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Foreword

Dear readers and friends of ZOiS,

2019 saw ZOiS completing its third year and continuing to grow. Once again, we broadened our field of expertise, adding new research topics. We were also involved in various collaborative projects which led to more intensive networking with other organisations with an interest in Eastern Europe. The appointment of a team member this year to deal with external funding and research management reflects the widening scope of our research activities and was a response to our growing participation in German and international funding programmes. We are now well-established within the research community and a recognised partner in the discourse with, and about, Eastern Europe, and this is also evident from the large number of requests from German and international academics wishing to undertake a residency as a guest researcher at ZOiS.

We strengthened other key pillars of our work as well, for example, we welcomed our first two PhD students. This is a new chapter in our efforts to support young researchers. We hosted various conferences and workshops, thereby deepening our interdisciplinary and international collaboration with our target region and beyond. We also added new elements to our research communication.

The cornerstone of ZOiS's work is **fundamental research**, by which we mean the collection and analysis of original qualitative and quantitative data of regional relevance. Our four research clusters were enriched in 2019 with the addition of new projects on migration, activism and territorial conflicts. Cross-linkages between the thematic areas are developed through externally funded projects; one example is *MOBILISE*, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and European partner organisations, which looks at the interaction between migration and protest in Eastern Europe, Latin America and North Africa.

With such a broad range of social sciences represented at ZOiS, interdisciplinary dialogue is part of our daily routine. **Interdisciplinarity** can offer fresh insights, but it can also present challenges for individual researchers and institutions alike (pp. 9–13), which we are keen to address more intensively.

We are gratified by the continued positive response to our events, particularly the monthly ZOiS Forum, and to publications such as the weekly ZOiS Spotlight and the ZOiS Reports. We use these formats to make information and research findings accessible to a non-specialist audience. We regard research communication as a key element of our work at ZOiS. As a team, we found ourselves on a steep learning curve during our first three years. We hope to be able to contribute the lessons learned into the increasingly vibrant German and international discourse on the opportunities and challenges associated with research communication. As we have often observed, this discourse still focuses far too much on the natural and life sciences, despite its highly topical relevance also to the humanities and social sciences. Research communication means reflecting on the relevance of our work to society at large. However, socially relevant research does not mean research that is oriented towards policy goals or is measured largely in terms of its benefits to government. For us, social relevance means the cross-fertilisation between our empirical research on topical issues and the sharing of our findings with various groups in academia, politics, civil society, media and the public.

In 2019, we introduced the *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast as a new communication format for ZOiS. It takes the form of a conversation between our own researchers and guests from outside the institute and is a way of exploring the background to current issues. We also focused on intensifying the linkage

between research and the arts (pp. 94–96). This culminated in the *Obabich* exhibition at leading arts venues in the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv and Lviv and in a new events series, *Platform East*, at the Volksbühne Berlin, which accompanies the 2019/20 season ahead of the *POSTWEST* Theatre Festival.

We also continued our efforts to **support young researchers** in 2019. In addition to our monthly research colloquium in cooperation with the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), we launched an intensive training programme for PhD students, with funding from ZOiS and external sources. The first two PhD students have now started work as research assistants at ZOiS in parallel to their studies at the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. PhD training has thus become an integral part of our work at ZOiS.

Overall, 2019 was a year when we were able to develop our existing **cooperations** and build new ones. Examples are the workshops and events now held on a regular basis with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg, the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe and the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), the *ZOiS Forum* at the Berlin Wall Memorial and the new series of events at the Volksbühne Berlin. The number of interdisciplinary events organised by ZOiS researchers with partners in the region also increased. Of several workshops and conferences held in 2019, one took place in Ukraine and one in Georgia.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We hope to see you at ZOiS (again) soon and look forward to receiving your feedback and continuing our dialogue. ◄



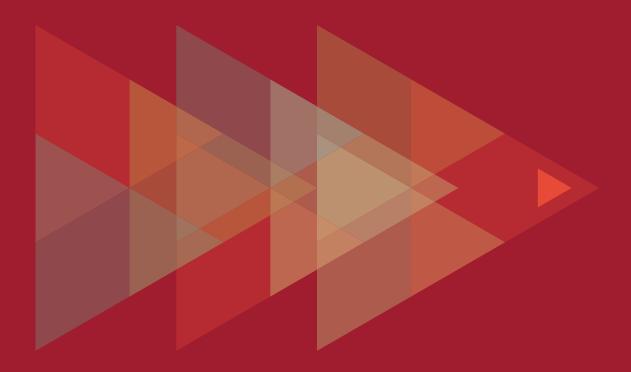
PROF. GWENDOLYN SASSE Director

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DR CHRISTIAN SCHAICH
Managing Director

Christian Chaich



ZOiS

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In Focus: Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinarity is now an integral element of science and research – including at ZOiS, where academics from a range of disciplines work on projects both individually and in teams. But what are the advantages of an interdisciplinary approach – and which challenges can potentially arise? How has the significance of interdisciplinarity changed? We talked to social anthropologist Tsypylma Darieva, political scientist Félix Krawatzek and social geographer Sabine von Löwis.

What does interdisciplinarity mean in a research context?

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: Interdisciplinarity means that academics from several disciplines engage in collaborative research on a given topic, but without blurring the boundaries between their disciplines. Each scholar approaches the research topic autonomously, applying the basic principles of their discipline. When it comes to defining interdisciplinarity, though, I think it is also important to emphasise that every discipline is already inherently pluralist. In my own field of political science, for example, there is a great diversity of approaches and methodologies and in some cases, the tensions between them are greater than between disciplines.

SABINE VON LÖWIS: Interdisciplinarity means focusing on the problem, not the discipline. It means trying to understand and explain a question, a phenomenon, from as wide a range of perspectives as possible. By the way, I agree with what Félix said about plurality. My own field, geography, draws on many different disciplines and methodologies.

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: You can have methodological diversity in any discipline. Interdisciplinarity is neither the prerequisite for, nor a guarantee of, this diversity. I think it offers a rather different benefit: it opens up a plurality of perspectives with epistemologically diverse points of access.

TSYPYLMA DARIEVA: Yes, exactly: it offers the opportunity to examine knowledge that is structured by discipline from a different perspective and to challenge accepted ideas.

Is interdisciplinary research gaining ground?

SABINE VON LÖWIS: I think it's here to stay. Perhaps there is a symbolic element to this as well. We have been hearing calls for interdisciplinarity for a long time, but despite that, its unique selling point has not been recognised by individual disciplines. It's a very ambivalent situation. However, there is a growing recognition that problems are complex and cannot be explained purely from a political science, anthropological or geographical perspective. Often, there is not just one answer but several.

TSYPYLMA DARIEVA: Yes, these synergy effects created by diverse methodologies and viewpoints offer broader access to the field and are undoubtedly a reason why interdisciplinarity has become more popular. Since the 2000s or thereabouts, the search for new issues, networks and methods has become more interdisciplinary in approach. Or rather, its quality has changed. My impression is that many of the interdisciplinary research institutions that have existed for some time were in fact dominated by one particular discipline in the past, and smaller fields tended to be pushed to the margins. Today, there is more equal access for all disciplines.

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: Interdisciplinarity has been increasingly recognised over the past 20 years. But we should not forget that the disciplines themselves did not always exist. If we look at the great masters of the social sciences, such as Weber, Durkheim and Marx, they are impossible to place within a single discipline. They all worked, quite intuitively, on an interdisciplinary basis, without this being explicitly stated. The early 20th century marked the start of differentiation between the disciplines. And at present, we are seeing some questioning of these rigid boundaries between disciplines; that's evident in the fact that the calls for interdisciplinarity are growing louder.

What would be an example of successful interdisciplinary working?

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: I would say that at ZOiS, the field of text analysis is a good example. We sit down with people from IT, literary studies or the social sciences and this dialogue produces new insights into how texts evolve into discourses and inform social and political action. But that only works if there is someone with the skills to manage these vast bodies of knowledge that can be accessed today. I need someone who can programme, categorise and model, but equally, I need experts who know how political and social control is exerted through texts and language. And I need someone who is able to genuinely understand the text in depth – someone who can penetrate the logic behind the argument, the rhetorical devices, the metaphors, the conditions in which the text was produced, how it is received, and by whom.

TSYPYLMA DARIEVA: It is important to emphasise that in research on urban activism, too, interdisciplinarity can cover a broad spectrum that even extends beyond pure academia: we work with activists and architects, for example. This type of cooperation with civil society enables us to develop creative ways to address a topic. At ZOiS, we practise interdisciplinarity very consistently, and with great success, through our workshops. For example, together with theologian Regina Elsner, I am organising a workshop on religious activism. From the preparatory stage onwards, this brings together a highly diverse range of ethnological and theological perspectives that are not always easy to reconcile. How this will work at a theory-building level is a separate issue, of course, but in terms of generating new ideas and creative spaces for a field of research, it is extremely interesting.

SABINE VON LÖWIS: The workshops are certainly a very good example. In our research on phantom borders, we have very successfully combined historical, geographical, political science and spatial studies perspectives on the longevity of social phenomena in Eastern Europe. In the workshops that I organised at ZOiS together with Central Asia expert Beate Eschment, we looked at border regions at various levels, by which I mean from an interregional as well as an interdisciplinary perspective, applying various disciplinary approaches and methodologies. This was enriching for everyone and it also raised new questions, which then open up fresh perspectives on a topic.

Are there any drawbacks to interdisciplinary working?

SABINE VON LÖWIS: It is always a challenge to reconcile the different methods and the data that they generate. For example, a long-term research project creates a very large body of material, with the results coming later, whereas survey-based data, for example, can be collected and analysed more quickly. So the question is how to manage the various disciplinary methods and the data that they generate.

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: Another problem is where to publish. I'm a political scientist, so if I work on data collection with a historian, where should we publish our work? Specialist history journals tend to reject this type of article because the research is too formal for them or makes too much of an attempt to systematise the findings, whereas the political science journals say, that's too interpretive and not sufficiently formalised. It's a challenge – one which should not be underestimated, particularly from a career perspective. As academics, we have to publish because otherwise, we don't progress, but it's very difficult in an interdisciplinary context, partly because there are very few genuinely outstanding journals with a clearly stated interdisciplinary profile.

TSYPYLMA DARIEVA: This tendency of journals to focus on a single discipline is indeed a problem. Even the regional studies journals tend to be dominated by one specific field. On the other hand, I don't think it is necessary to publish all the findings collectively. Instead, you can present results in a way which highlights specific aspects; this can be based on an interdisciplinary approach but still results in a final product that is firmly located within a single discipline.

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: Maintaining disciplinary boundaries is certainly justified, not least because the disciplines have specific standards that must be met. I can judge whether a political science study is good or whether it fails to meet the standards applicable to the field. But with an interdisciplinary study, it's less clear-cut. We can't apply the individual disciplinary standards to interdisciplinary debates, and that creates a risk that standards will be watered down. And of course, that's something we want to avoid because then the quality of research suffers. You see this with cross-disciplinary applications for external project funding as well. They are often rejected because they fail to convince the single-discipline appraisers.

Despite these obvious points of criticism, does interdisciplinarity still have its merits?

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK: Certainly, and as we said, we practise it very effectively here at ZOiS on a daily basis. Interdisciplinary working is important and improves the quality of our research. It is ideally suited to specific formats, which should

be utilised. Interdisciplinary panel discussions are a good example, they work really well, and the same applies to workshops and conferences. Interdisciplinarity produces an inspiring dialogue and broadens the thematic scope much more than a specialist conference can do.

TSYPYLMA DARIEVA: Absolutely. The issue of new formats is particularly exciting. And I would like ZOiS's communications team to be more involved here. Which interdisciplinary publications and event formats are suitable, and how do we communicate our interdisciplinarity externally? This is, after all, a fundamental element of ZOiS's identity.

SABINE VON LÖWIS: I agree. I really enjoy working at ZOiS precisely because of this diversity of disciplines. You can just knock on someone's door if you have a question or need to find out more about methodologies, for example. After all, the appealing aspect of research is wanting to contribute something new and I believe this works particularly well with an interdisciplinary approach.



Tsypylma Darieva, Félix Krawatzek and Sabine von Löwis (from left.)

Here Is What ZOiS Researchers Say About Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinarity shows just how diverse and enriching research can be. It expands participants' horizons and reveals the various ways in which different disciplines can address one and the same question. The most remarkable aspect in most cases is the outcome, which in interdisciplinary cooperation is less predictable at the start but is ultimately far more revealing than if everyone worked alone in their own bubble.

As a field of academic enquiry, theology is heavily reliant on the interaction with other disciplines. This applies particularly to my own project, entitled *Morality Instead of Peace*: the social and political significance of Orthodoxy for Russia and Ukraine can only be properly understood through the discourse between theology, sociology and cultural studies. One of the particular benefits of working at ZOiS is the interaction between scholarship in theology and other academic disciplines.

REGINA ELSNER Theologian

NADJA DOUGLAS
Political Scientist

approach. In order to be able to analyse a cultural artefact, you need background knowledge of the society that produced it—in other words, knowledge generated through the study of history, anthropology or politics, for example. These subject areas in turn rely on techniques from literary and cultural studies, such as text analysis, to gain a better understanding of the society concerned. ZOiS brings together researchers from various disciplines under one roof, to everyone's benefit.

I don't see myself as a representative of a single discipline but as a regional studies expert with a focus on Central Asia, who applies a variety of methodologies as the need arises. My project, which investigates the status of ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan, is therefore based on an interdisciplinary approach, combining political science, sociological and ethnological methods, lines of enquiry and theories. So for me, it is extremely important to have representatives of these disciplines to engage with at ZOiS.

NINA FRIESS Scholar of Slavic Literatures and Culture

BEATE ESCHMENT Central Asia Expert



What I particularly value at ZOiS is the regular interaction with colleagues from a range of disciplines at in-house and open seminars. This offers fresh perspectives on our own research questions and helps us to keep abreast of relevant discourses in related fields.

TATIANA GOLOVA

Interdisciplinary research is an outstanding opportunity to explore intellectual avenues beyond our own disciplinary pathways. Ideally, this dialogue with other disciplines should make us more mindful of some of our own basic assumptions and identify some of the blind spots that typically exist in any field of study. At the same time, this dialogue is a challenge – and also something of a luxury. The low-hanging fruit that interdisciplinary research has to offer is not always immediately obvious to the academic community, with its monodisciplinary logic.

FÉLIX KRAWATZEK Political Scientist For me, interdisciplinarity is a state of affairs much more than a choice or ambition. Having studied philosophy for seven years, having completed an additional degree in peace studies and international conflict resolution and drawing in my research from cooperation with colleagues in social anthropology, sociology, human geography and political science, I constantly cross borders between disciplines. For research like mine, ZOiS is a perfect environment. It gives us researchers from so many different backgrounds endless possibilities to challenge and feed into each other's research, making interdisciplinarity part of everyday research practice.

PIOTR GOLDSTEIN

I see interdisciplinary research as an opportunity to reappraise extant knowledge and challenge some of our preconceptions. This can open up a creative space for new lines of academic enquiry and networking in which we approach a topic from diverse unrelated perspectives and review the relevance of diverse methods to our own research. This can generate unexpected synergies, even with non-academic partners. However, there are not many opportunities to apply these synergies. Publications are just one example: many specialist journals cater for a single discipline. Regional studies should therefore look for new forums and formats which clearly foster a more creative approach.

TSYPYLMA DARIEVA Social Anthropologist Interdisciplinarity enables us to look at issues from diverse perspectives and thus build a more complex picture. It encourages me to think about how concepts that I accept as a given and do not challenge in my own discipline gain a rather different meaning in another field of study. Through an interdisciplinary approach, we learn how to 'translate' from one discipline, theory or methodology to another. That's why I value the interdisciplinary focus at ZOiS.

SABINE VON LÖWIS Social Geographer

At ZOIS, we have a multitude of disciplines coming together to share ideas and engage in cooperation; this cross-fertilisation is very much at the forefront of ZOIS's work. Academics from different disciplines think differently, approach issues differently and have different ways of sharing information. It is this diversity of perspectives that inspires so many new ideas when I am thinking and reflecting on my own research.

DIANA BOGISHVILI Sociologist

Interdisciplinarity needs institutional spaces in which exchange beyond disciplinary and methodological divisions becomes the norm. Such an exchange has the potential to reflect on a subject from different perspectives, to challenge accepted concepts and assumptions, to reformulate old questions, and to set out in new directions. The range of social sciences represented at ZOiS and the series of events organised as part of ZOiS Forum that deliberately bring scholarship into contact with social and cultural actors both play a crucial role in a successful interdisciplinarity.

GWENDOLYN SASSE Political Scientist



The Mission Statement

The mission statement of ZOiS sets out the central functions, objectives, and values of the institute. It aims to serve as a basic framework for staff and give the public a clear overview of the most important elements of research and working life at ZOiS.

Basic research

ZOiS is a research institute that engages in social science basic research on Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. ZOiS is politically independent and determines its own research agenda, driven by academic curiosity and openness.

Academic best practice

The basis of all research activity is the honesty of the researchers towards themselves and others. In our work we are committed to the rules of academic best practice, as defined by the German Research Foundation (GRF), the Leibniz Association, and other research and re-search support organisations. To put these principles into practice, ZOiS issues its staff and guest researchers with concrete guidelines, which are aligned with those of the GRF.

Communication of research

ZOiS communicates the outcomes of its research to both a specialist audience and the wider public. We see it as our mission to raise interest in, and knowledge of, the region of Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia and to foster societal discussion. Our approach is independent, objective, and apolitical.

Interdisciplinarity

Research at ZOiS is multi- and interdisciplinary and attaches great importance to the diversi-ty and combination of research methods.

Support of young researchers

Support and the development of young researchers and interested youth is an essential ele-ment of the work of ZOiS. We see ourselves as an active part of the rich scientific landscape in the region of Berlin-Brandenburg and as an equal partner in national and international research on the region of Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia.

Equal opportunities

ZOiS supports the careers of all members of staff and values the compatibility of family and career. We reject any form of discrimination on the basis of nationality, cultural background, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or religious conviction.

Team spirit

Cooperation and respect among staff and with external colleagues are fundamental requirements of our work. As a team we have a joint obligation to implement the elements of this mission statement.

Staff

MANAGEMENT



PROF. GWENDOLYN SASSE | Director Coordinator: Research Cluster Societies between Stability and Change

Gwendolyn Sasse, director of ZOiS, is Professor of Comparative Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations and at the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies at the University of Oxford, a Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College and Non-Resident Associate at Carnegie Europe. Her academic career spans the study of history, Slavonic studies and political science at the University of Hamburg and an MSc and PhD in political science at the London School of Economics. After gaining her doctorate, she first took up a post as assistant professor at the Central European University, and then as lecturer / senior lecturer at the London School of Economics before moving to Oxford in 2007 where she became a full professor in 2013.



DR CHRISTIAN SCHAICH | Managing Director

Christian Schaich is responsible for all matters relating to the Centre's administration and finances. After training as a bookseller in Cologne, he studied law in Passau, Odessa (Ukraine) and Berlin from 1992 to 1998. After taking the first state examination in law, he completed a doctorate on an aspect of Russian administrative law at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. From 2004–2016, he was an advisor and later director for the Central and Eastern European region at the German Research Foundation (DFG). This included several years as head of the Foundation's Moscow office. From 2011–2015, he also worked as a lecturer in administrative and constitutional law at the Foundation for International Legal Cooperation. \triangleleft



EMILY KLEINE | Office Management

Emily Kleine is a foreign language secretary in English and Spanish. After initially working as an editorial assistant at a Berlin radio station, she was employed by the Institute for Forensic Psychiatry at Charité Berlin as assistant to the director. In May 2014, she became the assistant to the director of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, where she was responsible for office management and event organisation. The aim of these events was to facilitate national and international encounters between science, politics and diplomacy. She took up her current post as office manager at ZOiS in October 2019.



SENIOR RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCHERS



DIANA BOGISHVILI | Researcher

Sociologist Diana Bogishvili joined ZOiS as a researcher in January 2019. Her doctoral studies at Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin focus on migration by young Georgians to Germany and its impact on the structure of social inequality in their home neighbourhoods. From 1994 to 1998, she studied philosophy at Tbilisi State University in Georgia. In 2002, she began her studies in sociology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, graduating in 2008. Prior to her doctoral studies, Diana Bogishvili taught at Ilia State University and Caucasus University and conducted research at the Center for Social Sciences (CSS), all in Tbilisi. At CSS, she directed a research project on *Georgian National Identity: Conflict and Integration* and also studied the integration of national minorities (Armenians and Azerbaijanis) in Georgia.



DR TSYPYLMA DARIEVA | Senior Researcher Coordinator: Research Cluster Migration and Diversity

Tsypylma Darieva, a social anthropologist, has been a senior researcher at ZOiS since October 2017. She is an associate member of the Caucasus Studies Programme at Friedrich Schiller University in Jena and a board member of the Berlin Center for Independent Social Research. After receiving her PhD from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Tsypylma Darieva worked at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle before becoming a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for European Ethnology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She then moved to Japan, where she was an associate professor at the University of Tsukuba. Before joining ZOiS, she was based at Friedrich Schiller University, where she coordinated an international research project on the transformation of sacred places in the post-Soviet Caucasus. \blacktriangleleft



DR NADJA DOUGLAS | Researcher

Nadja Douglas's research projects at ZOiS focus on the relationship between public initiatives and state power structures in the post-Soviet region and on possibilities of conflict settlement in Transdniestria. She studied political science at the University of Bonn and International Relations at Sciences Po Paris. She obtained her PhD from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2016. Nadja Douglas has worked as an advisor on security and defence policy in the German Bundestag, and as a research fellow in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Copenhagen. During the German OSCE Chairmanship in 2016, she worked as a liaison officer for the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova. She has also been a member of the editorial team of *Russland-Analysen*.



DR REGINA ELSNER | Researcher

Regina Elsner is a Catholic theologian whose research focuses on Russian Orthodox social ethics in post-socialism. At ZOiS, she heads the project Morality Instead of Peace. The social and ethical discourse of the Russian Orthodox Church between theological sovereignty and political adaptation, which investigates the dynamics of Russian Orthodox social ethics since the demise of the Soviet Union. From 2010 to 2013, she was a research associate at the University of Münster's Ecumenical Institute. She has also worked as a research analyst for German MP Katrin Göring-Eckardt. Fluent in Russian and with deep insights into Russian life from Kamchatka to Kaliningrad, she was well-placed for her role as coordinator of a nationwide addiction project for Caritas Russia in St Petersburg from 2006 to 2010.



DR BEATE ESCHMENT | Researcher

Central Asia expert Beate Eschment has been a researcher at ZOiS since January 2018 where she works on the project *Identity Formation and Interest Representation among National Minorities in Kazakhstan*. From 2008 to 2019, she has been the editor of Zentralasien-Analysen that have been affiliated to ZOiS since 2017 and have been co-edited by ZOiS together with other institutions since 2018. Beate Eschment obtained her PhD in Russian history at the University of Hannover in 1992. Since then, her research has focused on the history and, above all, the contemporary development of the former Soviet republics of Central Asia. She has worked at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), the Central Asia Seminar at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Institute for Oriental Studies at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen. \triangleleft



KOSTIANTYN FEDORENKO | Researcher

Kostiantyn Fedorenko is a social scientist with a background in political science. He received his MA degree in European legal studies from Europa-Kolleg Hamburg and a master's degree with honours in political science from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. At ZOiS, he works in the team of the *MOBILISE* project, which aims to understand why in times of crisis some people protest while others migrate. In the project, he is responsible for work with Ukrainian respondents and for data analysis. He is also a doctoral student at the Graduate School of Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Before joining ZOiS, Fedorenko worked as a political analyst at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Kyiv and was a returning expert of the Centre for International Migration and Development of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. \triangleleft



DR NINA FRIESS | Researcher

Nina Frieß studied political science and Slavonic studies in Heidelberg, St Petersburg and Potsdam. From 2009 to 2016, she was a research fellow at the Department of Eastern Slavic Literatures and Cultures at the University of Potsdam, where she was responsible for the International Bachelor's programme in interdisciplinary Russian studies, among other things. In 2015, she completed her doctorate on the contemporary memory of Stalinist repression in Russia. Her thesis was awarded the Klaus Mehnert Prize of the German Association for East European Studies (DGO). In 2017, she completed her Master's degree in Science Marketing at Technische Universität Berlin, which she studied for while working. The title of her project at ZOiS is *Literature and Power in the Post-Soviet Space*.



DR PIOTR GOLDSTEIN | Researcher

Piotr Goldstein is a social scientist working at the intersection of social anthropology, sociology and political science. He received his PhD from the University of Manchester, a Master in international peace work from the University of Trieste and a Master in philosophy from the University of Lodz. At ZOiS, he works within the team of the *MOBILISE* project, which aims to understand why in the times of crisis some people protest while others migrate. In the project, he is responsible for the collation of the qualitative data collected across project locations, and the coordination of the qualitative work with migrants. Before joining ZOiS in June 2019, he held a Thomas Brown Assistant Professorship at Trinity College Dublin and a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Manchester. He is also a recipient of a Leverhulme / British Academy Small Research Grant, thanks to which he co-produced an ethnographic documentary entitled *Active* (citizen). \triangleleft



DR TATIANA GOLOVA | Researcher

Since September 2017, Tatiana Golova has been working on research projects focusing on public political mobilisation in Russia's regional centres as well as post-Soviet migrants in Germany. She studied sociology at Saint Petersburg State University, the University of Bielefeld and the European University at St Petersburg. She gained her first research experience at the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in the field of youth sociology. In 2009, she was awarded a doctorate at the Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg for her thesis on the link between spatial and identity construction in radical left-wing milieus. She then worked as a researcher at the Institute of Sociology in Magdeburg and at the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität in Berlin.



DR FÉLIX KRAWATZEK | Senior Researcher Coordinator: Research Cluster Youth in Eastern Europe

Félix Krawatzek is a political scientist and since September 2018 a senior researcher at ZOiS. He is also an Associate Member of Nuffield College at the University of Oxford. Previously, Félix Krawatzek held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations. He finished his doctorate in 2015 at the University of Oxford and was a visiting fellow at Sciences Po Paris and at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. His research projects at ZOiS centre on youth as a political agent and a social imaginary as well as memory laws and collective memory. He also maintains an active research agenda in the field of migration and political transnationalism in a historical perspective as well as the role of time and ideas about the future in contemporary politics.



DR JULIA LANGBEIN | Researcher

Julia Langbein is a researcher at ZOiS where she prepares the research cluster *Political Economy and Integration* that is set to be launched in 2020. She holds a degree in political science from the Freie Universität Berlin and a master's in Russian studies from the European University Institute in St Petersburg. After receiving her PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Julia was a postdoctoral fellow at the research group *The Transformative Power of Europe* and scientific coordinator of the research project EU-STRAT at the Centre for European Integration at the Freie Universität Berlin. She also held visiting fellowships at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, the International Centre for Policy Studies in Kyiv, and the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. \triangleleft



DR SABINE VON LÖWIS | Senior Researcher Coordinator: Research Cluster Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Sabine von Löwis studied geography at the Technical University of Dresden and obtained a doctorate at HafenCity University in Hamburg. From 2011 to 2017, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin, where she was involved in the joint research project *Phantom Borders in East and Eastern Central Europe* funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Here, she studied differentiation in Western Ukraine's spatial structures. Her current research investigates stability and transformation in social and spatial structures in urban and rural Central and Eastern Europe. As a geographer, she naturally has an interest in exploring and understanding new countries and contexts, especially daily life in local communities. \triangleleft

COMMUNICATIONS



DR STEFANIE ORPHAL | Communications Director

Stefanie Orphal studied German literature, media studies and business management and completed internships in editing and publishing. She then decided to pursue her research interest in poetry film, a genre of short films based on poetry. She completed her PhD at Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School for Literary Studies at Freie Universität Berlin in 2013 and then switched to academic public relations. Now communications director at ZOiS, she manages the publications /PR interface and develops the events programme. \blacktriangleleft



STEPHANIE ALBERDING | Communications Coordinator

Stephanie Alberding is responsible for managing ZOiS's social media presence and supporting its governing bodies. She read history, drama, film and television studies and German philology at the University of Cologne and also spent a semester reading East and Central European studies at Prague's Charles University, which sparked her interest in Eastern Europe. She completed her studies with a Master's degree and a thesis on the political death cult in National Socialism. The early part of her career was spent working for a foundation. This won her over to the non-profit sector and motivated her to sign up for an Executive Master's programme in non-profit management and governance in Münster, which she completed in February 2017 with a thesis on civil society organisations in the culture of remembrance. She acquired her skills as a communications professional in the Jewish Museum Berlin's Press Department. \blacktriangleleft



ANJA KRÜGER | Communications Coordinator

Anja Krüger's main areas of work are event organisation, managing ZOiS's social media presence, internal communications and diversity issues. After being awarded her BA in East Slavic studies, communications/media sciences and politics at the University of Leipzig, Anja Krüger completed a Master's degree at the Institute for East European studies at the Freie Universität Berlin. She also gained experience in project coordination and the planning and management of overseas trips. During her student work experience at the German Bundestag, she became familiar with the parliamentary routine and the working practices of a large administration. \triangleleft



YVONNE TROLL | Communications Coordinator

Yvonne Troll studied cultural anthropology, early modern and modern history and English language and literature at the University of Freiburg. In 2010, she was awarded a Master's degree for her thesis on cultural identity in a globalised work environment, based on research she conducted for several months in multinational companies in Mexico City. She has also completed internships in London and Ecuador. She spent two years as a trainee in the Public Relations Department at the University of Freiburg. Besides qualifying in editorial and PR work she gathered experience in managing events. As a communications coordinator at ZOiS, Yvonne Troll's main responsibilities are publications, website editing and events.





KATRIN HOFFMANN | External Funding and Research Management

Katrin Hoffmann studied history, political science and Latin American studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, the Universidad de Sevilla (Spain) und the Universidad de Rosario (Argentina). After that she completed a traineeship to become a scientific librarian. From 2014 to 2019, she worked as an Information Research Specialist for the research groups 'Global Issues' and 'America' at the German Institute for International Affairs and Security (SWP), where she also worked as head of library. Since September 2019, she has been in charge of external funding and research management at ZOIS. \triangleleft

ADMINISTRATION



THOMAS BERTHOLD | Head of Finance

Thomas Berthold is responsible for finance, accounting and procurement at ZOiS. After vocational training in wholesale and export trade, he worked in the private sector. He then moved to Fachinformationszentrum Chemie GmbH, one of the organisations in the Leibniz Association, where he initially worked as a bookkeeper and then served as executive manager (administration) for many years.



THOMAS JUNGE | Chief Information Officer

Thomas Junge is a qualified IT systems specialist and has worked in IT for over 20 years. From 2009 to 2016, he played a key role in several IT projects for the restructuring and migration of various IT infrastructures and the implementation of IT security concepts at euroscript Deutschland GmbH and CLS 4-Text GmbH - A Lionbridge Company, two leading language services providers. At ZOiS, he is responsible for establishing and maintaining the IT infrastructure and IT operations. \triangleleft



TETIANA FARCHMIN | Administrator

Tetiana Farchmin is responsible for finance, accounting, travel organisation and travel expenses at ZOiS. From 1999 to 2003, she studied business administration at Eastern Ukrainian National University. In 2007, she completed a further course of study in public administration. She then worked at the registry and trade supervisory authority in the city of Severodonetsk. She was born and grew up in Eastern Ukraine and has lived in Germany for some years.



TONI FRITZSCHE | IT System / Network Administrator

Since July 2018, Toni Fritzsche has been system and network administrator in the IT department of ZOiS. He trained as an IT specialist in system administration and has been working in the IT sector for several years. From 2012 to 2018 he worked for CLS 4-Text GmbH – A Lionbridge Company, a leading language services provider, where he was responsible for the two Berlin branches. At ZOiS, his main focus is on maintaining the existing network and server infrastructure as well as providing new services. \triangleleft



RESARCH AND STUDENT ASSISTANTS

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- ► KSENIIA CHERNIAK
- ► ANASTASIIA DMITRICHENKO
- ► HEINRICH JAKUNIN
- ► VALENTIN JANDT
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- ► MICHAEL ZABOTKIN
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FORMER MEMBERS OF STAFF

- LEJLY AGAMURADOVA Management Assistant
- ► JULIA BRAUN
 Communications Coordinator
- ANN-SOPHIE GAST Researcher

Structure and Finances

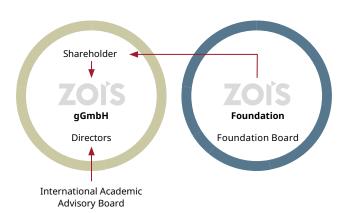
ZOiS is funded through an institutional grant from the German Federal Foreign Office. In addition, third-party funds were deployed on a larger scale for the first time in 2019. The not-for-profit limited company is overseen by a foundation of the same name. An International Academic Advisory Board assists ZOiS on research matters.

