



Program Overview

Interdisciplinary Junior Conference: BEYOND EMPIRES – Focus on Eastern Europe

When: October 9–10, 2025

Where: Eastern Europe Institute Berlin, Garystraße 55, 14195 Berlin

Day 1 – October 9, 2025

Imperial past: history, actors, narratives

09:30 – 10:00 | Arrival & Registration

10:00 – 10:30 | Welcome – Room A (Main Hall)

- Welcome by the conference team
- **Prof. Dr. Robert Kindler** (Institute for Eastern European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin)
- **Dr. Sebastian Lambertz** (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, DGO)

10:30 – 11:00 | Keynote – Room A (Main Hall)

- **Dr. Ekaterina Schulmann:** *The Skeleton of Empires*
(approx. 20 min presentation + Q&A)

11:00 – 11:15 | Coffee Break

**11:15 – 12:15 | Session I – Strategies of Power: Diplomacy, Ideology, and Intelligence
(Parallel Presentations)**

- **Room A (Main Hall)**

Panel & Discussion: **Fernanda Gomez:** *In and Out of Moscow: World Youth Festivals and Soviet Cultural Diplomacy toward the Global South* (ENG)

- Chair: **Yuliia Kotvytska**
- With **Dr. Tobias Rupprecht** (Head of Research Group 'Peripheral Liberalism' at the Cluster of Excellence 'Contestations of the Liberal Script' „SCRIPTS“) and another external guest (to be announced)
- Format: 15 min input + 45 min discussion

- **Room B (Seminar Room):**

1. **Gvantsa Abramishvili:** *Geopolitische Denkmuster im Migrationsdiskurs: Karl Haushofers Einfluss auf Alexander Nikuradze* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
 2. **Emilio Büchner:** *Doppelte Front im Geheimen: Zur Wirkung der institutionellen Konkurrenz zwischen KGB und GRU im Kalten Krieg* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
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12:15 – 13:45 | Lunch Break

With art exhibitions, posters, and further information:

- **Josephine Hermann:** Geschichte als Waffe: Erinnerungspolitik im heutigen Polen
 - Posters from the seminar Osteuropa postkolonial/dekolonial
 - Information desk
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13:45 – 14:00 | Introduction to the Afternoon Program – Room A (Main Hall)

- **Dr. Irina Scherbakowa:** *Erinnern ist Widerstand*

14:00 – 15:00 | Session II – Politics of Memory and Narratives of the Past (Parallel Presentations)

- **Room A (Main Hall):**

Panel & Discussion: **Manvel Asratian:** *Russländische Erinnerungspolitik über die UdSSR in Geschichtslehrbüchern: von Jelzin bis Putin* (DEU)

- Chair: **Arthur Molt**
- With **Dr. Irina Scherbakowa** (Historian, Co-Founder of Memorial) and **Dr. Jörg Morré** (Historian, Director of the Museum Berlin Karlshorst)
- Format: 15 min input + 45 min discussion

- **Room B (Seminar Room):**

1. **Svenja Carina Castrup:** *(Re)writing History – A.K. Tolstoy's Knjaz' Serebrjannyj* (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
 2. **Sophie Hinz:** *Polen in deutschen Schulgeschichtsbüchern* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
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15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30 | Session III – Shaping Societies between Borders and Beliefs: Migration, Religion, and Culture (Working Title)

- **Room A (Main Hall):**

Panel & Discussion: **Ali Adnan Chaudry:** *Faith, Fear, and Freedom: Post-Imperial Trauma and Human Rights in Muslim Communities of Eastern Europe* (ENG)

- Chair: **Marina Milić**
- With **Niels von Redecker** (Head of the Western Balkans Division, German Foreign Office) and **Armin Begić** (Project Manager, Post-Migrant Alliances Program, Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe)
- Format: 15 min input + 45 min discussion



- **Room B (Seminar Room):**

1. **Daniel Prüß:** *Ihor Kostec'kyj im transnationalen Spannungsfeld der ukrainischen Emigration während und nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
 2. **Ella Sadigh:** *Der kleine Gast am Sonntag und der große Gast in Polen – Gefühlsregeln für katholische Jugendliche in der Zeit Johannes Pauls II.* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
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16:30 | Closing Remarks – Room A (Main Hall) – approx. 15 min

17:00 – 18:00 | Evening Program: Film screening with a selection from the Central Asian Short Film Festival

