university research institutions in Berlin, organised an event on *Career Planning after a PhD*. Doctoral candidates from various institutions gathered at ZOiS to gain insights into research-related fields of work and to share experience. The World Café format was used to facilitate their dialogue with experts on career pathways in the areas of knowledge management, scientific information, research communication, policy advice and knowledge transfer.

PhD students at ZOiS

In 2025, six doctoral candidates were based at ZOiS or were involved in various ZOiS projects.

Kostiantyn Fedorenko submitted his dissertation on motives for emigrating and identity shifts among Ukrainian Maidan activists in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic in 2025. His doctoral studies were undertaken within the framework of cooperation between ZOiS and the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Alongside the PhD project, this also includes the methodology training programme at BGSS and employment as a researcher at ZOiS. In this role, Kostiantyn Fedorenko worked on the project *Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (MOBILISE)*.

Sebastian Hoppe joined ZOiS's *Political Economy and Integration* research cluster as a researcher in March 2025, during the final phase of his doctoral research at Friedrich Schiller University Jena. In September 2025, he successfully defended his dissertation on *The Politics of Regional Development: State, Patronalism and Political Economy in the Russian Far East (2007–2022)*.



For her PhD thesis, ZOiS researcher Sophia Winkler is looking at how historical narratives on social media influence the identity of young Russians living abroad. She is also part of the MoveMeRU project at ZOiS led by Félix Krawatzek (left).

In his research project at ZOiS, entitled *Adaptation Brokers: Global Structural Change and the Political Economy of Russian Sovereignism (SOVBROKE)*, he continues to explore how Russia has adapted to global structural change in the 21st century.

Valentin Krüsmann first joined ZOiS as a doctoral candidate on the *China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia* project as part of the *Local Perspectives on Trans-regional (Dis-)Entanglements (De:link //Re:link)* research network. With reference to two infrastructure projects in Kazakhstan and Georgia, he studied how the involvement of multilateral development banks affects the governance standards of Chinese construction schemes and what this financial multilateralisation means for the geo-economic orientation of China's *Belt and Road Initiative*. In 2025, he successfully



Veronika Pfeilschifter is completing her PhD on the new generation of young leftists in the South Caucasus at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. As a research affiliate, she is part of the research cluster Youth and Generational Change.

defended his dissertation at Freie Universität Berlin and subsequently took up a new position as a postdoc in the *Political Economy and Integration* research cluster at ZOiS.

Lena Pieber is 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)* at ZOiS. 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.

cal, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop) at ZOiS. 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.

Sophia Winkler is a doctoral student in the *Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU)* project at ZOiS. For her PhD project *Belonging Between Two Worlds? Social Media and Young Russians' Identity Abroad* 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.

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 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 comparing ideological self-positioning, understanding of justice, patriarchal structures, and sociopolitical discourses among young people in the three countries.

Teaching and Events

Seminars and lectures

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russian Reforms in the Mirror of Transition Theories | Boris Nemtsov Educational Program, Charles University Prague (winter semester 2025/26) | seminar

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Migration und sozialer Wandel in Zentralasien und im Kaukasus? | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (winter semester 2024/25) | bachelor seminar

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine: Politökonomische Perspektiven | University of Kassel (winter semester 2025/26) | bachelor seminar

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Geopolitik und Rohstoffkonflikte im Globalen Süden | University of Kassel (winter semester 2025/26) | bachelor seminar

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Grüne Transformation, Ressourcenabhängigkeit und Entwicklung im Globalen Süden | University of Kassel (winter semester 2025/26) | master seminar

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Natural Resources, Clientelism and Networks in Post-Soviet States | University of Kassel (winter semester 2025/26) | master seminar

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

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Qualitative Methoden: Fokusgruppen und Interviews | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (winter semester 2025/26) | bachelor methods course

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Demokratie und Krieg | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (winter semester 2025/26) | bachelor seminar

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
War in Ukraine: Destruction of Heritage, Mastering Legacy | Lecture series at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | as part of the *Competence Network for Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU)* (winter semester 2024/25) | co-organisation of the lecture series with Susanne Frank

- ▶ Nina Frieß
Von sprechenden Flamingos und plapperndem Fettgebäck: Die russophone Kinderliteratur Kasachstans | Ruhr University Bochum (15/05/2025) | guest lecture

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Verwaltungsrecht | Tashkent State Law University (27–30/05/2025) | lecture

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Center-Regional Relations in Russia: The Model, New Trends, and Prospects for the Future | Institute for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin (30/06/2025) | guest lecture

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Causes and Effects of Russia's War against Ukraine | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (09/09/2025) | lecture as part of the CENTRAL Leadership Program

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Current Trends in Russia's Political Development | Indiana University (15/10/2025) | guest lecture

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Versamlungsrecht | Maqsut Narikbayev University (11–13/11/2025) | lecture with Roman Melnyk as part of a lecture series on the fundamental rights in Germany and Kazakhstan

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Federal Relations and Territorial Politics in Russia | U.S. Department of State, National Foreign Affairs Training Center (20/11/2025) | guest lecture

Other events

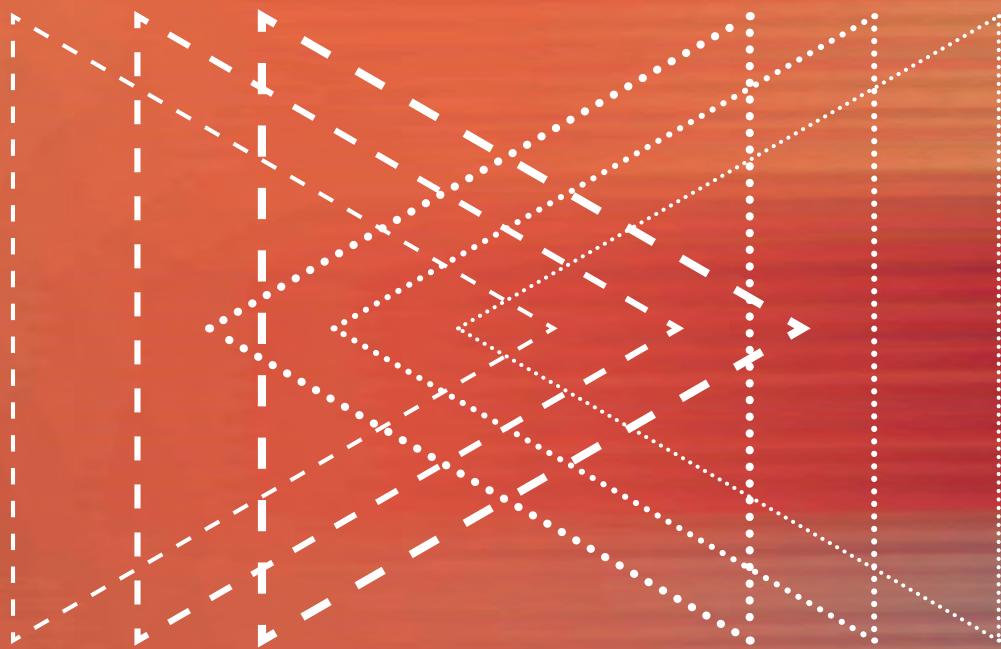
- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Julia Langbein
Troubled Memory, Troubled Social Integration? Displaced Ukrainians in Poland (10/01/2025) | lecture at ZOIS for university students

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Placing Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity in the Context of Ukrainian Politics and the Study of Protest and War | Central European University (11/01/2025) | Opening Keynote as part of the *Invisible University for Ukraine Winter School – Thinking Through the Wartime: Reasons, Rationales, and the Enigmas of Lived Experience*

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
Pluralism in the South Caucasus: Religious and Ethnic Minorities in Georgia | Pázmány Péter Catholic University (28/06–02/07/2025) | summer school | organiser of the panel *Armenian Youth of Georgia*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Brüche oder Brücken? Ansichten zu kontroversen Themen unter Familien mit und ohne Russlandhintergrund | German Academic Scholarship Foundation (03/07/2025) | lecture as part of the summer seminar of the scholarship program *Metropolen in Mittel-, Südost- und Osteuropa*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Student Excursion to Vienna | Leipzig University (27/07–03/08/2025) | with Sebastian Lentz



Research Communication



Research Communication on Social Media in the Big Tech Era

The Communications team at ZOiS uses social media every day to share news and information about the institute, its events and publications with a wide audience. But what happens if the most popular platforms are controlled by a few large firms whose algorithms marginalise academic content?

ZOiS was active on Twitter and Facebook for many years, reaching thousands of followers with its profiles. It was an obvious choice: these two platforms were popular with millions of users in Germany and worldwide. However, they are owned by 'Big Tech' – US companies that operate globally, dominating the market, and whose main priority is profit maximisation, not social networking.

2025 saw the culmination of a development that had kept social media on tenterhooks since 2022: the purchase of Twitter by billionaire Elon Musk and its rebranding as 'X'. This marked the start of the platform's restructuring, with fateful consequences.

Research communication under pressure

One of the most significant changes was an obvious deterioration of the culture of debate: a surge in hate speech, largely unregulated sharing of disinformation, and a proliferation of bots. The conditions necessary for research communication, whose core pillars are objectivity, factual accuracy and a measured, neutral tone, dramatically worsened. Polarising posts with extreme content – intended to elicit strong reactions and emotions –

were rewarded by the algorithm more than ever. Posts by ZOiS quickly lost reach, while content relating to geopolitically contested regions such as Ukraine or Moldova instantly prompted a response from trolls, who attempted to discredit the linked publications and their authors without engaging with the content.

X: Should we stay or should we go?

The ZOiS Communications team kept a close eye on these developments and, in dialogue with other communications experts, weighed up the pros and cons of maintaining a presence on X. Should the Institute continue its attempts, with its content, to advocate for factual accuracy on X? Or would this legitimise a platform that is built around the principle of social polarisation?

In December 2024, the Institute's management and Communications team reached a joint decision to suspend its activity on X. As a publicly funded institute, ZOiS prefers to deploy its research communication capacities in spaces where genuine debate and analysis of content are possible, not where moderating abusive comments accounts for a major share of the workload.

New platforms for the research community

ZOiS is not alone in this decision: in January 2025, a number of leading academic institutions in Germany, including many universities, as well as individual researchers, exited the platform during the 'WissXit' campaign.

A standout feature of 2025 was thus the reconfiguration of the research community on social media. ZOiS focused mainly on the targeted expansion of its existing presence on decentralised platforms, mainly Bluesky. ZOiS's LinkedIn account, active since 2022, also gained a new influx of followers and interest.

So this was not about quitting social media; on the contrary, ZOiS now has more followers on the new platforms than it had on Twitter. However, the increase in the number of accounts that need to be managed and the fragmentation of target groups across diverse platforms will create strategic challenges and require tailored adjustments in years to come.

Previously, ZOiS's content and audience were clustered on just two platforms, but this has now doubled, with different media formats, language styles and interest groups, among other things. On Facebook, for example, the number of Ukrainian followers is growing, whereas Bluesky is popular mainly in the English-speaking countries and Germany. One thing is certain, though: we make democratic rules the precondition for our engagement in the online space.

Follow ZOiS on social media!



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.

Academic events include **lectures, panel discussions, workshops and conferences** that are mainly intended for members of the academic community.

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

- **All Roads Lead to ... the Family? Political Socialisation Among Migrants and Non-Migrants (ZOiS, 28–30/04/2025)** | as part of the ERC-funded project MoveMeRU | with ZOiS contributions by Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan, Johanna Mogwitz, Sophia Winkler
- **ICCEES XI World Congress: Disruption (University College London, 21–25/07/2025)** | International Council for Central and East European Studies in cooperation with ZOiS | with ZOiS contributions by Kerstin Bischl, Iaroslav Boretskii, Tsypylma Darieva, Kostiantyn Fedorenko, Piotr Goldstein, Valentin Krüsmann, Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis, Veronika Pfeilschifter, Gwendolyn Sasse, Sophia Winkler



In a panel discussion chaired by journalist Gesa Ufer (right), writer Kateryna Miščenko, ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse, Prof. Bernd Ladwig from Freie Universität Berlin, and Green Party MP Sara Nanni (from left to right) explored the concept of freedom in time of war and a democracy under threat. The event was a collaboration between the SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, ZOiS and the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research.