Structure

ZOiS was established in 2016 following a decision by the German Bundestag. Institutional funding is provided from the federal budget, 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. The foundation's board is chaired by Professor Jan Kusber, a historian at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. An International Academic Advisory Board assists the Centre on research matters.

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

According to the articles of association of the not-for-profit limited company, the Academic Advisory Board is composed of a minimum of five and a maximum of twelve members. It currently consists of nine respected academics. It has an



international membership and represents an array of disciplines and research regions. It is chaired by Timm Beichelt, Professor of European Studies at the European University Viadrina (Oder).

The Academic Advisory Board fosters a lively culture of debate despite the geographical distance between members and convenes once or twice a year. It is continuously involved in strategic development, staffing decisions, events, publications and the further expansion of the ZOiS network.

Academic Advisory Board members

Prof. Margarita M. Balmaceda

Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University, USA Research Associate, Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University, USA

Prof. Timm Beichelt (Chair)

Professor of European Studies, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

Prof. Mark Beissinger

Henry W. Putnam Professor of Politics, Princeton University, USA

Prof. Katharina Bluhm

Professor of Sociology, Institute for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Ivan Krastev

Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia, Bulgaria

Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Prof. Sebastian Lentz

Director of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography and Professor of Regional Geography at the University of Leipzig, Germany

- Prof. Mikhail Minakov (Deputy Chair) Senior Advisor, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Editor-in-chief of Kennan Focus Ukraine, Ideology and Politics Journal and Koine.Community Associate Fellow, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany
- Prof. Catherine Poujol
 Director of the French Institute for Central Asian
 Studies, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Prof. Silvia von Steinsdorff
 Chair of Comparative Political Sciences and the Political Systems of Eastern Europe, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

Finances

ZOiS expenditure in 2019 totalled 2,68 million euros. This amount was divided into five cost centres: research, communications, administration, IT, and miscellaneous costs. Research activities accounted for by far the largest share. Aside from research staff costs, much of this spending went towards visits to the region, as fieldwork is a fundamental component of the Centre's research strategy. In 2019, this included – for the first time – in-country workshops organised by ZOiS in collaboration with research institutes in Ukraine and Georgia.

In 2019, ZOiS was able to deploy third-party funding at a total of 210,000 euros for the first time. Spring saw the start of the project *Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (MOBILISE)*, with ZOiS one of four applicant organisations. The transnational research consortium consists of British, French and Dutch institutions, with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation – DFG) as the German partner.

Also in 2019, a project was initiated at ZOiS within the framework of the Cluster of Excellence *Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)*. The cluster is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) as part of its Excellence Strategy. In addition to the Freie Universität Berlin and Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) as project applicants, five fur-

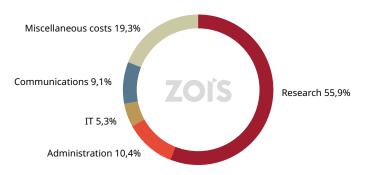
ther German research institutions, including ZOiS, are participating in *SCRIPTS*.

In 2019, third-party funding was obtained for the *Youth in Eastern Europe* research cluster for the first time. The Daimler and Benz Foundation Scholarship Programme made a post-doctoral award to the ZOiS research project *The Proliferation of Memory Laws and the Return of the Nation* coordinated by Félix Krawatzek.

Communication is inseparable from research activities. ZOiS is committed to making research findings available, offering new perspectives on issues and regions as well as engaging in dialogue with those interested in Eastern Europe. Events and publications are therefore a further priority area of expenditure at ZOiS.

The administration and communications teams perform functions that support the research activities. In 2019, the Centre's IT system was further upgraded to provide the technical resources required by the research projects. Specifically, this meant establishing the management, storage and security capacities required to handle the more comprehensive datasets that are typical in the social sciences.

In the field of research communication, the Centre developed the technical capacities to publicise research findings in various formats, such as podcasts. Ensuring that IT security was aligned to ever-evolving standards was a further priority. Miscellaneous costs include institute-wide expenditure such as rental of the Centre's premises.





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Research Cluster

Societies between Stability and Change

Coordinator: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

Concepts such as 'democracy' and 'authoritarianism' suggest clear defining criteria and boundaries, but they fall short of capturing the nature of political and social reality. Both concepts and the societies they seek to describe are in flux – in Eastern Europe and beyond. This research cluster focuses on the grey zones and overlaps between these often rigid classifications. The two concepts of stability and change highlight, on the one hand, the dynamics of social, political, economic, and cultural changes and, on the other hand, the processes that prevent or limit change. A range of local, national, and international actors are examined against a backdrop of societal and institutional structures. Centre stage are contested spaces – areas in which political, normative, and historical claims and expectations, as well as identities and memories, are disputed. The projects in this research cluster are multidisciplinary and cover a wide range of political and cultural contexts that have been under-represented in academic and public debates. They also analyse, among other issues, the dynamics of social and political movements, the relations between state institutions and societal actors, local decision-making processes, values discourses at the interaction of religion, society and politics, memory and the politics of memory as well as the role of language and literature for cultural and political identities.

Public Initiatives and State Power Structures – A Post-Soviet Comparison

In one of ZOiS's first research projects, political scientist Nadja Douglas is exploring the dynamics and interactions between state and society, in particular between societal interests and the reactions of state power structures in the context of social protests. Against a backdrop of accelerated social and technological change, there are growing demands for more transparency, accountability, and legitimacy, especially from national executives and the law enforcement bodies in the post-Soviet region and elsewhere. While certain social groups are seeking greater freedom from the paternalism and dominance of the state, state institutions often continue to resort to traditional patterns of repression. This is manifested in crises or moments of tension when the state finds itself under pressure. Repression, in turn, leads to declining or stagnating trust in state institutions.

This research project encompasses several comparative and individual case studies. It considers the highly diverse political and social changes that have taken place recently in Moldova, Armenia, and Belarus. In all three countries, social tensions have increased in recent years and notions of public order have diverged. In 2019, Nadja Douglas worked on several aspects of the project, and the results are to be published in journals and elsewhere.

On the topic *Police and protest: Armenia* and *Moldova in a regional perspective*, the following academic articles are in the works:

- Public order policing and the effects on the legitimacy of, and trust in, state institutions
- Digital change and the effects on the relationship between society and the police

On the topic *Social versus state security in Belarus*, the following contribution is being prepared:

Mobilisation of society and regime response in Belarus?

A further publication is planned on the topic *Human security and security sector reform*:

Conditions in police custody in Moldova: a blind spot in the reform process?

Project start: December 2016

The theoretical framework of the project brings together concepts from social movement and protest research with those from conflict and security research (security sector reform, protest policing, and surveillance). The project also brings in research and literature on trust in, and legitimacy of, state institutions as well as digital transformation.

Research report 2019

In early 2019, further interviews were conducted with experts on internal security in Moldova, interview and survey data on trust in institutions were analysed, and initial results were presented, among others at the Aleksanteri Conference in Helsinki.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

My project illustrates how citizen-led soft power collides with state-led hard power. Although the societies in the case studies covered – like so many other societies in our research region – are in flux, they are constantly confronted with security forces that are part of reform-resistant state structures. The barriers and contrasts between citizens' emancipated interests and power structures with weak legitimacy are set to persist and may even grow sharper.

Project start: September 2017

Morality Instead of Peace. The Social and Ethical Discourse of the Russian Orthodox Church Between Theological Sovereignty and Political Adaptation

This project investigates the dynamics of Russian Orthodox social ethics since the demise of the Soviet Union. Theologian Regina Elsner is analysing the interaction between the changing positions and priorities of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), on the one hand, and socio-political developments in Russia and Ukraine, on the other.

The project's starting point is the observation that Russian Orthodox social ethics – in other words, the theological discourse about social welfare – has changed dramatically since the collapse of the Soviet Union. This applies, firstly,

to its thematic priorities: until the 1980s, peace – partly dictated by the state – was the dominant motif, giving way in the 1990s to a focus on freedom of religion and conscience. However, since the 2000s, its social and ethical positions have been increasingly influenced by the discourse around traditional moral values.

Secondly, the dynamics of the ROC's social and ethical discourse also impact on socio-political processes. From a social ethics perspective, an orientation towards the society in which the ROC is embedded is constitutive, but at the

same time, the Church seeks to bring influence to bear on this society with its Christian message. The opportunities and limits of this interaction are mutable and depend on how the Church positions itself in the nexus between state, (civil) society and the private sphere. This position has changed considerably since the fall of the Soviet Union, accompanied by shifts in the ROC's stance on social and ethical issues.

The purpose of the research project is to conduct a systematic analysis of the dynamics of the ROC's social and ethical discourse since perestroika, focusing on



Near the entrance to St Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Kyiv, photographs commemorate the victims of various events.

both content and chronological development. Regina Elsner focuses, firstly, on the theological foundations of the ROC's current socio-political orientation, the development of its social and ethical positions, and alternative theological social and ethical concepts. Secondly, she aims to investigate and determine what parallels and ruptures may exist between the Church's social and ethical positions and socio-political developments, and what convergences and divergences there are between state and Church interests. With this approach, her intention is to draw more definitive conclusions concerning the question whether there is any evidence of the Russian Orthodox Church's social and ethical positions influencing socio-political dynamics with regard to internal and external conflicts.

Research report 2019

In 2018, it was already clear that the situation of the Church in Ukraine offered a very special opportunity for comparison with Russia and that it challenged conventional interpretations of Churchstate relations in the post-Soviet space. In 2019, Regina Elsner therefore focused particularly on the changes in the status of Orthodoxy within Ukrainian society, the specific role of the Orthodox churches in the context of the war with Russia, and associated socio-ethical concepts. In her ZOiS Report 2/2019, she summarises key finding of her research on this topic. An international conference on human dignity and its political, theological and socio-ethical implications, planned and organised by Regina Elsner, provided an opportunity for international scholarly discussion of this topic and the planning of more in-depth sharing and networking of expertise in the humanities. The conference took place in St Sophia's Cathedral in Kyiv in October 2019 and involved the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Ukrainian Catholic University.

A further topic of academic analysis in 2019 was the new and influential concept of the 'Churches of the Kyiv tradition', which - in the discourse about the unifying function of Ukrainian orthodoxy - is used by religious stakeholders as an (ecclesiastical) policy instrument. In theological terms and in the social discourse about values and memory culture, however, questions about this concept arise, which Regina Elsner addresses in an academic paper to be published in a collected volume in 2020. She also organised an international workshop on new conservatism in Eastern Europe, which took place at ZOiS in June 2019. The experts who participated focused mainly on the Church's advocacy of conservative moral values and on the links between Russian and Ukrainian Orthodoxy and international right-wing populist networks.

Regina Elsner's field trips to Kyiv in May and October 2019 and her participation in the largest meeting of Orthodox theologians, convened by the International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA) in Romania in January 2019, yielded important information about the status of the socio-ethical discourse in World, Russian and Ukrainian Orthodoxy. The nexus between a new trend in Orthodox political theology and the hitherto largely neglected topic of social ethics is of particular interest to Regina Elsner. Her article on this topic was published by publicorthodoxy.com, a blog bridging the ecclesial, the academic and the political. It is also clear that the topic of peace ethics has attracted very little attention from theologians thus far, despite the ongoing military conflicts in and between countries with an Orthodox tradition.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Events over the past few years have vividly demonstrated just how important a role Orthodoxy plays in domestic politics and foreign relations in Russia and Ukraine. The Church tends to be viewed in narrow terms, namely that it is being exploited by certain key individuals for political purposes. This project aims to build a deeper understanding of why Russian Orthodoxy has developed a special relationship with the political elites, why it focuses mainly on issues of morality and why the social ethics dimension, by which I mean topics such as peace and social justice, has declined in significance. The comparative analysis of Russia and Ukraine illustrates the relevance of the social environment in the development of the Church's self-image.

Dr Nina Frieß Project start: October 2016

Literature and Power in the Post-Soviet Space

In her project, Nina Frieß – a scholar of Slavic literatures and cultures - is investigating the role of Russian and Russophone literature in the contemporary post-Soviet space. She starts from the premise that relevant discourses in society continue to be reflected in its literature. The question of which function these literatures perform today is of particular interest, bearing in mind that literature has lost its status as a key form of societal communication – a role which, it is hypothesised, would allow it, particularly in non-democratic regimes, certain freedoms which are absent in film, TV and, increasingly, the Internet.

Taking three countries - Kazakhstan, Latvia and Belarus - as examples, the project begins by taking stock. What literature exists? Who is writing? What are the circulation figures? This is followed by an analysis of the topics and functions of selected texts, based on more detailed study of their content and social dimension. The first of these processes is performed using text analysis; the second involves a study of the discourses around the texts and, for better categorisation, interviews with experts and writers. As there is very little research on Kazakhstan's Russophone literature, in contrast to Latvia and Belarus, Nina Frieß's project currently focuses on this Central Asian country.

Looking at the extant literary and cultural research on post-Soviet literatures, it is striking that it focuses primarily on developments in Russia. This Russiacentrism can be seen both in the theoretical discourses (e.g. on the topic of post-colonialism) and in the literature itself. Russian or Russophone literature produced outside Russia since the demise of the Soviet Union is rarely studied. By exploring this under-researched area, the project attempts to close this gap. As her own research can merely make a contribution to this process, Nina Frieß attaches great importance to international networking with other scholars working in this field.

Research report 2019

In March 2019, a first workshop on *Russophone Literatures* was held at ZOiS and was attended by nine academics and two Russophone writers. This productive discussion continued at the 2019 *Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)*, with two panels on Russophone literature organised by workshop participants and a newly established Working Group on Russophone Literature, which provides a framework for future collaboration with researchers working on this topic.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The analysis of a literary landscape offers us insights into the society that produces this literature. Social discourses are reflected in the texts. In regimes where freedom of the press and freedom of expression are restricted, literature can be an important source of information, enabling us to form an impression of the country beyond government propaganda. The conditions in which literature is produced also allow us to draw conclusions about the nature and characteristics of a society. I authored a *ZOiS Spotlight* on this topic in November and received some quite unexpected feedback. An American translator who specialises in Central Asian literature got in touch to thank me, saying that she planned to use the text in the future to explain Kazakhstan's literary 'ecosystem' to US publishers. She hoped that this would increase publishers' willingness to invest in translations of contemporary Central Asian literature. This is more relevance than I could ever have hoped for.



Nina Frieß with author Yuriy Serebryansky at the reading of his book 'Kazakhstani Fairytales' at ZOiS in March 2019.

In 2019, Nina Frieß published a *ZOiS Report 1/2019* entitled *Kazakhstani Fairytales – A literary blueprint for inclusive Kazakhstani identity* as an initial study of Yuriy Serebryansky's text. In terms of both content and production, *Kazakhstani Fairytales* breaks new ground in Kazakhstan's contemporary Russophone literature. As well as a conventional literary analysis of the text, the report includes brief interviews with the author and two of his short stories, translated into German for the first time. It thus utilises the freedoms afforded to authors by the *ZOiS Report* format. Nina Frieß

takes an in-depth look at Kazakhstan's literary landscape in her essay Young Russophone Literature in Kazakhstan and the 'Russian World', published in 2019 in the collected volume Resignification of Borders: Eurasianism and the Russian World, which she co-edited.

During a two-week research visit to Almaty in October 2019, Nina Frieß collected additional material, attended readings and workshops and conducted interviews with Kazakhstani writers, literature functionaries and academics. She was particularly interested in gath-

ering information about current developments, both thematic and structural, in Kazakhstan's literary landscape. The preliminary findings of this research visit were presented in her ZOiS Spotlight Publishing in Kazakhstan: New ways for writers, her ASEES lecture Between Tractor Drivers and the Struggle for Identity: Russophone Literature in Kazakhstan and her guest lecture Russophone Literature of Kazakhstan – A Blueprint for oIdentity and Social Criticism at the University of Giessen.

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

Since the 1990s, civil society – understood in a myriad of ways, but usually researched through the study of NGOs – has been viewed as a major agent in the promotion of democracy, and civic engagement more broadly, in Eastern Europe. In recent years, the focus has shifted to protest movements, which are seen as new, more genuine spaces of activism and as agents of social change.

This project goes beyond these two focuses by looking at forms of activism that are hard to notice because they seek neither financial support, which distances them from NGOs, nor recognition, which separates them from social movements and popular protests.

The project builds on earlier research conducted by Piotr Goldstein during his British Academy fellowship at the University of Manchester. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Poland, Hungary and Serbia, the project scrutinises discreet, everyday acts of citizenship, which could be considered 'infrapolitics' or 'micro-politics'. They are an alternative mode of participation in contexts where other forms of activism appear impossible or ineffective, or where activists opt for a less radical, more long-term approach.

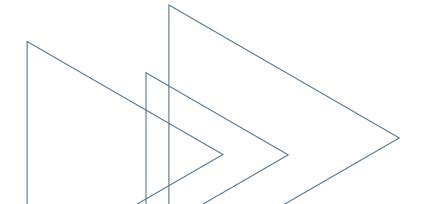
The focus of the project lies in determining to what extent, for the individuals concerned, these acts form a stage be-

tween – or, perhaps, beyond – engagement in NGOs and social movements. The project seeks to ascertain whether these acts are performed independently of such engagements, form a link between different types of activism, or catalyse such activism. The efforts studied have goals similar to those of NGOs and social movements but remain informal, unfinanced, and, for the most part, invisible. Examples include acts to oppose growing social inequalities, nationalism, and capitalist usurpations of public spaces.

The research for this project consists of a combination of long-term, multi-sited ethnography, interviews and visual ethnography. The project is methodologically challenging because it focuses on what is largely invisible, incidental and short-lived. Conducting fieldwork and data collection for this project has therefore been fraught with difficulties: in some instances, the initiative Piotr Goldstein wanted to study had ceased to exist by the time he arrived in the field or was discontinued while he was conducting his research. This was the case with several of the socially engaged bookshop-cafés in Serbia that went bankrupt

In what way is this project relevant to society?

After years of the often-repeated mantra that these countries have weak civil societies, the scale of public unrest has been a surprise. It is still unclear why in countries with a supposedly weak activist scene, protests happen on such a large scale. My project sheds light on the connection between NGOs, protest movements and the multitude of little-visible and little-known actions and activist initiatives, which happen without any funding and do not seek attention. Noticing them is empowering for the 'everyday activists' themselves and brings their efforts into public discourse.





A book café in Novi Sad, Serbia, that functions as a meeting place for activists but is also a centre of activism in its own right.

or had to close for other reasons while he researched them. Nevertheless, the multiplicity of examples of short-lived endeavours, combined with a long-term focus on individuals engaged in these endeavours, allows Goldstein to draw an image of activist space, which transcends single organisations, events and actions. It also gives a better understanding of the life-long commitment of the engaged individuals.

Research report 2019

Since Piotr Goldstein joined ZOiS in June 2019, work on this project has focused mainly on processing the already collected data and disseminating earlier findings. This has been done through conference presentations at the *International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) Inter-Congress* in Poznań (Poland) in August,

at *CATference* in Belgrade (Serbia) in September, which coincided with a brief meeting with research partners in Serbia, and at the *Political Imagination Laboratory* in Perugia (Italy) in December, where Goldstein presented the most recent conceptualisations of this research.

Grassroot Public Spheres and Activism in Russian Federal Cities

How are civic engagement and public mobilisations in large Russian cities structured by communication processes that are embedded in everyday life? This question is not only of relevance to mobilisations that are explicitly pro-democratic or focus pragmatically on local mismanagement or abuses. In her project, which began in October 2016, sociologist Tatiana Golova starts from the premise that action by conservative and loyalist campaigns can be better understood by analysing how horizontally organised communication processes, beyond top-down mobilisation via statecontrolled mass media and co-optation, influence the willingness to become engaged.

The research project explores this key question by analysing three dimensions:

- Everyday life: Which collective interpretive frames are being (re-)constructed in the day-to-day communication by members of different socio-cultural milieus?
- 2. **Mobilisation:** How do mobilised public spheres, i.e. communication

networks, which are oriented towards collective action for specific causes, emerge? How do such networks relate to each other?

3. **Hybridisation:** How are different offline and online arenas for public communication and mobilisation connected?

The project focuses on large federal cities, which are significant in representing the periphery compared to Moscow and are regional power centres that concentrate human, financial and administrative resources. With a diverse popu-

lation and a less complex local activist scene, they allow communication networks within and between the various activist milieus to be traced, both in their symbolic connections and in their practical interactions.

Research report 2019

In the first months of 2019, Tatiana Golova prepared a paper based on her research results.

From April to December 2019, she was on parental leave. «

In what way is this project relevant to society?

It is no secret that the political opposition does not have an easy time in Russia. In recent years, campaigns and alliances of diverse actors pursuing specific local or regional goals have gained in importance. Within these forums, activists create local spaces for open discussions and collective action. How do these diverse actors work together successfully? Do these forums and networks ever evolve into something more than short-term purpose-specific alliances? These questions are of interest not only in the Russian case but also in relation to Germany.

Languages of Conflict: Ideas of Europe in European Memory

in cooperation with Dr Gregor Feindt (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), Dr Friedemann Pestel (University of Freiburg) and Dr Rieke Trimçev (University of Greifswald)

The current crisis of the EU has fundamentally challenged how 'Europe' is being imagined. What citizens, politicians and scholars expect from Europe has shifted drastically with the refugee crisis, the ongoing economic and financial instability, Brexit, and the rise of populism. Yet, there is little awareness of what 'Europe' has come to mean over time, by different actors, and within and across countries. This project studies the ideas of Europe through the multifaceted debates on 'European Memory' which have underpinned the European project since the 1990s and provided a crucial normative background for political and economic integration. Today's diagnoses of crisis as well as claims on Europe's further development bring forward competing, and at times contradictory images of a European past in order to make claims about Europe's future.

This project employs a mixed-method approach of qualitative and quantitative discourse analysis to systematically analyse the languages which have sustained and pressured the Europeanisation of national memory discourses over the last decade. Six major European countries (Germany, France, Italy, Spain,

Poland, and the United Kingdom) serve as the main case studies. The following questions guide this research:

- Which historical experiences are mobilised for the concept of Europe?
- What kinds of political demands do actors articulate by drawing on the concept of Europe?
- What logics constitute the languages of 'European Memory' across public spheres?

How do the conflictive languages in 'European Memory' deconstruct normative conceptions in favour of multifaceted relations of cores and peripheries within 'Europe'?

Research report 2019

The project partners met three times in 2019 for academic exchange and to work on the manuscript for a book. An essay was also concluded to be published in spring 2020 in the *Journal of Political Ideologies*.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The failure of the EU Constitutional Treaty, the financial and economic crisis, increases in migration flows, the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and the growing influence of populist and nationalist parties present a major challenge to the European political project. What political strategies can be developed to stem the centrifugal force of these processes? The answer to this question depends in part on how 'Europe' is represented in the public sphere and for the citizens of the European Union. Or, more specifically, on the possibilities that arise from the conflict between highly divergent ideas of Europe within and between European states and regions. This project makes a contribution to bringing to light and putting forward for public discussion such often hidden 'mental maps', their connections, borders and conflicts.

Phantom Spaces and Borders – Continuities and Discontinuities of Past State and Imperial Structures

Election results, architecture, birth statistics: these and many other social and political indicators bear witness to sociospatial and political systems that existed in the past. Not least, the division of Germany and its legacies, visible in economic structures, availability of social amenities such as pre-schools, and in political attitudes and religious beliefs, are still a frequent topic of debate, even though – or perhaps because – 30 years have passed since the Berlin Wall came down.

This raises questions about the meaning and interpretation of these traces of the past, and not only in Germany. A similar situation can be found elsewhere, particularly in Eastern Europe, where – over the past 150 years – borders and territorial configurations have frequently changed and new states have evolved out of old countries and empires. One

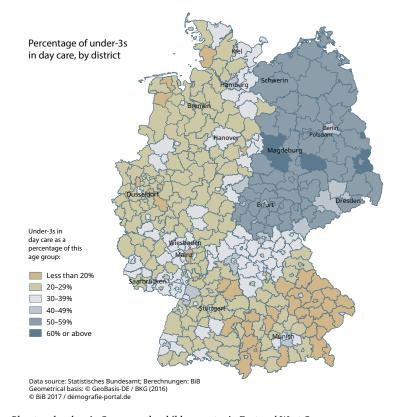
example is Poland, where past territorial changes have often made themselves felt in election results since 1989. Based on the 'phantom borders' concept (Hirschhausen et al. 2014), the meanings of diverse traces of the past, such as the use and development of space, norms and institutions, cultural representations, and social and political behaviour, are analysed within the project framework and explained in terms of spatial and social theory. Methodologically, the project critically examines some frequent historical and territorial determinisms and looks for explanations mainly in current events, social developments and historical configurations.

Research report 2019

Within the project framework, Sabine von Löwis gave lectures or was a panellist at various events in 2019, inter alia at the *Nordic Geographers Meeting* in Trondheim, a workshop at the German Historical Institute in Warsaw and a discussion at the Berlin Wall Memorial on the anniversary of the fall of the Wall. She also produced various publications and is currently working on a monograph on phantom borders in Ukraine (forthcoming in 2020).

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Past systems and historical experiences are often invoked to explain present-day events and developments. However, this can lead to misconceptions and generalisations, with specific 'historically determined' traits being assigned to particular territories. There are problems with this line of argument. The project therefore attempts to show that what are assumed to be traces and legacies of history are in some cases the product of interaction between people's current expectations, on the one hand, and, on the other, developments that are very much rooted in the present but awaken associations with the past.



Phantom borders in Germany: the childcare rates in East and West Germany point to former infrastructural differences.

Project start: October 2016

Political Change from Below? Local Politics in Ukraine

This project seeks to systematically analyse the political balance of power at the local level in Ukraine, starting with three local case studies (Dnipro, Kharkiv and Odesa). To date, Ukraine's south-eastern regions tend to be presented in an undifferentiated way. In particular with the political changes since 2014, this understanding has proved inadequate. One fact that is frequently overlooked is that the 2015 municipal elections resulted in a far higher degree of political contesta-

tion in local assemblies. In many southeastern regions, the gap between a conglomerate of reformist forces and the opposition parties was far narrower than was generally assumed. Furthermore, the patterns of cooperation or confrontation behind policy-making at the local and regional level are particularly relevant in light of the progress being made with decentralisation reforms in Ukraine in recent years.

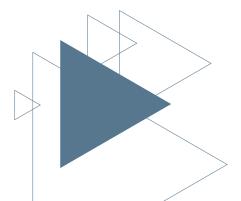
In what way is this project relevant to society?

A term such as 'decentralisation' can easily become a form of shorthand for a wide-ranging reform package. For several years, an extremely ambitious process of decentralisation has been underway in Ukraine in which financial and political decisions are delegated to the local level. This process is not a purely technical one; it includes many interlocking institutional, cultural and context-specific elements. Empirical research is needed to trace perceptions and to analyse the potential political impact. How is the process seen by local elites and the local population? Does decentralisation really enable a democratisation from below? These processes can be observed using Ukraine as a case study. On this basis – in Ukraine and among external actors who support the reform process – parts of the reforms can be readjusted and strengthened. For a wider public – chiefly in Western Europe – the view from below conveys a new or different picture of a changing Eastern Europe. Moreover, the perceptions of local needs and local politics can be tied in with debates in other national contexts.

How do the representatives of the different parties and interest groups negotiate at the local level? Do these dynamics change with the political and economic incentives created by the reform of local government? Where do the patterns of consensus and difference lie between local, regional and national decision-making processes? From these empirical questions, larger conceptual issues emerge regarding democratisation 'from below' and possible tensions between national politics on the one hand and regional/local politics on the other.

Research report 2019

In addition to the ongoing analysis of local political decision-making processes in the run-up to the local elections expected to take place in the autumn of 2020, this project was supplemented in 2019 by a cooperation with the New Europe Center in Kyiv. Here, a detailed stocktaking of the decentralisation reforms and their perception at the local level was carried out on the basis of indepth interviews with local elites and experts in regions across Ukraine.



Project start: October 2019

Russia²

Opinion polls in Germany as well as comments by East German politicians have repeatedly suggested that the views about Russia differ significantly in East and West Germany. The public and politicians in East Germany appear to have a more positive view of Russia. Accordingly, they appear to wish for more cooperation between Germany and Russia, to want to reject or weaken current EU sanctions, and to see Russia as less of a concrete security risk for Germany and the EU. The political system and the Russian president Vladimir Putin also appear to meet with less criticism in East Germany than in the West. Public discourse is rife with speculations about the possible causes of the affinity to Russia in East Germany. These largely centre on the positive image of Russia that is supposed to have been forged during the GDR period as well as on the feeling of a bond or a kind of nostalgia. However, in view of the diversity of experiences with 'Moscow' and 'the Russians' during the GDR period, such explanations seem to fall short.

This project attempts to comprehend this dimension in its scope and significance for today's attitudes. How direct was the contact with the Soviet Union and the Soviet system in the former GDR? What personal contacts with Russia are still in place today? Is it not pos-

sible that the affinity to Russia also reflects something entirely different that is only partially related to Russia? How for instance are personal experiences of the German transformation processes after 1989 linked to current assessments of Russia? The aim of this project is to examine the different views of Russia in East and West Germany and to draw out the lines of reasoning underpinning them. The project combines quantitative data collection with focus groups in different locations in East and West Germany in order to gain insights into the argumentation patterns behind the Russia affinities in East and West Germany.

Research report 2019

The first phase of the data collection in autumn 2019 consisted of inserting a set of subject-specific questions into a regular nationwide opinion poll. Here, in addition to questions about personal or professional contacts with Russia, the political dimension was also taken into account. This included the assessment of German-Russian relations, associations with the Russian president Vladimir Putin, and the propensity towards a particular party in Germany. These questions were linked to sociodemographic factors in order to identify trends with respect to age, gender, education, income, occupation and place of origin. At the same time, twelve focus groups were conducted in different locations in East and West Germany that dealt explicitly with the participants' views of Russia. The first quantitative and qualitative results of the project were presented in December 2019 as part of an expert roundtable. <

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Behind the different views of Russia in East and West Germany, which it is first necessary to verify and to understand in their argumentation, is the question of the possibility of a coherent German foreign policy. This project illustrates the linkage between internal and external politics. To what extent is it possible to formulate and to communicate a clear German foreign policy if ideas of security, threat and foreign policy priorities strongly diverge? This challenge is of both internal and external political importance. Moreover, this issue takes up a discussion that was particularly animated in 2019 about post-1989 developments in East Germany and the lack of unity in Germany.



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Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Coordinator: Dr Sabine von Löwis

The disintegration of the Soviet Union led to the creation of not only the fifteen successor states but also a series of de facto states. At the same time, the relatively permeable borders between the Soviet republics became international frontiers. These changes fundamentally altered the way people lived together in the region. More recently, events in Ukraine show that the post-1991 territorial order in the post-Soviet space has proven less stable than previously assumed. For the region's inhabitants, as well as for regional, national, and international actors, new political realities have emerged.

This research cluster is dedicated to the study of local state and non-state actors and structures that are affected by, and influence the further development of, conflicts. These actors include refugees from conflict regions, populations of disputed areas, and local decision-makers. The research considers the many changing interactions between local and external actors and investigates the ways conflicts are caused and managed, social-spatial dynamics, the actions of affected populations, and the effectiveness of those actions.

Of particular interest are the many new and old territorial orders connected with changes in borders. These range from contested border demarcations to changes caused by entry into, or association with, economic and/or political organisations. Such shifts trigger uncertainties about individual and societal expectations of economic, social, and political futures and associated social and spatial mobility. Ongoing processes of nation building in the newly created post-Soviet states generate additional tensions.

Confidence-Building and Conflict Settlement: The Case of Transdniestria

in cooperation with Prof. Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham)

This project focuses on a review of the broad spectrum of confidence-building measures (CBMs) that were applied during past efforts to achieve a resolution to the conflict between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria.

The lack of progress towards a settlement of protracted conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union is variously attributed to local intransigence and geopolitical blockage. This has given rise to the idea that a meaningful settlement process needs to address both of these issues by building bridges across local divides in the protracted conflicts and across the deepening divide between Russia and the West.

In the context of this project, the dynamic between the international and local arenas is explored and testable hypotheses developed about the impact of the former on the latter in the context of confidence-building. In the analysis of past CBMs, a particular focus is placed on economy and trade on the one hand and on security policy and military transparency on the other. Methodologically, the

project is based on an extensive document analysis, CBM process tracing over two different periods (2010 to 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 to today), qualitative interviews with various stakeholders involved in the negotiation process and co-variation of events at the local and international level.