Day 2 – October 10, 2025

The post-imperial era? The present and future between emancipation and influence

09:30 – 10:00 | Arrival & Registration

10:00 – 10:45 | Keynote

- **Ani Menua and Julia Boxler** from X3: Who speaks?
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10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 | Session I – Soft and Hard Power in Global Competition (Parallel Presentations)

- **Room A (Main Hall):**

Panel & Discussion: **Amina Alish:** *Wie russische Medien durch Legitimationsdiskurse eine alternative Realität konstruieren* (DEU)

- Chair: **Zoë Klee**
- With **Mirko Kruppa** (Head of Citizens' Dialogue and Domestic Communication on Germany's Foreign Policy, German Foreign Office) and digitally joined **Anastasiia Tikhomirova** (journalist, moderator, and lecturer at Die Zeit)
- Format: 15 min input + 45 min discussion

- **Room B (Seminar Room):**

1. **Dominik Danelski:** *From Subject to Actor: Poland's Relations with Rwanda as an Example of Eastern Europe's Post-Colonial Soft Power* (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
2. **Olga Kiseleva-Kuvshinskaia:** *The Minsk Accords: A Peace Agreement Drafted in the Spirit of Empire* (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)



12:00 – 12:15 | Coffee Break

12:15 – 13:15 | Session II – Imperial Presents (Parallel Presentations & Workshop)

- **Room A (Main Hall):**

Panel & Discussion: **Emilia Huppenberger**: *Tavisupleba – Georgiens Kampf um Freiheit* (DEU)

- Chair: **Julia Schneider**
- With **Giorgi Kakabadze** (founder and member of the Georgian Center Abroad GZA Europe) and another guest (to be announced)
- Format: 15 min input + 45 min discussion

- **Room B (Seminar Room):**

1. **Tim Wenzel**: *Making Gagauzia – Nationalitätenkonstruktion in der Alltagswelt* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
2. **Olha Lushankina**: “I will not be a beggar” – Impact of Full-Time Paid Employment on Return Intentions of Ukrainian Refugees in Germany (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)

- **Room C (Seminar Room):**

Workshop by **Savannah Helena Alphonso**: *Reframing Power: An interactive Workshop on Strategic Communication in International Affairs* (ENG/GER) – max. 10 participants

13:15 – 14:20 | Lunch Break

With art exhibitions and information desk:

- **Emilia Huppenberger**: Photo Exhibition *Tavisupleba – Georgiens Kampf um Freiheit*
- Posters from the seminar Osteuropa postkolonial/dekolonial
- Information desk

14:20 – 14:30 | Introduction to the Afternoon Program

- **Presentation** “What does the Young DGO?”

14:30 – 15:30 | Session III – Ideologies and Resistance: Right-Wing Narratives, Imperiality and Subaltern Practices (Parallel Presentations)

- **Room A (Main Hall):**

Panel & Discussion: **Janek Magister**: *Die Sehnsucht nach östlichen ‚Heldensagen‘ – Die Neue Rechte und der Russland-Ukraine-Krieg* (DEU)

- Chair: **Moritz Wendlinger**
- With **Dr. Sabine Volk** (Research Associate at IRex, Political Actors and Ideologies, University of Tübingen) and another external guests (to be announced)
- Format: 15 min input + 45 min discussion



- **Room B (Seminar Room):**

1. **Marina Solntseva:** *Imperiale Aitiologie – Contemporary Russian Imperiality* (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
2. **Vortrag** *Contours of Resistance: Examining Artistic Practices of Russia's Subalterns* (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)

15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15 | Session IV – Ukraine in the Spotlight of Global Reporting: Between the Front Lines and the Newsroom

1. **Finn Beholz:** *Gewalt als Mittel imperialer Integration – Die Maidan-Berichterstattung der Ukrainian Weekly* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
2. **Luca Lang and Pauline Hille:** *Lokales Wissen in globaler Berichterstattung: (Macht-) Dynamiken zwischen lokalen Produzent:innen und deutschen Auslandskorrespondent:innen im Ukraine-Krieg* (DEU) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)
3. **Liam McArdle:** *Musikalische Solidarität in der Ukraine in Kriegszeiten* (ENG) – 30 min (approx. 15 min presentation + Q&A)

From 17:15 | Closing Remarks & Reception – Room A (Main Hall)

- Closing remarks by the organizing team
- Music by **Beachtown Exile**

With support from the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, the German Association for East European Studies, The Schwarzkopf-Stiftung Junges Europa and more partners to be announced



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