- ▶ **Mobility and Diversity: Russian Migration since February 2022 (ZOiS, 29/07/2025)** | organised by Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse (both ZOiS) | with ZOiS contributions by Tsypylma Darieva, Félix Krawatzek, Gwendolyn Sasse
- ▶ **Emerging Russian Diasporas: Exploring New Dynamics and (Im)mobilisation Patterns (ZOiS, 25/09/2025)** | as part of the DSF-funded network ERDAM, with support from BMFTR | with ZOiS contributions by Tsypylma Darieva, Félix Krawatzek, Gwendolyn Sasse
- ▶ **Geopolitical Shifts and Domestic Reconfigurations in the South Caucasus (ZOiS, 26–27/11/2025)** | organised by the ZOiS Caucasus Network in cooperation with Friedrich Schiller University Jena | with ZOiS contributions by Tsypylma Darieva, Nadja Douglas, Hakob Matevosyan, Veronika Pfeilschifter
- ▶ **Strategietagung 2025 – Osteuropaforschung und die Friedens- und Konfliktforschung: Auf dem Weg zu einer gemeinsamen Forschungsagenda (ZOiS, 11–12/12/2025)** | in cooperation with the German Foundation for Peace Research and the Leibniz Peace Research Institute Frankfurt | organised by Gwendolyn Sasse and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS) | with ZOiS contributions by Kerstin Bischl, Félix Krawatzek, Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis, Stefanie Orphal

Workshops

- ▶ **The EU and Ukraine in Times of War and Displacement (ZOiS, 10/01/2025)** | organised by Julia Langbein (ZOiS) and Mitchell Orenstein (University of Pennsylvania) | with ZOiS contributions by Kostiantyn Fedorenko, Félix Krawatzek, Irina Mützelburg
- ▶ **Living in Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectations in Ukraine and Moldova – LimSpaces (Centre Marc Bloch, 20–22/01/25)** | closing workshop of the DFG-funded project LimSpaces in cooperation with the Centre Marc Bloch and CNRS Géographie-cités | with ZOiS contributions by Claudia Eggart, Julia Langbein, Irina Mützelburg, Sabine von Löwis
- ▶ **Vision(s) of Post-War European Security: In:Security Workshop No. 4 (online, 22/01/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded research network KonKoop | organised by Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Kick-off Workshop: KoDaNetOst (ZOiS, 25–26/03/2025)** | organised by Kerstin Bischl and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS) in cooperation with Benjamin Beuerle (Centre Marc Bloch) and Felix Schulte (European Centre for Minority Issues)
- ▶ **How to Change the World with Your Research (online, 14/05/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded network UNET | organised by Julia Langbein (ZOiS) and Hanna Vakhitova (Kyiv School of Economics)

- ▶ **Wissenschaft unter Druck – Strategien für den Umgang mit Anfeindungen (ZOiS, 15/10/2025)** | in cooperation with BR50 | organised by Anja Krüger (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Decolonise International Cooperation? Ethical Considerations in Research Collaboration (ZOiS, 13/11/2025)** | organised by Tsypylma Darieva and Veronika Pfeilschifter (both ZOiS) | with ZOiS contributions by Ivaylo Dinev, Katrin Hoffmann, Gwendolyn Sasse
- ▶ **Karriere nach der Promotion – und was, wenn nicht Professur? (ZOiS, 20/11/2025)** | World Café: career prospects in academic-related fields | in cooperation with BR50 | organised by Katrin Hoffmann and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS) | with ZOiS contributions by Sabine von Löwis, Katrin Hoffmann, Stefanie Orphal

Public lectures and panel discussions

- ▶ **The Post-Soviet Human (ZOiS, 09/01/2025)** | book talk with Mikhail Minakov. Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Liminal Experiences: Coping with War and Crises in Moldova and Ukraine (ZOiS, 20/01/2025)** | with Claudia Eggart (ZOiS), Grégoire Le Gall (CNRS Géographie-cités), Béatrice von Hirschhausen (CNRS Géographie-cités, Centre Marc Bloch), Sophie Lambroschini (Centre Marc Bloch), Julia Langbein (ZOiS), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Irina Mützelburg (ZOiS), Sandra Parvu (ENSA Paris Val de Seine), Ivan Savchuk (CNRS Géographie-cités). Chair: Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)
- ▶ **Seize the City, Undo the State: The Inception of Russia's War on Ukraine (online, 18/02/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded network UNET | book talk by Serhiy Kudelia. Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Welcoming Displaced Ukrainians: Actors and Spaces of Solidarity in Estonia and Latvia (online, 20/02/2025)** | as part of the DSF-funded network ERDAM | Françoise Daucé (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences), Anne le Huérou (Institut des Sciences Sociales du Politique), Inta Mieriņa (University of Latvia). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Being a Child in the Context of War (online, 19/03/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded network UNET | discussion on the basis of the project *Children and Social Cohesion* | with Oksana Mikheieva (Ukrainian Catholic University Lviv), Irina Mützelburg (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Ethnic Identity and Citizenship Among Russia's War-Induced Migrants in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (online, 10/04/2025)** | as part of the DSF-funded network ERDAM | with Olivier Ferrando (Catholic University of Lyon), Hakob Matevosyan (ZOiS). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)



On an evening that brought literature and research into dialogue, the Finnish-Estonian writer Sofi Oksanen (centre) discussed her novel 'Purge', which traces the lives of two women in Soviet-era Estonia, with ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse and political scientist Félix Krawatzek. At ZOiS, Krawatzek researches the transmission of historical narratives in Estonia across generations.

- **Academics in Ukraine's Frontline Cities (online, 25/06/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded network UNET in cooperation with the DAAD-funded competence network KIU | with Ekaterina Bataeva (KIU), Olena Muradyan (V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Daria Yashkina (UNET/V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

- **Between Exile and Engagement: Russian Humanitarian Visa-Holders in Germany (online, 10/07/2025)** | as part of the DSF-funded network ERDAM | with Tatiana Kasimova, Vladimir Kozlov (both Academic Bridges Lab). Chair: Tatiana Golova (ERDAM)

- **Landscaping Academia and Cooperation Gardening in Times of War (ZOiS, 24/09/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded network UNET | with Natalia Otrishchenko, Maryna Rabinovych, Natalia Tsybuliak, Daria Yashkina (all UNET). Chair: Anastasiya Leukhina (UNET)

- **Persistence and Pressure: Academia in Ukraine during Wartime (ZOiS, 03/11/2025)** | in cooperation with the SCIENCE AT RISK Emergency Office of the Academic Network Eastern Europe (akno e.V.) and the German Association for East European Studies (DGO) | introduction: Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOiS), Philipp Christoph Schmädeke (SCIENCE AT RISK Emergency Office) | with Olena Bogdan (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine / UNET), Kostiantyn Fedorenko (ZOiS), Tilman Fietz-Bockard (German Academic Exchange Service), Maryna Rabinovych (Kyiv School of Economics / UNET). Chair: Gabriele Freitag (DGO)

- **Between Risk and Resistance: What's New in the Long History of Russian Migrant Mobilisation? (online, 20/11/2025)** | as part of the DSF-funded network ERDAM | with Bahar Baser (Durham University), Joanna Fomina (Polish Academy of Sciences). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)

ZOIS KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

ZOis Forum

- **Frauen in der Weitergabe von Geschichte (Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, 13/02/2025)** | as part of the event series *Geschichte(n) schreiben: Der Zweite Weltkrieg in Literatur und Wissenschaft* in cooperation with Museum Berlin-Karlshorst | with Alina Bothe (Selma Stern Zentrum für Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg), Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS), Irene Langemann (film-maker und author). Chair: Jörg Morré (Museum Berlin-Karlshorst)
- **China und Russland. Geschichte und Gegenwart ihrer Beziehung (ZOiS, 04/03/2025)** | in cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS at Freie Universität Berlin and Suhrkamp Verlag | with Julia Langbein (ZOiS), Volker Stanzel (Former Ambassador to China), Sören Urbansky (Ruhr University Bochum), Martin Wagner (Freie Universität Berlin)
- **Flucht, Vertreibung, Deportation (ZOiS, 13/03/2025)** | as part of the event series *Geschichte(n) schreiben: Der Zweite Weltkrieg in Literatur und Wissenschaft* in cooperation with Museum Berlin-Karlshorst | with Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS), Vytenė Muschick (translator), Jurga Vilė (author). Chair: Johanna Mogwitz (ZOiS)
- **Gulag und Arbeitslager (Museum Berlin-Karlshorst, 03/04/2025)** | as part of the event series *Geschichte(n) schreiben: Der Zweite Weltkrieg in Literatur und Wissenschaft* in cooperation with Museum Berlin-Karlshorst | with Felicitas Fischer von Weikersthal (Heidelberg University), Viktor Funk (journalist and author). Chair: Nina Frieß (ZOiS)
- **Quo vadis, Belarus? Fünf Jahre Revolution und die Folgen (ZOiS, 24/06/2025)** | in cooperation with dekode | with Volha Hapeyeva (poet and translator), Ingo Petz (dekoder), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS). Chair: Nina Frieß (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Zentralasien bei uns. Menschen aus Zentralasien in Deutschland (BBAW, 27/06/2025)** | in cooperation with the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities | with Ira Peter (journalist and author), Mahabat Sadyrbek (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology). Input and chair: Beate Eschment (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Alltäglicher Aktivismus von Migrant*innen (Kino Krokodil, 17/07/2025)** | in cooperation with Kino Krokodil | with Phaedra Douzina-Bakalaki (University of Helsinki), Piotr Goldstein (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Repressionen in Russland: Bedrohte Gruppen und Möglichkeiten europäischer Solidarität (ZOiS, 25/09/2025)** | with Evi Chayka (NGO Equal PostOst), Stephan Dudeck (University of Tartu), Denis Shedov (OVD-Info). Chair: Tatiana Golova (ERDAM)

- ▶ **Writing (Hi)Stories: Literature and Research on Memory and Identity in Estonia (BBAW, 01/10/2025)** | in cooperation with the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities | with Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS), Sofi Oksanen (author). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

In Conversation with...