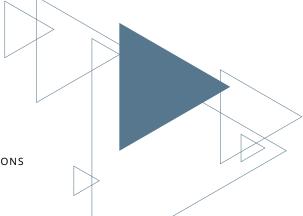
Research report 2019

One of the main activities in 2019 was the collection of further data. Two assis-

tants on the ground in Moldova were tasked with conducting interviews in Chiṣinău and Tiraspol and compiling the results. Stefan Wolff and Nadja Douglas also spoke to people outside Moldova who in the past had been part of the conflict settlement process. The aim was to observe and assess the effectiveness of confidence-building measures during multiyear negotiations. Because of the unstable political situation in Moldova, this research took place in difficult circumstances.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The conflict in Transdniestria has been going on for over twenty-five years, with no resolution in sight for the foreseeable future. This project aims not only to focus on how to clarify the status question and put in place a political settlement but also to analyse what confidence-building measures are likely to succeed and when. The project is not about achieving an abstract goal but about recognising applicable parameters that can allow different groups of international actors to come together. After all, this conflict is relevant not only for societies on the ground but also for international efforts to solve these problems.



Project start: December 2017

Every-day Life in Conflict – Scopes for Action and Coping Strategies in De Facto States

In her project, social geographer Sabine von Löwis explores how conflicts in the post-Soviet space, which are mainly negotiated and monitored at the international level and in geopolitical discourse, are reflected in the everyday lives of affected communities and what role they play there. Her aim is to ascertain what scopes for action are available to individuals in their daily lives and what form they take. The project will identify selected coping strategies in the spheres of education, the workplace, healthcare, culture, etc. in response to non-recognised statehood and how these strategies influence or, indeed, alter the conflict constellations.

The macro and meso perspectives form a key entry point and framework for understanding conflicts; however - and this is central to the approach adopted here – all levels are interactive. In order to improve our understanding of the geographical space and the people living there, it is important to consider and analyse their knowledge, experience and attitudes. This project therefore focuses on the micro level and analyses every-day life in conflicts. How does every-day life continue in conflict settings, and what is its relationship to the relevant conflict-related geopolitical discourses and negotiations?

The project will explore the perspective of the communities that are confronted

with and live within the political conflict constellations. These communities' norms, values and practices will be a key focus of Sabine von Löwis's study, with an emphasis on the different generations' experience and how they interact and are transformed as a result of changing constellations of governance, both formal and de facto. She will also seek to identify the frameworks that these governance structures establish for every-day life. Guiding the research is the question whether and how the findings will change attitudes towards these conflicts and contribute to their resolution.

Based on an empirical approach, Sabine von Löwis is planning to collect data in case study regions in the south-western post-Soviet space. This will involve spending longer periods in-country for the purpose of conducting participatory observation, qualitative interviews, open discussions, expert interviews and source research.

Research report 2019

In 2019, Sabine von Löwis spent several weeks on a research trip to Transdniestria, where she stayed in the capital, Tiraspol, and in rural areas. Her aims were to gain insights into people's everyday lives, have conversations, and gather materials. Her interviews and observations revealed clear differences between the capital and rural regions in terms of people's openness and readiness to talk. Significant factors include differences in communities' ethnic compositions as well as geographic distance from Transdniestria's borders with Ukraine and Moldova. This first research stage reached mainly older people. Further research trips in 2020 will engage with younger generations, who were hard to reach during the first trip, as well as rural settlements with different ethnic compositions and geographic locations, to test initial hypotheses.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

To date, not enough has been known about people's everyday lives in the post-Soviet de facto states. Yet, this knowledge is crucial for approaches towards conflict resolution, because people's daily lives and their social, cultural, and economic needs and desires do not exist in isolation. Conflict resolution should therefore not only focus on the basic arguments of the elites involved but also consider the humanitarian aspects of conflict.

Engagement Without Recognition – Higher Education in De Facto States

in cooperation with Thomas de Waal (Carnegie Europe)

The project analyses the situation of universities in de facto states and how they network with international partners. It focuses on people's basic right to education and training, regardless of whether or not their state and its institutions are internationally recognised. In de facto states, universities, students and researchers have limited opportunities to participate in international programmes or to benefit from cross-border mobility. There are multiple reasons for this, relating to de facto statehood itself, the willingness of universities in de facto states to engage with external partners, and the restrictions on international university cooperation with institutions in de facto states.

A key question explored by the project is to what extent it is possible and desirable to advocate from an international perspective for stronger links with universities in de facto states and for their closer integration into the European university landscape in order to create new opportunities for researchers and students. The project thus aims to contribute to a better understanding of dynamics in de facto states.

As the main focus of interest, the project examines international relations established by universities in various de facto states (Northern Cyprus, Abkhazia and Transnistria), particularly research links, opportunities for student exchange, participation in international research funding programmes and language learning. It seeks to ascertain which methodologies are being adopted in the various contexts and pinpoint areas where there is scope for development. The project intents to identify internal and external barriers, compares good practices and creates scope for potential engagement.

Research report 2019

After an initial project meeting in June 2019, the members of the project team began their research and analyses. During a field visit to Transnistria in 2019, Sabine von Löwis familiarised herself with the local university landscape and held meetings with various stakeholders, including university lecturers, stu-

dents, graduates and representatives of non-governmental organisations and language and cultural exchange programmes. The discussions focused on the current status of the university sector, recognition of qualifications, international cooperation (experiences and opportunities) and students' international mobility. Meanwhile, Thomas de Waal began fieldwork in Abkhazia and Northern Cyprus. Contacts were established in each of the project countries.

In addition, an initial project report was drafted and will be published as a *ZOiS Report* in 2020. A launch event will be held in Berlin and will be open to the public. There are also plans to collaborate with a group of stakeholders from the German and European university and research community on developing more detailed strategies and actions. \triangleleft

In what way is this project relevant to society?

With the project, our aim is to look beyond the problems associated with de facto statehood and the limited options for formal cooperation, and to create opportunities for people to participate in international academic, research and educational exchange. It is important to show that whether they live in recognised or unrecognised states, people are hungry for knowledge, interested and receptive to new ideas and that dialogue about social, political and cultural norms and values is essential to dismantle prejudice. In addition, international research cooperation can make a positive contribution to conflict resolution.

Project start: January 2019

Political Orientations and Identities in De Facto States

This study is part of an interdisciplinary joint research project led by John O'Loughlin (University of Colorado Boulder) with Gerard Toal (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), Kristin Bakke (University College London) and Marlene Laruelle (George Washington University). It is funded jointly by the USA's National Science Foundation, the UK's Economic and Social Research Council and ZOiS.

The project explores political attitudes, geopolitical orientations and identities arising from diverse social, economic, cultural and/or political networks, practices and interests of the populations of de facto states. The aim is to gain a better understanding of societal and sociospatial practices under the specific conditions of international non-recognition.

For the project, ZOiS is working with an interdisciplinary research group which, over the past 10 years, has conducted quantitative public opinion surveys on political orientations in de facto states in the post-Soviet space and in Eastern Ukraine's conflict region across a variety of scales.[1] Within the research group, ZOiS is involved in developing the surveys planned for Crimea, the post-Soviet de facto states of Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transdniestria and the 'Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics' in Eastern Ukraine. ZOiS can set priorities and has the opportunity to use data from previous surveys

for its own studies. This allows comparative analysis of various social, political and economic developments in 2010, 2014 and 2019/20 within and across the de facto states and conflict regions. The study thus links in with Sabine von Löwis's project Everyday Life in Conflict – Scopes for Action and Coping Strategies in De Facto States and Gwendolyn Sasse's project on The Influence of War and Displacement on Political Identities in Ukraine.

Research report 2019

In 2019, ZOiS liaised with the research group in order to agree the content of the survey questionnaires for use in the de facto states and the territories in Eastern Ukraine. The surveys include questions on sociodemographic background, political attitudes, perceptions of the situation in the de facto states, media use, cultural norms and everyday practices, and confidence in various political organisations such as the EU and

NATO. The surveys began in autumn/winter 2019/2020. Preliminary results will be presented at academic conferences and smaller-scale briefings in 2020.

Also in 2019, Sabine von Löwis analysed the data obtained for surveys conducted in Transdniestria in 2010 and 2014, focusing on identities, everyday life and general perceptions of de facto statehood. The results of these analyses will be published in a *ZOiS Report* in 2020 when the fresh survey results are available. \triangleleft

[1] John O'Loughlin/Gerard Toal (5/2014–5/2016): RAPID: Attitudes and Beliefs in Russian-Supported 'de facto' States and Eastern Ukraine in the Wake of the Crimean Annexation. (Surveys were conducted in Crimea, Transdniestria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh and South-Eastern Ukraine [outside the conflict zone]).

John O'Loughlin/Michael D. Ward/Gerard Toal: The Dynamics of Secessionist Regions: Eurasian Unrecognized Quasi-States after Kosovo's Independence (2008-2014). (Surveys were conducted in Abkhazia, Transdniestria, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Kosovo.)

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The international interdisciplinary research group behind this project enables comprehensive data to be collected on social and political trends in the post-Soviet de facto states. On this basis, it is possible to make comparisons and classify structures, attitudes and practices in the various regions against the data collected in 2010. The surveys also present a basis for detailed qualitative studies on individual aspects.

The Influence of War and Displacement on Political Identities in Ukraine

Wars mark political and social turning points whose dynamics may lead to farreaching social and political changes. In the social sciences the causes of wars have been given considerably more attention than their effects. While prominent hypotheses have been put forward on the polarizing effects and the loss of trust resulting from wars, on the whole the empirical data relating to these questions is sparse. This is the starting point of this project, which is based on a series of surveys in the context of the war in Ukraine and aims to study its effects on those directly affected. The project focuses on the Donbas region and on the people fleeing the war zone either inside Ukraine or to Russia. In this way, it generates data on regions and people that are currently overlooked in most surveys and discussions despite their significance for society and politics in Ukraine, and for external actors who support the reform processes and peace negotiations. According to official estimates the number of people displaced from the Donbas (internally displaced persons and those who fled to Russia) is between approximately 2.5 and 2.8 million. The survey carried out by ZOiS in 2016 is one of the few attempts to date to compile a demographic and political profile of the displaced. Moreover, additional surveys (2016 and 2019) represent a first attempt in the Donbas, including the territories not currently controlled by Kyiv, to analyse the day-to-day lives of the population, its political attitudes and identities. Contrary to the prominent assumption of polarisation through war, the research highlights the still strong or stronger presence of mixed ethnic

and bilingual identities, as well as the limited appeal of separatist ideas.

Project start: October 2016

Research report 2019

In March 2019, shortly before the presidential election, a face-to-face survey in the Kyiv-controlled part of the Donbas and a phone survey in the so-called People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk were conducted for a second time. While neither survey was a panel survey, in which the same group of people is interviewed on repeated occasions, differences and continuities could be observed in relation to 2016. According to the data collected in 2019, in the majority of cases the population of the territories not controlled by Kyiv wanted to continue to be part of Ukraine. In addition, personal ties across the line of contact remained close.



A container village for displaced people from the Donbas in Kharkiv in North-Eastern Ukraine.



Donetsk: traces of the war in Eastern Ukraine, which started in 2014.

As in 2017 and 2018, in the regular all-Ukrainian omnibus survey (not covering the 'People's Republics' and Crimea) carried out by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), questions about identities, personal experiences of the war, and the status of non-governmentcontrolled territories were also included in 2019 in order to put the data from the Donbas in a broader context. Comparison with the all-Ukrainian data gathered in 2017 and 2018 shows a strengthening of an identity aligned with the Ukrainian state (i.e. not with a narrow interpretation of ethnic, linguistic or regional identities) – a trend that found expression in the election of Volodymyr Zelensky as Ukrainian president.

The new findings have been discussed in diverse events and briefings. Some of the project findings were published in 2019 in a *ZOiS Report*, a *ZOiS Spotlight*, and an article in the academic journal *Ideology*

and Politics. Moreover, work on a special issue of the scholarly journal Europe-Asia Studies on War and Displacement: The Case of Ukraine, guest-edited by Gwendolyn Sasse, was completed. The issue scheduled to be published in early 2020 brings together an international, multidisciplinary group of researchers. The dialogue between the ZOiS research

and artistic research reflecting on the theme of war and displacement has also been developed further: in 2019, ZOiS cooperated with the Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv and Lem Station in Lviv on a series of events and exhibitions building on the survey projects and the collaboration between ZOiS and the artist Mark Neville's work on the war in 2016–2017.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

In a crisis situation or in the course of an ongoing war, empirical data collection is of importance beyond the scientific context for local and external decision makers. Only on an empirical basis can political decisions be made and priorities set, for example in negotiations to settle conflicts or develop aid programmes. Via the media and organised events, empirical data can also sharpen the societal perception of complex issues. The fact that there is a war in Europe becomes more tangible if the voices of those directly affected are made present. The causes, dynamics and effects of war become more comprehensible.



MIGRATION AND DIVERSITY

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Research Cluster

Migration and Diversity

Coordinator: Dr Tsypylma Darieva

Migration and diversity are closely connected issues, but the extent and forms of transnational life and cultural diversity in East European and Eurasian societies are yet understudied. This research cluster considers the simultaneity and complexity of personal identities, networks, and the mobilisation of social and political engagement in transnational fields.

It focuses, on the one hand, on migrants in Germany with an East European background and, on the other hand, on migratory processes and their effects on societies within and outside Eastern Europe. The internal diversity of so-called migrant groups, different conditions and forms of living together in spaces shaped by migration, non-linear integration and identification processes over longer periods of time, and mutual dynamics of transnational relations are important issues in this regard. This research cluster also examines questions of religious and ethnic diversity, drawing on the examples of East European and Eurasian cities.

Georgian Migrants in Germany: The Impacts of Social Remittances on Forms of Inequality in the Country of Origin

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the declaration of independence by Georgia in 1991, the country experienced numerous political crises. The devastating economic impacts of these crises were one of the drivers of migration of large numbers of Georgians to other countries. However, the economy was not the only factor: social and individual circumstances also play a role in the decision to migrate. Migrants often support their families by sending financial transfers, known as remittances, back home. However, they also make other forms of transfer, such as values, ideas and experience. In her PhD project, supervised by Professor Magdalena

Nowicka (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Professor Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS), Diana Bogishvili is primarily investigating these social remittances with reference to Georgian migrants in Germany in order to identify their possible impacts on forms of social inequality in the country of origin.

In current migration research, the phrase 'transnational connections' is increasingly taking the place of the term 'international migration' to describe how the lifeworlds of migrants in host countries continue to intersect with those of non-migrants in the country of origin. New transnational socio-spatial

relations have visible economic, political and sociocultural impacts on migrants and their families. Financial transfers, for example, have long been an important source of livelihood support for many families in the countries of origin. There is now a debate as to which positive effects such remittances may be expected to have on poverty reduction and economic development in these countries. For many family members who stay behind, the migration of a relative can genuinely improve quality of life by offering better access to health and education. However, some studies show that in Georgia, younger and better-educated persons in larger cities benefit more from financial remittances than older rural dwellers who are most affected by poverty. It is therefore possible that remittances have not had the desired effect in Georgia and are reinforcing, rather than narrowing, social inequalities.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The latest association agreements and visa liberalisation greatly facilitate migration and mobility from Georgia to the European Union countries. Migration is viewed in this context as a consequence of macroeconomic processes, but it is also one of the factors accelerating microsocial developments in both the host and the home countries. The transfer of social norms and values can have a considerable impact on social structures, such as family, and on forms of social inequality. My project adds to our understanding of these social connections between Georgian migrants in Germany and their families back home by unpacking the various forms of remittances and identifying their social impacts in the country of origin.

Social remittances are an under-researched topic at present, and there is a consequent lack of information as to how the ideas, practices, attitudes, values, norms and beliefs which Georgian migrants encounter abroad are transferred to the home country. These social remittances may be made consciously or subconsciously. Relations between migrants and non-migrants are ever-evolving, so the formation of expectations, obligations and aspirations can be understood as an open-ended process – one which should be analysed with reference to migrants' individual and collective traits, taking into account the social relations in the country of origin. An accurate insight into the processes by which ideas, practices, norms, values,

social capital and skills are transferred across borders enhances our understanding of how these remittances influence and, in some cases, hinder social change.

Research report 2019

In 2019, Diana Bogishvili analysed current statistical data on the dynamics of migration and remittances and developed the theoretical questions for the

project. She also produced a methodology, comprising a qualitative study with ethnographical surveys in Germany and Georgia aimed at gaining insights into transnational and global lifeworlds. Data-gathering techniques include participatory observations and interviews. The target groups are Georgian migrants in Germany and members of their families in Georgia. Fieldwork will be conducted from early 2020.



Departure hall at the airport in Tbilisi: Georgian migrants do not just send money home - they also transfer newly acquired practices, values and norms.

Project start: October 2017

Transformation of Urban Spaces and Religious Pluralisation in the South Caucasus

This project intensifies the focus on urban spaces in Eastern Europe and aims to develop a new research perspective at the intersection of urban, diversity and religious studies. Post-socialist cities in the Caucasus are a laboratory of diversity in which visible religiosity and atheistic lifestyles imprint themselves on politics and daily life without triggering conflicting reactions.

The project seeks to define and compare different patterns of religious pluralisation in the South Caucasus. Over the last two decades, new religious movements and practices – such as Protestant and charismatic churches and new »purist«

Muslim communities - have been observed in the regional metropolises alongside 'traditional' diversity and the established churches. The project investigates the development of new places of worship such as mega-mosques and mega-churches and also explores informal, alternative religious practices and the use of urban spaces. How do local authorities in cities of the South Caucasus regulate emerging religious diversity in spatial and institutional terms? Which urban spaces are accessed and experienced by religious actors as places of conflict, but also as venues for contact and the affirmation of local and transnational identities?



A Krishna community space in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Research report 2019

In spring 2019, Tsypylma Darieva spent four weeks conducting fieldwork in Georgia and Azerbaijan, thus continuing the data-gathering which began in 2018. Her collaboration with local scholars at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the Centre for Sociological Research in Baku enabled her to collect a broad range of research data and diversify her methodology. The fieldwork therefore focused on collection of data from semi-structured interviews with various religious activists and representatives of administrative bodies in Baku and Batumi and ethnographic observations at selected sites. The expert interviews and participant observation were supplemented with quantitative data obtained from surveys on the social and cultural use of prayer rooms. After the development of the survey questionnaires and guidelines for the semistructured interviews, the next phase of the research involved conducting, translating and transcribing the interviews. In all, 60 expert interviews were conducted with religious activists, imams, priests, rabbis, representatives of the secular administration, architects and scholars. A further 300 or so short interviews were conducted with visitors to various local places of worship.

The expansion of the methodology and research team meant that more intensive coordination of the fieldwork was



Informal cross on the beach in Batumi, Georgia.

required. In summer 2019, the team set up an electronic database with the findings of the quantitative surveys, showing the diverse profile of visitors to religious sites. In addition, the team created various collections of visual images of traditional and newly constructed religious buildings in urban spaces, illustrating the spatial distribution of religious diversity in the cities studied and revealing an eco-system of transnational links in selected regional metropolises. Exploratory case studies focused on Baku and Batumi and will be supplemented by further ethnographic surveys.

The preliminary analyses show that Azerbaijan and Georgia are making varying degrees of effort to preserve their secular heritage, justifying this largely in terms of combating religious extremism and serving the interests of their multiethnic societies. In this context, various religious-urban configurations and contested spaces emerge,

along with manifestations and visualisations of religious practices in the public arena. In October, Tsypylma Darieva organised a panel on *Religious Pluralisation in Urban Environment* at the 20th Annual Conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society in Washington D.C.

The project is conducted by Tsypylma Darieva in collaboration with Professor Ketevan Khutsishvili (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia) and Yulia Aliyeva (Centre for Sociological Research, Azerbaijan).

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Topics such as religious diversity and urban bargaining processes in the post-Soviet 'South' are highly relevant to society, partly due to the South Caucasus's specific status as a heterogeneous border region 'on the path to Europe', but also because of the significance of 'controversial' topics such as Islam and identity politics in multifaith societies. Urban areas on the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea (Baku and Batumi) are not only loci of political power; they are, simultaneously, laboratories of social change. Social transformation in post-Soviet cities in the South Caucasus is characterised by a radical reshaping of public spaces, interethnic tensions and increasing religious pluralisation. Here, new lines of conflict, contested spaces but also divided and religiously mixed spaces are emerging in which faith becomes a dynamic political and social resource at the interface between the traditional and the modern.

Homeland Pilgrimage: Roots and Routes of Transnational Diasporic Engagement

How and why do migrants' descendants maintain their attachment to the ancestral homeland? What are the main motivations and routes of transnational engagement among the second and later generations of diasporic members? Drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork in Armenia and the United States, this study highlights those transnational activities that generate and mobilise new emotional links to the ancestral homeland. Similar to other Eastern European nations, Armenia – usually perceived as a country of outflow migration – has recently become attractive for

a new inward migratory process. Social anthropologist Tsypylma Darieva examines the changing character of transnational flows and diasporic attachment to the homeland, with implications for the whole concept of the diaspora-homeland nexus, beyond one-way return migration and homeland tourism.

Transnational flows of money, people and ideas from economically more developed nations to a post-socialist 'developing' country are powered by a new generation of Armenian-American nonprofit and non-state diasporic organisations. They employ a variety of 'soft tools' of engagement such as temporary homeland trips, civic volunteering and philanthropy that mobilise the attachment and create new social fields of engagement. These interactions build a new pattern of global mobility for migrants' descendants, the 'homeland pilgrimage'.

This book project thus seeks to contribute to the studies of cross-border transnational mobility at the intersection of return migration, diasporic activism and pilgrimage studies. The author offers an ethnographic account and an analysis of social imaginaries, political claims and emerging infrastructures of a 'sacred' journey among diasporic people that transcends classic pilgrimage studies.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The findings of this research provide civil society organisations and international policy-makers with new information on migration, diasporic engagement and homeland development. The study investigates how the ancestral homeland is perceived by the second and later generations and how they maintain their links to it; it also explores to what extent external grassroots activists and their organisations are able to exert social and political influence on the future of local societies beyond state structures. Homeland pilgrimages are not simply a form of homeland tourism; they serve to establish new infrastructures and create stability-oriented legitimacy for multiple identities.

Studying return mobility is helpful for advancing research about the future not only of Armenia but of other Eastern European countries as well, because these regions are experiencing strong transformation processes as a result of migration. By that, I mean the nexus between outflow and inward migration and the unequal distribution of capital, know-how and people, not just between East and West and but also between the Global North and the Global South.

Research report 2019

In 2019, Tsypylma Darieva updated and concluded her data analysis, undertaking systematic follow-up research and completing a comparative literature review. This resulted in two new chapters that were integrated into the monograph together with a new theoretical overview. The main hypotheses were presented and discussed at two academic events in Regensburg and St Petersburg (Russia). The monograph was submitted to Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin as a post-doctoral thesis in May 2019.

New Test Conditions in the 'Laboratory of Peoples' Friendship': The Situation of National Minorities in Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is a multiethnic state. Although large numbers of non-Kazakhs have left the country in the past 25 years, minority nationalities – of which there are more than 100 – still make up around 30 per cent of the population, coexisting peacefully despite the occasional localised conflicts that arise in daily life.

Since 1991, research has focused almost entirely on the situation of the country's two largest nationalities, i.e. the Kazakhs and the Russians, with 'Kazakhisation' increasingly becoming the keyword. However, very little research has been done on the fine detail of the government's official nationalities policy, how

it has impacted on the situation of the many other persons concerned and how it is viewed by these persons. What's more, very little is known about the highly diverse starting points and development of many of Kazakhstan's minority nationalities (as members of their ethnic group or as Kazakhstanis). In her project, Beate Eschment investigates the role played by national interest representation and the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan (Assambleya Naroda Kazakhstana - ANK) in achieving peaceful interethnic relations and serving as a focal point for identity formation. The project applies a combination of methods, particularly including interviews with experts and representatives of various nationalities, discourse analysis of publications and speeches, and participatory observation at the local level.

The project's objective is to foster an understanding of official nationalities policy, to shed light on the current status of selected minority nationalities, and to make a well-founded assessment of the prospects for continued interethnic stability in Kazakhstan.

Research report 2019

Continuing her field research in autumn 2018, Beate Eschment returned to Kazakhstan in spring 2019 to conduct a series of follow-up interviews with rep-



Representatives of Kazakhstan's diverse national groups at the Nauryz parade in Almaty in 2019.



Ethnic Germans wearing traditional Black Forest dress at the Nauryz celebrations, marking the coming of spring, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2019.

resentatives of selected ethnic groups. Topics discussed included the activities of the groups' national representations and the status of efforts to preserve languages and traditions. In particular, she had the opportunity to observe festivals of different ethnic groups and of the city of Almaty for the start of spring (Nauryz), and to make many new contacts.

Additional conversations with Kazakhstani researchers encouraged her to carry out an opinion survey among members of the ethnic groups she had studied, with Kazakhs and Russians as control groups. The aim of the survey was to test the success of the Kazakhstani integration policy pursued by the country's first president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, since the start of the 1990s and explore how respondents identified with their own ethnicity. The survey, which involved a total of 1,000 respondents, was conducted in October 2019 by a Kazakhstani opinion research institute in Almaty. In addition to questions on identity, the survey asked the respondents about their age, level of education, and social situation, as well as their assessment of the country's nationalities policy. Initial evaluations carried

out with Taissiya Sutormina, a research assistant at ZOiS, revealed previously unknown correlations but also clear differences among individual ethnic groups.

Beate Eschment presented some of the results of her two field trips when she spoke in June 2019 on the panel *Ethnic Minorities in Central Asia* at the *ESCAS* 16th Biennial Conference in Exeter, UK.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The question of how multiple nationalities can peacefully co-exist in one state and integrate while preserving their national identities has great importance for a growing number of European states. A more accurate knowledge of the current situation regarding selected national minorities is therefore not only significant for Kazakhstan but can also offer insights for Europe.

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

When members of ethnic minorities or migrants are approached by the media or academia, contact is usually made through institutions. For the study of Polish migrants, Polish parishes and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are typical entry points; for Jewish research subjects, synagogues and Jewish community centres are popular; and for gaining access to the Hungarian diaspora, Hungarian cultural centres play a key role.

Such approaches create the image of minority or migrant activism that is self-

centred and focuses primarily on the subjects' own communities. This image does little to break down the stereotype of migrants and members of ethnic minorities as a burden on society – a view perpetuated by contemporary populism across Europe.

This project focuses on activism of migrants and members of ethnic minorities that happens outside key minority or migrant institutions and therefore remains invisible to the media and academic research. It builds on Piotr Goldstein's previous research, which has

resulted in the production of *Active* (citizen), a thirty-minute ethnographic documentary co-authored by him and Jan Lorenz of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Goldstein is working on further outputs to explore the overlooked contributions of this minority and migrant activism and highlight their value to the general public.

One of the main goals of this project is to explore the activism of refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities beyond their engagement in social movements and NGOs. The project seeks to highlight



A Roma refugee volunteer informally clears waste in Novi Sad, Serbia.



Manchester, UK: a picnic to promote veganism. The Polish cherry syrup is the only sign that the event was organised by Polish migrants.

this, otherwise invisible, activism, and through the use of visual material (mostly short videos), bring it into public discourse.

The project is based on a combination of long-term multi-sited ethnography, visual ethnography and interviews. Film footage has already been recorded at several locations with a prospect of being turned into a series of short films or a multi-screen video installation. One purpose of this method is to create the findings of this research available to a broader public and make social impact through what is often termed activist anthropology.

Research report 2019

Since joining ZOiS in June 2019, Piotr Goldstein has been working on this project in two ways. Firstly, he has engaged in dissemination of the project's outputs

among academic and non-academic audiences. In particular, screenings of Active (citizen) took place at the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) Inter-Congress in Poznań (Poland), at film festivals in Serbia and Macedonia, at CATference in Belgrade (Serbia), and at an

activist café in Manchester (England). Secondly, Piotr Goldstein has also been learning about the migrant activist scene in Berlin, establishing initial contacts for ethnographic research in the city as well as recording some new film footage and conducting interviews with Polish migrants in Manchester.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

One of the biggest challenges facing migrants, and particularly refugees, in today's Europe is that they are typically looked upon as a challenge, a problem to be dealt with. Occasionally, in the search for positives, migrants' usefulness for the economy and/or the need for immigration in light of Europe's ageing demographics are brought up. In this project, I visualise and present migrants' invisible contribution to society at large which often happens through small and seemingly unimportant 'acts of activism'. By appreciating such acts and showing migrants' and refugees' incredible engagement and sense of responsibility towards their new environments, I add my voice to efforts to 're-humanise' migrants and refugees against their increasingly common dehumanisation in the media and popular discourse.

Project start: September 2017

Post-Soviet Migrants and Transnational Public Spheres on Social Media

The project looks at media usage among Russian-speaking migrants in an everyday context, based on an analysis of communication on the Russian social networking site VK.com. Tatiana Golova is studying how open groups and public pages associated with Russian-speaking migrants in Germany interact with other collective resources in Germany, Russia and the rest of the post-Soviet space. In light of the 2017 Bundestag elections in particular and the attempted mobilisation of ethnic Germans from Russia by the populist far right, the question guiding the project is to what extent transnational and politicised communication networks between Germany and Russia are developing and gaining in relevance through the engagement of post-Soviet migrants living in Germany.

In 2018, the following steps were taken in data gathering and analysis:

- Development of a system for the collection, storage, processing, analysis and visualisation of interaction and text data from VK.com.
- 2. Sampling of collective resources such as open groups and public pages on VK.com and OK.ru.

- Collection of data via the VK.com programme interface, testing of various procedures for analysis of interaction and text data, analysis of links between groups on social networks, visualisation of graphs.
- 4. Networks of open groups and public pages of post-Soviet migrants and other stakeholders with a connection to Germany were reconstructed with reference to reposts or published content. This enabled Tatiana Golova to map the transnational information flow from 'East' to 'West' and

back and to empirically track the links between politicised post-Soviet migrant groups, the German far right and groups on the left of the political spectrum.

Research report 2019

In the first months of 2019, Tatiana Golova prepared a paper based on her research results.

From April to December 2019, she was on parental leave. ◀

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Among migrants from the post-Soviet republics (and elsewhere), communication networks which extend beyond national borders can be observed. Ethnic Germans from Russia – a relatively large group – are able to obtain German citizenship and therefore full political rights fairly easily, making the question of this group's political potential and their transnational communication spaces particularly interesting. The keyword 'transnationality' generally has positive connotations, but it also hints at experience of the 'foreigner' who 'is here today and gone tomorrow'. The normative 'foreignness' of Russian authoritarianism that has imprinted itself on Russian-language digital media makes this an especially relevant field of research.

YOUTH IN EASTERN EUROPE

- ► Youth as Political Actor and Social Imaginary ► Attitudes, Political Engagement, and Transnational Linkages of Young People in Eastern Europe

60

Research Cluster

Youth in Eastern Europe

Coordinator: Dr Félix Krawatzek

Youth plays a key role in the constant changes that politics and society undergo. On the one hand, young people may become politically active, on the other hand, youth provides a highly contested imaginary of a country's experiences and expectations. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, young people across Eastern Europe have experienced radical changes in their living conditions including the educational system, economic opportunities, and political conditions. These changes have implications for the relationship between young and old and the role young people play in Eastern Europe today as agents for change or stability. This research cluster aims to study not only political activism and generational change but also cultural practices, the identities of young people, their economic status as well as government initiated youth policies. The individual projects draw on different methods, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, discourse and text analysis, and network analysis.

Youth as Political Actor and Social Imaginary

When do young people take to the streets to challenge or support the political regime in place? How do political regimes respond to the challenges emanating from youth mobilisation? In today's Russia, young people have taken to the streets on numerous occasions, both to pressure the existing regime and, at times, to express their support for it. Meanwhile, the symbol of youth in Russia enjoys a high visibility, and the media and politicians draw upon it, for example when referring to the role of the youthful Red Army during the Second World War or when they talk about expectations for the country's future.

This research project studies the political activism of young people in contemporary Russia. It builds an event history database of pro- and anti-regime mobilisation in order to understand young people's protest behaviour, the drivers of and obstacles to their political engagement, and the relationship between those taking to the streets and the regime in place. Focus group interviews are also carried out with young people to anchor their political behaviour in a historical and cultural context and to understand their perceptions of social mobilisation. This project seeks to map the different and contradictory forms of engagement of young people and pays

attention to how young people themselves understand the political space they inhabit.

Moreover, the project takes a closer look at the international diffusion of youth mobilisation. Taking Russian youth movements as a starting point, the project explores, through a number of case studies, how ideas, networks, and practices of mobilisation diffuse between Russia and Western Europe. This emphasis on diffusion also calls into question essentialising notions of 'East' and 'West'.

Research report 2019

Within the framework of this research project, focus group interviews were

carried out in June 2019 with young people of different political orientations in Yekaterinburg and St Petersburg. The interviews offered insights into the perceptions of various forms of political and social mobilisation in Russia. The project also asked to what extent young people's historical memories are connected with their political perceptions and expectations of their own future and that of society. During an extended research trip to Russia, Félix Krawatzek further investigated the insights gained through the focus group interviews and the surveys, and developed new and existing contacts in the country. A first academic essay on the mobilisation of young people, based on these new data, is planned imminently.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Besides their political attitudes, young people's political behaviour is also highly relevant. There can be no doubt that young people have played a crucial role in the movement for climate action *Fridays for Future* and the antigovernment protests in Hong Kong and Chile, as well as in Russia. While young people are increasingly withdrawing from institutionalised political processes, their participation in other forms of political expression has risen. In Eastern Europe, youth protest has become a vital part of political life and brings to light the contradictory political expectations of the new generation. From an external perspective, however, these tensions are all too easily overlooked. This project sets out to develop a more detailed picture of this region and of young people's political expectations and commitments.

Project start: April 2018

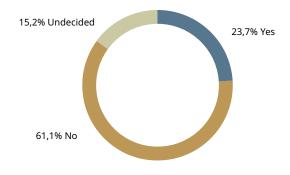
Attitudes, Political Engagement, and Transnational Linkages of Young People in Eastern Europe

Based on a number of online surveys conducted across Eastern Europe (Russia, Belarus, Poland, and Latvia), this project taps into the attitudes, behaviour, and the transnational linkages of a generation that has not yet been empirically studied. Through these surveys, we identify the larger patterns of how young people perceive the political and social worlds they inhabit, how they

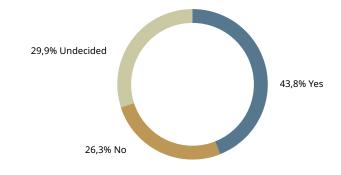
identify with their countries' pasts, and what aspirations they have for their own futures. The first two surveys cover the Russian Federation (April 2018 / April 2019) and were conducted among young(er) people aged 16 to 34 in fifteen regional capitals. Youth plays an important role in the official discourse of the Russian government. Young people have been shown to be loyal to the

regime and to identify with conservative values, but they have also been very visible in the anti-corruption protest movement around Alexei Navalny and protests in the context of the regional elections in summer 2019. This contradiction within the young generation is not unique to Russia. Through further surveys in Belarus, Poland, and Latvia, this project gains a deeper understanding of the features that explain the diversity of views among the young in rapidly changing societies. We probe a range of issues, such as the level of political interest, knowledge, and public engagement of young people, their sources of information, personal networks, expectations, trust, and values. The online questionnaires combine novel survey techniques, including factual and picture quizzes as well as vignette and list experiments.

Should Belarus and Russia unite in one state?



Should President Lukashenka seek closer cooperation with EU countries, even if it means estrangement from Russia?

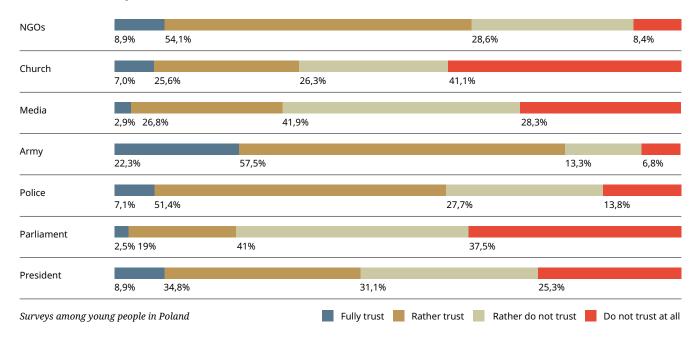


Surveys among young people in Belarus

Research report 2019

In 2019, online surveys were carried out among young people in Belarus, Poland, Latvia, and Russia. The results of the surveys in Belarus and Poland were published in two *ZOiS Reports* and two *ZOiS Spotlights* as well as in short commentaries for other media and policy briefings. The surveys were conducted online, a format which offers several benefits: it conforms to young people's communication habits and offers them more control over the response process and more anonymity than is the case with face-to-face interviews. As a result, there

To what extent do you trust...



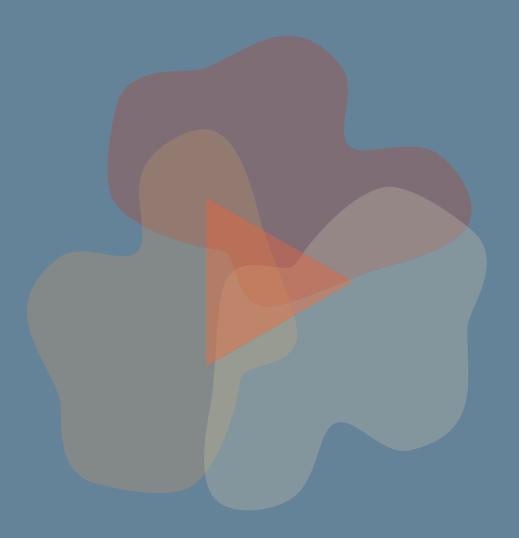
is less of a risk that respondents will adjust their answers to match the researchers' presumed expectations. In Poland, 2,000 people aged between 16 and 34 from a variety of Polish cities were surveyed in February 2019. In Belarus, it is more difficult to obtain reliable information about society and political themes. The survey conducted here, also in February 2019, therefore offers rare insights into young people's political attitudes and their views on their own and other countries. Here too, 2,000 Belarusians aged between 16 and 34 were surveyed, mainly in urban centres. Topics covered in all four country surveys included religious beliefs, information sources, voting intentions, trust in institutions, opinions on political protest, national development, foreign policy and social values. Demographic data

on age, gender, income and level of education were also collected. A comparative analysis of the data collected in Russia in 2018 and 2019 was presented at various international academic confer-

ences and was summarised for the *Munich Security Report 2020*. Entitled *Westlessness*, the report served as a conversation starter for the Munich Security Conference 2020.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The relevance of young people's attitudes is intuitively obvious to policy-makers and the public. But the main purpose of this project is not to anticipate young people's future modes of behaviour but to assess their current aspirations and expectations in relation to government policy and the political world that they inhabit; in that sense, they serve as an indicator of political systems' stability. Particularly in countries where youth plays an important role in the official discourse, these attitudes may be viewed as a kind of litmus test of the scope and effects of official policies. In addition, young people have significant migration potential. Their transnational relationships with family and friends in other (Western) countries constitute alternative sources of information and provide a framework for comparing options and perspectives.



EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

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Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (MOBILISE)

MOBILISE is an international joint project funded by Open Research Area (ORA) in which ZOiS is participating with its Director Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse as a Principal Investigator. The other Principal and Co-Investigators are Dr Olga Onuch (University of Manchester), Prof. Jacquelien van Stekelenburg (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Dr Sorana Toma (ENSAE Paris), Dr David Doyle (University of Oxford) and Dr Evelyn Ersanilli (University of Amsterdam). On the German side, the project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Working on this project at ZOiS are Dr Piotr Goldstein as a postdoctoral researcher (since June 2019) and the doctoral student Kostiantyn Fedorenko (since November 2019).

The MOBILISE project asks: When there is discontent, why do some people protest while others cross borders? Connecting theoretical expectations from the migration and protest literatures, we examine:

- a) whether similar factors drive the choice to migrate and / or protest at the individual level;
- b) how the political, social and economic context affects this mobilisation;
- whether these choices are independent of each other or mutually reinforcing / undermining.

MOBILISE employs a multi-method (nationally representative face-to-face panel surveys, online migrant surveys, protest participant surveys, focus groups, in-depth interviews, social media analysis) and a multi-sited research design. It

covers Ukraine, Poland, Morocco and Argentina – four countries which have recently witnessed both large-scale emigration and mass protests. It follows migrants from these countries to Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain.

The project offers four key innovations:

- it combines protest and migration;
- it captures all the relevant groups for a comparative study (protesters, mi-

- grants, migrant protesters and people who have not engaged in migration or protest);
- it tracks individuals over time by employing a panel survey;
- it includes the use of social media data providing real time information on the role of networks and political remittances.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Both in Eastern Europe and in the global context, migration and protest movements represent two of the most important societal challenges of our time. In research and in practice, however, there is a tendency to treat each of these events separately. This major, comparative project explores different possible connections between the two phenomena on the basis of an ambitious combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection in Europe, Latin America and North Africa.



Demonstration in the Polish city of Łódź: MOBILISE looks at why, in times of crisis, some people migrate and others protest.

These features allow the project to generate an unprecedented amount of empirical data on the issues at stake, to make a major contribution to theory development in both migration and protest studies, and to offer key insights to policy makers that are of central importance for political and economic stability.

Research at ZOiS

The team at ZOiS headed by Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse is principally engaged in the collection of quantitative and qualitative data in Poland and Ukraine as well as data collections on Polish and Ukrainian migrants in Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain. Together with our international partners this data will be compared with data relating to Latin America and North Africa collected by the partner institutions.

Postdoc Piotr Goldstein coordinates the qualitative data collection in the four countries of origin, Ukraine, Poland, Morocco and Argentina, as well as the qualitative data collection among Polish, Ukrainian, Argentinian and Moroccan migrants in Germany, Britain and Spain. In 2019, he conducted 21 individual interviews and nine focus groups in Poland (Warsaw, Gdańsk and Lublin) with

people both with and without protest and/or migration experience. Moreover, he and PhD candidate Kostiantyn Fedorenko conducted the first interviews and focus groups with Polish and Ukrainian migrants in Berlin. Piotr Goldstein also participated in the preparation of the face-to-face survey conducted in Poland and the online survey conducted among Polish migrants. Kostiantyn Fedorenko helped with the preparation and implementation of the online survey for Ukrainian migrants living in the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain. \triangleleft

Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)

ZOiS is part of the Cluster of Excellence *SCRIPTS* that is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In addition to the applying Freie Universität Berlin, six other research institutions are participating in the project: the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the Hertie School of Governance, the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient and the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. As Principal Investigator, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse is a member of the Research Unit *Borders*.

The liberal script is under pressure. Some of the most severe challenges liberal democracies are facing today emanate from authoritarian and non-liberal states as well as from violent non-state actors. These actors reject the liberal script defined as ideas and institutional prescriptions about the organisation of society based on the core principle of individual self-determination. Within liberal societies, populist movements question the meanings of the liberal model of political and social order. This is not the first time the liberal script has been contested. It has evolved through contestation and resistance both from within and outside liberal societies. However, current contestations are puzzling when measured against the broad developments in world society over the past decades. There have been few interstate wars, poverty reduction in many countries of the global South, modest unemployment rates in most of the consolidated economies of the global North, and a significant improvement of the Human Development Index.

The Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS puts the current contestations of the liberal

script in a broader historical, global, and comparative perspective by addressing three sets of questions:

- To what extent do current challenges target core principles of the liberal script? Which alternative scripts exist to the liberal model and how does their appeal develop? How do current contestations compare to previous ones?
- What are the causes of these contestations? Under which conditions does the liberal script lose or gain attractiveness, and what drives the rise of alternative scripts? Are the causes for current contestations different from earlier ones?
- What are the consequences of the intensified contestations of the liberal script? Are these contestations of a temporary nature or do they indicate the decline of the liberal script in the long run? Which implications do contestations and the responses to them have for politics, societies, individuals, and the global challenges the world is facing in the 21st century?

In tackling these questions, the Cluster brings together the social sciences and area studies with their Western and non-Western perspectives, with their comprehensive expertise in quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as their generalising conceptions and local understandings. The notion of double reflexivity conjoins these different perspectives, allowing us to discuss how core principles of the liberal script and the social sciences themselves were and are affected by entangled processes of contestations. We aim at generalisable knowledge while being aware of the relativity of knowledge production. This approach does not juxtapose but rather integrates different theoretical and methodological perspectives. It promises to produce new answers and insights to the most relevant questions in the social sciences concerning the organisation and development of politics and society in modern times. ◀

Ukraine's Contested Border Regions

This project is part of the Cluster of Excellence Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS) coordinated by the Freie Universität Berlin. It was conceived in the Cluster's Research Unit Borders. The project deals with changes in Ukraine's border regions in the light of events since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the subsequent war in Eastern Ukraine. In a situation resembling a living lab it is possible to investigate changing borders as a relational concept. The questioned sovereignty of the Ukrainian borders in the conflict zones has also affected other Ukrainian border regions and led to new challenges. The project focuses in particular on the effects of the conflict situation on mobility across borders. It contrasts the severe restrictions in Eastern Ukraine with the opening of borders in Western Ukraine. The borders to Russia or Transnistria for example are characterised by major restrictions; on the other hand there has been a limited opening between Ukraine and the EU's Schengen area. Changing border realities also have an influence on business relations and border economies as well as processes of communication and exchange.

In relation to these different Ukrainian border regimes with their specific historical contexts and their specific position in interstate and supranational power relations, the project sets out to examine how the principle of the liberal border regime – understood as a personal and economic mobility across state borders – is being contested by different state and non-state actors.

Research report 2019

In 2019, as a partner in SCRIPTS, ZOiS applied for funding for a pilot project in the Research Unit Borders. The approved project is a preliminary study of changing border regions along the line of contact in the war zone in Donbas, the Ukrainian-Russian state border, and the Ukrainian-Transnistrian border. The pilot project also tests the feasibility of developing the study into a larger postdoctoral project. In collaboration with local researchers, qualitative fieldwork was carried out among the populace of the selected border regions in Ukraine and Russia and completed in late 2019 (to be completed in early 2020). The interviews with local actors included questions about everyday life in the border regions in view of changed practices of border crossing, the perception of the 'other' side and its inhabitants (for example relations to relatives, acquaintances and business partners) and the symbolic and structural architecture of the border (fences, monuments and border installations, etc.).



Symbolically charged monument to border guards in the Russian town of Grayvoron, close to the Ukrainian border.

The results of the pilot study will be collectively analysed with the local researchers in early 2020 during a workshop at ZOiS as a basis for a publication and for the development of a postdoctoral project.

In what way is this project relevant to society?

The project sets out to show how quickly borders and orders perceived as secure and stable can become unstable as a result of changes in international power relations. It shows how in border regions, everyday life and a sense of openness can suddenly succumb to conflict and tension. It also points to the contradictory effects of changing borders. The opening of borders, such as mobility within the Schengen area of the EU, has simultaneously reinforced the EU's external border with Ukraine and reduced mobility across this border.

The Proliferation of Memory Laws and the Return of the Nation

in cooperation with Dr George Soroka (Harvard University)

This project receives funding from the Daimler and Benz Foundation Scholarship Programme. It is part of the research cluster *Societies between Stability and Change*.

The legal dimension of how one can publicly speak about historical events has only recently started to be addressed in a concerted fashion by historians and legal experts. Social scientists have by-and-large shunned this topic which is surprising given the undeniable political and social relevance of legislating how the past can be recalled. Many Central and East European countries have

adopted legislation in recent years that seeks to regulate the work of historians and the public discourse about history. World War II plays a critical role in these attempts to legislate memory. Such legislation is indicative of a nation-building through the means of state-crafted historical narratives which shape a new norm about how to view the past. They also illustrate the difficult nation-build-

ing projects that have characterised many East European countries after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Contemporary Russia, for example, uses memory and the law for nation-building purposes. A 2014 law is frequently used to punish deviant statements about the country's history. But such laws exist not only in Russia, nor are they an exclusive feature of authoritarian regimes. Instead, countries as varied as Poland, Ukraine, France, Spain, Germany, Chile or a number of states in the US have legal provisions which determine what can be said in public about different parts of a country's historical past.

This project seeks to understand the political dynamics behind this forceful presence of history and the wider societal implications of it. With research funding from the Daimler and Benz Foundation, a database is being compiled on memory laws covering Europe and North and South America including

In what way is this project relevant to society?

Over the last twenty years there have been regular attempts in Eastern Europe to standardise by law the often complex and controversial memory of historical events, and in this way to silence critical voices in particular. Hence, in a highly problematic way, memory laws impose restrictions on freedom of expression, and are frequently at odds with memory's constantly shifting nature. The proliferation of these laws over the last twenty years illustrates the importance currently attributed to historical narratives, among other things to strengthen national identity. In a domestic context, attempts to legally standardise memory have been the subject of controversial debate; furthermore, they have the potential to contribute to major interstate conflicts. From this point of view, a more precise understanding of the effects of such laws and the processes that lead to them is relevant.

the important political dynamics revolving around such laws. The research also uses original survey data related to the societal recall of the past in Russia and France that will be collected in 2020.

New approaches to survey research, such as list and vignette experiments, will be used to evaluate the societal effects of the memory initiatives of political elites. The research project will employ both qualitative and quantitative methods. The political dynamics surrounding memory laws will be ana-

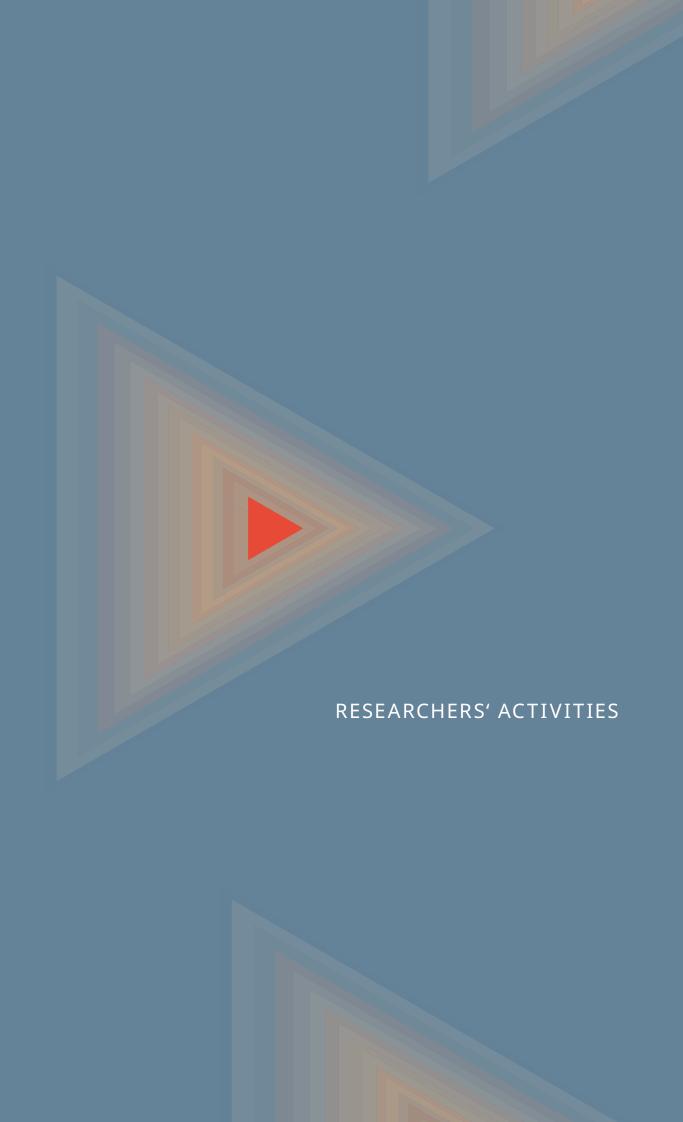
lysed mainly qualitatively, whereas the surveys will be assessed using statistical techniques. Together, these methods will enable an understanding of the production and reception of memory in different political contexts.

Research report 2019

The grant from the Daimler and Benz Foundation allowed the research work to be deepened and accelerated. Thanks to the funding, a number of calls for tenders were issued and a series of country portraits were developed on the legal frameworks surrounding memory. The database currently includes the memory laws of almost all European countries. In parallel, Félix Krawatzek designed a survey on the topic of memory in Russia, to be carried out in 2020. The research project's first essay was published in the *Journal of Democracy*, and ideas for further essays were presented at various international conferences. A special issue of the journal *Problems of Post-Communism* discussing aspects of the research project will appear in 2020.



One of the few undamaged statues of Lenin still standing in Ukraine in 2017: the decommunisation laws in Ukraine, signed four years earlier, were declared constitutional in 2019.



Researchers' Activities

DIANA BOGISHVILI

PUBLICATIONS

▶ ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'Civil and political turmoil in Georgia'. ZOiS Spotlight 26 / 2019 (3 July 2019)
- 'Proteste in Georgien'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 5/2019 with Tsypylma Darieva and Regina Elsner (5 July 2019)
- 'A show of power by Georgia's ruling party'.
 ZOiS Spotlight 39 / 2019 (23 October 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

► Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg, 10/2019)

Conference Migration as a factor of social change in East and Southeast Europe in the 20th and 21th century Presentation Migration and social inequality in Georgia

► Knowledge transfer

► Long Night of Ideas at Haus Ungarn (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

PechaKucha presentation Migration and social inequality in Georgia

DR TSYPYLMA DARIEVA

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

'Discovering 'Homeland': A New Generation of Armenian Diasporic Organisations'. In: Revue d'Etudes Comparatives Est-Ouest, vol. 19, no. 4: pp. 9–41, 2019.

► ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'Commemorating the Armenian Genocide after the Velvet Revolution'. ZOiS Spotlight 16 / 2019 (24 April 2019)
- 'Proteste in Georgien'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 5/2019 with Regina Elsner and Diana Bogishvili (5 July 2019)

- 'Secularism and Islam: new religious education in Azerbaijan'. ZOiS Spotlight 40/2019 (30 October 2019)
- 'Life between two worlds: labour migrants in Russia'.
 ZOiS Spotlight 46 / 2019 (11 December 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism Co-Organisation of the panel City of the Future?

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

Presentation in the ZOiS research colloquium *Between* monumentality and informality: contemporary urban-religious configurations in Azerbaijan

► Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg, 10/2019)

Conference Migration as a factor of social change in East and Southeast Europe in the 20th and 21th century Presentation Diasporic Youth Mobilization: Armenian-American Volunteers in the Ancestral Homeland

► Elliot School of International Affairs (Washington, D.C., USA, 10/2019)

Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) 20th Annual Conference

Co-organisation of the two-part panel Religious Pluralization in Urban Environment
Presentation Multiple Altars? Urban-religious
Configurations in Azerbaijan's Post-secular City
Panellist at Regional Context and Local
Transformations in the Caucasus.

European University (St Petersburg, Russia, 10/2019)

Workshop Religious Infrastructure and Pilgrimage Lecture Homeland Pilgrimage as a Diasporic Back-to-the-Roots Movement

► Knowledge transfer

▶ Bertelsmann Stiftung (Berlin, 9 / 2019)
Expert talks and consulting as a member of the advisory board of the Anti-corruption Study in the Caucasus by Silvia Stöber

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Poster session as part of the *Long Night of the Sciences* 2019

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

Panellist at Urbaner Aktivismus in Osteuropa

Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Initiator and co-organiser of the roundtable discussion Protestkulturen im Kaukasus: Herausforderungen

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Organisation and chair of the panel discussion Rethinking Family in the Context of Migration in Russia in cooperation with CISR e. V. Berlin

 W. Michael Blumenthal Akademie des J\u00fcdischen Museums (Berlin, 11/2019)

Lecture Zwischen Europa und Asien. Jüdische Minderheiten im Kaukasus Panellist at Über eine Teeschale. Verflochtene Erfahrungen der post-sowjetischen jüdischen Migration

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- Seminar Kaukasusstudien aus sozial- und kulturanthropologischer Perspektive (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, winter semester 2019/20)
- Supervision and review of a master thesis at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan, co-supervision of a master thesis at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin as well as co-supervision of a doctoral thesis at ADA University, Azerbaijan and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

MISCELLANEOUS

 Coordination of the programme and co-supervision of exchange lecturers of Friedrich Schiller University
 Jena and Yerevan State University in the DAAD Eastern
 Partnership Programme (5–6/2019)

DR NADJA DOUGLAS

PUBLICATIONS

► Academic

- 'NATO-Russland-Beziehungen. Wege aus der Konfrontation?' In: Wissenschaft & Frieden Nr. 1, 2019.

▶ ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'Grand strategies and natural limitations in the Russian Arctic'. ZOiS Spotlight 14/2019 (10 April 2019)
- 'Armenien: Ein Jahr nach der samtenen Revolution'.
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 3/2019 with
 Gwendolyn Sasse and Silvia Stöber (18 April 2019)
- 'Moldova's political crisis and its aftershocks'. ZOiS Spotlight 25 / 2019 (26 June 2019)
- 'Belarus vor den Parlamentswahlen'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 9 / 2019 with Félix Krawatzek and Adam Busuleanu (7 November 2019)

EVENTS

► Academic

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism

Organisation of the panel *Post-Soviet Monocities*

- ▶ University of Helsinki (Helsinki, Finland, 10/2019)

 Participation at the Aleksanteri Conference Technology, culture, and society in the Eurasian space

 Presentation in the panel Using Digital Technologies for Legal Practices

 on Police and protest in the digital age Moldova and Armenia in a regional perspective

 Panellist at Russia's Cultural Statecraft: Fields of Nuclear Energy, History, Literature and Higher Education
- ➤ Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019) Conference Youth Mobilisation and Political Change Chair of the panel The Many Faces of Youth Activism: From Grievances to the Street
- ▶ Southeast Europe Association (Berlin, 12 / 2019)
 International workshop Moldova Key Challenges
 and Political Developments
 Chair of the panel Moldova between Russia and the EU

► Knowledge transfer

- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 02/2019)

 Press briefing Moldau vor der Parlamentswahl
- ► **German Chancellery (Berlin, 03 / 2019)**Briefing *Parlamentswahlen in der Republik Moldau*
- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 04/2019)
 Briefing for representatives of the South Korean embassy
- German Bundestag (Berlin, 05 / 2019)
 Briefing of the parliamentary group Romania, Bulgaria,
 Moldova on The current situation in the Republic of Moldova

on Deutsch-russische Beziehungen und North Stream II

► Federal Ministry of Defence (Berlin, 05 / 2019)
Central conference of the military attachés

Presentation Sicherheitspolitische Entwicklungen in den Ländern der Östlichen Partnerschaft

- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 05/2019)
 - Panellist at the ZOiS Forum Frozen Conflict a Filmic reflection of the Transnistrian Deadlock
- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)
 Poster session as part of the Long Night of the Sciences 2019
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

Panellist at Urbaner Aktivismus in Osteuropa

- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 10/2019)
 - Chair of the discussion *In conversation with Elkhan*Nuriyev: Re-energizing the Eastern Partnership:
 Time for New Innovative Ideas
- ► Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Berlin, 11/2019)
 Panellist at Belarussisch-Deutsche Beziehungen:
 vor 100 Jahren und heute
- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)
 Panellist at the event Lesung und Gespräch mit Golineh Atai
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)
 - Co-organisation of the networking meeting Protestkulturen im Kaukasus: Herausforderungen und Chancen

IN THE MEDIA

- Welche Bedeutung hat die Parlamentswahl in Moldau Assessment for the TV programme 'Heute im Osten' of MDR (22 February 2019)
- Paschinjan muss mit den alten Eliten zusammenarbeiten Interview for Caucasus Watch (10 June 2019)
- Как новая глава Еврокомиссии Урсула фон дер Ляйен относится к России?
 Assessment on Ursula von der Leyen's stance towards Russia for Deutsche Welle (16 July 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

► Lecture Sicherheitspolitische Entwicklungen in Osteuropa (Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, winter semester 2019/20)

MISCELLANEOUS

Expert assessment of a grant application for a research project at the German Foundation for Peace Research (03/2019)

DR REGINA ELSNER

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- Gender und die traditionellen Familienwerte: Der Beitrag der Russischen Orthodoxen Kirche zur russischen Identitätskonstruktion'. In: Gender-Nation-Religion. Ein internationaler Vergleich von Akteursstrategien und Diskursverflechtungen, hrsg. von Maren Behrens et al., Münster: Campus Verlag, 2019.
- 'Secular moral values as a threat to Russian Orthodox identity – the case of family values'. In: Religiöse Identitäten in einer globalisierten Welt, hrsg. von Marianne Heimbach-Steins und Judith Könemann, S. 109–118. Münster: Aschendorff, 2019.

► ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'New wave of persecutions against LGBTI* people in Chechnya'. ZOiS Spotlight 3 / 2019 (23 January 2019)
- 'Die Ukraine vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 1/2019 with Julia Langbein and Gwendolyn Sasse (12 March 2019)
- 'The Orthodox Churches in Ukraine in the wake of the election campaign'. ZOiS Spotlight 21/2019 (29 May 2019)
- 'Proteste in Georgien'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 5/2019 with Tsypylma Darieva and Diana Bogishvili (5 July 2019)
- 'Friedensstifter oder Konfliktträger? Der Krieg in der Ukraine als sozialethische Herausforderung für die orthodoxen Kirchen'. ZOiS Report 2/2019 (8 August 2019)

Other publications

- 'Zeugen Jehovas'. Contribution for online magazine Dekoder (2 July 2019)
- 'Geopolitik, Macht und kirchliche Identität: Der Konflikt um die orthodoxe Kirche in der Ukraine', with Nadezhda Beljakova. In: Ukraine-Analysen Nr. 211, S. 5–8. (22 January 2019)
- 'Ukraine: Kirchengründung mit Risiken'. In: Herder Korrespondenz 2/2019, S. 11–12.
- 'Orthodox Church of Ukraine: Challenges and Risks of a New Beginning'. In: Russian Analytical Digest no. 231, pp. 9–13. (25 January 2019)
- 'Kirchenstreit in der Ukraine'. Editorial for Renovabis Info, Nr. 43, S. 1. (February 2019)
- 'Searching for Social Ethics'. In: Public Orthodoxy.
 Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University (3 April 2019)
- 'Machtkampf und Identitätskrise'. In: Ökumene. Pro Oriente Magazin 11/2019, S. 5–6.

EVENTS

▶ Academic

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 02/2019)

Chair of the book presentation of *New Conservatives* in Russia and East Central Europe

Forum Bernhardinum (Berlin, 03 / 2019)
Lecture Zum Streit zwischen dem Patriarchat von
Konstantinopel und der Russischen Orthodoxen Kirche

► Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ukraine (Cadenabbia, Italy, 04 / 2019)

Workshop Deutsch-ukrainischer Religionsdialog Keynote lecture Friedensethik in Kriegszeiten? Si vis pacem para bellum – Si vis pacem para pacem

Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine, 05/2019)

Participation at the II International Theological Conference *The Church and Public: Love in Action* Presentation *In Search for a Common Language:* Theological Social Ethics as Dialogue of Church and Modern Society

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Organisation of the international workshop New Conservatives in Eastern Europe

 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism Chair of the panel Post-Socialist European Identity – Hopes and Disillusionment

 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Co-Organisation of the conference *Churches and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe*Chair of the opening lecture *Religion and Identity*

► European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR) (Tartu, Estonia, 06 / 2019)

Lecture Peace-Ethics in Unpeaceful Times. (Dis)Continuities of Post-Soviet Russian-Orthodox Ethics of Peace and War

Chair of the panel Communism and Its Collapse: Disruptions and Continuities in Russian Orthodox Christianity I

Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine, 09/2019)

Workshop of the working group Religion in the Black Sea Keynote The power dilemma: The challenge of a civil society for the churches of the Kyiv tradition

Saint Sophia Cathedral (Kyiv, Ukraine, 10/2019)
Organisation of the conference "Human Dignity" – The Socio-Ethical Challenge of the "Revolution of Dignity"
Presentation Hotspots of the Human Rights Discourse in the German Catholic Church

Chair of the panel "One" Christian understanding of human dignity? Discussions within and between the churches and the discussion Perspectives for Ukraine

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Workshop Youth Mobilisation and Political Change Chair of the panel Official Youth Organisations and Cadres

► Knowledge transfer

► Renovabis Solidarity Initiative of Catholics for Eastern Europe (Freising, 01/2019)

Lecture on the situation of the churches in the Ukraine at the meeting of the international partner organisations

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

Briefing of Ukraine consultants of the Renovabis Solidarity Initiative

- ► Deutsche Bischofskonferenz (Magdeburg, 04/2019)
 Participation in the working group *Kirchen des Ostens*
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Poster session as part of the *Long Night of the Sciences* 2019

 German Federal Foreign Office (Moscow, Russia, 08/2019)

Invited expert of the delegation of the Federal Foreign Minister, discussion with representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 09/2019)

Briefing with representatives of the state department (department for Russia)

► Missio Hilfswerk (10 / 2019)
Telephone Briefing on *The Human Rights Discourse*of the Russian Orthodox Church

 Pro Oriente (Vienna, Austria, 11/2019)
 Participation in the annual meeting of the Steering Committee for the Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Panellist at Lesung und Gespräch mit Golineh Atai

▶ Katholische Akademie Berlin (Berlin, 12 / 2019) Lecture Ukraine: Mehr als die Verhandlungsmasse großer Mächte. Kirchen und Politik ein Jahr nach der Gründung der unabhängigen Orthodoxen Kirche.