- ▶ **Rethinking Peace and Victory to End the Russian Aggression against Ukraine (ZOiS, 14/01/2025)** | with Tetiana Kyselova (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Mediation and Dialogue Research Center). Chair: Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)
- ▶ **Die Belt and Road Initiative und Multilaterale Entwicklungsbanken: Chinas strategische Ziele und Implikationen für Europa (online, 29/01/2025)** | with Valentin Krüsmann (ZOiS). Chair: Julia Langbein (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Political Preferences in Wartime Ukraine (online, 18/03/2025)** | KIU Briefing on Ukraine | with Maksym Obrizan (Kyiv School of Economics). Chair: Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)
- ▶ **'Young Tigers' Against the 'Old Guard': Who Benefits from the Kremlin's New Personnel Strategy? (ZOiS, 08/04/2025)** | with Irina Busygina (ZOiS). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **United Front: Civil and Armed Resistance in Occupied Ukraine (ZOiS, 25/06/2025)** | KIU Briefing on Ukraine | with Yuriy Matsiyevsky (National University of Ostroh Academy). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **On War and Empathy: Lithuanian Volunteer Engagement in Ukraine (ZOiS, 08/07/2025)** | KIU Briefing on Ukraine | with Arvydas Grišinas (Lithuanian Institute of History). Chair: Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)

- ▶ **The Future of EU Support for Ukraine: Ensuring Security, Justice, and Peace in a Shifting Transatlantic Landscape (online, 09/09/2025)** | as part of the event series *IEP Europe Talks* | in cooperation with the Institute for European Politics and the Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU) | with funding by the European Commission and the German Federal Foreign Office | with Marija Golubeva (Baltic Initiative on European Reform), Roman Petrov (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS), Annika Weidemann (European External Action Service). Chair: Laura Christoph (Institute for European Politics)

- ▶ **Russia's Wartime Migrants: Solidarity, Disengagement and Internal Divisions (ZOiS, 25/09/2025)** | with Susanne Bygnes (University of Bergen), Joanna Fomina (Polish Academy of Sciences), Tatiana Golova (ERDAM), Margarita Zavadskaya (Finnish Institute of International Affairs). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)

- ▶ **European Resolve and Russian Resilience: Taking Stock of the EU Sanctions (online, 30/09/2025)** | with Sebastian Hoppe (ZOiS), Alexandra Prokopenko (Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center)

Other events

- ▶ **Café Kyiv 2025: 'We Are U': Education Under War Conditions (Colosseum Berlin, 11/03/2025)** | film screening as part of Café Kyiv and the BMFTR-funded network UNET | with Irina Mützelburg (ZOiS), Helen Pidgorna (UNET). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Ukrainian Women at War: Historical Legacies and Present-Day Challenges (ZOiS, 31/03/2025)** | Special Guest Talk with Oksana Kis (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) | joint event of the BMFTR-funded network UNET, Forum Transregionale Studien, KIU and Prisma Ukraïna. Chair: Viktoriya Sereda
- ▶ **Armenia on the Way to Europe? (online, 06/05/2025)** | organised by the ZOiS Caucasus Network | with Richard Giragosian (Regional Studies Centre), Neva Karapetyan (American University of Armenia), Yevgenya Jenny Paturyan (American University of Armenia), Franziska Smolnik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Kinderliterarisches Kolloquium: Ökologie in der russischen Kinder- und Jugendliteratur (online, 16/05/2025)** | co-organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), Karoline Thaidigsmann (Heidelberg University)
- ▶ **Viadrinicum – Urban Dis/locations: Ruptures and Reimaginings (ZOiS, 27/08/2025)** | roundtable as part of a summer school organised by the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) in cooperation with ZOiS | with ZOiS contributions by Kerstin Bischl, Iaroslav Boretskii, Tsypylma Darieva



In 2025, ZOiS and the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst cooperated on the joint event series 'Writing (Hi)stories: World War II in Literature and Research'.

- ▶ **Research Amidst War: What Is (Not) Possible? (ZOiS, 16/09/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded research network KonKoop | organised by Kerstin Bischl (ZOiS) | with ZOiS contributions by Julia Langbein, Anastasiya Leukhina, Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse

- ▶ **Care, Leadership and (Gendered) Resilience of War-Affected Ukrainian Society (ZOiS, 23/09/2025)** | as part of the BMFTR-funded network UNET | with Nataliia Lomonosova (UNET), Hanna Shvindina (American University Kyiv / UNET), Olena Strelnyk (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine / UNET). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Staat und Zivilgesellschaft in der Ukraine – Demokratie zwischen Kontinuität und Wandel (ZOiS, 07/10/2025)** | in cooperation with the Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU) | with Michael Dobbins (Leibniz University Hannover), Anastasia Rodi (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder). Chair: Eduard Klein (University of Bremen)

- ▶ **Midissage 'Visualising Transborder Lifeworlds in the Polish-German Border Region' (ZOiS, 15/10/2025)** | exhibition by Maksymilian Awuah (DeZIM), Iepke Marie Rijcken (DeZIM), Piotr Goldstein (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Fault Lines and Lines of Defence: Ukraine's Infrastructure under Attack (BBAW, 20/10/2025)** | joint event of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Platform for the Reconstruction of Ukraine and the Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU) | with Stefan Greiving (TU Dortmund University), Oleg Nivievsky (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder), Oleksandra Shumilova (Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries), Viktor Zagreba (NGO Vision Zero). Chair: Jan Passoth (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)

- ▶ **Feministische und marginalisierte Stimmen in Russland – wie gelingt Unterstützung im repressiven Kontext? (ZOiS, 28/10/2025)** | in cooperation with Dialogue for Understanding (d4u)

- ▶ **Kollektive Freiheit: Wofür es sich zu kämpfen lohnt (ZOiS, 04/11/2025)** | as part of the series *Umkämpfte Freiheit(en)* | in cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence CRIPTS at Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research within the framework of the Berlin Science Week | with Bernd Ladwig (Freie Universität Berlin), Kateryna Miščenko (author), Sara Nanni (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS). Chair: Gesa Ufer (journalist)

- ▶ **Kinderliterarisches Kolloquium: Projektpräsentationen (online, 07/11/2025)** | co-organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), Karoline Thaidigsmann (Heidelberg University)

- ▶ **The EU and Germany in the South Caucasus: Arising Insecurities and New Visions? (ZOiS, 26/11/2025)** | organised by the ZOiS Caucasus Network in cooperation with Friedrich Schiller University Jena | with Deren Derya (European External Action Service), Könül de Moor (International Crisis Group), Franziska Smolnik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs), Robin Wagener (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)

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.

- ▶ **Russian Canadians: Views on Politics, History and Society** | ZOiS Report 1/2025 | Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan (22/04/2025)
- ▶ **Emancipatory Dimensions of In:Security – Strategies of Coping with War Challenges in Ukraine** | KonKoop In:Security Report Series/3 | Nadja Douglas, Míla O'Sullivan, Yuliya Yurchuk, Oleksii Vasyliuk, Tetiana Skrypchenko (01/07/2025)
- ▶ **Perspectives on European Security: From Below and In Between** | KonKoop In:Security Report Series/4 | Nadja Douglas, Simon Weiß, Yevgeniya Gaber, Denis Cenusa, Magdalena Jakubowska, Anna Kuczyńska, Alexandra Dienes (01/12/2025)

ZOiS Spotlight

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. Additionally, in our special series **Spotlight on Ukraine** fellows of the Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS write about their research in the context of the war against Ukraine.

- ▶ **Old Autocrat, New Society: What to Expect from the Presidential Election in Belarus** | ZOiS Spotlight 1/2025 | Olga Dryndova (15/01/2025)
- ▶ **The Student Revolt in Serbia: Vučić's Nemesis?** | ZOiS Spotlight 2/2025 | Ivaylo Dinev (29/01/2025)
- ▶ **The Feminist Movement in War-Torn Ukraine: Challenges and Opportunities** | Spotlight on Ukraine 13 | Olena Strelnyk (06/02/2025)
- ▶ **Shifting Allegiances: Families with a Russian Background and the German Election** | ZOiS Spotlight 3/2025 | Félix Krawatzek (12/02/2025)
- ▶ **Russia's Ethnic Minorities and the Shrinking Scope for Activism** | ZOiS Spotlight 4/2025 | Yasin Chulmani, Tsypylma Darieva (26/02/2025)
- ▶ **Being Left-Wing: What Does It Mean for Young Women in Armenia?** | ZOiS Spotlight 5/2025 | Veronika Pfeilschifter (07/03/2025)
- ▶ **Female Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Force for Resilience and Recovery** | Spotlight on Ukraine 14 | Hanna Shvindina (17/03/2025)
- ▶ **Ukraine: Zelenskyi's Legitimacy Undisputed** | ZOiS Spotlight 6/2025 | Olga Onuch, Gwendolyn Sasse (26/03/2025)
- ▶ **Bridging the Gaps in Knowledge about Ukraine** | Spotlight on Ukraine 15 | Nataliia Otrishchenko (02/04/2025)
- ▶ **The Impact of Wartime Trauma on Political Attitudes in Ukraine** | ZOiS Spotlight 7/2025 | Maksym Obrizan (09/04/2025)
- ▶ **Where Does Russia Fit in the Global Trade Restructuring?** | ZOiS Spotlight 8/2025 | Sebastian Hoppe (23/04/2025)
- ▶ **9 May: A Parade of Competing Pasts** | ZOiS Spotlight 9/2025 | Hakob Matevosyan (07/05/2025)
- ▶ **Universities in Kharkiv: Working Conditions on the Front Line** | Spotlight on Ukraine 16 | Daria Yashkina (14/05/2025)
- ▶ **The Many Faces of the Second 'Russian' Generation in Germany** | ZOiS Spotlight 10/2025 | Félix Krawatzek, Sophia Winkler (21/05/2025)

- ▶ **Teachers under Russian Occupation: Education as a Front Line and Tool of Cultural Genocide** | ZOIS Spotlight 11/2025 | Vicente Ferraro (04/06/2025)

- ▶ **How Nursing is Overlooked in Ukraine's Healthcare Crisis** | Spotlight on Ukraine 17 | Nataliia Lomonosova (11/06/2025)

- ▶ **Climbing to the Top: New Elites in Moscow from Russia's Regions** | ZOIS Spotlight 12/2025 | Irina Busygina (18/06/2025)

- ▶ **Ceasefire Lines – Everyday Life, Security and Spaces of Engagement in War** | ZOIS Spotlight 13/2025 | Sabine von Löwis, Noah Harris (02/07/2025)

- ▶ **Identity Speaks: How Language Ideologies Are Reshaping Ukraine** | ZOIS Spotlight 14/2025 | Liudmyla Pidkuimukha (16/07/2025)

- ▶ **Armenia's Uncertain Path to Europe** | ZOIS Spotlight 15/2025 | Tsypylma Darieva, Paul Wernig (30/07/2025)

- ▶ **The Hidden Front Line: How War Damages the Natural World** | ZOIS Spotlight 16/2025 | Rebecca Hirschfeld (10/09/2025)

- ▶ **Ukrainian Decentralisation under Martial Law: A Balancing Act** | Spotlight on Ukraine 18 | Andrii Darkovich, Maryna Rabinovych (17/09/2025)

- ▶ **When Protest Becomes a Mode of Politics** | ZOIS Spotlight 17/2025 | Iyaylo Dinev (24/09/2025)

- ▶ **How Russia Weaponises Food Security in Africa** | ZOIS Spotlight 18/2025 | Pavlo Martyshev (09/10/2025)

- ▶ **Russia, Dissent, and Migration: Inside Berlin's Cultural Reconfiguration** | ZOIS Spotlight 19/2025 | Michela Romano (22/10/2025)

- ▶ **Who Owns the (Difficult) Past in Poland?** | ZOIS Spotlight 20/2025 | Magdalena Lemańczyk (05/11/2025)

- ▶ **Between Worlds: Belarusian Poetry in Exile** | ZOIS Spotlight 21/2025 | Nina Frieß (19/11/2025)

- ▶ **Georgia: Why Europe Must Act Now** | ZOIS Spotlight 22/2025 | Khatia Kikalishvili (03/12/2025)

- ▶ **Ukraine's Resilience: From Buzzword to Useful Concept** | Spotlight on Ukraine 19 | Oleksandra Keudel, Oksana Huss (12/12/2025)

- ▶ **Security through Education: Estonia's Language Transition** | ZOIS Spotlight 23/2025 | Félix Krawatzek (17/12/2025)

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.