IN THE MEDIA

- Nationalismus spaltet orthodoxe Christenheit
 Interview for a radio report of Bayern2
 (6 January 2019)
- Patriarch von Konstantinopel erkennt neue Orthodoxe Kirche der Ukraine an Assessment for Die Welt (6 January 2019)

- ► Führe sie nicht in Versuchung Assessment for the Austrian news magazine Profil (13 January 2019)
- Russland: Putin und der Patriarch vereint zu alter Größe?
 Guest speaker in a podcast episode of hr-Inforadio
 (12 February 2019)
- Die "Russische Welt" lockt nicht alle Guest article for Zeitzeichen (1 March 2019)
- "Драма повседневной жизни беженцев с Донбасса на фотовыставке "Обабіч" Interview for UKRLIFE.TV (8 May 2019)
- Wenn Putin sich im Vatikan als Hüter «traditioneller Werte» empfiehlt, zwingt er den Papst zu einem Eiertanz Guest article for Neue Zürcher Zeitung (4 July 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- Web lecture Wessen Werte? Die Kirchen und der konservative Wertediskurs in der Ukraine for the German Association for East European Studies (14 May 2019)
- ► Lecture *Die Orthodoxe Kirche vor der Herausforderung der Menschenrechte* at the Department of Theology of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (winter semester 2019 / 20)
- Consulting on field research in the context of a final thesis on the Russian Orthodox Church for a graduate of the Technische Universität Dresden (06/2019)

MISCELLANEOUS

 Recipient of the First Prize of the Dr Kurt Hellmich Foundation of the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Regensburg for her dissertation (18 January 2019)

DR BEATE ESCHMENT

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- ▶ 'Das Ende der Ära Nasarbajew in Kasachstan: Planerfüllung um jeden Preis?' In: Religion und Gesellschaft in Ost und West (RGOW) 6: S. 3, 2019.
- 'Kasachstan im Übergangsmodus. Ein Gespräch', with Sebastian Schiek. In: Zentralasien-Analysen, Nr. 134, S. 6–8. (26 April 2019)
- 'Auf dem Weg zu einem anderen Kasachstan? Anmerkungen zur Präsidentschaftswahl'. In: Zentralasien-Analysen, Nr. 135, S. 6 f. (28 June 2019)

► ZOiS Knowledge transfer

'Nursultan Nazarbayev: Strategic withdrawal by increments?' ZOiS Spotlight 15 / 2019 (17 May 2019)

- 'Auf dem Weg zu einem neuen Kasachstan?'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 6/2019 with Nina Frieß and Sebastian Schiek (26 July 2019)
- 'Only losers in Kyrgyzstan'. ZOiS Spotlight 31/2019 (28 August 2019)

▶ Other publications

Editorial director of Zentralasien-Analysen: Nr. 133, *Usbekistans Afghanistan-Politik*

(22 February 2019)

Nr. 134, Russlands Macht in Kirgistan/Kasachstan im Übergangsmodus (26 April 2019)

Nr. 135, Gendergerechtigkeit und nationale Traditionen im Konflikt/Vorgezogene Präsidentschaftswahl in Kasachstan (28 June 2019)

Nr. 136, *Ujghuren im chinesisch-kasachstanischen Grenzgebiet* (26 July 2019)

Nr. 137, *Zentralasien und die Seidenstaraße* (27 September 2019)

Nr. 138, Berichterstattung über öffentliche Proteste in Kasachstan (29 November 2019)

- 'Zwischen Transformation und Illusion: Wie umgreifend ist der Reformkurs in Usbekistan?', with Edda Schlager and Ali Feruz. Statement for Ostpol (21 January 2019)
- ESKA 2019. Escalation potential analysis Kazakhstan for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- ESKA 2019. Escalation potential analysis Tajikistan for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Editor of 'Länderinformationsportal (LIPortal)
 Kasachstan' of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

EVENTS

► Academic

Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism

Chair of the panel The Post Socialist City: City of

Chair of the panel *The Post-Socialist City: City of the Future*

► ESCAS 16th Biennial Conference (Exeter, Great Britain, 06/2019)

Presentation on ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan in the panel *Minorities of Central Asia between global* and local stances

► Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia, 11/2019)

Co-Organisation of the Workshop Studying Border Regions in the Post-Soviet Space. Different Methods, Scales and Areas

Co-Chair of the roundtable *Ethics in Conflict/Border* Research

► Knowledge transfer

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 02 / 2019)
 Conference Central Asian Connectivity: Challenges and New Opportunities
 Presentation Good neighbourhood and sustainability as prerequisites for a functioning water-energy complex in Central Asia
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03 / 2019)
 Panellist at "Kasachstanische Märchen"
- ▶ Deutsch-Kasachische Gesellschaft (DKG) (Berlin, 04/2019)

Presentation Machtwechsel in Kasachstan

- Evangelische Akademie (Meißen, 05 / 2019) Presentation Zentralasien zwischen Wandel und Beharrung and chair of the workshop Situation der nationalen Minderheiten in Zentralasien at the seminar Zentralasien. Eine Region im Wandel
- Deutsch-Kasachische Gesellschaft (DKG) / German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin, 06 / 2019)
 Presentation Die Ergebnisse der Präsidentschaftswahlen 2019 und die weitere politische Entwicklung Kasachstans
- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)
 Children's programme on Central Asia at the Long Night of the Sciences 2019
- ► German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin, 08 / 2019) Ambassadors' conference, participation in the workshop Regionale Praxiswerkstatt: Die EU-Asien Konnektivitätsstrategie

IN THE MEDIA

- Почему антикитайские митинги сулят головную боль Бишкеку
 - Assessment for Deutsche Welle (18 January 2019)
- Zwischen Transformation und Illusion: Wie umgreifend ist der Reformkurs in Usbekistan?
 Interview for Ostpol (21 January 2019)
- Кому на пользу спешка в избрании президента в Казахстане
 - Assessment for Deutsche Welle (9 April 2019)
- Казахстан-Киргизия: кто завладеет китайским транзитом?
 - Assessment for Deutsche Welle (17 April 2019)
- Что изменили в Казахстане президентские выборы?
 - Assessment for Deutsche Welle (12 June 2019)
- ▶ Обвинения экс-президенту Атамбаеву создают проблемы властям Киргизии
 Assessment for Deutsche Welle (16 July 2019)
- Освобождение Омурбека Текебаева. Станет ли опальный политик союзником президента
 - Assessment for Deutsche Welle (31 August 2019)

 Конфликт на границе Таджикистана и Киргизии: каковы истинные причины?
 Assessment for Deutsche Welle (18 September 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- Seminar Guter Patriotismus, schlechter Nationalismus?
 Nationalitätenpolitik in den Staaten Zentralasiens
 (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, winter semester 2018 / 19)
- Seminar Regionale Integration (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, summer semester 2019)
- Supervision of five master theses (Central Asian Seminar, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Discussion with students and lecturers of the Institute for International Relations of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan (03 / 2019)

OTHER

- Participating Central Asia expert for ZEITREISEN coach trip Von Hamburg nach Shanghai on the route section Nukus – Irkeshtam
- Background talk with the EU representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian
- ▶ Consulting of a staff member and the national director of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for their work in Kyrgyzstan and of the programme manager of a regional project for their work in the Central Asia region
- Briefing of a staff member of the office of the coordinator of societal cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the countries of the Eastern Partnership in the German Federal Foreign Office for the visit of the Kazakhstani president in Berlin and the upcoming election in Uzbekistan
- Expert testimony for the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) 2020
- Expert assessment for a grant application of a research project at the German Foundation for Peace Research

DR NINA FRIESS

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- ▶ Resignification of Borders: Eurasianism and the Russian World, ed. by Nina Frieß and Konstantin Kaminskij, Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2019.
- Investigation Rekonstruktion Narration. Geschichten und Geschichte im Krimi der Slavia, ed. by Nina Frieß and Angela Huber, Potsdam: Universitätsverlag Potsdam, 2019.

- 'Young Russophone Literature in Kazakhstan and the 'Russian World''. In: Resignification of Borders: Eurasianism and the Russian World, ed. by Nina Frieß and Konstantin Kaminskij, pp. 149–174. Berlin: Frank & Timme, 2019.
- 'Inside Out Identities: Eurasianism and the Russian World', with Konstantin Kaminskij. In: Resignification of Borders: Eurasianism and the Russian World, ed. by Nina Frieß and Konstantin Kaminskij, pp. 7–20. Berlin: Frank & Timme. 2019.

► ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'Shifting perspective: Chechnya from within'. ZOiS Spotlight 6/2019 (13 February 2019)
- 'Russophone (Pop-)Culture'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 4/2019 with Naomi Caffee and Konstantin Kaminskij (16 May 2019)
- ► 'Fairytales with a critical twist'. ZOiS Spotlight 27 / 2019 (10 July 2019)
- '"Kasachstanische Märchen" ein literarisches Identitätsangebot für alle Kasachstaner*innen'. ZOiS Report 1/2019 (18 July 2019)
- 'Auf dem Weg zu einem neuen Kasachstan?' Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 6 / 2019 with Beate Eschment and Sebastian Schiek (26 July 2019)
- 'Publishing in Kazakhstan: new ways for writers'.
 ZOiS Spotlight 43 / 2019 (20 November 2019)
- Wissenschaftskommunikation: Der Schlüssel zum Elfenbeinturm?' Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 11/2019 with Stefanie Orphal and Josef Zens (19 December 2019)

▶ Other publications

 'Lubjanka'. Contribution for online magazine Dekoder (18 July 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

- ► Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 01 / 2019) Lecture series Ökologische Kulturen im (post)sowjetischen Raum Impulse lecture and panellist at Cultures of Food Security in Eurasia
- ▶ Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

 Organisation of the workshop Russophone Literatures Presentation "Where are you going to live? In what language?" The search for identity in Yuriy Serebryanskiy's prose
- ➤ Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019) ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism

- Co-organisation and chair of the panel Lviv ABorderland City?
- ► Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Halle, 06 / 2019)

Conference Trauma – Generationen – Erzählen. Transgenerationale Narrative in der Gegenwartsliteratur zum ost-, ostmittel- und südosteuropäischen Raum Presentation Traum(a)tänzer – Sergej Lebedevs Auseinandersetzung mit dem Gulag

- Trier University (Trier, 09 / 2019) Conference 13. Deutscher Slavistentag Co-organisation of the panel Verarbeitung des Kommunismus in der slavischen Kinder- und Jugendliteratur nach 1989
 - Presentation Das "sowjetische Jahrhundert" in einer Puppenstube: Das Bilderbuch Istorija staroj kvartiry
- Studies (San Francisco, USA, 11/2019)
 Conference ASEEES 51st Annual Convention
 Co-organisation of the panel Russophone Literatures II:
 Russophone Identities Betwixt and Between
 Presentation Between Tractor Drivers and the Struggle
 for Identity: Russophone Literature in Kazakhstan
 Chair and panellist at Empires of Literature: Russian
 and Non-Russian Voices from the Imperial Periphery
- Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)
 Conference Youth Mobilisation and Political Change
 Chair of the panel State-Controlled Youth Mobilisation
- European University Viadrina (Frankfurt / Oder, 12 / 2019)
 Conference History goes Pop? On the Popularization of the Past in Eastern European Cultures
 Chair of the panel Reinventing the Soviet Subject:
 Audio-visual Representations of Collective Belongings
- Gießen University (Gießen, 12 / 2019)
 Guest lecture Russophone Literatur Kasachstans –
 Identitätsangebot und Sozialkritik

► Knowledge transfer

denial in Russia'

- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 02 / 2019) Chair at In conversation with... Dmitry Yagodin and Konstantin Kaminskij: 'The roots of climate change
- Studies (Berlin, 03 / 2019)
 Organisation and chair of the panel discussion "Kasachstanische Märchen"
- Evangelische Akademie Meißen (Meißen 05/2019) Head of the working group Literatur am Rande: Russischsprachige Literatur in Zentralasien as part of the congress Zentralasien – Eine Region im Wandel

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Organisation of the ZOiS Forum Literarische Perspektiven auf den Krieg in der Ostukraine

- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)
 - Poster session as part of the *Long Night of the Sciences 2019*
- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Organisation and chair of the panel discussion Lesung und Gespräch mit Andrej Kurkow as part of the Long Night of the Sciences 2019

- German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin, 07 / 2019) Briefing with the advisor for cultural and media relations with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Central Asia
- ► Open School of Literature Almaty (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 10/2019)

Keynote lecture and discussant on The German book market and German literature

- ► Berlin Wall Memorial (Berlin, 11 / 2019)

 Panellist at the ZOiS Forum 30 Jahre Mauerfall:

 Alte und neue Grenzen im Blick der Forschung
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 12 / 2019) Organisation of the ZOiS Forum *Junge Literatur*

aus dem Westbalkan und aus Russland

IN THE MEDIA

Serebrjanskijs Märchenwald
 Interview with Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung
 (16 August 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- Seminar Nichts und niemand vergessen? Erinnerungskultur und Geschichtspolitik im Russland der Gegenwart (Freie Universität Berlin, winter semester 2018/19)
- ► Schule@ZOiS: A Russian language course of the Freie Waldorfschule am Prenzlauer Berg attends a keynote lecture on the topic *Memories of the Second World War and the Stalinist repression in Russia* (ZOiS, Berlin, 05 / 2019)
- Second supervisor and reviewer of Bachelor and Master theses at University of Potsdam and Freie Universität Berlin
- Mentor in the mentoring programme of the Young German Association for East European Studies (DGO)

DR PIOTR GOLDSTEIN

EVENTS

▶ Academic

► The University of Manchester (Manchester, Great Britain, 06 / 2019) CAPRN & MOBILISE Workshop

Lecture Focus Groups and Interviews on Protest and Migration

Presentation Everyday Activism at Home and Abroad

 University College London (London, Great Britain, 6 / 2019)

Conference Polish Migration: experiences and concepts Presentation Migrant Activism Beyond Key Community Networks: Case study of Poles in Manchester

Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznań, Poland, 08/2019)

Congress IUAES 2019 Inter-Congress World Solidarities Organisation of the panel Evoking the intangible. Sensory media, anthropological film and art-based practice in engagements with epistemically challenging phenomena (with Jan Lorenz)
Presentation Visualisng the Invisible: using visual

ethnography to explore extra-institutional activism of migrants and ethnic minorities

Screening of the documentary Active (citizen)

- Belgrade University (Belgrade, Serbia, 09/2019) Conference CATference 2019: 8th International Urban Geographies of Post-communist States Conference Presentation Between Responsibility and Affirmation of Freedom and Belonging: Everyday activism in Lodz, Poland and Novi Sad, Serbia Screening of the documentary Active (citizen)
- ▶ University of Perugia (Perugia, Italy, 12/2019) 3rd Political Imagination Laboratory Presentation Visualising the Invisible – Take Two: Two Cheers for Hipster Activism

► Knowledge transfer

- Universita degli Studi di Firenze and Europe Direct Firenze (Florence, Italy, 12/2019)
 Video interview during the event In and out – Dentro e fuori la crisi
- FROM Film Festival (Mali Idjoš, Serbia 08 / 2019)
 Screening of the documentary *Active* (citizen)
- Kratovo Ethnographic Film Festival (Kratovo, North Macedonia, 09 / 2019)
 Screening of the documentary Active (citizen)

DR TATIANA GOLOVA

(On parental leave from April to December 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Knowledge transfer

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 04/2019)

Panellist at the ZOiS Forum event Post-Soviet migrants and their 'external' and 'internal' mobilisation

IN THE MEDIA

- Russlanddeutsche Tradition, Freiheit, Frust Interview for a documentary by ZDFInfo (24 November 2019)
- Angekommen, integriert und unbeachtet? Über die wissenschaftliche Beschäftigung mit Russlanddeutschen Interview for a feature by RBB Kultur (2 December 2019)

DR FÉLIX KRAWATZEK

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- 'Nationalism, Democracy, and Memory Laws', with George Soroka. In: Journal of Democracy vol. 30, no. 2. pp. 157–71, 2019.
- ▶ 'Political Remittances and Political Transnationalism: Practices, Narratives of Belonging and the Role of the State' (Special Issue), with Lea Müller-Funk. In: Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 2019.

► ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'Memory laws and Polish voices from abroad'. ZOiS Spotlight 5 / 2019 (6 February 2019)
- 'Political Remittances Migration und der Transfer politischer Ideen'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 2/2019 with Magdalena Nowicka and Lea Müller-Funk (2 April 2019)
- 'What does Europe mean for young Poles?' ZOiS Spotlight 20/2019 (22 May 2019)
- ► 'Youth in Poland: Outlook on life and political attitudes'.

 ZOiS Report 4/2019 (19 September 2019)
- 'Proteste in Russland: Die Situation nach den Wahlen'.
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 8 / 2019 with Janis Kluge and Gwendolyn Sasse (27 September 2019)
- ▶ 'Youth in Belarus: Outlook on life and political attitudes'. ZOiS Report 5 / 2019 (24 October 2019)
- 'Belarus: Vorschau auf die Parlamentswahl'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 9/2019 with Adam Busuleanu and Nadja Douglas (13 November 2019)

'Belarus after the elections: the role of youth in politics'.
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 10 / 2019 with
 Gwendolyn Sasse and Maryia Rohava (6 December 2019)

▶ Other publications

- 'Erinnerungsgesetze und Nationsbildung im östlichen Europa, Erinnerungskulturen'. Article for the research weblog Erinnerungskulturen. Erinnerung und Geschichtspolitik im östlichen und südöstlichen Europa (26 July 2019)
- Young Russians are increasingly prepared to protest'.
 Article for Oxford Analytica Daily Brief (24 September 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

- Sciences Po (Paris, France, 01/2019)
 Lecture Les jeunes en Russie: Entre soutien du régime et protestation
- Daimler and Benz Foundation (Ladenburg, 01 / 2019)
 Presentation Memory Laws and the Return of the Nation: Russia and Beyond
- University of Cambridge (Cambridge, Great Britain, 04/2019)

Annual Conference British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies (BASEES)
Presentation What Matters how? Russian Youth and their Evaluation of History

- Columbia University (New York, USA, 05 / 2019)
 Association for the Study of Nationalities World
 Convention 2019
 Presentation Between the Past and the Future:
 Comparing the Political outlook of Young People in
 Central and Eastern Europe
- Brussels School of International Studies (Brussels, Belgium, 05 / 2019)
 Conference Memory Laws in Europe and Beyond: Towards Ethical Governance of Historical Narratives
 Presentation Governing History: A Comparative Analysis of Memory Laws in France and Russia
- (with George Soroka)▶ Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism Presentation A New Generation? Comparing the Political and Social Values of Youth in Eastern Europe

► Council for European Studies CES (Madrid, Spain, 06/2019)

26th International Conference of Europeanists
Presentation What Sets them Apart? Young People
and Reasons (Not) to Protest
Presentation Memory Laws and the Return of the Nation:
What It Means When It Works (with George Soroka)

► American Political Science Association (Washington D.C., USA, 08/2019)

115th American Political Science Association's Annual Meeting

Presentation Youth in Eastern Europe: Transnationalism and Political Attitudes (with Gwendolyn Sasse)
Presentation Memory Laws and Nation-Building:
Responses to a Post-National Europe (with George Soroka)
Presentation Fracturing Europe: Brexit as a Critical
Juncture for European Memory

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Book presentation und discussion Youth in Regime Crisis

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Organisation of the conference Youth Mobilisation and Political Change

Chair of the panel Education Politics and the Creation of the Ideal Youth

Presentation Transnationalism and Political Attitudes: Comparative Perspectives on Eastern Europe (with Gwendolyn Sasse)

Presentation Who Protests, Why, and What Do Young People Make of It? Evidence from Russia

► Knowledge transfer

Stiftung Genshagen (Genshagen, 06 / 2019)
 Brandenburger Europagespräche
 Panellist at Nach den Europawahlen, vor dem Brexit –
 Welchen Weg nimmt die EU?

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Poster session as part of the *Long Night of the Sciences* 2019

Presentation Live-Umfrage: Was denkt Russlands Jugend?

 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

Panellist at Lesung und Gespräch mit Andrej Kurkow

- Berlin Wall Memorial (Berlin, 11/2019)
 Panellist at the ZOiS Forum 30 Jahre Mauerfall:
 Alte und neue Grenzen im Blick der Forschung
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Panellist at Lesung und Gespräch mit Golineh Atai

► Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Vienna (Vienna, Austria, 09/2019)

Participation in the scenario workshop on the 2024 presidential elections in Russia

- ▶ Briefing at the U.S. Department of State on the topic Youth in Russia as seen through recent ZOiS surveys
- Briefing at the German Federal Foreign Office on the topic Was denkt Russlands Jugend? Aktuelle ZOiS-Umfrage(n)
- Media background talk on the study Viele junge Polen haben kein Vertrauen in die Kirche

IN THE MEDIA

- One out of five Russians wants to leave the country.
 Here's who they are
 Guest article with Gwendolyn Sasse for Monkey Cage of the Washington Post (12 August 2019)
- Young Russians Are Losing Trust in Putin's Regime and Thinking of Leaving the Country
 Article with Gwendolyn Sasse for The Conversation (6 September 2019)
- Raport: Polska młodzież niechętna głównym partiom, mediom i Kościołowi
 Report by Deutsche Welle on the ZOiS Report 4/2019 (19 September 2019)
- Crisis in Polish Catholicism: only 7% of youth 'fully trust' the Church
 Report on basis of the ZOiS Report 4/2019 on the online platform Novena (25 September 2019)
- Młodzi polacy a historia Editorial on the basis of the ZOiS Report 4/2019 as well as the ZOiS Spotlight 35/2019 on the blog 'Blog i Historia' by Krzysztof Ruchniewicz (27 September 2019)
- Fenster auf nach Westen Weissrussland sucht sich vorsichtig aus der russischen Umklammerung zu lösen Guest editorial in Neue Zürcher Zeitung (14 November 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- Genshagen Foundation (Genshagen, 08/2019) Trilateral Genshagen Summer School Exchange with Master's students and young doctoral students within the programme Students Meet Practitioners
- Review of theses at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford
- Mentor for the mentoring programme of the German Association for East European Studies

DR JULIA LANGBEIN

(On parental leave from March to December 2019)

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- 'Shallow market integration and weak developmental capacities: Ukraine's pathway from periphery to periphery'. In: Review of International Political Economy, 2019.
- 'Changing modes of market integration, domestic developmental capacities and state-business alliances: insights from Turkey's automotive industry', with Olga Markiewicz. In: Review of International Political Economy, 2019.

- 'Varieties of Limited Access Orders: The nexus between politics and economics in hybrid regimes', with Esther Ademmer and Tanja Börzel. In: Governance, 2019.
- 'Core-periphery disparities in Europe: Is there a link between political and economic divergence?', with Tanja Börzel. In: West European Politics vol. 42 (5): pp. 941–964, 2019.

► ZOiS knowledge transer

▶ 'Die Ukraine vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 1/2019 with Regina Elsner and Gwendolyn Sasse (12 March 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

 Swiss Political Science Association (Zürich, Switzerland, 02/2019)

Tri-national conference of the three scientific associations DVPW, ÖGPW and SVPW Lecture *Trade liberalization and opening in* post-Soviet Limited Access Orders

► European Union Studies Association (Denver, USA, 05/2019)

2019 EUSA International Biennial Conference Organisation of the panel Drivers of regime (in)stability in the Eastern neighbourhood: What lessons for the EU? (with Esther Ademmer)

DR SABINE VON LÖWIS

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- Umstrittene Räume in der Ukraine. Politische Diskurse, literarische Repräsentationen und kartographische Visualisierungen, (Ed.), Phantomgrenzen im östlichen Europa Bd. 8, Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2019.
- ▶ 'Umstrittene Räume in der Ukraine. Politische Diskurse, literarische Repräsentationen und kartographische Visualisierungen, Einführung'. In: Umstrittene Räume in der Ukraine. Politische Diskurse, literarische Repräsentationen und kartographische Visualisierungen, ed. by Sabine von Löwis, (Phantomgrenzen im östlichen Europa Bd. 8), pp. 7–38. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2019.
- 'Socio-Spatial Differences and Representations of the Past and its Reflection in Western Ukraine' (in Ukrainian). In: Ukrainian Geographical Journal 1(105), pp. 59–68, 2019.

► ZOiS knowledge transfer

► 'The sale of agricultural land in Ukraine'. ZOiS Spotlight 1/2019 (9 January 2019)

 'The Moldovan parliamentary elections and the Transnistria conflict'. ZOiS Spotlight 7 / 2019 (20 February 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 05 / 2019)

Welcome address at Prisma Ukraïna Lecture: Die große ukrainische Emigration und ihre wirtschaftlichen Folgen

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism
Co-organisation of the panels Lviv – A Borderland City? and Post-Soviet Monocities
Chair of the panel Post-Soviet Monocities

- ▶ University of Münster (Münster, 05 / 2019)

 Conference Zurück zur Geopolitik? Leitbilder, Risikoszenarien, Diskurse und Emotionen in der Politischen Geographie of the working group Politische Geographie Presentation Geopoetik der Ukraine: Imaginäre Landschaften und strategische Diskurse
- University of Vienna (Vienna, Austria, 05/2019)
 Workshop for authors Space Mediascapes/
 Translating Materiality: Rural Societies in the Making
 Presentation Ridnyj kraj Dimensions of Motherland
 Pop as part of the panel Space and Mediascapes/
 Translating
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim, Norway, 06 / 2019)

 8th Nordic Geographers Meeting Sustainable Geography Geographies of Sustainability

 Presentation Continuities and discontinuities of land ownership in post-soviet Ukraine in the panel Geographies of (long-term) land ownership
- ▶ Deutsches Historisches Institut Warschau (Warsaw, Poland, 10 / 2019)

 Conference Minorities, Migration and Memory in East European Borderlands (1945–present)

 Presentation A Former Borderland Today. Phantom Borders in Western Ukraine in the panel Borders Fixed and Phantomized
- ► Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia, 11/2019)

Organisation of the workshop Studying Border Regions in the Post-Soviet Space, Different Methods, Scales and Areas (with Beate Eschment and Ketevan Khutsishvili/TSU)

Presentation in the panel Scale, History and Concepts of Borders; Phantom Borders – A Heuristic Model to study how past borders and orders structuring today's world Chair of the panel Territorial Dynamics and Spatial Data

► Knowledge transfer

- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 02/2019)
 - Press briefing on Moldova before the parliamentary elections
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)
 - Chair of the ZOiS Forum Literarische Perspektiven auf den Krieg in der Ostukraine
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)
 - Poster session as part of the Long Night of the Sciences 2019
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)
 - Panellist at Lesung und Gespräch mit Andrej Kurkow
- Berlin Wall Memorial (Berlin, 11/2019)
 Panellist at the ZOiS Forum 30 Jahre Mauerfall:
 Alte und neue Grenzen im Blick der Forschung
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 12/2019)
 - Panellist at the book presentation *Kultur und Alltag* im *Ukraine-Konflikt*
- Briefing in the German Chancellery on elections in Moldova and Transnistria
- ▶ Briefing of the Bulgaria-Moldova-Romania parliamentary group on elections in Moldova and Transnistria

IN THE MEDIA

'Das Moratorium hat seinen Sinn verfehlt'
 Interview with Reporter.lu (15 November 2019)

PROF. GWENDOLYN SASSE

PUBLICATIONS

▶ Academic

- Secessionism in Europe: Societies, Political Systems and the International Order under Stress (special issue of The Ideology and Politics Journal), co-edited with Mikhail Minakov and Daria Isachenko vol. 12, no. 1, 2019.
- 'War and State-Making in Ukraine: Forging a Civic Identity from Below', with Alice Lackner. In: Secessionism in Europe: Societies, Political Systems and the International Order under Stress (special issue of The Ideology and Politics Journal), vol. 12, no.1, pp. 75–98, 2019.
- 'Language, Locality, and Transnational Belonging: Remitting the Everyday Practice of Cultural Integration', with Félix Krawatzek. In: Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, pp. 1–22. (15 January 2019)

 'Dokumentation: Zusammensetzung der neuen Werchowna Rada'. Ukraine-Analysen Nr. 224: S. 18–22. (28 October 2019)

► ZOiS knowledge transfer

- 'Die Ukraine vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen'. Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 1/2019 with Regina Elsner and Julia Langbein (12 March 2019)
- 'The mood in Ukraine's Donbas ahead of the presidential election'. ZOiS Spotlight 12 / 2019 (27 March 2019)
- 'Armenien: Ein Jahr nach der samtenen Revolution'.
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 3 / 2019 with Nadja
 Douglas and Silvia Stöber (18 April 2019)
- ▶ 'Attitudes and identities across the Donbas front line: What has changed from 2016 to 2019?' ZOiS Report 3/2019 with Alice Lackner (27 August 2019)
- 'Studying post-socialism. Do we need new concepts?'
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 7/2019 with Margarita Balmaceda, Juliane Fürst and Tatjana Thelen (5 September 2019)
- 'Proteste in Russland: Die Situation nach den Wahlen'.
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 8 / 2019 with Janis Kluge and Félix Krawatzek (27 September 2019)
- 'Belarus after the elections: the role of youth in politics'.
 Podcast Roundtable Osteuropa 10/2019 with Maryia Rohova and Felix Krawatzek (6 December 2019)

▶ Other publications

- 'Ukrainian Society Ahead of the Elections'. Blog article for Strategic Europe (7 February 2019)
- 'Ukraine: What Comes After the Presidential Election?'
 Blog article for Strategic Europe (7 March 2019)
- 'Rückblick auf den fünften Jahrestag der Krim-Annexion'.
 Russland-Analysen Nr. 369: S. 11–12 (12 April 2019)
- 'What Does Zelenskiy's Victory Say About Ukraine?' Blog article for Strategic Europe (23 April 2019)
- 'Taking Stock of Zelenskiy's Presidency'. Blog article for Strategic Europe (18 June 2019)
- ▶ 'A New Start for the Ukrainian Parliament'. Blog article for Strategic Europe (23 July 2019)
- 'Young Russians Are Losing Trust in Putin's Regime and Thinking of Leaving the Country'. Article with Félix Krawatzek for The Conversation (6 September 2019)
- 'Who Is Who in the Ukrainian Parliament?' Blog article for Strategic Europe (24 September 2019)
- 'Most people in separatist-held areas of Donbas prefer reintegration with Ukraine – new survey'. Article for The Conversation (14 October 2019)
- 'What hope for Ukraine and Normandy Four Summit?' Blog article for Strategic Europe (19 November 2019)

EVENTS

▶ Academic

 German Association for East European Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

Annual conference Kontinentaldrift: Über das Zusammenwachsen und Auseinanderdriften Europas 1989–2019

Panellist at *Drifts, Trends, Paradigmenwechsel* der Osteuropaforschung, 1989–2019

European University Viadrina (Frankfurt/ Oder, 04/2019)

Presentation Krieg und Wahlen in der Ukraine: Identitäten und Identitätspolitik im Wandel for Ukraine Calling

► Institute for Human Sciences (Vienna, Austria, 05 / 2019)

Panellist at The Return of Geopolitics?

► Columbia University (New York, USA, 05 / 2019) Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention 2019

Presentation Youth in Russia: Transnational Experiences and Political Attitudes

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06/2019)

ZOiS Annual Conference 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism

Chair of the panel discussion *Post-Socialism, Post-*Communist Transition, Global East? – Conceptualizing Legacies of Change since 1989

► American Political Science Association (Washington, D.C., USA, 08/2019)

115th American Political Science Association's Annual Meeting

Presentation Youth in Eastern Europe: Transnationalism and Political Attitudes

Participation at the roundtable Exit and Voice in Times of Crisis: Linking Migration and Protest

► Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg, 10/2019)

Conference Migration as a factor of social change in East and Southeast Europe in the 20th and 21th century Panellist at the keynote Russlanddeutsche Identitätspolitik zwischen Migrationsgesellschaft und Vertriebenenpolitik (Prof. Jannis Panagiotidis)

 Higher School of Economics (St Petersburg, Russia, 10/2019)

Workshop Regional Leadership in Eurasia: How to Compete for Potential Followers Panellist at Scope and Limitations of Russian hard and soft power in Eurasia

► German Political Science Association (Berlin, 11/2019)

Conference Interdisziplinäres Forschen: Chance oder Risiko für Nachwuchswissenschaftler*innen?

Presentation Formen und Herausforderungen von Inter-, Trans- und Multidisziplinarität

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Chair of the panel discussion 1989 Through the Darkened Lens of the Present

► Institute for European Politics / German Ukrainian Researchers Network (Berlin, 11/2019)

Conference Ukraine After the Presidential and Parliament Elections: New Government – New Opportunities? Panellist at Security Policy: Main Challenges and Possible Solutions for the Donbas Conflict

 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Conference Youth Mobilisation and Political Change Presentation Transnationalism and Political Attitudes: Comparative Perspectives on Eastern Europe (with Félix Krawatzek)

Panellist at Youthful 'Eigensinn'? Young People Reacting to Youth Policies

 Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg, 12/2019)

Opening of the Leibniz ScienceCampus Regensburg Europe and America in the Modern World: Transformations and Frictions of Globality in Past and Present Panellist at Zusammenhänge verstehen: Die Bedeutung von Area Studies in einer globalen Welt

▶ Wissenstransfer

▶ Kino Krokodil (Berlin, 01/2019)

Panellist at the ZOiS Forum D IS FOR DIVISION: Grenzerfahrungen zwischen Lettland und Russland

► Center for Liberal Modernity (Berlin, 01 / 2019) Conference Russia and the West: Do we need an Ostpolitik 2.0?

Panelist at The current states of affairs between Russia and the West: political challenges and economic relations

Carnegie Europe (Brussels, Belgium, 01/2019)
Participation at the roundtable Europe in the World in 2019

► German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Berlin, 02 / 2019)

Congress Die Ukraine im Wahljahr 2019: Implikationen für die deutsch-ukrainischen Beziehungen Chair of the panel Innenpolitik und Reformen

 German Council on Foreign Relations (Berlin, 02/2019)

Dialogue platform *Deutsch-Ukrainischer Experten-Dialog* Participation at the roundtable *Germany's new European Ostpolitik: Consequences for Ukraine*

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

Organisation of the workshop *Russia Scenario Workshop: 'Thinking beyond 2024'* in cooperation with the British Embassy and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

In conversation with... on Ukraine before the presidential elections and the public opinion in the Donbas

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

Briefing of employees of the German Bundestag on the topic *Before the presidential elections in Ukraine: politics, society, and science* in cooperation with the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung

► Regional Conference of Ambassadors Brussels (Brussels, Belgium, 05/2019)

Input on European Security – How to Deal with Russia and Approaches to Cooperative Security in Europe?

- Mystetskyi Arsenal (Kyiv, Ukraine, 05/2019)Panellist at the exhibition opening of Obabich as part of the IX International Book Arsenal Festival
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 06 / 2019)

 Poster session as part of the Long Night of the

Poster session as part of the *Long Night of the Sciences 2019*

- ► Global Public Policy Institute (Berlin, 09 / 2019)

 Contribution to the discussion Forschungskooperationen mit autoritären Ländern
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 09 / 2019)

Chair of the discussion *Die Generation Maidan* in der ukrainischen Politik 2014–2019

- Lem Station (Lviv, Ukraine, 10/2019)
 Panellist at the discussion about the war in Donbas and refugees as part of the exhibition *Obabich*
- Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 10/2019)

Panellist at *Diener des Volkes? – wie der neue Präsident*Selensky die Ukraine verändert in cooperation with
the European Academy Berlin and inforadio rbb

- Deutsche Gesellschaft e. V. (Berlin, 10/2019) Conference Der Aufbau Ost im Ostmitteleuropäischen Vergleich – eine Bilanz nach 30 Jahren Panellist at Vorbild Bundesrepublik? Der "Aufbau Ost" und seine Rezeption in Ostmitteleuropa
- Berlin Wall Memorial (Berlin, 11/2019)
 Panellist at the ZOiS Forum 30 Jahre Mauerfall: Alte und neue Grenzen im Blick der Forschung
- ► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 11/2019)

Panellist at the reading of Golineh Atai's book *Die* Wahrheit ist der Feind: Warum Russland so anders ist

► European Council on Foreign Relations (Berlin, 11/2019)

Chair of the discussion Revising the Regional Order in Europe and Eurasia

- Briefings and discussion groups with representatives of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as well as the embassies and governments of Finland, Great Britain, Poland and Sweden among others
- Briefings at the German Chancellery and for members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as the German-Ukrainian Parliamentary Group
- Briefings and participation in discussion groups on Russia, the Donbas and the Eastern Partnership in the respective country's offices of the Federal Foreign Office and in the planning staff
- Participation in the working group Auswärtige Kulturund Bildungspolitik 2020 of the German Federal Foreign Office
- Participation in the working group on Russia at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- ▶ Participation in the network *DEEP Discussions on Eastern Europe Policies of the European Union* of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

IN THE MEDIA

- Darmstädter Gespräch: Freund oder Feind eine Russlandreise Guest speaker for a radio report of hr2 (3 February 2019)
- 1954: Chrustschow schenkt Krim der Ukraine
 Assessment for the radio programme Kalenderblatt
 of MDR Kultur (19 February 2019)
- ► Vote of confidence Editorial for Monocle (21 February 2019)
- ► EU-kritische Parteien vor EP-Wahl: Mit oder ohne Orban? Guest speaker for a radio report of Deutschlandfunk (27 February 2019)
- ► The Globalist 13 March 2019 Interview for a radio report of Monocle (13 March 2019)
- Wirft die EVP Orban raus?
 Interview for a radio report of WDR (20 March 2019)
- ▶ Что будет в Украине после президентских выборов?
 - Assessment for Deutsche Welle (26 March 2019)
- Explainer 158: Ukraine's presidential elections: out with the old in with the new?
 Interview for a radio report by Monocle (27 March 2019)

- Vor der Wahl in der Ukraine: Welcher Kandidat hat die größten Siegchancen?
 Interview for a TV report of Tagesschau (29 March 2019)
- Präsidentschaftswahlen in der Ukraine: Fernsehkomiker Selenski ohne Programm Interview for a radio report of SWR (1 April 2019)
- Präsidentschaftswahlen in der Ukraine
 Interview for a radio report of inforadio rbb
 (1 April 2019)
- ► The Globalist 15 April 2019
 Interview for a radio report of Monocle (15 April 2019)
- "Украинцы устали от коррупции" немецкие эксперты о выборах в Украине
 Editorial for Deutsche Welle (22 April 2019)
- ► Wozu russische Pässe für die Ostukraine? Assessment for Deutsche Welle (25 April 2019)
- Lessons learnt from the Eastern Partnership Guest article for New Eastern Europe (2 May 2019)
- Russland: Machtpolitik mit Pässen
 Interview for a radio report of Deutschlandfunk
 (7 June 2019)
- Proteste in Russland: Gegen Willkür, nicht gegen das System
 Assessment for Tagesschau.de (12 June 2019)
- ► Judy Asks: Is Liberal Democracy Obsolete?
 Assessment for Strategic Europe (4 July 2019)
- One out of five Russians wants to leave the country.
 Here's who they are.
 Guest article with Félix Krawatzek for Monkey Cage of the Washington Post (12 August 2019)
- Russland n\u00e4her kommen trotz Sanktionen?
 Interview for a radio report of WDR (19 August 2019)
- Zivilgesellschaftliche Bewegungen in Osteuropa: Aufbruch Ost?
 Guest speaker for a podcast episode of detektor.fm (8 September 2019)
- Judy Asks: Is the Détente Between Ukraine and Russia Real?
- Assessment for Strategic Europe (12 September 2019)
- ► МИД ФРГ: "Формула Штайнмайера" это только один фрагмент пазла
 Assessment for Deutsche Welle (2 October 2019)
- Conflict resolution is long-term process that requires appropriate political conditions
 Interview for Georgian TV channel 1TV (6 October 2019)
- Ukraines Präsident Selenskyj ein Diener des Volkes?
 Guest speaker for a radio report of inforadio rbb
 (13 November 2019)
- ► Ukraine talks promise slim hope for peace with Russia Assessment for Financial Times (8 December 2019)
- Ein wenig präsenter Krieg
 Guest commentary for taz (9 December 2019)

- ► Interview for inforadio rbb on the Parisian talks in the Normandy format about the conflict in Ukraine (9 December 2019)
- ▶ Interview for Tagesschau on the Parisian talks in the Normandy format about the conflict in Ukraine (10 December 2019)
- ► Interview for ZDF Mittagsmagazin on the Parisian talks in the Normandy format about the conflict in Ukraine (10 December 2019)
- ► Ergebnisse des Normandie-Gipfels: die Sicht aus Berlin Assessment for Ukraine verstehen, published in English on Atlantic Council (10 December 2019)
- Vorsichtige Annäherung zwischen Moskau und Kiew.
 Aber wann kommt der Plan zur Entmilitarisierung des Donbass? Eine Bilanz des Normandiegipfels Guest commentary for the Hauptstadtbrief of Berliner Morgenpost (15 December 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- Organisation of the monthly ZOiS research colloquium in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
- ▶ Discussion with students that are supported by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation about ZOiS and the project Attitudes, Political Engagement, and Transnational Linkages of Young People in Eastern Europe (ZOiS, Berlin 06 / 2019)
- ▶ Discussion with students and PhD candidates of Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München about ZOiS, research communication and the research on war and identity in Ukraine (ZOiS, Berlin, 10 / 2019)
- First and second supervisor of doctoral theses at the Freie Universität Berlin, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Oxford
- ► Mentor for the mentoring programme of the German Association for East European Studies
- Mentor for the mentoring programme of the Leibniz Association

MISCELLANEOUS

- Principal Investigator in the Cluster of Excellence Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS) of the Freie Universität Berlin together with various cooperation partners
- Principal Investigator in the international cooperation project Determinants of Mobilisation at Home & Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (MOBILISE)
- Member of the friends' association of the Berlin Wall Memorial (since 2019)

- Member of the executive board of the German Association for East European Studies (since 2019, elected by the members)
- ► Member of the Academic Advisory Board of the Institute for European Politics, Berlin (since 2019)
- Member of the Academic Advisory Board of GCRF COMPASS: Comprehensive Capacity Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia: research integration, impact governance and sustainable communities (since 2018)
- ▶ Member of the Advisory Board of the *Regional Office* for Cooperation and Peace in Europe of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Vienna (since 2018)
- Member of the expert council of the Center for Eastern European Studies (CEES) at the University of Zürich (since 2018)
- Member of the Steering Committee of the RAND project A Proposal for a Revised Regional Order for Post-Soviet Europe and Eurasia (since 2017)
- ► Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Leibniz ScienceCampus *Eastern Europe Global Area* (since 2017)
- Nonresident Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe (since 2014)
- Member of the International Advisory Council of the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg (since 2010)

DR CHRISTIAN SCHAICH

EVENTS

- **▶** Knowledge transfer
 - Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 03/2019)

Chair of a briefing for employees of the Bundestag on the topic *Vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen in der Ukraine: Politik, Gesellschaft und Wissenschaft* in cooperation with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

► Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 5 / 2019)

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Academy of Law at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 04/2019)

Seminar Verwaltungsgerichtsbarkeit in Deutschland und Kasachstan

Lectures on the topics Auslegungs- und Ermittlungsgrundsatz im verwaltungsgerichtlichen Verfahren, Vorgerichtliches Verfahren, Die Klagearten im Verwaltungsprozess, Die Begründetheit einer verwaltungsgerichtlichen Klage

Precarpatian National University and I.I. Mechnikov National University (Odessa / Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, 07 / 2019)

Summerschool *Perspectives in Biomedicine with a focus on Cancer Immunotherapy* for Ukrainian PhD students and postdocs

Lecture Germany's Science System: Financing, Funding Schemes and Programmes

Lecture How to apply for research money? Proposal writing, selection criteria, Dos and Don'ts

University of Tübingen (Tübingen, 09 / 2019) Advancing Science and Education through International Cooperation (during The Days of Ukraine in Baden-Württemberg)

Participation at discussions on science policy Member of the jury of the *PhD Thesis Presentation* Contest

MISCELLANEOUS

- Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine, 1/2019) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin, 6/2019) Participation in the German-Ukrainian negotiations on the promotion of scientific and technical cooperation
- German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin, 5 / 2019 and 6 / 2019)
 Participation in the discussion group Russland Gesprächskreis
- ► Federal Office for Information Security (Bonn 9/2019) and Goethe-Institut Munich (Munich, 11/2019)

Participation in the establishment of the roundtable on *Cyber Security for the Pre-Political Space*



SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS / HOSTING GUEST ACADEMICS

Supporting Young Researchers / Hosting Guest Academics

With our diverse programmes, we assist young people to enter a career in research or research communication by passing on the required skills and facilitating access to leading professional networks in the field of East European studies. ZOiS's growing network of contacts is also reflected in the increasing number of international guest academics whose research projects we wish to support through a residency at ZOiS. In turn, these scholars enrich the work undertaken at ZOiS with their research topics and insights.

Internal and external research colloquium

In 2019, ZOiS's external research colloquium entered its third year. Organised in cooperation with the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), the colloquium takes place every second Wednesday of the month during the semester and serves as a forum for discussion of work in progress by PhD students, postdocs and established researchers working in the social sciences with a connection to Eastern Europe. The organisers' aim is to establish a permanent meeting point in the Berlin-Brandenburg area for those engaged in research on Eastern Europe. The topics for discussion are generally selected in response to participants' needs.

Another key element of ZOiS's efforts to support young researchers is the internal colloquium for the institute's researchers and guest academics. The colloquium takes place once a month and offers an opportunity for internal interdisciplinary discussion of excerpts from a work in progress. The aim is to offer authors useful feedback and ideas for further work on their texts and provide a broader transdisciplinary perspective.

The internal and external research colloquium are intended to give young researchers an opportunity to engage in dialogue with more experienced colleagues and support their professional development.

Schule@ZOiS

In autumn 2018, ZOiS launched a new format aimed at school students. *Schule@ZOiS* (School@ZOiS) seeks to strengthen knowledge transfer from ZOiS and spark young people's interest in social science research and Eastern Europe. To that end, ZOiS invites students and teachers to take part in discussions with researchers on a variety of issues connected with the post-Soviet space. The events are aimed at students from the ninth grade onwards, particularly those studying history, politics

and Russian. The format consists of a presentation about a selected topic and work being undertaken at ZOiS, followed by a discussion and interactive exercises. In addition, students have an opportunity to work in small groups in order to explore aspects that particularly interest them.

In 2019, slavicist Nina Frieß led a workshop on memory culture and history policy in contemporary Russia for Russian language students at the Freie Waldorfschule am Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin. It focused particularly on Russia's memorialisation of the Second World War and Stalinist repression. After a short input on these two topics from Nina Frieß, the group began by discussing, in general terms, how and why societies remember historical events. The students then broke out into small groups and used documentary images of Victory Day and the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Political Repression to examine the different ways in which the events associated with these days of remembrance are memorialised in Russia. The final session focused on the reasons why Russia has adopted this approach to dealing with the past, drawing comparisons with German memory culture.

Interns and research assistants

In 2019, there was, once again, a consistently high demand for internships at ZOiS among students from Germany and Eastern Europe. This applied to both areas in which ZOiS offers internships, namely research and research communication. ZOiS also advertised and filled several positions for research assistants for its research clusters. The interns and project research assistants were tasked with literature and background research, data collection and evaluation, the creation of a literature database and editorial duties. Interns working in the field of communication were entrusted with tasks including assistance with the production of podcasts, interviews for the *Meet the Author* series, website editing and other editorial work, and logistical support for events.



Supporting young academics at ZOiS: research assistant Taissiya Sutormina presents her work at a poster session at the ZOiS Conference 2019.

ZOiS research assistant Nadja Sieffert authored an issue of the weekly online publication *ZOiS Spotlight*. Building on her contribution to the evaluation of survey data collected for the project *Surveying the Attitudes and Behaviour of Youth Across Eastern Europe*, which is coordinated by Félix Krawatzek, she examined historical events of significance to Poland's youth generation. The main focus was on exploring to what extent the government's national-conservative history policy influences young Poles' awareness of history.

Cooperation with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences

ZOiS has concluded an agreement with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on the provision of intensive training for postgraduate students from all disciplines with a focus on Eastern Europe. Doctoral candidates can apply for the methodology training programme at BGSS by submitting details of their PhD project. Successful candidates work in one of ZOiS's research clusters in parallel to their studies.

In early 2019, Georgian sociologist Diana Bogishvili became the first doctoral candidate to work in the *Migration and Diversity* research cluster at ZOiS. Her dissertation focuses on migration

by young Georgians to Germany and its impact on the structure of social inequality in their home neighbourhoods in Georgia. It covers financial remittances by migrants to friends and family in the home country, as well as social remittances in the form of cultural values and norms, lifestyles and educational or career aspirations. Data is collected from interviews with migrants, their relatives in Georgia and experts, supplemented by surveys using participant observation. Diana Bogishvili is also involved in ZOiS's activities: as well as authoring two *ZOiS Spotlights* in 2019, she took part in a ZOiS *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast and various events.

Ukrainian social scientist Kostiantyn Fedorenko joined the ZOiS team in November 2019. In his PhD thesis at BGSS – entitled From Molotov Cocktails to Farewell Parties: Causes of Emigration for Participants of the 2013–2014 'Euromaidan' Protests in Ukraine – he explores why some Ukrainians migrate after having participated, often risking their lives, in anti-government protests. In order to find out more about the social, economic and political reasons for the decision to migrate, Kostiantyn Fedorenko interviews former Euromaidan activists. He is also a member of the ZOiS team working on the externally funded project Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (MOBILISE), which addresses a similar question:

why, in times of crisis, do some people protest while others migrate? Within the project team, Kostiantyn Fedorenko is responsible for data collection in Ukraine and data analysis.

Teaching courses

ZOiS researchers regularly make use of the opportunity to teach courses at universities in the Berlin-Brandenburg region.

In the 2019/20 winter semester, social anthropologist Tsypylma Darieva gave the seminar *Caucasus Studies from a social and cultural anthropological perspective* at the Central Asian Seminar of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Political scientist Nadja Douglas taught the course *Security policy developments in Eastern Europe* at the Institute for East European Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin in the 2019/20 winter semester.

Also in the winter semester, theologian Regina Elsner led a workshop on *The Orthodox Church and the challenge of human rights* at the Theological Faculty of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Central Asia expert Beate Eschment led the seminar *Good patriotism, bad nationalism? Nationality politics in Central Asian states* in the 2018/19 winter semester and the seminar *Regional Integration* in the 2019 summer semester, both at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

In the 2018 / 19 winter semester, slavicist Nina Frieß gave the seminar *Nothing and no one forgotten? The culture of memory and the politics of history in contemporary Russia* at the Institute for East European Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin.

Mentoring and dissertation supervision

Mentoring of students and supervision of dissertations are other important methods for supporting young researchers. In 2019, Tsypylma Darieva supervised and appraised a Master's thesis at Nazarbayev University in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. She was also a co-supervisor of a Master's thesis at the Central Asian Seminar of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and a PhD thesis at ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

In June 2019, Regina Elsner advised on the fieldwork for a final paper on the Russian Orthodox Church by a student at the Technische Universität Dresden.

This year, Beate Eschment was responsible for supervising five Master's theses at the Central Asian Seminar of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Nina Frieß took over the co-supervision and appraisal of Bachelor's and Master's theses at the University of Potsdam and Freie Universität Berlin. She was also a mentor for the German Association for East European Studies (DGO) mentoring programme, providing guidance for Association members on their postgraduate work and career entry.

Félix Krawatzek supervised a number of final papers in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford and was involved in the DGO mentoring programme.

Gwendolyn Sasse was a mentor for the mentoring programmes run by the DGO and the Leibniz Association, counselling young postdocs on their career pathway towards a senior academic position or professorship. She also supervised four dissertations at the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford. Furthermore, she was second referee and reviewer of a doctoral thesis at the Freie Universität Berlin, as well as first and second supervisor of two doctoral candidates at ZOiS as part of the cooperation with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Miscellaneous

In March 2019, Beate Eschment took part in a discussion with students and lecturers in the Department of International Relations at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty,



As a research assistant, I was able to contribute my prior knowledge of nationalities policy in Central Asia to the research process and greatly expand this knowledge with substantial support from the ZOiS team. I gained insights into the highly skilled process of academic research at ZOiS, which enriched my Master's thesis with the addition of new thematic aspects.

Taissiya Sutormina, research assistant



Margarita M. Balmaceda (left), seen here at a panel discussion at the ZOiS Annual Conference, was a guest researcher at ZOiS in 2019.

Kazakhstan. The discussion focused on German-Kazakhstani relations and the situation of non-Kazakhs in Kazakhstan and non-Germans in Germany. Participants also considered why, from a Kazakhstani perspective, there appears to be very little interest in Kazakhstan among Germans. The event also provided an opportunity to share information about academic training in Germany. In addition, there was a lively discussion about the challenges posed by the co-existence of many nationalities with diverse mother tongues, faiths and traditions in Kazakhstan and Germany from a comparative perspective.

In August 2019, Félix Krawatzek took part in the Trilateral Summer School *The EU and Its Neighbours – Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policies in Times of Uncertainty.* The event was part of the *Students Meet Practitioners* series run by the Genshagen Foundation as a platform for dialogue between Master's students and junior academics on their research work and career pathways.

In 2019, Gwendolyn Sasse was responsible for the organisation of the monthly ZOiS research colloquium in cooperation with the Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). In June, she took part in a discussion with students from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation's *Metropolen in Osteuropa* programme, which is aimed at young Germans who are studying in an East European country or wish to undertake academic research. The discussion focused on ZOiS's activities,

specifically the research project Surveying the Attitudes and Behaviour of Youth Across Eastern Europe. In October, Gwendolyn Sasse took part in a discussion with students and doctoral candidates at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München on ZOiS's role, research communication and research on war and identities in Ukraine.

Guest academics

ZOiS's growing network of contacts is reflected in the increasing number of guest academics whose research projects are supported during a two to nine month residency at ZOiS. As visiting researchers, they are invited to participate in ZOiS's events and contribute to its various publications. With their research topics and insights, guest scholars enrich the work undertaken at ZOiS and enhance interdisciplinary dialogue. These research visits by academics from other countries also play a key role in raising ZOiS's international profile.

From March to June 2019, Polish sociologist Dr Karolina Lukasiewicz was a visiting researcher with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at ZOiS and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Karolina Lukasiewicz is a postdoc at New York University's McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research since 2016. Her work on local integration policy in Berlin is part of a comparative case study of various European and US cities. In May, she authored a ZOiS Spotlight on The European refugee crisis and refugee protection in Poland.

Political scientist Prof. Margarita M. Balmaceda was a guest researcher at ZOiS from July to August 2019. She is a Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University and an Associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. She is also a member of ZOiS's Academic Advisory Board. Her current research project - Chains of Value, Chains of Power: Russian Energy, Value Chains and the Remaking of Social Relations from Vladivostok to Brussels - explores how energy value chains have impacted on post-Soviet power relations and Russia's ability to use energy as leverage. Margarita M. Balmaceda took part in a panel discussion on Post-Socialism, Post-Communist Transition, Global East? Conceptualising Legacies of Change since 1989 at the annual ZOiS Conference in June 2019. The discussion was recorded and published as a ZOiS Roundtable Osteuropa podcast titled Studying post-socialism: Do we need new concepts?

During his residency at ZOiS from August to October 2019, the Ukrainian-German philologist Dr Alexander Chertenko worked on an application for external funding for a postdoctoral project entitled *The Rebirth of Colonialism: The War in the Donbass in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish Fictional and Non-Fictional Literature post-2014.* He has recently researched contemporary literatures in the post-Communist space (primarily Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Poland) from a comparative and cultural studies perspective. Alexander Chertenko was already involved in activities at ZOiS prior to his residency. For example, he was a discussant at the reading on *Literary Perspectives on the War in Eastern Ukraine* in June 2019.

Dr Elkhan Nuriyev, a political scientist from Azerbaijan and a Humboldt Senior Fellow, was a visiting researcher at ZOiS from July 2019 to March 2020. In his research project *The EU, Russia*

and the Countries of the Eastern Partnership: Realities, Challenges and Perspectives in the Trilateral Relationship, he studies the prospects for conflict resolution in the Eastern neighbourhood and national energy strategies in the region around the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, with reference to EU and Russian foreign policy. In December 2019, he authored a ZOiS Spotlight entitled Peace building in the Eastern Partnership: what roles for Russia and the EU? In November, he featured in the In conversation with... series when he talked about Re-energising the Eastern Partnership: Time for New Innovative Ideas.

As a guest researcher at ZOiS from August to September 2019, Maryia Rohava worked on finalising her PhD thesis and prepared applications for a postdoctoral project on the politicising effect of elections among young people. She also completed an essay, entitled *The Politics of State Celebrations in Belarus*, for publication in the journal *Nations and Nationalism*. Her residency was also the basis for her involvement in the conference *Youth Mobilisation and Political Change: Participation, Values, and Policies Between East and West* organised by Dr Félix Krawatzek at ZOiS. In December 2019, she featured in the ZOiS *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast on *Belarus after the elections: the role of youth in politics*.

Dr Sergei Shtyrkov, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the European University of St Petersburg, was a visiting researcher at ZOiS from September to December 2019. His research project, entitled *Various versions of religious traditionalism in North Ossetia: between Russian Orthodox and ethnically influenced faith*, analysed the changing discourse around faith issues in Russian regions with national minorities. \triangleleft



For me, what made working at ZOiS so special was that supporting young researchers is seen as a priority, not only in theory but also in a very practical sense. Young researchers are given the opportunity to put their skills into practice in line with their personal interests and to share their ideas. The experience of working on the various PR formats and the positive support from all the staff add up to a very good training in the fundamentals of research communication.

Viktoria Bruhl, student assistant in the communications team

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

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In Focus: The Arts and Research

At ZOiS, we see the arts and science not as polar opposites but as diverse ways of exploring issues that interest us. The symbiotic relationship between these two fields offers fresh perspectives and generates new forms of knowledge. In its research communication, ZOiS uses the arts as an entry point for engaging with its main research topics, thereby gaining a more nuanced view of Eastern Europe.

Science and art – meaning not only the fine arts but also literature, music, theatre and film – are often seen as polar opposites: one characterised by subjectivity, creativity, imagination and emotion, the other laying claim to objectivity, precision, truth and rationalism. Attributes such as these reflect our contemporary understanding of the arts. In the past, the view was not always quite so polarised. And while truth and objectivity are sometimes contentious issues in the world of science as well, this does not change our general expectations of what these two spheres have to offer. So at the intersection between the arts and science, where does research communication come in – and what should it aim to achieve?

Despite all their differences, the arts and scientific research have one attribute in common: they can both be regarded as forms of knowledge production, each a pathway for exploring the world. The forms of knowledge that they generate differ considerably and perform distinct roles within society. Research communication is the common ground where they can interact, not by smoothing over the differences but offering complementary and perhaps even inspirational perspectives.

Besides generating knowledge, one particular characteristic of artistic communication is that it creates the possibility of an aesthetic and emotional experience. It is able to convey something that science alone cannot. Art works on an affective and sensory level. It engages us in an experience that moves or excites us; it may even challenge our preconceptions. It enables us to see the world in ways that previously eluded us. This is particularly relevant in research communication, especially where conflictual issues are concerned. One of the key challenges often encountered when sharing research results is that they may call our own preconceptions into question. But it would be a mistake to see art solely as a means of transmitting scientific content and as a beautiful shell for indigestible facts. Art always creates its own access to its subject and raises questions of its own.

With our exhibitions, events and collaborations here at ZOiS, we create space for this dialogue. In 2019, we were thus able to offer a fresh perspective on topics such as war, migration and every-day life in conflict.

The Obabich exhibition

The *Obabich* exhibition, on show in Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv from 22 May to 30 June 2019, was the continuation of a previous collaboration between ZOiS and the artist Mark Neville. For the 2017 *Displaced Ukrainians* project, Neville photographed people who had fled from the Donbas, whose lives had been directly affected by the war in Eastern Ukraine. His portraits were intended to give a face to these displaced individuals. The sociological element of the project, led by Gwendolyn Sasse, incorporated data from opinion polls that specifically targeted displaced persons – who are often left out of more general surveys – in order to give them a voice.

For the exhibition in Kyiv, the Ukrainian curator Jerzy Onuch introduced new layers of meaning. He brought Mark Neville's Displaced Ukrainians photos together with the Dreamland Donbas cycle by Ukrainian artist Viktor Marushchenko. These photos show Donbas miners at work in illegal pits, risking their lives digging for coal in gruelling conditions. At Mystetskyi Arsenal, visitors were given a miner's headlamp as they entered the exhibition. Equipped with the lamp, they then moved forward into a tunnel, built out of corrugated metal, where Marushchenko's photos were on display in the dark. As the visitor turned towards the exhibit, the beam of light from their headlamp provided the illumination needed to bring the art out of the dark. As the curator explained, the viewer was thus able to engage with the miners' experience not only visually but through a physical connectivity. However, the arrangement had a further symbolic meaning: it showed how artists and academics - like miners underground - bring forth something out of the darkness and consciously illuminate something



The Obabich exhibition at Lem Station in Lviv, Ukraine.

that is unfamiliar. As Viktor Marushchenko explained in a video which also formed part of the exhibition, his project purposely focused on forgotten people: 'It is a premonition of the disaster that would start in the Donbas in 2013.'

The exhibition thus deepened our understanding of what the arts and science can do to ensure that people and their stories are not forgotten. This is another of the aims of the research project at ZOiS. Its surveys of displaced persons are intended to give a voice to people directly affected by war. But the project also includes other surveys conducted in the Donbas and across Ukraine, which explore how war and conflict are changing people's identities. Is the presumed division within society becoming more entrenched? Can a 'sharpening' of 'ethnic' identity attributions or other changes be observed? Here, it is important to reach people in the largely inaccessible areas of the Donbas outside the Ukrainian government's control and to allow considerable scope in the answers for other interpretations of identity, which are often ignored in conventional approaches. For example, the surveys not only ask about the respondent's mother tongue; they also explore which languages they use most in daily life. Some questions focus specifically on mixed ethnic or bilingual identities along with a citizenshipbased understanding of identity. Some of these nuances risk being overlooked in the categories applied in areas under the control of Russia-backed separatists, especially under the present conditions.

The exhibition was also on show in a modified form at Lem Station, a former tram depot and now a creative centre in Lviv, from 22 September to 13 October 2019. Both exhibitions were accompanied by events that aimed to facilitate dialogue with the curator, artists, academics and civil society representatives, thus reaching a new audience for ZOiS's research. The connection to research was also highlighted in an article by ZOiS's director Gwendolyn Sasse, that was published in the exhibition catalogues.

Events at ZOiS

Our main platform for dialogue between the arts and research is our regular *ZOiS Forum*, which showcases artistic interpretations of themes relevant to ZOiS's research and brings creative professionals and academics together in dialogue. The format enables ZOiS to explore new topics and support more unconventional approaches: besides film, literature and photography, for example, music also featured as part of a multimedia concert. The events in this series are open to the public.

Documentary films, which combine journalism with art, are a particularly good starting point for communicating the findings of cultural and social studies research. In cooperation with Cottbus Film Festival, ZOiS hosted two screenings, each followed by an audience discussion with the directors and academics on the issues raised by the film. One of the



Sabine von Löwis, Alexander Chertenko and authors Ziemowit Szczerek and Serhiy Zhadan (from left) talk about literary perspectives on the war in Eastern Ukraine.

featured documentaries was Frozen Conflict, which deals with the Transnistria conflict. It was followed by a discussion with director Steffi Wurster and ZOiS political scientist Nadja Douglas. The conversation about the film's title - which references the idea, controversial among political scientists, that a conflict can become 'frozen' - illustrated to what extent our understanding of complex political phenomena is influenced by metaphors and images. The skilful portrayal of how separate spaces interact and how conflict resolution takes place at different levels was identified as one of the film's most significant achievements.

The readings hosted by ZOiS aim to build connectivity between literary and scientific perspectives. For example, philologist Alexander Chertenko, a guest researcher at ZOiS, led a panel discussion with writers Serhij Zhadan and Ziemowit Szczerek on literary perspectives on the war in Ukraine. They talked about the challenge of writing about war, the possible ideologisation and politicisation of literature – of particular relevance in terms of research communication – and the highly diverse positions on the war adopted by writers according to their own involvement or background. Serhij Zhadan and Ziemowit Szczerek also read from their own works.

The Long Night of the Sciences offered another opportunity for dialogue between the arts and research. At a cross-disciplinary event, Ukrainian writer Andrey Kurkov gave a reading from his latest novel Kartografie der Freiheit [Cartography of Freedom] and discussed images of Europe in East and West with slavicist Nina Frieß. The other panellists were social

geographer Sabine von Löwis and political scientist Félix Krawatzek, who talked about the findings of their research on borders, youth and Europe.