- ▶ **Scheinwahlen in Belarus: Inszenierung, Propaganda und Repressionen** | Roundtable Osteuropa 49 (22/01/2025) | With Ingo Petz and Nina Frieß. Chair: Nadja Douglas

- ▶ **Ukrainian Life Stories as Told by Social Science and Playback Theatre** | Roundtable Osteuropa 50 (20/02/2025) | With Yuliia Terentieva and Sabine von Löwis. Chair: Stefanie Orphal

- ▶ **Ausgeträumt in Georgien? Die Proteste gegen den Demokratieabbau und den Anti-EU-Kurs in der Analyse** | Roundtable Osteuropa 51 (06/03/2025) | With Diana Bogishvili and Julia Langbein. Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse

- ▶ **Ukrainians and the EU: Integration, Divisions and Scepticism** | Roundtable Osteuropa 52 (08/04/2025) | With Kostiantyn Fedorenko and Valeria Lazarenko. Chair: Maryna Rabinovych

- ▶ **Visibility, Access, Power: Why Research Data Infrastructure Matters** | Roundtable Osteuropa 53 (13/05/2025) | With Felix Herrmann and Iyaylo Dinev. Chair: Kerstin Bischl

- ▶ **Ukrainische Geflüchtete in Deutschland: zwischen den Welten** | Roundtable Osteuropa 54 (30/06/2025) | With Oleksandra Bienert and Irina Mützelburg. Chair: Stefanie Orphal

- ▶ **Yet Another Crucial Election: Moldova between Russia's Hybrid War and EU Accession** | Roundtable Osteuropa 55 (25/09/2025) | With Anastasia Pocumban and Nadja Douglas. Chair: Stefanie Orphal

- ▶ **Identität und Politik zwischen den Welten: Menschen mit Russlandhintergrund in Deutschland** | Roundtable Osteuropa 56 (16/10/2025) | With Alex Yusopov and Félix Krawatzek. Chair: Sophia Winkler

- ▶ **Russians on the Move: Reception and Response in Georgia and Armenia** | Roundtable Osteuropa 57 (13/11/2025) | With Margarita Zavadskaya and Tsypylma Darieva. Chair: Stefanie Orphal
- ▶ **China's Global Infrastructure Ambitions** | Roundtable Osteuropa 58 (20/11/2025) | With Lunting Wu and Valentin Krüsmann. Chair: Julia Langbein
- ▶ **Jedes Wort zählt: Buchgespräch zu „Ukrainische Literaturgeschichte“** | Roundtable Osteuropa 59 (09/12/2025) | With Ulrich Schmid and Alessandro Achilli. Chair: Nina Frieß

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.

- ▶ **'Europe Should Try to Make Its Diversity of Voices One of Its Strengths'** | Meet the Author with Félix Krawatzek (27/02/2025)
- ▶ **'Democratic Freedom Does Not Fall Into Our Laps'** | Meet the Author with Ingo Petz (27/03/2025)
- ▶ **'Historical Borders Often Continue to Resonate To This Day'** | Meet the Author with Sabine von Löwis (20/08/2025)

Expert*innenstimme

The **Expert*innenstimme** (*Expert Voice*) provides an interview-based analysis 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.

- ▶ **80 Jahre nach der Befreiung von Auschwitz** | Félix Krawatzek (16/01/2025)
- ▶ **Energiekrise in Moldau: Russlands Spiel mit der Not** | Nadja Douglas (31/01/2025)

- ▶ **Krieg gegen die Ukraine: Bevorstehende Friedensverhandlungen** | Gwendolyn Sasse (14/02/2025)

- ▶ **Präsidentenschaftswahl in Rumänien: Was bedeutet der Erfolg der AUR?** | Ivaylo Dinev (16/05/2025)

- ▶ **Schwierige Entscheidung: Kasachstan und der Bau neuer Atomkraftwerke** | Beate Eschment (26/06/2025)

- ▶ **Sanktionen gegen Russland** | Sebastian Hoppe (21/07/2025)

- ▶ **Kirgistans vorgezogene Parlamentswahl 2025 als Wendepunkt** | Beate Eschment (27/11/2025)

- ▶ **Freilassungen Oppositioneller aus Belarus** | Nina Frieß (15/12/2025)

Zentralasien-Analysen

Zentralasien-Analysen – 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.

- ▶ **Erinnerung und Gewalt in Turkmenistan** | Zentralasien-Analysen No. 167 (28/02/2025)
- ▶ **Grenzabkommen zwischen Kirgistan und Tadschikistan** | Zentralasien-Analysen No. 168 (27/05/2025)
- ▶ **Afghanistan-Politik der Vereinigten Staaten, Russlands und der Türkei** | Zentralasien-Analysen No. 169 (13/10/2025)
- ▶ **Mittelkorridor** | Zentralasien-Analysen No. 170 (12/12/2025)

ZOiS in the Media

TV/Video

- ▶ **Сръбските студенти трябва да намерят начин да се трансформират в политическо движение**
Ivaylo Dinev | Alternativata.BG (28/01/2025)
- ▶ **Политолог: Сърбия е на кръстопът**
Ivaylo Dinev | Nova TV Bulgaria (28/01/2025)
- ▶ **Njemački mediji: Najveća kriza vlasti u Srbiji od pada Miloševića**
Report on ZOiS Spotlight 2/2025 by Ivaylo Dinev | Aljazeera (29/01/2025)
- ▶ **Трагедията в Нови Сад и гневът на улицата: Защо протестите в Сърбия не стихват? Ивайло Динев пред Actualno**
Ivaylo Dinev | actualno.com (06/02/2025)
- ▶ **Are Serbia's student protests a tipping point?**
Ivaylo Dinev | ARTE Europe Weekly (06/02/2025)
- ▶ **Ukraine – Gespräch mit Gwendolyn Sasse**
Gwendolyn Sasse | 3sat Kulturzeit (31/03/2025)
- ▶ **80 Jahre nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg: Daran sollten wir uns erinnern**
Félix Krawatzek | SWR1 (08/05/2025)
- ▶ **Russische Fahnen nicht erwünscht – Gedenken ans Kriegsende**
Félix Krawatzek | rbb24 Abendschau (09/05/2025)
- ▶ **Welches Vertrauen genießt die Wissenschaft heute noch?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | 3sat (12/05/2025)
- ▶ **Влияние Китая на Центральную Азию вышло за рамки экономики, это беспокоит Россию**
Beate Eschment | Deutsche Welle (22/06/2025)
- ▶ **Why is Moldova's upcoming parliamentary election so pivotal?**
Sabine von Löwis | Deutsche Welle (25/09/2025)
- ▶ **Wenn Putins Propaganda lockt – Deutsche Auswanderer nach Russland**
Félix Krawatzek | ZDF frontal (11/11/2025)
- ▶ **Политолог за протестите в Сърбия: Това е национално събитие**
Ivaylo Dinev | Euronews Bulgaria (12/11/2025)

- ▶ **Протестите в България от 89-та до днес – прилики и разлики**
Ivaylo Dinev | Darik.bg (08/12/2025)
- ▶ **Ringten um die Zukunft der Ukraine. Machtloses Europa?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | ZDF frontal (09/12/2025)
- ▶ **Какво идва след протеста: Ивайло Динев с анализ на сценариите (ВИДЕО)**
Ivaylo Dinev | actualno.com (11/12/2025)
- ▶ **Der Streit um die 'Frozen Assets'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | ZDF (14/12/2025)
- ▶ **Той беше лидер на студентските протести през 2013 г.: Ивайло Динев за протестите днес на поколението Z**
Ivaylo Dinev | btv (14/12/2025)

Radio/Podcast

- ▶ **Russia at War – An interview with Félix Krawatzek, expert on Russia and comparative politics**
Félix Krawatzek | Podcast 'World Focus from Brussels' (28/01/2025)
- ▶ **Ивайло Динев: Сърбия е в политическа криза от години**
Ivaylo Dinev | Darik.bg (31/01/2025)
- ▶ **Europas Sicherheit 'zertrumpelt'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | NDR Info (16/02/2025)
- ▶ **'Waffenstillstand in Ukraine nicht schnell umsetzbar'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | rbb24 Inforadio (17/02/2025)
- ▶ **Europa versucht, Druck aufzubauen**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Nova (18/02/2025)
- ▶ **Europas Platz in der neuen Weltordnung**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (23/02/2025)
- ▶ **Ukraine-Politik unter neuen Vorzeichen**
Gwendolyn Sasse | radio3 rbb (24/02/2025)
- ▶ **Eine Chance für Europa?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (07/03/2025)
- ▶ **Usbekistan nach der Diktatur – Aufbruch an der Seidenstraße**
Beate Eschment | SWR podcast 'Das Wissen' (10/03/2025)

- ▶ **Autoritäres Kasachstan: Tiefgreifende Reformen bleiben aus**
Beate Eschment | Deutschlandfunk Kultur podcast 'Weltzeit' (10/03/2025)

 - ▶ **Krieg in der Ukraine: USA und Russland verhandeln über Waffenruhe**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Nova (24/03/2025)

 - ▶ **Wir müssen mit Russland reden! Schön wär's**
Podcast 'Der Ostcast' relating to ZOIS, Zeit Online (17/04/2025)

 - ▶ **Rechtspopulisten bei Wahlen erfolgreich – wohin steuert Europa?**
Félix Krawatzek | MDR Aktuell (19/05/2025)

 - ▶ **Neuer Kanzler, neue Ukraine-Politik: Selenskyj besucht Merz**
Sebastian Hoppe | WDR 5 Mittagsecho (28/05/2025)

 - ▶ **Nach der Wahl: Blick auf Polens Jugend**
Félix Krawatzek | Deutschlandfunk (09/06/2025)

 - ▶ **Rechtsruck in Polen: Was junge Menschen gewählt haben**
Félix Krawatzek | Correctiv Salon5 podcast 'Geld, Macht und Leben' (12/06/2025)

 - ▶ **Ивайло Динев: Протестите се повтарят, защото не се направи преосноваване на демокрацията**
Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (23/07/2025)

 - ▶ **'Федерализм оказалася одной из жертв путинской политики'. Как Татарстан за 35 лет превратился в лояльную Москве республику**
Irina Busygina | Idel.Реалии Radio Liberty (05/09/2025)

 - ▶ **Belarus und Polen: Donald Tusk verschärft die Asylpolitik**
Nina Frieß | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (24/11/2025)

 - ▶ **'Wir sind weit weg von einem Friedensplan'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (02/12/2025)

 - ▶ **Expertin: US-Wirtschaftsinteressen dominieren Gespräche**
Gwendolyn Sasse | rbb24 Inforadio (03/12/2025)

 - ▶ **Osteuropa-Expertin: 'Dauerhafter Frieden wird zu rhetorischer Hülse'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | NDR Info (08/12/2025)

 - ▶ **Ukraine-Friedensgespräche im Kanzleramt**
Gwendolyn Sasse | radio3 rbb (16/12/2025)

 - ▶ **Gen Z в България: Не просто протести, а събуждане на гражданското общество**
Ivaylo Dinev | Vesti.bg (19/12/2025)

 - ▶ **Протестна демокрация с Ивайло Динев**
Ivaylo Dinev | Podcast DEN (30/12/2025)

 - ▶ **Ивайло Динев: Гражданското общество трябва да бъде водещо и да задава тона**
Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (31/12/2025)

- Print/Online**
- ▶ **Russischstämmige wählten einst zu 70 Prozent CDU – jetzt geht der Trend zur AfD**
Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan | Merkur (16/01/2025)

 - ▶ **ZOIS: Za proteste u Srbiji odlučujuće će biti naredne nedelje**
Article on ZOIS Spotlight 2/2025 by Ivaylo Dinev | Danas (29/01/2025)

 - ▶ **Studentski pokret u Srbiji osvaja izvornom demokratijom, čekaju ga važne odluke**
Article on ZOIS Spotlight 2/2025 by Ivaylo Dinev | dijalog.net (29/01/2025)

 - ▶ **Studentski pokret osvaja izvornom demokratijom, ali ga čekaju važne odluke**
Article on ZOIS Spotlight 2/2025 by Ivaylo Dinev | Dnevni Evropski Servis (29/01/2025)

 - ▶ **Analiza Centra za istočnoevropske i međunarodne studije: Studentski revolt u Srbiji – Vučićev neprijatelj?**
Ivaylo Dinev | Danas (29/01/2025)

 - ▶ **Beogradski studenti danas kreću na dvodnevni marš prema Novom Sadu**
Article on ZOIS Spotlight 2/2025 by Ivaylo Dinev | actualno.com (30/01/2025)

 - ▶ **Ивайло Динев: Трагедията в Нови Сад беше капката, която преля чашата**
Ivaylo Dinev | novini.bg (31/01/2025)

 - ▶ **Kiew lässt sich auf Trumps Rohstoff-Deal ein: 'Selenskyj will sich das Interesse der USA erkaufen'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (26/02/2025)

 - ▶ **Ivaylo Dinev on the 'Tempi of Serbia': A Shared Vision for a Just Society**
Ivaylo Dinev | Documento News (26/02/2025)

 - ▶ **Wiederaufnahme der US-Militärhilfen an die Ukraine: 'Trump ist jetzt unter Zugzwang'**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (11/03/2025)