At these and many other events hosted by ZOiS, we looked at ways of encouraging cross-fertilisation between science and the arts and created spaces for dialogue. One aim for the future is to build a mutually productive relationship between science and the arts at a much earlier stage of the creative and academic process. This idea is taking shape with the series Platform East, a collaboration between ZOiS and the Volksbühne Berlin, launched in December 2019.



Andrey Kurkov reads from his latest novel at the Long Night of the Sciences.

Pilot Project: Journalists at ZOiS

Here at ZOiS, we are always keen to think about research communication in new and exciting ways. So we are currently planning a residency programme which will enable journalists to take time away from work and focus on a wide range of research topics. The personal interaction at ZOiS, participation in joint events and contributions to publications aim to create productive synergies between journalism, scientific research and communication.

Journalists on fact-finding visits often gather large amounts of material and data, only a fraction of which can be used in their reports. These research findings are a source of detailed knowledge and valuable insights on the topics that they cover. Our *Journalist in Residence Fellowship* will offer a funded residency at ZOiS for several months, giving journalists with a special

interest in Eastern Europe time and space to evaluate their research data on a topic of their choice, to work it up into a publication and present it to the public at an event. There are benefits for ZOiS as well: the residency will offer journalists, researchers and communication team members the opportunity to share experience, find mutual inspiration and develop innovative formats for research communication.

The fellowship was piloted in 2019, when ZOiS hosted Silvia Stöber, a freelance journalist with more than ten years of specialist experience reporting on the post-Soviet space, mainly the South Caucasus. Silvia Stöber writes for the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Der Tagesspiegel, tagesschau.de and other media. Below, she shares her memories of her time at ZOiS.

Three months as a journalist in residence at ZOiS – time for a project of my own, for sharing ideas with research staff and participating in the institute events. I was part of the pilot of the *Journalist in Residence Fellowship*, similar to the programmes at other research institutes, mainly in the UK and the US, but also in Germany. The idea is that the journalist in residence gets to know the main subject areas and builds contacts with research staff which they can later use in their work. In return, the researchers learn more about journalistic techniques, for example through lectures, and enhance their research communication skills. ZOiS's mission statement emphasises the importance of research communication alongside pure research and the institute has a good team working in this field.

For me, as a reporter on Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet space, this pilot project at ZOiS in early 2019 was an opportunity to take a break from the daily news routine at Tagesschau and to work up the findings of several research visits into an academic paper. My chosen topic was the 'Velvet Revolution' – the peaceful protests that led to a change of government in Armenia in 2018. The discussions with ZOiS researchers on developments in the region were extremely useful. I also had the chance to work with Tsypylma Darieva and Nadja Douglas on the *Urban Activism* book project. An event in the *In conversation with...* series with Gwendolyn Sasse, which focused on the presidential election in Ukraine, was an opportunity to share some of the impressions gained during a study visit to Kyiv just a few days earlier.

Moreover, I gave a presentation on disinformation in coverage of Eastern Europe and research communication from a journalist's perspective. I wrote a paper on this topic, gave a talk at ZOiS's weekly team meeting and discussed social media strategies with members of ZOiS's communications team.

A third focus of my residency was developing a concept for a *Journalist in Residence Fellowship* that would enable other journalists to benefit from a residency at ZOiS. This included conducting a survey among potential candidates and interviewing representatives of organisations that already offer this type of programme. I also explored ways of securing funding from foundations and submitted a project outline to one of them.

After this inspiring residency, I was invited to examine German Democratic Republic citizens' attitudes towards the Soviet Union as part of Gwendolyn Sasse's project Russia², which studies different images of Russia in today's East and West Germany. We submitted a proposal for a panel with Gwendolyn Sasse on this topic at the international re:publica conference, which was scheduled to take place in Berlin in 2020.'

Silvia Stöber

Events

ZOiS hosts a large number of events on a range of topics relating to Eastern Europe in order to present and discuss the findings of its research with an interested public and the academic community. Here, we report on the ZOiS Conference, whose theme in 2019 was 'The Legacies of Post-Socialism', and look back on some of the other events held in our various formats.

ZOIS CONFERENCE 2019 30 YEARS SINCE 1989: THE LEGACIES OF POST-SOCIALISM

Legacies from the socialist era have shaped post-1989 societies in Eastern Europe. What exactly qualifies as socialist legacies and what their significance has been remain issues of academic and public debate. The 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall was a good moment to move these discussions forward. How can we think more systematically about the last three decades of political, economic and social change across Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union? What types of trajectories have emerged, and how have the choices and experiences of the early post-1989 or post-1991 period shaped subsequent developments?

The ZOiS Conference 2019 explored these legacies of post-socialism, with a particular focus on the role of youth and generational change, liberal values and conceptions of Europe, as well as city architecture and everyday life in urban settings. Additionally, a panel discussion explored conceptual issues arising from Eastern Europe's experiences over the last 30 years, including terminology such as 'post-socialism', 'post-communism' and 'Global East'. As in previous years, each panel and interactive discussion at the ZOiS Conference brought together perspectives from a variety of academic disciplines.

Post-Socialist European Identity – Hopes and Disillusionment

The first panel at this year's conference took the impacts of political and economic transition as its topic and considered how it had influenced identity in the post-socialist countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Mitchell Orenstein (University of Pennsylvania) explained that when it comes to assessing this transition, there are two dominant narratives: one is the narrative of Western-imposed social catastrophe; the other is the narrative of economic resurgence. How-

ever, the experiences of this phase within individual countries and social groups are highly disparate and, in many cases, both narratives exist despite their inherent contradictions. Joanna Wawrzyniak (University of Warsaw) focused on identify formation in Poland and the question of how competing memory cultures are shaping the national self-image. She demonstrated how official historiography in Poland emphasises the uniqueness of the Polish experience while also underlining the country's quintessentially European character. In her input, Regina Heller (University of Hamburg) described how the Russian attitude towards what she called the 'European promise' changed in the years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. She concluded that for Russia, security interests have always taken precedence and that the inability to participate in a common security architecture has led to its alienation from the West.

► Youth and Authoritarian Regimes – Eastern Europe in Comparative Perspective

The second panel looked at youth in authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Anna Sanina (Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg) presented the findings of her studies on patriotic education in contemporary Russia. She explained how attempts to incorporate patriotic elements into the Russian curriculum are reminiscent of Soviet propaganda, in terms of both their methodology and content, but are less effectively targeted. Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS) then introduced his research project on youth as a new generation in Central and Eastern Europe and presented data from surveys conducted among 16- to 34-year-olds in Poland, Latvia, Belarus and Russia; most respondents lived in urban areas, although some came from rural regions of Poland. The findings are relatively heterogeneous, although some general trends can be discerned: for example, all countries have very high approval rates for liberal civil rights, but young people in Poland, Belarus and Russia have fairly negative attitudes towards multiculturalism. In the final presentation during this panel session, Christian Schwarz (University of



At the ZOiS Conference 2019, postgraduates have the opportunity to present their research at a poster session.

Ivan Krastev gives the keynote at the 2019 ZOiS Conference.

Marburg) focused on youth movements in North Africa and West Asia, the so-called NAWA region. Surveys reveal that young people in these countries claim to have relatively little interest in politics. However, as Christian Schwarz explained, in the NAWA region, young people's understanding of politics differs from Western conceptions, and from a youth perspective, everyday and supposedly non-political actions can become politicised.

► The Post-Socialist City

The focus then shifted to the post-socialist city, which was explored from various angles in parallel roundtable discussion sessions. Philipp Meuser (architect and publisher) and Alima Bissenova (Nazarbayev University) discussed Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, as a new type of 'Eurasian city' and considered how individual lifestyles are evolving there. For Andrey Kurkov (Ukrainian novelist and scriptwriter) and Tarik Cyril Amar (Koç University, Istanbul), the Western Ukrainian city of Lviv was of particular interest as a literary and historical space that has been shaped by multiple cultures. The discussion between Ievgeniia Gubkina (NGO Urban Forms Center, Kharkiv) and Marija Dremaite (Vilnius University) focused on monocities in the post-Soviet space.

▶ Panel Discussion

Post-Socialism, Post-Communist Transition, Global East? Conceptualising Legacies of Change since 1989 was the title of the next panel discussion with social anthropologist Tatjana Thelen (University of Vienna), historian Juliane Fürst (ZZF Potsdam) and political scientist Margarita M. Balmaceda (Seton Hall University), with Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) in the

chair. Tatjana Thelen pointed out the vagueness of the concept of post-socialism: she asked how states can possibly be defined by something that no longer exists. In her view, the concept is used as a tool that aids empirical study of states which are perceived to be similar. With the focus on the European and post-Soviet space, the term is increasingly understood in a geographical sense, thereby excluding other formerly or currently socialist countries outside Europe. Juliane Fürst described how, since the 1990s, many countries have been in a continual state of flux, summed up as 'no longer socialism but not quite capitalism'. The fact that there was no clean break after the disintegration of the Soviet Union was, she said, due to certain legacy patterns of behaviour stemming from the socialist era, which did not simply disappear along with the Soviet bloc. The durability of these social practices may be attributed to the fact that while some are typical of socialist society, they lack an ideological foundation. Continuing the discussion of the terminology of postsocialism, Margarita M. Balmaceda took a closer look at the notion of transition. What concerned her here was the implication that every stage of development has a definitive starting and end point. In view of the diversity of development trajectories within the post-socialist space, however, Balmaceda rejected this idea. This diversity, she said, warrants a detailed study of political institutions that were and are typical of these countries.

Reflections on the Politics of Resentment in Eastern Europe

In his keynote lecture, political scientist Ivan Krastev (Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia) asked what had happened to cause the decline in liberalism in so many Eastern European countries. He described the 1990s as the 'age of imitation',

a time when the Eastern and Central European countries had aspired to, and sought to emulate, Western economic and political norms. In its imitation of the West, Russia in particular had not confined itself to institutional practices but had ambitions to imitate Western and especially US foreign policy in response to its own people's claim to Russian hegemony.

OTHER ZOIS EVENTS

► Academic events

Besides the annual international conference, ZOiS organised numerous other events in 2019 which offered scholars the opportunity to present and discuss the results of their research. Many event formats were developed in collaboration with German and international institutions and with academics from a range of disciplines. For the first time, a conference and workshop were held in our focus region, namely in Ukraine and Georgia, thereby making a significant contribution to ZOiS's international networking.

Slavicist Nina Frieß organised a workshop on *Russophone Literatures*, which took place at ZOiS in March and brought together nine slavicists working in this emerging field of research. With reference to case studies that had been circulated beforehand, the researchers discussed the particular aesthetics of Russophone literatures, their politicisation and global marketing, and, associated with that, the specific reception situation. Also in attendance were two Russophone authors, who shared information about literary writing and



Félix Krawatzek, a political scientist at ZOiS, at the conference he organised on youth mobilisation.

publication processes as part of a discussion session. The workshop also included a public evening event with Yuriy Serebryansky, who talked about his book *Kazakhstani Fairytales* and discussed the situation of national minorities in Kazakhstan with ZOiS Central Asia expert Beate Eschment and Nina Frieß. A podcast on Russophone literature was produced with two of the workshop participants.

Theologian Regina Elsner co-organised the conference "Human Dignity" – The Socio-Ethical Challenge of the "Revolution of Dignity", which took place in Kyiv, Ukraine, in cooperation with the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy", the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Ukraine and the Open Orthodox University of Saint Sophia the Wisdom. Five years after Euromaidan, also known as the 'Revolution of Dignity' in Ukraine, the conference explored the concept of human dignity and its implications for Church and society today. It was the first international theological conference to be held on the topical relevance of the human dignity concept in collaboration with key sociopolitical actors in Ukraine. The conference proceedings, including the papers, will be published in Ukrainian and probably also in Russian.

The workshop Studying Border Regions in the Post-Soviet Space - Different Methods, Scales and Areas was another outcome of international collaboration. This three-day event was organised by Central Asia expert Beate Eschment and social geographer Sabine von Löwis in cooperation with Ketevan Khutsishvili (Tbilisi State University) and took place in the Georgian capital Tbilisi at the end of November. The workshop investigated the political and historical dimensions of borders in the post-Soviet space, with a particular focus on border regions in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The researchers also shared their practical experiences of conducting fieldwork in border regions and discussed different methodological approaches. A highlight of the workshop was a visit to the Russian-Georgian border crossing point at Larsi, which enabled participants to gain first-hand experience of border realities in Georgia.

Political scientist Félix Krawatzek organised the two-day conference *Youth Mobilisation and Political Change: Participation, Values, and Policies Between East and West,* which took place at ZOiS in late November. This event focused on analysing youth and youth policy, thereby linking in with the publication of Félix Krawatzek's monograph *Youth in Regime Crisis,* in which the author presents a comparative analysis of the political mobilisation of young people and the symbolic importance of youth at moments of crisis, with reference to historical and present-day examples. Comprehensive analysis of a topic as broad in scope as youth requires a range of methodological approaches, as well as interdisciplinary dialogue. The conference therefore offered schol-



Workshop on border regions in the post-Soviet space in Tbilisi, Georgia, organised by Beate Eschment and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS) in cooperation with Ketevan Khutsishvili (Tbilisi State University).

ars from a range of disciplines the opportunity to explore and discuss youth from diverse perspectives. Topics included the role of youth organisations in authoritarian regimes, the composition of youth as a social group, and young people's attitudes and potential for protest. In terms of its regional scope, the conference did not focus solely on Eastern Europe but referred also to the findings of research on the Arab countries and China, drawing on historical and contemporary cases.

In November, ZOiS was pleased to welcome Thomas Carothers, political scientist and Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as a guest speaker. In his lecture 1989 Through the Darkened Lens of the Present to mark the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Thomas Carothers looked back on the optimism of the late 1980s and early 1990s and outlined some of the lessons that can be drawn from that period. He identified nine assumptions made by Western observers about developments in the post-Soviet states that with hindsight proved to be either completely or partly incorrect. These hypotheses were explored in more depth in a panel discussion after the lecture.

► Knowledge transfer

2019 saw the successful continuation of the *ZOiS Forum*, which brings together creative professionals and academics and makes our research accessible to a wider audience. One way of achieving this is with a combination of different media and event formats. In the chapter *In Focus: The Arts and Research* (pp. 94–96) we look at how we pursued this approach in 2019. As in other areas of activity, our collaboration with other institutions and arts organisations was intensified within the *ZOiS Forum* framework as well.

In January, for example, ZOiS hosted a film screening of the documentary *D IS FOR DIVISION: Borderline Experiences between Latvia and Russia* at Kino Krokodil in cooperation with Cottbus Film Festival. Director Dāvis Sīmanis accompanies two protagonists: a Latvian patriot operating out of Russia, and a Latvian communist fighting for pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas. After the screening, he was joined by Bernd Buder, director of Cottbus Film Festival, and ZOiS director Gwendolyn Sasse for a discussion of the concept of borders in Eastern European cinema, the potential for conflict in national identity formation, and history's role in this context.



Gwendolyn Sasse, film director Kristof Gerega and Andreas Umland (from left) discuss the documentary 'Looking for Europe', which follows young Ukrainian politicians in their daily lives.

With Kyiv's Now Generation, ZOiS once again hosted a Forum with students from the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin as a further strand in its support for young researchers. Jana Antonissen and Nadja Scherff introduced their multimedia project Kak Dela Kyiv, produced in collaboration with two other students, which explores the creative scene in the Ukrainian capital. Using short videos, they showed how, five years after Euromaidan, artists and fashion designers, DJs, writers and journalists are finding their own paths and using their talents to transform their city. They were joined by curator and publisher Kateryna Mishchenko to discuss new forms of identity in Ukraine and reframing Ukrainian youth at a time of upheaval.

In cooperation with n-ost, the Forum event Faces of Grozny: Chechnya - A Close-Up turned the spotlight on a region which the public tends to associate with two devastating wars, leader Ramzan Kadyrov and violent fundamentalist

Islamism. Photographer Oksana Yushko presented her multimedia project *Grozny: Nine Cities*, a complex documentary portrait of the Chechen capital which she and two other female photographers spent several years creating. She was then joined by Gregory Shvedov, editor-in-chief of the Caucasian Knot, and Chechnya experts Julie Wilhelmsen and James Hughes to discuss the ongoing conflict, human rights, the social upheavals of recent years, and access to information about Chechnya.

An event in November, *Songs and Images from Ukraine – A multimedia concert*, combined research and the arts in a very special way. Framed by documentary photographs by the British artist Mark Neville showing everyday life in the border regions on Ukraine's frontline, mezzo-soprano Alice Lackner and pianist Imke Lichtwark performed a re-interpretation of traditional Ukrainian folk songs. The collaboration was inspired by videos collected by Mark Neville in rural areas of Ukraine.

In 2019, ZOiS also stepped up its cooperation with the Volksbühne Berlin. In the *Platform East* events series, part of the *POSTWEST* transcultural festival, a panel discussion (*De*) constructing Stereotypes: Media Images in the European Press was held with five journalists from outlets including DIE ZEIT, dekoder and n-ost. The event focused on a discussion of media stereotypes about Eastern Europe and the extent to which they are reproduced by the Western media. A further topic was how, at a time of perceived cleavage between East and West, prejudice-free reporting is possible.

The *In conversation with...* format, which is designed for a specialist audience from political institutions, think tanks and foundations, also continued in 2019. In a conversation on *Ukraine before the Presidential Elections and the Public Mood in the Donbas*, political scientist Gwendolyn Sasse pre-

sented new research findings and journalist Sylvia Stöber shared some impressions gained in Ukraine itself. This was followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

The Roots of Climate Change Denial in Russia, another event in the In conversation with... series, looked at the critical issue of global warming. Dmitry Yagodin from the Aleksanteri Institute at the University of Helsinki provided an insight into the public discourse in Russia, where the government denies the anthropogenic causes of global warming and highlights positive effects of climate change. He focused particularly on the Arctic region, where Russia's fossil fuel industry is built on frozen ground that is beginning to melt. Konstantin Kaminskij from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, also works on climate change and provided his expert opinion on the topics under discussion.



ZOiS theologian Regina Elsner at the conference on the concept of human dignity, which she co-organised, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

ZOiS Events 2019

ACADEMIC EVENTS

▶ Public lectures and panel discussions

- New Conservatives in Russia and East Central Europe (14 February 2019)
 Book presentation by Katharina Bluhm and Mihai
 Varga (both Freie Universität Berlin) with Regina
 Elsner (ZOiS), Krzysztof Jasiecki and Alicja Curanovic
 (both University of Warsaw)
- Autoritarismus und was dann? Russland, die Türkei und die Entfremdung vom Westen (28 February 2019) Panel discussion with Marija Lipman (journalist, Moscow), Günter Seufert (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP) and Manfred Sapper (Zeitschrift Osteuropa) in cooperation with German Association for East European Studies
- Die große ukrainische Emigration und ihre wirtschaftlichen Folgen (2 May 2019)
 Prisma Ukraïna Lecture with Matthias Benz (Neue Zürcher Zeitung), Robert Kirchner (Berlin Economics), Ewa Dąbrowska (Prisma Ukraïna) and Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS)
- ► Imitation and its Discontents Reflections on the Politics of Resentment in Eastern Europe (14 June 2019) Keynote Lecture (ZOiS Conference 2019) with Ivan Krastev (Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia)
- ▶ 1989 Through the Darkened Lens of the Present (11 November 2019)

 Panel discussion with Thomas Carothers (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Jan C. Behrends (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam), Ulf Brunnbauer (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies) and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) in cooperation with the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History and the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies
- Rethinking Family in the Context of Migration in Russia (21 November 2019)
 Panel discussion with Sergey Abashin (European University, St Petersburg), Olga Brednikova (CISR, St Petersburg), Sergey Rumyansev (CISR, Berlin), Manja Stephan-Emmrich (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS) in cooperation with the Center for Independent Social Research (CISR) Berlin
- Book Launch: Youth in Regime Crisis (27 November 2019)
 Book presentation by Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS) with Jussi Lassila (Finnish Institute of International Affairs), Anne Muxel (Sciences Po Center for Political Research), Hilary Pilkington (University of Manchester) and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)

► Kultur und Alltag im Ukraine-Konflikt (12 December 2019)

Panel discussion with Roman Dubasevych (University of Greifswald), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Igor Sid (Moskau) and Matthias Schwartz (Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung) in cooperation with the Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung

▶ Conferences

- ➤ 30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism (14 June 2019) ZOiS Conference 2019
- Migration als Faktor gesellschaftlichen Wandels im östlichen/südöstlichen Europa im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert (17 October 2019)
 In cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg), the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe Institute of the Leibniz Association (Marburg) and the Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa (Leipzig)
- "Human Dignity" The Socio-Ethical Challenge of the "Revolution of Dignity" (31 October–1 November 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine) Co-organised by Regina Elsner (ZOiS) in cooperation with the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy", the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Ukraine and the Open Orthodox University of Saint Sophia the Wisdom
- Youth Mobilisation and Political Change. Participation, values, policies and discourses between East and West (28–29 November 2019)
 Organised by Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS)

Workshops

- Russia Scenario Workshop: "Thinking beyond 2024" (21–22 March 2019)
 Co-organised by Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
 Vienna and the British Embassy in Berlin
- Russophone Literatures (28–29 March 2019)
 Organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS)
- ► New Conservatives in Eastern Europe (6–7 June 2019) Co-organised by Regina Elsner (ZOiS) in cooperation with the project 'Postsecular Conflicts' and the European Research Council
- Churches and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe (21–22 June 2019)
 Co-organised by Regina Elsner (ZOiS) in cooperation with Thomas Bremer (University of Münster)

Studying Border Regions in the Post-Soviet Space.
 Different Methods, Scales and Areas (26–28 November 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia)
 Co-organised by Beate Eschment and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS) in cooperation with Ketevan Khutsishvili (Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

► ZOiS Research Colloquium

- Legitimacy in an authoritarian polity. Governmentsponsored summer camps and youth participation in Russia (9 January 2019)
 - Anna Schwenck (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Phantasie an der Macht. Literarische und politische Autorschaft im heutigen Russland (13 February 2019)
 Ekaterina Vassilieva (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Trenches, trials, trenchcoats? Explaining variance and success in the trajectories of the pro-Ukrainian volunteer bataillons (08 May 2019)
 Johann Zajaczkowski (University of Bonn)
- Between monumentality and informality: contemporary urban-religious configurations in Azerbaijan (12 June 2019)
 - Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)
- Nationalistic Europeanization? Conceptions of Europe and Transnational Network Structures of Nationalistic Movements in and around Ukraine (10 July 2019)
 Susann Worschech (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)
- Disaggregating Russia's 'Turn To the East'. Implementing State Strategies in a Political Economy of Rent (6 November 2019)
 Sebastian Hoppe (Freie Universität Berlin)
- Renewable Energy Development Pathways in Eurasian
 Oil and Gas Producers: Comparing the Cases of Russia
 and Kazakhstan (11 December 2019)
 Yana Zabanova (guest researcher at the German
 Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP)

ZOIS KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

ZOiS Forum

- ▶ D IS FOR DIVISION: Borderline Experiences between Latvia and Russia (16 January 2019) in cooperation with FilmFestival Cottbus Bernd Buder (FilmFestival Cottbus), Stefanie Orphal (ZOiS), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) and Dāvis Sīmanis (director)
- Faces of Grozny: Chechnya A Close-Up (19 February 2019)
 in cooperation with n-ost
 James Hughes (London School of Economics), Gregory

- Shvedov (Caucasian Knot), Julie Wilhelmsen (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) and Oksana Yushko (photographer)
- Post-Soviet migrants and their 'external' and 'internal' mobilisation (9 April 2019)
 Igor Eidman (filmmaker), Tatiana Golova (ZOiS),
 Robert Kindler (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
 and Jannis Panagiotidis (Osnabrück University)
- Frozen Conflict a Filmic reflection of the Transnistrian deadlock (21 May 2019)
 Nadja Douglas (ZOiS) and Steffi Wurster (director)
- Literary perspectives on the war in Eastern Ukraine (5 June 2019)
 Alexander Chertenko (literary scholar), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Ziemowit Szczerek (author) and Serhij Zhadan (author)
- Kyiv's Now Generation (2 July 2019)
 Jana Antonissen (journalist), Julia Glathe (Freie Universität Berlin), Kateryna Mishchenko (publicist) and Nadja Scherff (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- ➤ Songs and images from Ukraine A multimedia concert (25 October 2019) Alice Lackner (mezzo-soprano), Imke Lichtwark (pianist) und Mark Neville (artist)
- ▶ 30 Years After the Fall of the Wall: Old and New Borders through the Lens of Research (5 November 2019) in cooperation with Berlin Wall Memorial Nina Frieß, Félix Krawatzek, Sabine von Löwis and Gwendolyn Sasse (all ZOiS)
- (No) More Utopia(s)? Young Literature from the Western Balkans and Russia (5 December 2019) in cooperaton with the DAAD project K/eine Utopie(n) mehr? Ein Forum für junge, engagierte Literatur Jana George (North-Caucasus Federal University Stavropol), Eva Kowollik (University of Halle), Andrea Meyer-Fraatz (University of Jena), Ivana Pajić (University of Novi Sad) and Željana Tunić (University of Jena)

► In conversation with...

- The Roots of Climate Change Denial in Russia (12 February 2019)
 Dmitry Yagodin (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki) and Konstantin Kaminskij (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- Ukraine before the Presidential Elections and the Public Mood in the Donbas (26 March 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) and Silvia Stöber (journalist)
- Re-energizing the Eastern Partnership: Time for New Innovative Ideas (29 October 2019)
 Elkhan Nuriyev (guest researcher at ZOiS), Judith Wellen (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) and Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)



At the Long Night of the Sciences in 2019, Nadja Douglas, a political scientist at ZOiS, gives a presentation on urban activism in Eastern Europe.

► Press briefings

- Moldova before the Parliamentary Elections (19 February 2019)
 Nadja Douglas (ZOiS) and Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS)
- Ukraine before the Presidential Elections: Politics, Society and Research (28 March 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) in cooperation with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

▶ Other events

- "Kasachstanische Märchen" (28 March 2019) Reading and discussion with Yuriy Serebryanskiy (author), Nina Frieß and Beate Eschment (both ZOiS)
- ► Obabich (22 May 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine)
 Exhibition opening at Mystetskyi Arsenal as part of the International Book Arsenal Festival with the artists Sasha Kurmaz, Viktor Marushchenko, Mark Neville as well as Jerzy Onuch (curator) and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- Long Night of Ideas 2019 (6 June 2019)
 Co-organisation of the joint event Ideas move Europe:
 Pecha Kucha, Filme & Musik aus der Mitte Europas
- Long Night of the Sciences 2019 (15 June 2019)
 With contributions by Beate Eschment, Tsypylma
 Darieva, Nadja Douglas, Regina Elsner, Nina Frieß,
 Félix Krawatzek, Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse
 (all ZOiS) and Alexander Formozov (Dekabristen e. V.)
- Reading and Discussion with Andrey Kurkov
 (15 June 2019)
 With Andrey Kurkov (writer), Nina Frieß, Sabine von
 Löwis and Félix Krawatzek (all ZOiS) as part of the
 Long Night of the Sciences 2019

- Die Generation Maidan in der ukrainischen Politik 2014–2019 (24 September 2019)
 Movie screening and discussion with Kristof Gerega (director), Andreas Umland (political scientist) and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) in cooperation with FilmFestival Cottbus
- Obabich (5 October 2019 in Lviv, Ukraine)
 Panel discussion as part of the exhibition at Lem Station with Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- Diener des Volkes? wie der neue Präsident Selensky die Ukraine verändert (9 October 2019)
 Panel discussion with Andrej Hunko (member of German parliament, Die Linke), Miriam Kosmehl (Bertelsmann Stiftung) and Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS) in cooperation with the European Academy and inforadio rbb
- ▶ (De)constructing Stereotypes: Media Images in the European Press (17 December 2019)

 Panel discussion with Alice Bota (DIE ZEIT),

 Dóra Diseri (n-ost), Tamina Kutscher (dekoder),

 Dariya Orlova (Mohyla School of Journalism) and

 Gesine Dornblüth (journalist) in cooperation with

 Volksbühne Berlin as part of the event series Platform East

SUPPORTING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

► Schule@ZOiS

 Russische Erinnerungspolitik (21 May 2019)
 The Freie Waldorfschule am Prenzlauer Berg attended a keynote lecture by Nina Frieß

Publications

In 2019, ZOiS broadened the range of media formats for its publications and launched its own podcast. Its other print and online formats, which offer insights into the outcomes of ZOiS's research, analysis of current events and background, also continued to meet with a positive response. ZOiS's publications are written by our own researchers or external partners.

▶ Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa

March 2019 saw the launch of our podcast, *Roundtable Osteuropa*, in which ZOiS scholars and guests discuss their research on Eastern Europe. The podcast considers current events in politics and society, while also endeavouring to shed light on lesser-known issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. The individual podcasts are available in German or English on the ZOiS website and can be accessed via various streaming services, including SoundCloud, Spotify and iTunes. A total of 11 podcasts were produced in 2019, a selection of which we present below. A full list can be found at the end of the chapter.

In the first in the series, ZOiS researchers Gwendolyn Sasse and Regina Elsner discussed the forthcoming presidential elections in Ukraine. The conversation, moderated by Julia Langbein, focused on the issues dominating the election campaign and the most promising candidates. *Roundtable Osteuropa 5/2019* turned the spotlight on another topical issue: the protests in Georgia, which erupted after a session of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) in the parliament building in Tbilisi on 20 June, resulting in large numbers of injuries and arrests. The conversation between Diana Bogishvili and Tsypylma Darieva was moderated by Regina Elsner and explored not only the background and goals of the protests but also the role of the Church and religion in Georgian society.

Sebastian Schiek from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs was our guest for the podcast, entitled *Towards a New Kazakhstan?* He joined ZOiS's Central Asia expert Beate Eschment for a discussion of president Nursultan Nazarbayev's surprise resignation after 28 years as the country's authoritarian leader. The conversation, mod-

erated by Nina Frieß, looked at the background to the protests which accompanied the handover to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the country's new president. The discussion also touched on other domestic policy challenges and Kazakhstan's relations with its neighbours and the EU.

In a special edition of the podcast, ZOiS director Gwendolyn Sasse moderated a conversation on *Studying post-socialism: Do we need new concepts?* with guests Margarita M. Balmaceda (Seton Hall University), Juliane Fürst (ZZF Potsdam) and Tatjana Thelen (University of Vienna). Concepts such as 'post-socialism', 'post-communism' and 'transition' were discussed from a political science, anthropological and historical perspective. What are the limits of these concepts? What are the political consequences of using them? And which alternative approaches could help to overcome some of the concerns raised? The podcast was recorded at ZOiS's 2019 annual conference, *30 Years since 1989: The Legacies of Post-Socialism*, which focused on related issues.

Roundtable Osteuropa 11/2019 put academia itself under the microscope: specifically, it considered how research communication can bridge the gap between the public and the academic community and make its findings more accessible to a wide audience – one of ZOiS's fundamental aims. Stefanie Orphal, communications director at ZOiS, moderated the discussion between Josef Zens from the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam and Nina Frieß from ZOiS. The panellists considered what can be done – in the interests of scientific literacy – to enhance understanding of how academic knowledge is generated. They identified some of the challenges arising when communicating the results of academic research and discussed the conditions and formats that can make this process a success.

▶ ZOiS Report

ZOiS Report is aimed at an expert readership from politics, administration, the education sector and the media. Produced in medium-length format, it presents current data from ZOiS studies and surveys through graphics and short explanatory texts. ZOiS Report is available in German or English in print and on the ZOiS website. Five ZOiS Reports were published in 2019.

Slavicist Nina Frieß chose Yuriy Serebryansky's *Kazakhstani Fairytales* as the topic for her *ZOiS Report 1/2019*. In the most ethnically diverse state in the post-Soviet space, the book can be seen as a literary blueprint for inclusive Kazakhstani identity. Nina Frieß thus describes it as a fairytale with a sociocritical twist and analyses the text in relation to multiethnicity, migration and multilingualism in Kazakhstan. Author Yuriy Serebryansky's own voice is heard in longer interview passages. The report concludes with texts from the collection of short stories, translated into German for the first time.

In *ZOiS Report 2/2019*, theologian Regina Elsner analyses the position and role of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine in the context of the war between Russia and Ukraine. Due to their theological foundations, the Churches have considerable peacemaking potential; however, historical and political circumstances exacerbate the conflicts among them. The author focuses mainly on developments since the 2013/2014 Maidan protests and the founding of the new Orthodox Church of Ukraine in 2019.

Ukraine is also the subject of *ZOiS Report 3/2019* by Gwendolyn Sasse and Alice Lackner. Five years after the start of the conflict in the east of the country, information about the daily lives, perceptions and identities of the resident population in the war zone remains scarce. In particular, the self-proclaimed People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk tend to remain beyond the reach of policy-makers and researchers. In their report, the authors examine changes in public opinion in the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine, including the government- and non-government-controlled areas, drawing on ZOiS's survey data from 2016 and 2019.