- ▶ **Ивайло Динев: Протестите в Сърбия показват дълбока криза на представителството**
Ivaylo Dinev | Novini.bg (11/03/2025)

- ▶ **Schwierige Ukraine-Verhandlungen: Verliert Donald Trump bald die Geduld?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (22/04/2025)

- ▶ **Polens Rechts-außen-Partei Konfederacja setzt auf die Jungen – und die Jüngsten**
Félix Krawatzek | Standard (12/05/2025)

- ▶ **Kim Jong-un des Fußballs: Wie ein Diktator einen ‘unbesiegbaren’ Klub schuf**
Beate Eschment | Frankfurter Rundschau (13/05/2025)

- ▶ **Молодое поколение ‘русских’ в ФРГ/ Чьи ценности ему ближе?**
Félix Krawatzek, Sophia Winkler | Deutsche Welle (27/05/2025)

- ▶ **‘Die Frage entzweit die Jugend’**
Félix Krawatzek | taz (28/05/2025)

- ▶ **Osteuropa-Expertin Sasse: ‘Lukaschenka ist nur so lange sicher, wie es Putin gibt’**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Table.Briefings (19/06/2025)

- ▶ **Die Ukraine bekommt eine neue Regierungschefin: Was dahinter steckt – und was Trump damit zu tun hat**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (17/07/2025)

- ▶ **EU-Sanktionen gegen Russland: Erstmals auch China und EU-Staaten selbst betroffen**
Sebastian Hoppe | Epoch Times (22/07/2025)

- ▶ **Bulgarians Ride New Protest Wave, But Question Potential Impact**
Ivaylo Dinev | BalkanInsight (30/07/2025)

- ▶ **Trump's Zwei-Mann-Gipfel in Alaska: ‘Für Putin ist bereits das Treffen ein Erfolg’**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (14/08/2025)

- ▶ **Fünf Jahre nach der Revolution in Belarus: Hinter einem eisernen Vorhang**
Nina Frieß | Der Spiegel (18/08/2025)

- ▶ **Trump will Treffen von Putin und Selenskyj: Wie wahrscheinlich ist der Showdown – und was könnte er bringen?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (19/08/2025)

- ▶ **Ukraine-Krieg: ‘Putin denkt derzeit nicht an eine Waffenruhe’**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Augsburger Allgemeine (23/08/2025)

- ▶ **No-Confidence Vote Tests Bulgaria's Shaky Govt as Parliament Reopens**
Ivaylo Dinev | BalkanInsight (03/09/2025)

- ▶ **‘Kiew kann das gesamte Land zurückerobern’: Wirft Trump jetzt seine gesamte Ukraine-Politik über den Haufen?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (24/09/2025)

- ▶ **Schicksalswahl in Moldau – Neutralität, Russland oder Europa?**
Sabine von Löwis | Berliner Zeitung (27/09/2025)

- ▶ **Zurück in die nukleare Zukunft: Über Jahrzehnte wurde Kasachstan durch sowjetische Atomwaffen verstrahlt – trotzdem baut das Land nun sein erstes Kernkraftwerk**
Beate Eschment | Neue Zürcher Zeitung (01/10/2025)

- ▶ **US-Sondergesandter Witkoff spricht mit Russlands Präsident Putin über ein Friedensabkommen für die Ukraine**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (02/12/2025)

- ▶ **Ukraine-Verhandlungen: ‘Europa hat viele Chancen verpasst’**
Gwendolyn Sasse | ZDF heute (13/12/2025)

- ▶ **La generación Z en el laberinto búlgaro**
Ivaylo Dinev | CTXT – Contexto y Acción (17/12/2025)

Guest contributions

- ▶ **Noch keine Zeitenwende in der Osteuropaforschung**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Table.Briefings (24/01/2025)

- ▶ **Сърбия на кръстопът: ще успее ли студентският протест да свали Вучич**
Ivaylo Dinev | Дневник (24/01/2025)

- ▶ **Η Σερβία σε σταυροδρόμι: θα καταφέρουν οι φοιτητικές διαμαρτυρίες να ανατρέψουν τον Βούτσικς**
Ivaylo Dinev | Αυτολεξεί (26/01/2025)

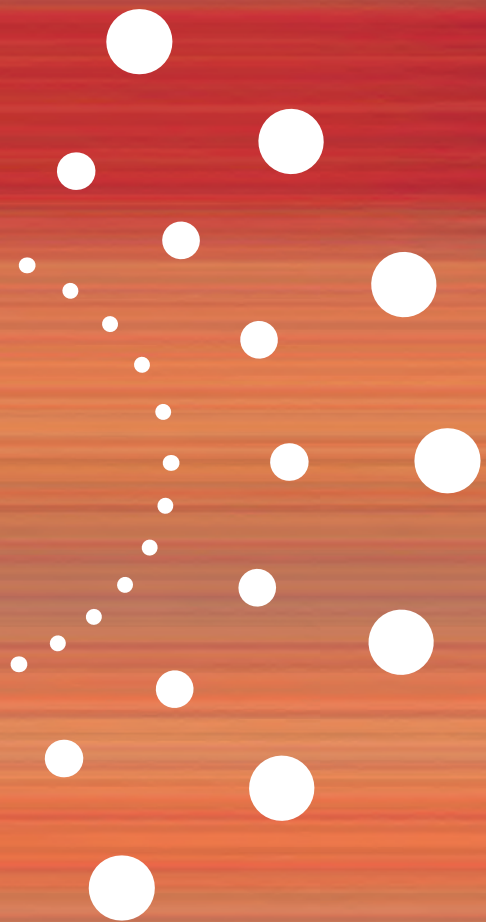
- ▶ **On Student Protests of Late 2024 in Serbia**
Ivaylo Dinev | Mainstream Weekly (08/02/2025)

- ▶ **Trump will mit Putin telefoniert haben: Kann er den Kremlchef zu Verhandlungen zwingen?**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (10/02/2025)

- ▶ **Schwierige Ukraine-Verhandlungen mit Trump: Europa feiert sich zu Unrecht**
Gwendolyn Sasse | Tagesspiegel (24/08/2025)

- ▶ **Sanktionen gegen Russland: Härtere Umsetzung statt Symbolpolitik**
Sebastian Hoppe | The Pioneer (19/09/2025)

External
Activities



Academic and Other Publications

Monographs

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Pestel, Friedemann; Feindt, Gregor; Trimçev, Rieke. **Shades of Blue: Claiming Europe in the Age of Disintegration.** Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2025.
- ▶ Krüsmann, Valentin. **Multilateralization with Chinese Characteristics? The Governance and Geo-economics of a Financially Multilateralizing Belt and Road Initiative.** Freie Universität Berlin, 2025.
- ▶ Löwis, Sabine von. **Das Phantom der alten Grenze am Zbruč: Kontinuitäten und Brüche sozialräumlicher Strukturen in der Westukraine.** Series: Phantomgrenzen im östlichen Europa; Vol. 7. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2025.

Editorships

- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma; Fehlings, Susanne; Smolnik, Franziska (eds.). **Connectivity and Disconnectivity in the South Caucasus.** Mobilities, 20(6), 2025.
- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma; Klingenberg, Darja; Bram, Chen. **Jews of the Caucasus.** Special Section. Journal of Modern Jewish Studies, 24(2), 2025.
- ▶ Frieß, Nina; Kowollik, Eva; Thaidigsmann, Karoline. **Imaginierte Gemeinschaften in den slavischen Kinder- und Jugendliteraturen. Thematic Focus.** Zeitschrift für Slawistik, 2, 2025.

Articles in refereed journals

- ▶ Börzel, Tanja A.; Langbein, Julia; Wu, Lunting; Krüsmann, Valentin. **Collision, Competition or Cooperation? China's BRI and the EU's Development Policies Towards Eastern Europe.** In: Global Policy, 2025 (online first).
- ▶ Bruszt, László; Langbein, Julia. **Building a Transnational Developmental State in Europe: Lessons from the Big Bang Enlargement for the Next Integration Round.** In: Journal of European Public Policy, 32(12), 2025, pp. 2973–2998.
- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Tevdoy-Burmuli, Alexander. **Institutional and Discursive Attributes of the Imperial Project in Modern Russia.** In: Journal of Eurasian Studies, 2025 (online first).

- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Filippov, Mikhail. **The Impact of War on Center-Regional Relations in Russia: The Case of Defense-Linked Regions.** In: Russian Politics 10(1), 2025, pp. 1–21.
- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma. **Navigating Political (Dis)engagement: Russian Wartime Migrants in Georgia.** In: Post-Soviet Affairs, 2025 (online first).
- ▶ 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, 53(6), 2025, pp. 1332–1348.
- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma; Klingenberg, Darja; Bram, Chen. **Jews of the Caucasus: Migration Routes and Multiple Entanglement.** In: Special Section: Jews of the Caucasus. Journal of Modern Jewish Studies, 24(2), 2025, pp. 557–569.
- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo; et al. **Labour Unrest in the Context of Multiple Crises: A Comparative Perspective of Europe.** In: Social Movement Studies, 2025 (online first).
- ▶ Frieß, Nina; Kowollik, Eva; Thaidigsmann, Karoline. **Imaginierte Gemeinschaften in den slavischen Kinder- und Jugendliteraturen. Einführung.** In: Zeitschrift für Slawistik, 2, 2025, pp. 193–199.
- ▶ Frieß, Nina. **Offen, tolerant, fantastisch. Imaginierte Gemeinschaften in Kasachstans zeitgenössischer Kinderliteratur.** In: Zeitschrift für Slawistik, 2, 2025, pp. 200–217.
- ▶ Goldstein, Piotr; Matras, Yaron. **Language as a Diasporic Stance: Polish in a Migrant Urban Space.** In: Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 51(5), 2025, pp. 1143–1159.
- ▶ Kaczmarek, Katarzyna; Busygina, Irina; Holm-Hansen, Jørn; Handå Myhre, Marthe. **State Populism in Russia in a Time of War: Examining Discourses on 'Anti-Russian' Sanctions.** In: The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, 27(4), 2025, pp. 1312–1340.
- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Soroka, George. **Fractured Pasts? Views on Soviet History Among Russians and Ukrainians Prior to the 2022 Invasion.** In: Nationalities Papers, 2025 (online first).

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Moreton, Emma. **Finding Home in Irish and German Migrant Letters: A Comparative Analysis.** In: *Social Science History*, 49(1), 2025, pp. 75–103.

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Pestel, Friedemann. **New Histories of and for Europe: Narrating the European Project.** In: *Contemporary European History*, 34(1), 2025, pp. 199–208.

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Pfeilschifter, Veronika. **Young People, Politics and Society in the South Caucasus.** In: *Europe-Asia Studies*, 77(4), 2025, pp. 1–29.

- ▶ Ocaklı, Beril; Krüsmann, Valentin. **Whom the Roads Bypass: Rikoti's East-West Connections in a Disconnecting Georgia.** In: *Mobilities*, 20(6), 2025, pp. 1038–1058.

- ▶ Pospieszna, Paulina; Krawatzek, Félix. **Youth Activism in Poland: Perceptions of Protest and Civic Engagement.** In: *East European Politics and Societies*, 39(3), 2025, pp. 608–629.

- ▶ Rijcken, Iepke M.; Goldstein, Piotr; Awuah, Maksymilian. **Visualizing Transborder Lifeworlds in the Polish-German Border Region.** In: *Anthropology of Work Review*, 2025, 46(2).

- ▶ Smolnik, Franziska; Fehlings, Susanne; Darieva, Tsypylma. **A Hub or Periphery? Connectivity/Disconnectivity in the South Caucasus.** In: *Mobilities*, 20(6), 2025, pp. 1023–1037.

Chapters in edited volumes

- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma. **Planted Flags? The Political Life of Trees and Arboreal Patriotism in Armenia.** In: Rumyantsev, Sergey (ed.). *Education and the Politics of Memory in Russia and Eastern Europe: Infested with History*. London: Routledge, 2025, pp. 157–171.

- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo; Stoyanov, Dragomir. **Bulgaria Protest Movements Transforming the Party System.** In: Crăciun, Claudiu; Rammelt, Henry P. (eds.). *Power and Protest in Central and Eastern Europe*. Palgrave Studies in European Political Sociology. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2025, pp. 81–108.

- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo; Rone, Julia; Kralj, Karlo. **Social Movements and the Left at the Sub-national Level in Central and Eastern Europe.** In: Bratberg, Øivind; Nikolai, Brandal (eds.). *Social Democracy and Urban Politics*. Manchester University Press, 2025, pp. 253–275.

- ▶ Goldstein, Piotr. **Spółdzielnia/Cooperative: An Experiment in Longitudinal Visual Ethnography of Migrant Activism.** In: Hämmerling, Christine; Koensler, Alexander; Näser-Lather, Marion (eds.). *Utopias of Sustainability – Sustainability of Utopias. A Multimodal Intervention*. Morlacchi Editore U.P., 2025, pp. 76–82.



*In their book *Shades of Blue*, published in 2025, ZOIS political scientist Félix Krawatzek and his co-authors examine the political project of Europe, caught between centrifugal and centripetal tendencies.*

- ▶ Rone, Julia; Dinev, Ivaylo. **Progressive Politics in Central and Eastern Europe.** In: Mattoni, Alice (ed.). *Handbook of Progressive Politics*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025, pp. 70–91.

- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **A Safe Haven? Ukraine's Western Border Regions Since the Full-Scale Russian Invasion.** In: Laine, Jussi P.; Petersson, Bo (eds.). *Resilience as Deterrence: Towards a Comprehensive Security Panorama*. IOS Press, 2025, pp. 153–167.

- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **Borderlands into Bloodlands: The Ukrainian-Russian Border and the End of the 'Post-Soviet'.** In: Scott, James W.; Wilson, Thomas M. (eds.). *Routledge Handbook of European Borderlands*. London: Routledge, 2025, pp. 54–86.

- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **Ukrainian Memory Laws and Decommunization Policies from the Euromaidan to the Full-Scale Russian Invasion.** In: Belavusau, Uladzislau; Gliszczynska-Grabias, Aleksandra; Mälksoo, Maria; Nußberger, Angelika (eds.). *The Politics of Memory Laws. Russia, Ukraine and Beyond*. Oxford & New York: Hart Publishing/Bloomsbury, 2025, pp. 99–124.

- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. **Gedenkkultur(en) und Erinnerungspolitik.** In: Worschech, Susann (Hrsg.). *Freiheitsschauplatz. Ein Gesellschaftsportrait der Ukraine*. Baden-Baden: Nomos-Verlag, 2025, pp. 291–320.

Other publications

- ▶ Bruszt, László; Langbein, Julia. **The Negative Consequences of Rule Transfer in EU Enlargement.** The Loop. ECPR's Political Science Blog, November 2025.

- ▶ Busygina, Irina; Filippov, Mikhail. **Why Russia is So Resilient.** Europe's Edge, Center for European Policy Analysis (11/12/2025).



In her postdoctoral thesis Sabine von Löwis investigates an almost forgotten border in western Ukraine and shows the enduring relevance of former borderlands.

- ▶ Darieva, Tsypylma. **Diversität unter Druck. Ethnische und sprachliche Vielfalt in Russland.** In: Russisch im Kontext. Impulse für den Unterricht. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Heft 3, 2025, pp. 4–7.

- ▶ Dilling, Matthias; Krawatzek, Félix. **Alternative for Germany and the 'Weaponization' of History.** Political Observer on Populism (28/01/2025).

- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo. **Wiederkehrende Wellen: Proteste gegen den gekaperten Staat in Bulgarien.** In: Religion & Gesellschaft in Ost und West (RGOW), 9, 2025.

- ▶ Dinev, Ivaylo; Douglas, Nadja. **The Political and Cultural Future of Karabakh Armenians.** In: Caucasus Analytical Digest, 140, 2025, pp. 4–13.

- ▶ Douglas, Nadja. **Energy Crisis in Moldova: Russia's Game with Uncertainty.** Moldovan Analytical Digest, 2, 2025, pp. 12–14.

- ▶ Fedorenko, Kostiantyn. **The Impact of Russia's War against Ukraine on Ukrainian Academic Staff.** In: Mierau, Julia (ed.). SCIENCE AT RISK Monitoring Report: Academia in Ukraine: Navigating the Protracted War, 2025, pp. 24–37.

- ▶ Frieß, Nina. **Die russische Tradition der Dorfliteratur.** Ost-West Europäische Perspektiven, 4, 2025, pp. 250–255.

- ▶ Hoppe, Sebastian. **Russlands Imperialismus als System. Wie Krieg, Ideologie und Ressourcenökonomie ineinandergreifen.** Wissenschaft und Frieden, Autoritäre Wende: Repression – Militarisierung – Faschisierung, 4, 2025.

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix; Pestel, Friedemann; Trimčev, Rieke; Feindt, Gregor. **Divided Memory in Europe: 80 Years After the End of World War II.** In: Cornell University Press Authors' Blog, March 2025.

- ▶ Krawatzek, Félix. **Durchlebt Osteuropa eine demografische Panik?** In: ALBERT Nr. 10, 2025, S. 90.

- ▶ Krüsmann, Valentin. **Chinese Construction Contractors in Georgia: European Funding, Strategic Interests, and Policy Concerns.** In: Pociumban, Anastasia (ed.). Connectivity Policy: A Strategic Tool for the EU in its Eastern Neighborhood. DGAP Report 2, 2025, pp. 19–23.

- ▶ Langbein, Julia. **Georgia's Withdrawal from the EU Accession Process: Reasons, Consequences, and EU Reactions.** Caucasus Analytical Digest, 141, 2025, pp. 16–19.

- ▶ Łojewska, Olga; Goldstein, Piotr. **Affective Infrastructures.** In: Le Calvé, Maxime; Beck, Petra; Stock, Robert (eds.). Drift. Sink. Emerge. Repeat. Diffracting the Critical through Multimodal Submersion: A Catalogue to the STS HUB 2025 Exhibition. Berlin, 2025.

- ▶ Matevosyan, Hakob. **'Áni-örmények' a mai Magyarországon [Ani-Armenians' in Contemporary Hungary].** In: Hartmann, Elke; Kovács, Bálint (eds.). Áni emlékezetének sokrétű dinamikája [The Multifaceted Dynamics of Ani's Remembrance], special issue of Világtörténet, 15 (3/47), pp. 457–467.

- ▶ Goldstein, Piotr; Lorenz, Jan. **Active (Citizen) – Can Anyone Be an Activist?** In: Le Calvé, Maxime; Beck, Petra; Stock, Robert (eds.). Drift. Sink. Emerge. Repeat. Diffracting the Critical through Multimodal Submersion: A Catalogue to the STS HUB 2025 Exhibition. Berlin, 2025.

- ▶ Nowicka, Magdalena; Goldstein, Piotr. **'I Can't Say These Are Bad People.' How Polish Commuting Workers Feel about the Encounters with Germans, Ukrainians and Others.** VISION Notes, 2025, 3(1), pp. 1–8.

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **An der Schnittstelle Wissenschaft & Öffentlichkeit. Eine Reflexion.** OSTEUROPA, 1–3, 2025, pp. 53–58.

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Reclaiming Europe in Action.** In: Römhildt, Roland A. (ed.). Reclaiming Europe. A Collection of Essays. Berlin: Young Network Transeurope, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2025, pp. 80–82.

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **The Power of Language on War and Peace.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (30.09.2025).

- ▶ Sasse, Gwendolyn. **Ukraine: Between a Rock and a Hard Place.** Strategic Europe, Carnegie Europe (25/11/2025).

Events

Lectures

- ▶ Irina Busygina
The Kremlin's New Personnel Strategy: Federal and Regional Perspectives | Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C., 24/01/2025) | as part of *INR Analytic Exchange on Regional Perspectives in Russia*

- ▶ Christian Schaich
The German Academic Landscape: Work and Funding Opportunities for Postdocs | Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (online, 12/02/2025)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Society during and after War: Between Unity and Diversity | University of Cologne, European Academy for the Protection of Human Rights, Academy in Exile (Cologne, 24/03/2025)

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
Zwischen Klischee und Realität: Russlanddeutsche und die Politik | Museum für Russlanddeutsche Kulturgeschichte (Detmold, 25/03/2025)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Sophia Winkler
Navigating Memory Wars: Russian Migrants in Germany and the Kremlin's Digital Influence | Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University (New York, 02/04/2025)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Sophia Winkler
When Histories Collide: How Migrants Navigate Transnational Belonging Online and Offline | Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University (New York, 04/04/2025)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
'Young Wolves' Against the 'Old Guard': New Trends in the Regional-Federal Power Dynamics in Russia | Harriman Institute, Columbia University (New York, 28/04/2025)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Non-Democratic Federalism and Decentralization: The Lessons from Post-Soviet States | Oxford University Consortium (Oxford, 08/05/2025) | book talk with Mikhail Filippov

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
Familiengeheimnis oder Familiengespräch? | Centre for Global Migration Studies, Museum Friedland (Göttingen, 14/05/2025)

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Legal Foundations of Legal Education in Germany | Administration of the President and Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Berlin, 23/06/2025)

- ▶ Julia Langbein
How to Manage Integration into the EU Market: Lessons from Eastern Enlargement for Ukraine's EU Accession | European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Frankfurt/Oder, 26/05/2025) | as part of the *KIU Ukraine Lecture Series*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Social Support and Solidarity towards Ukrainians Displaced by Russia's Full-scale Invasion in Counter-intuitive Settings: The Case of Transnistria | European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Frankfurt/Oder, 09/07/2025) | as part of the *KIU Lunch Lecture* | with Gaëlle Le Pavic

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Der Krieg in der Ukraine und seine regionalen Implikationen | Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin (Berlin, 09/10/2025)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Current Trends in Russia's Political Development | Indiana University Bloomington (Bloomington, 15/10/2025)

- ▶ Lena Pieber
Autonomy within De Facto Statehood? The Case of Abkhazia | University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, 16/10/2025)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
History and Memory Politics in the Ukrainian-Russian Conflict: From the Orange Revolution 2004 to the Full-scale Invasion 2022 | Helmut Schmidt University / University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg (Hamburg, 23/10/2025)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Ist die Demokratie erst ruiniert... Polen und die Schwierigkeit, eine verlorene Demokratie wiederzugewinnen | Stadt Rödermark (Rödermark, 24/10/2025) | as part of the *Nell-Breuning-Symposium*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Can Russia Disintegrate? | Fletcher Russia and Eurasia Program, Tufts University (Boston, 28/10/2025)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Johanna Mogwitz
Wissenschaftskommunikation in Drittmittelprojekten: Das Projekt 'MoveMeRU' | German Association for East European Studies (online, 29/10/2025) | as part of the lunchtalk series *Werkstatt WissKomm Osteuropa*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
The Future of Politics: Protest Democracy or Autocracy | Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (Sofia, 06/11/2025) | as part of the discussion series *Post-Democracy*

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
The European Union as Empire: Unwitting, Unwilling or Undoing? | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Munich, 08/11/2025) | as part of the *Annual Meeting of the Eric Voegelin Society: Mapping Empires. Patterns Past and Present*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Federal Relations and Territorial Politics in Russia | U.S. Department of State, National Foreign Affairs Training Center (Washington, D.C., 20/11/2025)

Panel discussions

- ▶ Irina Busygina
How Geography and Institutions Shaped the Development of Nations: Across Countries and Continents | Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University (Ramat Gan, 16/01/2025)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Wohin treibt Russland? Gibt es Chancen für demokratischen Wandel? | Heinrich Böll Foundation (Berlin, 20/02/2025) | book talk with Jens Siegert

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Rooted in Movement: The Interplay of Migration, Identity, and Solidarity Between Germany and Kyrgyzstan | Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in cooperation with Art City e.V. (Berlin, 01/03/2025)