In the last two issues of *ZOiS Report* in 2019, Félix Krawatzek uses a series of graphs to present survey data from Poland and Belarus. In each case, young people aged between 16 and 34 were asked about their lives and political attitudes. *ZOiS*

Report 4/2019 focuses on the first cohort of Poles without direct experience of the socialist system, for whom the opportunities of the free market, democracy and free movement within the EU have become the norm. After more young Poles than expected voted for the right-wing populist Law and Justice party (PiS) in local elections in 2018, the ZOiS surveys provide insights into their voting intentions in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in October 2019 and the presidential election in 2020. The surveys also looked at young Poles' political engagement, and their views on other countries. Similar data are presented in ZOiS Report 5/2019 on Belarus, where parliamentary elections took place in November 2019, with a presidential election due in August 2020. Surveys of young Belarusians are rare and, against a backdrop of tension with Russia and a possible sixth term in office for president Alyaksandr Lukashenka, offer fascinating insights into their views on their own and other countries.

► Meet the Author

For *Meet the Author*, our 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 English and German on the ZOiS website.

In February, we talked to geographer Vladimir Kolosov about his monograph *Russian Border Regions: Neighbourhood Challenges* (so far published in Russian only), in which he explores how integration processes and political challenges at the international and regional levels influence the development of Russian borderlands.

'The new forms of protests are part of a global trend', says Richard Youngs, an expert on EU foreign policy and international diplomacy, in the interview about his book *Civic Activism Unleashed: New Hope or False Dawn for Democracy?* He shows how civic activism has changed over the years, focusing on new forms of protest and recent significant developments.

In her book *Migration as a (Geo-)Political Challenge in the Post-Soviet Space: Border Regimes, Policy Choices, Visa Agendas,* Olga Gulina analyses migration policy trends in the post-Soviet space and their impacts in the region. She considers how conflicts affect migration patterns and how migration management has become a tool for staking out zones of geopolitical influence.

▶ ZOiS Spotlight

ZOiS Spotlight is a weekly publication featuring analyses, insights and background information on current developments in Eastern Europe by ZOiS researchers and guest contributors. It is published on our website each Wednesday in English and German and is shared on Twitter and Facebook. Some examples from 2019 are presented below.

Election year and then the change of president in Ukraine in the context of the ongoing war in the east of the country were the subject of several issues of *Spotlight* in 2019. ZOiS director Gwendolyn Sasse provides some insights into the public mood ahead of the presidential election, drawing on fresh survey data from the Donbas. Theologian and ZOiS researcher Regina Elsner considers the role of the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine during and after the election campaign. Balázs Jarábik from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace comments on the challenges facing the new president, Volodymyr Zelensky, as he attempts to get a grip on the country's problems after his party won an outright majority in the snap parliamentary election in July.

Two issues of *Spotlight* consider the implications of another vote – the parliamentary election in Moldova – which went largely unnoticed by the Western media. For the first time, voters in the de facto republic of Transnistria were able to directly elect two members of parliament to represent their interests in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. For ZOiS social geographer Sabine von Löwis, it was an opportunity to consider the possible implications for the Transnistria conflict. The post-election stalemate and intense power struggle between two rival governments are analysed by ZOiS political scientist Nadja Douglas in her *Spotlight* on the political crisis.

In light of the new wave of persecutions against LGBTQ people in Chechnya, Regina Elsner's *Spotlight*, published in January, focuses on the increase in discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This form of persecution is on the rise in other countries too, notably Russia, but in Chechnya, the mix of legal instability and traditional values is particularly toxic. Nina Frieß, a slavicist at ZOiS, approaches the issue of Chechnya from a very different, namely a literary, perspective. In her *Spotlight* on the diaries of Polina Zherebtsova, which document a decade of every-

day life and conflict in the ruins of Grozny, Nina Frieß sheds light on the Chechen wars as seen through the eyes of the civilian population.

Russia was a frequent Spotlight topic in 2019 and was explored from a variety of perspectives. Theocharis Grigoriadis from Freie Universität Berlin sees Russia's military involvement in the Ukrainian and Syrian conflicts as signalling Moscow's return to a competitive relationship with the West. Ann-Sophie Gast, a researcher at ZOiS until 2019, describes the underwhelming outcomes after four years of the Eurasian Economic Union, whose founding was one of the main foreign policy projects for Russian president Vladimir Putin's third term in office. Gernot Howanitz's research at the University of Passau addresses a very different topic, namely blogs, which for Russian authors are an important tool for self-representation, as well as being an opportunity to get their writing published. His article examines the steady demise of these platforms and its implications for literature. To coincide with the International Arctic Forum in St Petersburg in April, Nadja Douglas writes about Russia's recent military activity in the Arctic and the region's strategic significance. In his Spotlight, Dmitry Yagodin from the University of Helsinki also looks at Russia and the Arctic, but with a focus on climate change and the Russian media's coverage of the topic.

JOINT PUBLICATIONS

▶ Zentralasien-Analysen

Zentralasien-Analysen – part of the 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. Since 1 January 2018, the Länder-Analysen series has been co-edited by the following institutions: the German Association for East European Studies (DGO), the German Institute for Polish Studies (DPI), the University of Bremen's Research Centre for East European Studies (FSO), Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) and the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS). In 2019, the Zentralasien-Analysen series was edited by Beate Eschment at ZOiS. \triangleleft

Publications

ZOis Report

- "Kasachstanische Märchen" ein literarisches Identitätsangebot für alle Kasachstaner*innen
 ZOiS Report 1/2019 by Nina Frieß (July 2019)
- Friedensstifter oder Konfliktträger? Der Krieg in der Ukraine als sozialethische Herausforderung für die orthodoxen Kirchen
 - ZOiS Report 2/2019 by Regina Elsner (August 2019)
- Attitudes and identities across the Donbas front line: What has changed from 2016 to 2019?
 ZOiS Report 3/2019 by Gwendolyn Sasse and Alice Lackner (August 2019)
- Youth in Poland: Outlook on Life and Political Attitudes
 ZOiS Report 4/2019 by Félix Krawatzek (September 2019)
- ► Youth in Belarus: Outlook on Life and Political Attitudes ZOiS Report 5 / 2019 by Félix Krawatzek (October 2019)

▶ Meet the Author

- 'Borderland is a complex and constantly changing social phenomenon'
 Meet the Author with Vladimir Kolosov (22 February
- 'The new forms of protests are part of a global trend' Meet the Author with Richard Youngs (20 September 2019)
- 'Every conflict has an effect on migration patterns'
 Meet the Author with Olga Gulina (26 November 2019)

▶ ZOiS Spotlight

- ➤ The sale of agricultural land in Ukraine ZOiS Spotlight 1 / 2019 by Sabine von Löwis (9 January 2019)
- Moscow's asymmetric proxy wars
 ZOiS Spotlight 2 / 2019 by Theocharis Grigoriadis
 (16 January 2019)
- New wave of persecutions against LGBTI* people in Chechnya
 ZOiS Spotlight 3 / 2019 by Regina Elsner (23 January 2019)
- Hungary's winter of discontent
 ZOiS Spotlight 4 / 2019 by Dorothee Bohle
 (30 January 2019)
- Memory laws and Polish voices from abroad ZOiS Spotlight 5 / 2019 by Félix Krawatzek (6 February 2019)
- ► Shifting perspective: Chechnya from within ZOiS Spotlight 6/2019 by Nina Frieß (13 February 2019)

- The Moldovan parliamentary elections and the Transnistria conflict
 ZOiS Spotlight 7/2019 by Sabine von Löwis (20 February 2019)
- Four years of the Eurasian Economic Union: an economic flop?
 ZOiS Spotlight 8/2019 by Ann-Sophie Gast (27 February 2019)
- Revolution in Armenia: before and after the elections ZOiS Spotlight 9 / 2019 by Gayane Shagoyan (6 March 2019)
- Crimea: the interface between politics and culture ZOiS Spotlight 10/2019 by Tatjana Hofmann (13 March 2019)
- ➤ The life and death of the Russian blog ZOiS Spotlight 11 / 2019 by Gernot Howanitz (20 March 2019)
- The mood in Ukraine's Donbas ahead of the presidential election
 ZOiS Spotlight 12 / 2019 by Gwendolyn Sasse (27 March 2019)
- ➤ The European culture wars

 ZOiS Spotlight 13 / 2019 by Kristina Stöckl (3 April 2019)
- Grand strategies and natural limitations in the Russian Arctic
 ZOiS Spotlight 14/2019 by Nadja Douglas
- Nursultan Nazarbayev: Strategic withdrawal by increments?
 ZOiS Spotlight 15 / 2019 by Beate Eschment (17 April 2019)

(10 April 2019)

- Commemorating the Armenian Genocide after the Velvet Revolution
 ZOiS Spotlight 16 / 2019 by Tsypylma Darieva (24 April 2019)
- ▶ Jazz, Soviet culture, and the limits of a bipolar world ZOiS Spotlight 17 / 2019 by Michel Abeßer (30 April 2019)
- ► The present and future of post-Soviet war commemoration ZOiS Spotlight 18 / 2019 by Mischa Gabowitsch (8 May 2019)
- The European refugee crisis and refugee protection in Poland
 ZOiS Spotlight 19/2019 by Karolina Lukasiewicz (15 May 2019)
- ► What does Europe mean for young Poles? ZOiS Spotlight 20 / 2019 by Félix Krawatzek (22 May 2019)
- The Orthodox Churches in Ukraine in the wake of the election campaign
 ZOiS Spotlight 21 / 2019 by Regina Elsner (29 May 2019)

- 'From Belgrade and Pristina, with love'
 ZOiS Spotlight 22 / 2019 by Eva Kowollik (5 June 2019)
- Kazakhstan risks a frozen conflict on the domestic policy front
 ZOiS Spotlight 23 / 2019 by Sebastian Schiek (12 June 2019)
- Russia's three fronts of civil society
 ZOiS Spotlight 24/2019 by Andrei Kolesnikov
 (19 June 2019)
- Moldova's political crisis and its aftershocks
 ZOiS Spotlight 25 / 2019 by Nadja Douglas
 (26 June 2019)
- Civil and political turmoil in Georgia
 ZOiS Spotlight 26 / 2019 by Diana Bogishvili
 (3 July 2019)
- ► Fairytales with a critical twist

 ZOiS Spotlight 27 / 2019 by Nina Frieß (10 July 2019)
- What Poland sees in the Three Seas Initiative
 ZOiS Spotlight 28/2019 by George Soroka (17 July 2019)
- Ukraine's balancing act
 ZOiS Spotlight 29 / 2019 by Balázs Jarábik (24 July 2019)
- ► The end of the INF Treaty: what does it mean for Europe? ZOiS Spotlight 30 / 2019 by Ulrich Kühn (31 July 2019)
- Only losers in Kyrgyzstan
 ZOiS Spotlight 31/2019 by Beate Eschment
 (28 August 2019)
- ► Academic freedom under pressure in Hungary ZOiS Spotlight 32 / 2019 by Péter Balogh (4 September 2019)
- Russian media and climate change in the Arctic ZOiS Spotlight 33 / 2019 by Dmitry Yagodin (11 September 2019)
- ► The Eastern Partnership at ten: a major flop? ZOiS Spotlight 34 / 2019 by Nikoloz Tokhvadze (18 September 2019)
- ► A 'quite recent' event? Young Poles' awareness of history ZOiS Spotlight 35 / 2019 by Nadja Sieffert (25 September 2019)
- ► Poverty in Russia

 ZOiS Spotlight 36 / 2019 by Martin Brand
 (2 October 2019)
- The Cold War as narrative? Old representations and new emotions
 ZOiS Spotlight 37 / 2019 by Christoph Creutziger und Paul Reuber (9 October 2019)
- ▶ Defining borders online: Russia's sovereign Internet bill ZOiS Spotlight 38 / 2019 by Anna Litvinenko (16 October 2019)
- ► A show of power by Georgia's ruling party ZOiS Spotlight 39 / 2019 by Diana Bogishvili (23 October 2019)

- Secularism and Islam: new religious education in Azerbaijan
 ZOiS Spotlight 40/2019 by Tsypylma Darieva (30 October 2019)
- ➤ 30 years after the German-Polish reconciliation mass ZOiS Spotlight 41 / 2019 by Gregor Feindt (6 November 2019)
- Rap in Kyrgyz
 ZOiS Spotlight 42 / 2019 by Florian Coppenrath (13 November 2019)
- Publishing in Kazakhstan: new ways for writers
 ZOiS Spotlight 43 / 2019 by Nina Frieß
 (20 November 2019)
- Lukashenka's regime: rooted in youth summer camps?
 ZOiS Spotlight 44/2019 by Kristiina Silvan
 (27 November 2019)
- Peace building in the Eastern Partnership: what roles for Russia and the EU?
 ZOiS Spotlight 45 / 2019 by Elkhan Nuriyev (4 December 2019)
- Life between two worlds: labour migrants in Russia ZOiS Spotlight 46/2019 by Tsypylma Darieva (11 December 2019)
- Croatia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union: new impetus for the Balkans
 ZOiS Spotlight 47 / 2019 by Carolin Leutloff-Grandits (18 December 2019)

▶ Podcast: Roundtable Osteuropa

- Die Ukraine vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen Roundtable Osteuropa 1/2019 (12 March 2019) With Regina Elsner and Gwendolyn Sasse. Chair: Julia Langbein.
- Political Remittances Migration und der Transfer politischer Ideen
 Roundtable Osteuropa 2/2019 (2 April 2019)
 With Lea Müller-Funk and Magdalena Nowicka.
 Chair: Félix Krawatzek.
- Armenien: Ein Jahr nach der "samtenen Revolution" Roundtable Osteuropa 3/2019 (18 April 2019)
 With Nadja Douglas and Silvia Stöber.
 Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse.
- Russophone (Pop-)Culture Roundtable Osteuropa 4/2019 (16 May 2019) With Naomi Caffee and Konstantin Kaminskij. Chair: Nina Frieß.
- Proteste in Georgien
 Roundtable Osteuropa 5/2019 (5 July 2019)
 With Diana Bogishvili and Tsypylma Darieva.
 Chair: Regina Elsner.



- Auf dem Weg zu einem neuen Kasachstan? Roundtable Osteuropa 6/2019 (26 July 2019) With Beate Eschment and Sebastian Schiek. Chair: Nina Frieß.
- ▶ Studying post-socialism. Do we need new concepts? Roundtable Osteuropa 7/2019 (5 September 2019) With Margarita Balmaceda, Juliane Fürst and Tatjana Thelen. Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse.
- Proteste in Russland: Die Situation nach den Wahlen Roundtable Osteuropa 8 / 2019 (27 September 2019) With Janis Kluge and Félix Krawatzek. Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse.
- Belarus: Vorschau auf die Parlamentswahl
 Roundtable Osteuropa 9/2019 (13 November 2019)
 With Adam Busuleanu and Nadja Douglas.
 Chair: Félix Krawatzek.
- Belarus after the elections: the role of youth in politics Roundtable Osteuropa 10/2019 (6 December 2019)
 With Félix Krawatzek and Maryia Rohava.
 Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse.
- Wissenschaftskommunikation: Der Schlüssel zum Elfenbeinturm?
 Roundtable Osteuropa 11/2019 (19 December 2019)
 With Nina Frieß and Josef Zens. Chair: Stefanie Orphal.

▶ Zentralasien-Analysen

- Usbekistans Afghanistan-Politik
 Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 133 with a contribution
 by Azam Isabaev (22 February 2019)
- Russlands Macht in Kirgistan/Kasachstan im Übergangsmodus
 Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 134 with a contribution by Stefanie Ortmann (26 April 2019)
- Gendergerechtigkeit und nationale Traditionen im Konflikt/Vorgezogene Präsidentschaftswahl in Kasachstan
 Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 135 with a contribution by Hélène Thibault (28 June 2019)
- Ujghuren im chinesisch-kasachstanischen Grenzgebiet Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 136 with a contribution by Verena La Mela (26 July 2019)
- Zentralasien und die Seidenstraße
 Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 137 with a contribution by Richard Pomfret (27 September 2019)
- Berichterstattung über öffentliche Proteste in Kasachstan Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 138 with a contribution by Heiko Pleines (29 November 2019)

ZOiS in the Media

- Katholische Welt: Nationalismus spaltet orthodoxe Christenheit
 Bayerischer Rundfunk / Bayern 2 (6 January 2019)
 In a radio report, Regina Elsner talks about the church controversy in Ukraine (German).
- Patriarch von Konstantinopel erkennt neue Orthodoxe Kirche der Ukraine an
 Die Welt (6 January 2019)
 Regina Elsner comments on the approval of the new Orthodox Church in Ukraine by the Ecumenical
 Patriarchate of Constantinople (German).
- Führe sie nicht in Versuchung
 Profil (13 January 2019)
 An article in the print version of the Austrian news magazine Profil focuses on the Ukrainian autocephaly.
 With an assessment by Regina Elsner (German).
- Почему антикитайские митинги сулят головную боль Бишкеку
 Deutsche Welle (18 January 2019)
 Beate Eschment comments on the anti-Chinese protests in Kyrgyzstan (Russian).
- Zwischen Transformation und Illusion: Wie umgreifend ist der Reformkurs in Usbekistan?
 Ostpol (21 January 2019)
 Ostpol discusses Uzbekistan's new reform course under president Mirziyoyev. With an assessment by Beate Eschment (German).
- ► Darmstädter Gespräch: Freund oder Feind eine Russlandreise Hessischer Rundfunk/hr2 Kultur (3 February 2019) At the Staatstheater Darmstadt, Gwendolyn Sasse and other guests discuss Germany's relationship with Russia (German).
- ► Ukrainian Society Ahead of the Elections Carnegie Europe (7 February 2019) In Judy Dempsey's Blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn Sasse analyses attitudes of the Ukrainian society on a number of politically salient identity issues in the run-up to the elections (English).
- 10 Jahre Patriarch Kirill ein Rückblick auf seine bisherige Amtszeit
 Nachrichtendienst Östliche Kirchen (7 February 2019)
 Regina Elsner reviews the ten-year term of Patriarch Kirill (German).

- Putin und der Patriarch vereint zu alter Größe?
 Hessischer Rundfunk/hr Info (16 February 2019)
 In a Funkkolleg podcast, Regina Elsner comments on the linkage of politics and church in Russia (German).
- ▶ 1954: Chrustschow schenkt Krim der Ukraine
 Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk / MDR Kultur
 (19 February 2019)
 In the radio programme 'Kalenderblatt' of radio mdr
 Kultur, Gwendolyn Sasse puts Crimea's transfer to the
 Ukrainian SSR under Khrushchev in its historical context
 (German).
- Vote of confidence
 Monocle (21 February 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse comments on Canada's observation
 mission at the presidential election in Ukraine 2019
 (English).
- ► EU-kritische Parteien vor EP-Wahl: Mit oder ohne Orban?

 Deutschlandfunk (27 February 2019)

 Gwendolyn Sasse takes part in the radio programme

 'Zur Diskussion' with Stephan Detjen, Péter Balázs

 and Bernd Posselt (German).
- Die "Russische Welt" lockt nicht alle
 Zeitzeichen (1 March 2019)
 Regina Elsner writes about the latest developments of
 the church controversy in Ukraine (German).
- Ukraine: What Comes After the Presidential Election? Carnegie Europe (7 March 2019) Gwendolyn Sasse comments on what might be expected in Ukraine after the presidential elections in March and why Europe and the United States should pay closer attention to Ukrainian politics (English).
- The Globalist Monocle (13 March 2019) In an interview for Monocle's online news programme 'The Globalist', Gwendolyn Sasse gives an assessment of the situation in Ukraine before the presidential elections (English).
- Wirft die EVP Orban raus?
 WDR (20 March 2019)
 For WDR's news broadcast 'Aktuelle Stunde', Gwendolyn Sasse comments on the EPPs possible suspension of Orbán's Fidesz party (German).

 Что будет в Украине после президентских выборов?

Deutsche Welle (26 March 2019)

In the run-up to the presidential election in Ukraine, ZOiS held an expert talk. Deutsche Welle reports on the event, quoting Gwendolyn Sasse (Russian).

Ukraine's presidential elections: out with the old in with the new?

Monocle (27 March 2019)

Ahead of the presidential election in Ukraine, Gwendolyn Sasse answers the question of whether Petro Poroshenko has done enough to stay in power (English).

Vor der Wahl in der Ukraine: Welcher Kandidat hat die größten Siegchancen?

Tagesschau (29 March 2019)

In an interview for the TV news programme Tagesschau, Gwendolyn Sasse comments on political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky (German).

- Präsidentschaftswahlen in der Ukraine: Fernsehkomiker Selenski ohne Programm Südwestrundfunk/SWR2 (1 April 2019) In a radio programme, Gwendolyn Sasse evaluates the election results in Ukraine (German).
- Präsidentschaftswahlen in der Ukraine inforadio rbb (1 April 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse talks about the relationship between Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoyskyi and presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelensky (German).
- Кому на пользу спешка в избрании президента в
 Казахстане
 Deutsche Welle (9 April 2019)
 Beate Eschment comments on the announcement of
 snap elections in Kazakhstan (Russian).
- Российские немцы опора правых популистов в в пред

Deutsche Welle (13 April 2019)

Deutsche Welle reports on the ZOiS Forum event on the mobilisation of post-Soviet migrants and the ZOiS Report 2/2018 by Tatiana Golova (Russian).

▶ The Globalist

Monocle (15 April 2019)

In an interview, Gwendolyn Sasse speaks about recent developments concerning the election in Ukraine (English).

Soll ich dir ein Märchen erzählen?
 Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (17 April 2019)
 In a guest contribution, Taissiya Sutormina writes about the ZOiS event 'Kazakhstani Fairytales' (German).

Казахстан-Киргизия: кто завладеет китайским транзитом?

Deutsche Welle (17 April 2019)

Beate Eschment comments on the recent tariff conflict between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (Russian).

- "Украинцы устали от коррупции" немецкие эксперты о выборах в Украине
 Deutsche Welle (22 April 2019)
 In an interview, Gwendolyn Sasse comments on the outcome of the presidential election in Ukraine (Russian).
- What Does Zelenskiy's Victory Say About Ukraine? Carnegie Europe (23 April 2019) In Judy Dempsey's Blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn Sasse writes about Volodymyr Zelensky's victory at the presidential elections in Ukraine (English).
- Wozu russische Pässe für die Ostukraine? Deutsche Welle (25 April 2019) Gwendolyn Sasse comments on Russia's decree, which will make it easier for citizens of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics to obtain Russian citizenship (German / Russian).
- Lessons learnt from the Eastern Partnership
 New Eastern Europe (2 May 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse analyses the development of the
 Eastern Partnership in the past ten years and gives an outlook on possible future developments (English).
- Russland: Machtpolitik mit Pässen Deutschlandfunk (7 June 2019) In a radio report, Gwendolyn Sasse assesses the simplified procedure to obtain a Russian passport for residents of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic (German).
- "Paschinjan muss mit den alten Eliten zusammenarbeiten"

Caucasus Watch (10 June 2019)

In an interview with Caucasus Watch, Nadja Douglas focuses on the domestic and foreign policy problems of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (German / English).

Proteste in Russland: Gegen Willkür, nicht gegen das System

Tagesschau.de (12 June 2019)

Gwendolyn Sasse comments on the arrest of Russian investigative journalist Ivan Golunov (German).

Что изменили в Казахстане президентские выборы?

Deutsche Welle (12 June 2019)

Beate Eschment comments on the situation after the presidential election in Kazakhstan (Russian).

- Taking Stock of Zelenskiy's Presidency Carnegie Europe (18 June 2019) In Judy Dempsey's Blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn Sasse argues that Zelensky's true colours will come through only after Ukraine's parliamentary election (English).
- Wenn Putin sich im Vatikan als Hüter "traditioneller Werte" empfiehlt, zwingt er den Papst zu einem Eiertanz Neue Zürcher Zeitung (4 July 2019) A guest commentary by Regina Elsner on the impending meeting between Russian president Vladimir Putin and Pope Francis (German).
- ► Judy Asks: Is Liberal Democracy Obsolete?
 Carnegie Europe (4 July 2019)
 In Judy Dempsey's blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn
 Sasse comments on Vladimir Putin's statement that
 liberal democracy was obsolete (English).
- Обвинения экс-президенту Атамбаеву создают проблемы властям Киргизии
 Deutsche Welle (12 July 2019)
 Beate Eschment comments on the consequences of the elimination of immunity of former Kyrgyz president Almazbek Atambayev (Russian).
- ► Как новая глава Еврокомиссии Урсула фон дер Ляйен относится к России? Deutsche Welle (16 July 2019) Nadja Douglas comments on the EU-Russia relations in case Ursula von der Leyen should become president of European Commission (Russian).
- ► A New Start for the Ukrainian Parliament
 Carnegie Europe (23 July 2019)
 In Judy Dempsey's Blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn
 Sasse reviews the unprecedented elite turnover after
 the Ukrainian parliamentary election (English).
- One out of five Russians wants to leave the country.
 Here's who they are.
 Washington Post (12 August 2019)
 In an article for Monkey Cage, Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse explore in what way transnational links matter for domestic and international political preferences of youth in Russia (English).
- Serebrjanskijs Märchenwald
 Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (16 August 2019)
 In an interview, Nina Frieß speaks about her latest
 ZOiS Report "Kasachstanische Märchen" (German).
- Russland n\u00e4her kommen trotz Sanktionen?
 WDR5 (19 August 2019)
 For the radio programme 'Politikum', Gwendolyn Sasse comments on the meeting of Emmanuel Macron and Vladimir Putin (German).

- Most Donbas residents see themselves as part of Ukraine – German research
 Ukrinform (27 August 2019)
 Ukrinform refers to the survey results of the ZOiS Report 3/2019 on changes in public opinion in the Donbas region (English).
- ▶ Большинство жителей Донбасса считают непризнанные "ДНР" и "ЛНР" частью Украины Deutsche Welle (27 August 2019)

 Deutsche Welle reports on the results of the ZOiS survey in the Donbas region (Russian).
- ► Eastern Ukraine Isn't Really That Separatist
 Bloomberg und Moscow Times (28 August 2019)
 Based on the ZOiS Report 3/2019, Bloomberg and the
 Moscow Times publish an article on the public mood
 in the Donbas (English).
- Освобождение Омурбека Текебаева. Станет ли опальный политик союзником президента Киргизии?
 Deutsche Welle (31 August 2019)
 Beate Eschment gives an assessment of the current situation in Kyrgyzstan (Russian).
- Young Russians are losing trust in Putin's regime and thinking of leaving the country The Conversation (6 September 2019) Gwendolyn Sasse and Félix Krawatzek analyse the results of the ZOiS survey among young Russians (English).
- Zivilgesellschaftliche Bewegungen in Osteuropa:
 Aufbruch Ost?
 Detektor.fm (8 September 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse is guest on a podcast episode by
 Piqd discussing the question of whether the image of
 Eastern Europe is still valid in 2019 (German).
- Judy Asks: Is the Détente Between Ukraine and Russia Real?
 Carnegie Europe (12 September 2019)
 In Judy Dempsey's Blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn
 - In Judy Dempsey's Blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn Sasse gives an assessment of the détente between Ukraine and Russia (English).
- Конфликт на границе Таджикистана и Киргизии: каковы истинные причины?
 Deutsche Welle (18 September 2019)
 Beate Eschment comments on the background of the growing tensions at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border (Russian).
- Raport: Polska młodzież niechętna głównym partiom, mediom i Kościołowi Deutsche Welle (19 September 2019) Deutsche Welle reports on the results of the ZOiS Report 4/2019 on youth in Poland by Félix Krawatzek (polnisch).

- Who Is Who in the Ukrainian Parliament? Carnegie Europe (24 September 2019). In Judy Dempsey's blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn Sasse looks into the background of members of the Ukrainian parliament (English).
- Crisis in Polish Catholicism: only 7% of youth 'fully trust' the Church
 Novena (25 September 2019)
 The news website Novena reports on the declining trust of young Poles in the Catholic Church based on the ZOiS Report 4/2019 by Félix Krawatzek (English).
- "Ніщо так не об'єднує сусідів, як огорожа між ними"
 Vgolos (27 September 2019)
 Curator Jerzy Onuch gives an interview about the photo exhibition 'Obabich' in Lviv that was organised in cooperation with ZOiS (Ukrainian).
- Geschichtspolitik und historische Bildung in Polen Dialog Forum (27 September 2019) Historian Krzysztof Ruchniewicz describes the historical image of young people in Poland. The text is based on the ZOiS Report 4/2019 by Félix Krawatzek and the ZOiS Spotlight 35/2019 by Nadja Sieffert (Polish/German).
- МИД ФРГ: "Формула Штайнмайера" это только один фрагмент пазла
 Deutsche Welle (2 October 2019)
 Deutsche Welle reports on the so-called Steinmeier Formula, with comments by Gwendolyn Sasse (Russian).
- Conflict resolution is long-term process that requires appropriate political conditions First Channel (6 October 2019) Gwendolyn Sasse talks about German president Frank-Walter Steinmeier's visit to Georgia and the prospects for a solution of the territorial conflict between Georgia and Russia (English).
- Ukraines Präsident Selenskyj ein Diener des Volkes? inforadio rbb (13 October 2019) For a radio report, Gwendolyn Sasse summarises the first months of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky (German).
- Fenster auf nach Westen Weissrussland sucht sich vorsichtig aus der russischen Umklammerung zu lösen Neue Zürcher Zeitung (14 November 2019) In a guest commentary, Félix Krawatzek gives an insight into the relationship between Belarus and Russia (German).

- "Das Moratorium hat seinen Sinn verfehlt" REPORTER (15 November 2019) In an interview, Sabine von Löwis talks about the Ukrainian agricultural sector and the possibilities of reforming it (German).
 - What Hope for Ukraine and the Normandy Four Summit?
 Carnegie Europe (19 November 2019)
 In Judy Dempsey's blog Strategic Europe, Gwendolyn Sasse writes about the meeting of the 'Normandy Four' in Paris in early December (English).
- Russlanddeutsche Tradition, Freiheit, Frust
 ZDFinfo (24 November 2019)
 As part of a documentary, Tatiana Golova gives an interview about Russian Germans (German).
- Ukraine talks promise slim hope of peace with Russia Financial Times (8 December 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse is quoted in an article about the Normandy Format talks (English).
- Ein wenig präsenter Krieg taz (9 December 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse comments on the talks taking place during the Ukraine summit (German).
- Gwendolyn Sasse, Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien, zum Ukraine-Gipfel
 Tagesschau (10 December 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse gives her assessment of the results of the Ukraine summit (German).
- "Ein wichtiges und konkretes Ergebnis"
 ZDF Mittagsmagazin (10 December 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse gives her assessment of the results of the Ukraine summit (German).
- Ergebnisse des Normandie-Gipfels: die Sicht aus Berlin Ukraine verstehen and Atlantic Council (11 December 2019) Gwendolyn Sasse comments on the results of the Ukraine summit for 'Ukraine verstehen' (German) and 'Atlantic Council' (English).
- Vorsichtige Annäherung zwischen Moskau und Kiew
 Der Hauptstadtbrief (15 December 2019)
 Gwendolyn Sasse takes stock of the talks at the Ukraine summit (German).



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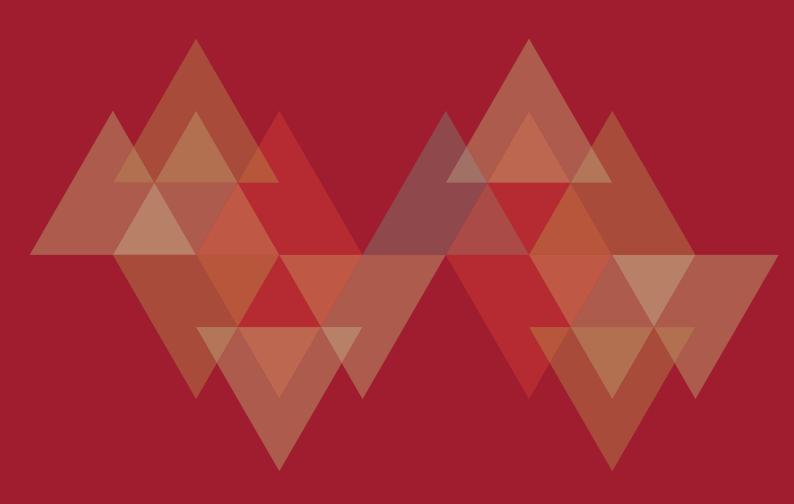
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