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Book Launch and Discussion: War, Migration, Memory (Viktoriya Sereda, ed.) | Berliner Landeszentrale für politische Bildung (Berlin, 04/03/2025)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Rebuilding Futures: Harnessing Youth Potential in Ukraine's Recovery | European Youth Panel (Berlin, 11/03/2025) | as part of *Café Kyiv*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Neue Regierung, andere Außenpolitik? | SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence at Freie Universität Berlin, European Commission Representation in Germany, European Parliament Liaison Office in Berlin (Berlin, 06/03/2025) | amongst others with Anton Hofreiter (Member of the Bundestag), MEP Hannah Neumann and former Governing Mayor of Berlin Michael Müller

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Spark! Mini-Talks From the Davis Center | Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (Cambridge, 31/03/2025)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
The End of Russian Hegemonic Power | Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (Berlin, 31/03/2025)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Geography and Institutions in Shaping the Development of Nations: Russia Focus | Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (Cambridge, 15/04/2025)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Freiburger Horizonte: 1945 | 2025 – Nachkriegszeiten | Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Freiburg (Freiburg, 28/04/2025)

- ▶ Irina Busygina
The Kremlin's Influence Operations among Western Elites | American Russian-Speaking Association for Civil and Human Rights (online, 24/05/2025) | Input *Putinverstehet: The Kremlin's Narratives among German Elites in Time of the War against Ukraine*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Träume von der post-kolonialen Republik: Der Fukuyama Moment? | Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Hamburg (Hamburg, 04/06/2025)

- ▶ Valentin Krüsmann
China, Eurasia and Europe – Sharing a Continent or Losing Ground? | Mercator Institute for China Studies (Berlin, 02/07/2025)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Förderinstitutionen im Gespräch: Horizont Europa: European Research Council (ERC) und Marie-Sklódowska-Curie-Programm | German Political Science Association (online, 02/07/2025)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Fragen an das Kriegsende. Erinnern und Gedenken in Lichtenberg heute | Lichtenberg Borough Office Berlin, Museum Lichtenberg (Berlin, 02/09/2025) | as part of the exhibition *Nach der Befreiung: Perspektiven auf das Kriegsende in Lichtenberg 1945*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Journalistische, politische und wissenschaftliche Debatten zu aktuellen Entwicklungen in Zentral- und Osteuropa | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 09/09/2025) | as part of the CENTRAL Leadership Program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russian Economic Landscape: Current Trends | Center for European Policy Analysis (Washington, D.C., 17/09/2025)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
A New Cold War? | Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, British Academy (Berlin, 30/09/2025)

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Die EU und Zentralasien – Zwischen strategischem Interesse und partnerschaftlicher Zusammenarbeit | Hessische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung (online, 09/12/2025)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Russian Political Mythology and the War on Ukrainian Identity | Austrian Institute for International Affairs (Vienna, 12/11/2025)

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Handbook on the History and Culture of the Black Sea Region | Leipzig University, Research Centre Global Dynamics (Leipzig, 17/12/2025) | book talk as part of the *GlobeColloquium*

Conferences

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva, Beate Eschment
CESS-ESCAS Conference 2025: Geopolitics, Migrations, and Identities in Central Eurasia (Lisbon, 07–11/01/2025) | Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) and European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS)
Tsypylma Darieva | Presentation *The Mobility of Roots and a New Generation of Armenian Diasporic Engagement with the Homeland* | organisation of the panel *Processes of Negotiating Religious Minority Identities in Russia and Neighbouring States* | presentation *Georgia's Religious Minorities and Muslims' Sense of Belonging as 'Lived Citizenship'*
Beate Eschment | presentation *The Others are Quite Different: Results of Opinion Polls in Almaty in 2019 and 2024*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
CORUSCANT Conference: Russia and Europe in Wartime | Institute for Strategic Research (Brussels, 27/01/2025) | discussant on the panel *The Russians, the Regime, and the War: Support, Opposition or Apathy?*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
The Visceral and the Virtual: Memorial Practices in Eastern and Southeastern Europe | Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Berlin, 29/01–01/02/2025) | presentation *Displaced Histories: What Ukrainians in Poland make of World War II after February 2022*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
61st Munich Security Conference (Munich, 14–16/02/2025) | invited guest

- ▶ Kostiantyn Fedorenko
ISA 66th Annual Convention: Reconnecting International Studies | International Studies Association (Chicago, 02–05/03/2025) | presentation *Ukraine's Growing Euroscepticism and its Implications for Postwar Relations with the West*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
STS Hub 2025 – Diffracting the Critical | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 11–14/03/2025) | multichannel interactive sound installation *Affective Infrastructures* (with Olga Łojewska) | film screening *Active (Citizen) – Can Anyone Be an Activist?*

- ▶ Julia Langbein
Reform Priorities for an Inclusive economic Recovery in Ukraine | Wilton Park; UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (Steyning, 10–12/03/2025)

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Leipzig Book Fair | Goethe-Institut Ukraine (Leipzig, 29/03/2025) | chair of the panel *Der Kampf um die Wahrheit – Desinformation im Krieg*

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Decoding BRICS – Beginn einer neuen Weltordnung | Bundeskanzler-Helmut-Schmidt-Stiftung, Körber-Stiftung, East Asian Association, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (Hamburg, 03/04/2025) | presentation *Werden die BRICS-Staaten ein Gegengewicht zur G7 bilden?*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
83rd Annual MPSA Conference | Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, 03–06/04/2025) | presentation *History and Intergenerational Agreement on Politics in Germany* | discussant on the panel *Multiculturalism and Immigrant Integration: Identity, Policy, and Political Action*

- ▶ Sophia Winkler
NESEEES 2025 Annual Conference | North East Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, New York University, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia (New York, 05/04/2025) | presentation *Belonging Across Borders? Memory in Fragmented Digital Landscapes*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
ASA 2025 Conference – Critical Junctions: Anthropology on the Move | Department of African Studies and Anthropology, University of Birmingham (Birmingham, 08–11/04/2025) | presentation *Sonic Borderlands: Listening for Socio-Material Reconfigurations in the Polish-German In-Between* (with Olga Łojewska) | presentation *Sensory Anthropology on the Move: Researching (with) Transborder Workers Using Photography, Video, and Sound* (with Olga Łojewska)

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
2025 PSA Annual Conference | Political Studies Association (Birmingham, 14–16/04/2025) | discussant on the panel *From Protest to Loyalty? Party Identity and the Institutionalization of Germany's AfD*

- ▶ Kerstin Bischl
German-Kyrgyz Science Day | German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek, 15/05/2025) | presentation *Collaborative Data Network with Eastern Europe (KoDaNetOst)*

- ▶ Irina Busygina, Sophia Winkler
29th ASN Annual World Convention | Association for the Study of Nationalities (New York, 22–24/05/2025)
Irina Busygina | presentation *The Role of Regional Governors in the Legitimation of Russia's Personalist Regime in Time of War*
Sophia Winkler | presentation *When Histories Collide: How Migrants Navigate Tensions in Transnational Belonging*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russia After Putin | Harriman Institute, Columbia University (New York, 25/04/2025) | presentation *Central Regional Relations in Russia's Personalist Regime: Prospects After Putin* | discussant on the panel *Kremlin-Adjacent Actors*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Third Annual Petrach Program Online Conference: Understanding Wartime Ukraine | Petrach Program on Ukraine, Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (online, 25/04/2025) | discussant on the panel *Coping with Wartime Threats to Well-Being*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Anchoring the Black Sea: Conversations about Contingency | Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (Cambridge, 12/05/2025) | discussant on the panel *Sovereignty at Risk*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
ABDOS-Jahrestagung 2025 | Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Bibliotheken und Dokumentationsstellen der Ost-, Ostmittel- und Südosteuropaforschung (Berlin, 26/05/2025) | discussant on the panel *Wissenschaft unter Terrorismusverdacht – zur aktuellen Situation der Osteuropaforschung*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
'25 CBE Conference: Challenges to Europe – European Challenges | University of Surrey, Centre for Britain and Europe, Political Studies Association (Guildford, 28–29/05/2025) | presentation *Responding to the Far Right: Discursive Strategies in German State Parliaments*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Border Regions in Transition XVII | University of Central Lancashire (Nicosia, 26–28/05/2025) | presentation *A Border Space: the Border between Ukraine and the De Facto State Transnistria* | presentation *Border Regions as Entangled Spaces of Past, Present and Future: The Case of the Former Border at the River Zbruč in Western Ukraine* | chair of the panel *Phantom Borders II*

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
Russian Imperialism – Memory and History | University of the National Education Commission (Krakow, 12–13/06/2025) | presentation *Russian-speaking Residents of Canada and Germany versus Putin's Imperialist Propaganda*

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan, Félix Krawatzek
Umkämpftes Erinnern in der postmigrantischen Gesellschaft | German Sociological Association (Munich, 23–25/06/2025) | presentation *Victory or Day of Sorrow? World War II Remembrance among (Soviet) Russian Background Diaspora Communities*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
32. Tagung Junger Osteuropa-Expert*innen (JOE) | German Association for East European Studies (Dresden, 03–05/07/2025) | commentator on the panel *Staatliche Institutionen und gesellschaftliche Aushandlungsprozesse*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein, Félix Krawatzek
5th ISA Forum of Sociology | International Sociological Association (Rabat, 11/07/2025)
Piotr Goldstein | presentation *Convivial Visual Research with Mobile Workers and Migrants in the Polish-German Borderzone: Opportunities and Challenges* (with Magdalena Nowicka) | presentation *Legacies and Practices of Diversity in a Post-Multi-Ethnic City* | presentation *Everyday Activism Meets Lifelong Social Engagement: Insights from 10+ Years of Research with Everyday (Migrant) Activists* | organisation of the panel *Pathways of Collaborative Visual Research* | organisation of the panel *Fortunes of (Post-)Multi-Ethnic Cities*
Félix Krawatzek | presentation *How History Explains Intergenerational Agreement on Political Views in Germany*



Beate Eschment (ZOiS) discusses the experiences of people from Central Asia living in Germany with Mahabat Sadyrbek (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) and the journalist and author Ira Peter (from left to right). The event was organised jointly by ZOiS and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

- ▶ Hakob Matevosyan
120th ASA Annual Meeting: Reimagining the Future of Work | American Sociological Association (Chicago, 08–12/08/2025) | presentation *Homeland Attachment Among Second-Generation Russians in Canada*

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
18th Pan-European Conference on International Relations | University of Bologna, European International Studies Association (Bologna, 25–29/08/2025) | presentation *A Macro Perspective on Russian Patronage in Europe: The Political Economy of (Inter-)Systemic Networking* | presentation *Intermediaries in Global Political-Economic Restructuring: Exploring Russia's Adaptation Brokerage Networks*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
Polish Studies Today and Tomorrow | University College London (online, 04/09/2025) | presentation *Visualising Transborder Lifeworlds in the Polish-German Border Region*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
38th Annual Conference SISIP | Italian Political Science Association (Naples, 04–06/09/2025) | presentation *Four Decades of Protest Politics: Bulgaria's Recurring Pattern of Mobilization and Disillusionment*

- ▶ Nina Frieß
Remapping the Study of Russian-Language Cultures and Societies after 2022: Challenges, Concepts, and Paradigms | Centre for East European and International Studies, University of Bologna, University of Konstanz, University of Cagliari (Konstanz, 08–10/09/2025) | co-organisation of the conference

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Sophia Winkler
15th Conference of the 'Genealogies of Memory': What Remains from the Second World War? Remnants, Memories and Narratives Revised | Institute of European Network Remembrance and the Solidarity, Bundesinstitut für Kultur und Geschichte der Deutschen im östlichen Europa (Berlin, 17–19/09/2025) | presentation *When Histories Collide, Do Identities Shift? Comparing the Digital Homeland Among Migrant Generations*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
12th International Congress of Belarusian Studies | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 25–27/09/2025) | discussant on the panel *Belarus on the European Map: How Does the EU See It Now, and What Can We Expect in the Near Future?*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
DGSKA Conference: Un/Commoning Anthropology | German Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology (Cologne, 29/09–02/10/2025) | presentation *Everyday Activism in the Border Zone: Findings from a Collaborative and Visual Project with Transborder Workers and Recent Migrants to Berlin and Brandenburg*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
Protests and Social Movements between Innovation and Tradition | Institute for Protest and Social Movements Research, University of Bremen (Bremen, 01–02/10/2025) | presentation *Protest Waves and Political Transformation in Southeastern Europe: A Long-Term Perspective*

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek
Narratives of Power: Memory Politics in Russia, Germany, and the Contemporary World | Historians without Borders (Potsdam, 28–29/10/2025) | discussant on the panel *Russian Memory Politics – A Precedent for Authoritarian Regimes Globally?*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Berlin Science Week 2025 | Falling Walls Foundation (Berlin, 01–10/11/2025) | discussant on the panel *Kollektive Freiheit: Wofür es sich zu kämpfen lohnt*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Statusagung der BMFTR-Förderlinien zur Friedens- und Konfliktforschung | German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (Bonn, 04–05/11/2025) | discussant on the panel *Friedens- und Konfliktforschung in Zeiten geopolitischer Spannungen*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Theorie-Praxis-Tagung 'Herausforderungen und neue Formate des Jugendaustauschs im Kontext geopolitischer Spannungen und Konflikte' | Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Research and Practice in Dialogue – International Youth Work (Erlangen, 14/11/2025) | presentation *Höhere Bildung über Konfliktlinien hinweg: Erkenntnisse aus Abchasien, Nordzypern und Transnistrien*

- ▶ Irina Busygina, Piotr Goldstein, Félix Krawatzek, Gwendolyn Sasse
ASEEES 57th Annual Convention | Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (Washington, D.C., 20–23/11/2025) | Irina Busygina | presentation *Power Dynamics in Federal-Regional-Local Relations in Russia in Time of War* | Piotr Goldstein | presentation *Remembering and Practising Diversity in a Post-Multi-Ethnic City: Case Study of Lodz and Thessaloniki* | organisation of the panel *Legacies of Diversity in a Post-Multi-Ethnic Space I: Between Memory and Practice* | organisation of the panel *Visual, Sensory and Multimodal Methods in East European Studies* | Félix Krawatzek | presentation *Displaced Histories: What Ukrainians in Poland Make of World War II after February 2022* | Félix Krawatzek, Gwendolyn Sasse | presentation *A Political Awakening or Silencing through Migration? The Political Voice of Migrants from Russia*

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Kasachstan unter den neuen geopolitischen Bedingungen | Deutsch-Kasachische Gesellschaft (Berlin, 27/11/2025) | discussant on the panel *Russland-Kasachstan-China: Nachbarschaft unter den neuen geopolitischen Herausforderungen*

- ▶ Julia Langbein
International Conference: Rebuilding Ukraine: Security, Recovery & the Future of Europe | Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin (KIU), European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Berlin, 04/12/2025) | discussant on the panel *From Destruction to Deterrence: Ukrainian Rebuilding and European Security*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
IFIS PAN Conference 2025: Empirical Research on Protests and Social Movements in Central and Eastern Europe | Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, 04–05/12/2025) | presentation *Protest Waves and Political Transformation in Southeastern Europe*

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva, Valentin Krüsmann
ASIAC Annual Conference 2025 | Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus in cooperation with ZOIS (Venice, 15–18/12/2025) | Tsypylma Darieva | organisation of the panel *Changing Caucasus Paradigms? Mobility, Entanglements and New Actors in the South Caucasus* | presentation *Navigating New Migration Patterns in the South Caucasus: From the North to the South* | presentation *Tree Planting as Diasporic Collective Actions in Armenia* | Valentin Krüsmann | presentation *China, the EU, and the Reconfiguration of Georgian Connectivity Landscapes*

Workshops

- ▶ Tsypylma Darieva
Illiberal Cities: Manifestations of Authoritarianism and Contested Spaces | Georg Simmel Center for Urban Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 20/01/2025) | presentation *Manifestation of Authoritarian Urbanism in Baku, and the Urban Linguistic Landscape*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russian and East European Politics | Institute for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin (Berlin, 21–22/02/2025) | presentation *Politics State-driven Regionalism in Autocracy: The Case of the Russian Far East*

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
EASA Workshop: LGBTIQ+ Feminist Resistance and Empowerment Against Conservative Ideologies | The European Association of Social Anthropologists (online, 10–11/03/2025) | presentation *Local and Transnational Sisterhood and Solidarity: Polish-Argentinian-Ukrainian Networks and Inspirations in Berlin*



At an event in the 'In Conversation with...' series, ZOIS political scientist Irina Busygina (right) explored the question of whether new political forces from Russia's regions could challenge Vladimir Putin's hold on power. The event was moderated by ZOIS Director Gwendolyn Sasse (left).

- ▶ Félix Krawatzek, Sophia Winkler
Post-Soviet Migrants: Memories, News, and Identities | University of Passau (Passau, 04/06/2025) | presentation *Sampling Post-Soviet Migrants across Countries: Experiences and Best Practices* | presentation *When Histories Collide, Do Identities Shift?* | *Comparing the Digital Homeland Among Migrant Generations*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
Post-Cold War Transformations: Navigating Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern and Southeast Europe | Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies at University of Regensburg, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, KonKoop network at ZOIS (Regensburg, 03–07/07/2025) | presentation *Methods Lecture: Tracing Conflicts and Protest Dynamics in Eastern Europe*

- ▶ Katrin Hoffmann, Marie-Charlott Aust
7. VIVO-Workshop 2025 | TIB – Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology (Hanover, 24–25/09/2025) | presentation *VIVO @ ZOIS: Forschungsdokumentation trifft Wissenschaftskommunikation – ein Praxisbericht*

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Early Career Workshop | Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Jena, 25–27/09/2025) | discussant on the panel *Secessionist Diplomacy in Post-Colonial Conflicts – From Biafra to Bougainville*

- ▶ Kerstin Bischl, Iaroslav Boretskii, Sabine von Löwis
Der ewige Frieden | Hans Böckler Foundation (Berlin, 15/10/2025) | presentation of the KonKoop network

- ▶ Piotr Goldstein
4th Colleex Workshop – Styles of Experimentation: Unsettling the Anthropological Syllabus | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 16–19/10/2025) | multichannel interactive sound installation *Affective Infrastructures* (with Olga Łojewska) | film screening *Active (Citizen) – Can Anyone Be an Activist?*

- ▶ Ivaylo Dinev
Resistance and Opposition beyond Institutions: Strategies and Alliances of Parliamentary and Non-Parliamentary Opposition Actors in Post-Communist Europe | University of Fribourg (Fribourg, 23–25/10/2025) | presentation *Dynamics of Protest Waves and Their Impact on Political Systems in Bulgaria, Serbia, and Slovenia*

- ▶ Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Navigating Research Challenges on Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus | Robert Zajonc Institute for Social Research at the University of Warsaw, Center for Europe and Eurasia at the University of Michigan (Warsaw, 24–25/10/2025) | discussant on the panel *The War in Ukraine: Forced Migration and Diasporic Populations*

- ▶ Julia Langbein
Contestations of the Liberal Scripts | SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence at Freie Universität Berlin, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Berlin, 31/10/2025) | discussant on the panel *Illiberalism in Eastern Europe*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Protecting Vulnerable Scholars and Partnerships | Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Northeast Network at Yale University, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University (Cambridge, 07–08/11/2025) | presentation *Academic Freedom in Russia: The Signals of the Russian State to Western Academies*

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
Learning from Border Anomalies (Europe, 17th–21st centuries) | University of Pau and the Pays de l'Adour, Marie and Louis Pasteur University, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Bayonne, 26–28/11/2025) | presentation *Understanding Spatial Anomalies in Eastern Europe: Border Regions as Entangled Spaces of Past, Present and Future (20th–21st Centuries)*

Other events

- ▶ Sophia Winkler
PolKomm Kolloquium | University of Passau (Passau, 16/01/2025) | presentation *Belonging Between Two Worlds? Social Media and Young Russians' Identity Abroad*

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Auswirkungen aktueller geopolitischer Entwicklungen auf Zentralasien | Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Department for Eurasia (online, 28/01/2025) | consultation

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Ukraine-Belarus Relations in the Context of Lukashenka's 'Election' | Ukraine-Belarus-Forum, University of Warwick (online, 29/01/2025) | webinar

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Landesanalyse Kirgisistan | Academy for International Cooperation (online, 30/03–02/04/2025) | consultation of an employee for an assignment abroad

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Shifting Geopolitics: The Impact of US Foreign Policy on Russia, the EU, and Central Asia | Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University (Cambridge, 16/04/2025) | research seminar

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Analyzing Post-Soviet Reform Proposals: Results of Comparative Research | Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University (Cambridge, 30/04/2025) | research seminar

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Landesanalyse Kirgisistan | Academy for International Cooperation (Bonn, 07–09/05/2025) | consultation of an employee for an assignment abroad

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russia Horizons | Center for European Policy Analysis (Washington, D.C., 15/05/2025) | seminar

- ▶ Julia Langbein
Herausforderungen europäischer Reformen, des Beitritts-verhandlungsprozesses und der Parlamentswahlen in Moldau | Institut für Europäische Politik (Berlin, 24/06/2025) | presentation of ZOIS and exchange with representatives from think tanks and NGOs from the Republic of Moldova

- ▶ Irina Busygina
'Young Wolves' against the 'Old Guard': New Federal-Regional Power Dynamics in Russia | Center for European Policy Analysis (Washington, D.C., 24/06/2025) | research seminar

- ▶ Sabine von Löwis
IPS Belgium Seminar Series 2024–25 (online, 13/06/2025) | discussant on the panel *Competitive Regional Integrations, Competitive Knowledge Production? A Comparative Analysis of Western and Russian Scholarships on (De Facto) States*

- ▶ Irina Busygina
Russia in the Spotlight | Center for European Policy Analysis (Washington, D.C., 29/09/2025) | seminar

- ▶ Sebastian Hoppe
Russia's State Budget: How Much War can Moscow Afford? | German Institute for International and Security Affairs, German Association for East European Studies (Berlin, 04/11/2025) | expert dialogue

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Regionalkompetenz Zentralasien: Hochschulpolitik und Hochschullandschaft | Internationale DAAD-Akademie (online, 04–05/11/2025) | seminar | presentation *Die aktuelle gesellschaftliche Situation in Kasachstan, Usbekistan und Kirgisistan*

- ▶ Gwendolyn Sasse
Between Domestic and Foreign Policy: German Interests and Ukraine's Role | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Berlin, 18/11/2025) | expert dialogue

- ▶ Beate Eschment
Zentralasiatische Gesellschaften im Umbruch | DIE HEGGE – Christliches Bildungswerk (Willebadessen, 30/11/2025) | lecture as part of the seminar *Zentralasien – Schachbrett der Weltpolitik*

- ▶ Christian Schaich
Systematization and Simplification of the Regulatory Framework in the Republic of Uzbekistan | German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation e.V. (IRZ) (Tashkent & online, 2025) | Consultation of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the framework of an EU Twinning project

Briefings

- ▶ In 2025, ZOIS researchers participated in briefings and expert dialogues at various German and international institutions in the political sphere, including the German Bundestag, the German Federal Chancellery, the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Swiss Embassy in Armenia, the Swedish Psychological Defence Agency, and the Canadian Foreign Ministry.



Evening sky over Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Straße in Berlin-Mitte, where ZOIS is located.

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- ▶ Member of the Senior Network of the European Leadership Network
- ▶ Member of the Executive Committee of PONARS Eurasia
- ▶ Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz Science Campus 'Eastern Europe – Global Area (EEGA)'
- ▶ Member of the Selection Committee of the Hannah Arendt Fellowship Programme of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Lower Saxony

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Tatiana Zhurzhenko

- ▶ Member of the Advisory Board for 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
- ▶ Member of the Academic Committee for the conference *Experiencing the Borders: The Long 1940s and their Legacies in (Eastern) Europe* organised by the Lviv Center for Urban History

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