



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword

Dear Friends of ZOiS,

After 2022, which felt like a year of unaccustomed extremes, 2023 showed us that we can and must acclimatise to a new level of ongoing political intensity, with associated challenges for our work. Russia's war against Ukraine and its impacts continue to dominate our activities, while other worrying political developments in the Middle East and, indeed, in Europe have additionally emerged.

Nonetheless, our institutional development continued apace in 2023. The very successful completion of our first academic evaluation is, in our view, a seal of quality attesting to our contribution to German and international research on Eastern Europe, as well as to our pro-active research com-



munication. The evaluation marked the end of ZOiS's development phase – and, simultaneously, the start of a new period of consolidation in which we will be reviewing our internal processes, with a focus on organisational develop-

ment, to ensure they are suitable for an institution which now has some 70 staff. A more ambitious task is the development of our second medium-term research plan and ZOiS's strategic orientation for the period 2024–2030.

In the research context, the highlights in 2023 included the various activities undertaken in the framework of our wide-ranging externally funded projects: the *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (KonKoop)* research network, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), with *In:security* as a new KonKoop theme; our now well-established *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)*, which aims to strengthen research in and on Ukraine; the *MoveMeRU* project, which is funded by the European Research Council and investigates intergenerational transmission of historical narratives among migrants; and the ongoing BMBF-funded joint project *De:link//Re:link*, which explores local perspectives on infrastructure initiatives with Chinese involvement within our region of research. And at the end of the year, ZOiS's proposal to establish the *Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-War Movements (ERDAM)* research network was approved by the German Foundation for Peace Research.

The scale of our success in securing external project funding tells us that our research resonates and is relevant in Germany, Europe and beyond. On issues of research ethics, too, we were able to position ZOiS favourably in 2023 and plan to broaden the focus in future.

We hope you will continue to take an interest in our work and are most grateful for all your support until now.

PROF. GWENDOLYN SASSE
Director

DR CHRISTIAN SCHLEICH
Managing Director

The logo consists of a solid red triangle pointing to the right, with the text 'ZOiS' centered inside it. The background of the entire page is a dark red color with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent circles and thin, light-colored lines.

ZOiS

The Institute

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

Eastern Europe is in a state of flux. The importance of dedicated regional research undertaken in long-term projects for providing the necessary profound knowledge is clearer today than ever before. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine underscores the value of our nuanced view of a region that defies common assumptions and ascriptions. A comprehensive and multi- or interdisciplinary approach is needed to capture and convey the diversity and dynamics of the region, including its entanglements.

Russia's war on Ukraine is a watershed that presents major challenges not only to political actors worldwide but also to researchers. Data collection has become difficult or impossible in some cases, and cooperations have been terminated, adapted or newly established. As yet, we can only guess at the dimensions of the consequences of the war. Only high-quality regional research across a wide range of academic disciplines can rise to these challenges and provide crucial impetus for research, politics and public discourse.

Thematic focus

As an independent institute, ZOiS sets its own research agenda. The topics chosen for its research priorities and projects reflect its aim of exploring and awakening interest in various aspects of Eastern Europe, with topical relevance and background analysis carrying equal weight here. However, we also think it is important to show that Eastern Europe is not confined to the eastern part of our continent but is present in diverse forms in this country too, for example through migration or migrant activism.

The development of our five research clusters at ZOiS is well under way. Our researchers' individual projects fall within five main topic areas: *Societies between Stability and*

Change; Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions; Migration and Diversity; Youth and Generational Change; and Political Economy and Integration. 'Eastern Europe' is defined in broad terms and encompasses the post-Soviet space as well as Eastern and Central Europe.

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

Our vision

Detailed in-country studies are a key element of the basic research conducted at ZOiS. We combine qualitative and quantitative methods, use interviews, surveys and text analysis, and adopt innovative methods in our fieldwork, for example by engaging with artistic research.

However, ZOiS's work does not begin and end with research. Our aim is to contribute to and inform public debate and current discourses and offer new perspectives on – and from – Eastern Europe. ZOiS researchers regularly share their findings with policymakers, the media and an interested public, using a variety of events and publication formats for this purpose. Research on Eastern Europe relies on new perspectives and a willingness to engage with unconventional topics. Supporting young academics is also a priority for ZOiS here.

For ZOiS, Eastern Europe is more than just a subject of research. We actively engage with the research being produced in the region itself and collaborate with Eastern European and international scholars on publications and events, for example.

And lastly, ZOiS sees itself as a place for networking and exchange for universities, research institutes, think tanks, foundations and other organisations with a connection to Eastern Europe.

Staff



MANAGEMENT

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

SENIOR RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCHERS

- ▶ **Diana Bogishvili**
Sociologist
- ▶ **PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva**
Social Anthropologist
Head of Research Cluster *Migration and Diversity*
- ▶ **Dr Ivaylo Dinev**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Nadja Douglas**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Claudia Eggart**
Social Anthropologist
- ▶ **Prof. Regina Elsner**
Theologian
(Affiliated Researcher from April 2023)
- ▶ **Dr Beate Eschment**
Central Asia Expert
- ▶ **Kostiantyn Fedorenko**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Nina Friess**
Scholar of Slavic and Literature Studies
- ▶ **Dr Piotr Goldstein**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Tatiana Golova**
Sociologist
- ▶ **Dr Félix Krawatzek**
Political Scientist
Head of Research Cluster *Youth and Generational Change*
- ▶ **Valentin Krüsmann**
Development Economist
- ▶ **Dr Julia Langbein**
Political Scientist
Head of Research Cluster *Political Economy and Integration*
- ▶ **PD Dr Sabine von Löwis**
Social Geographer
Head of Research Cluster *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions*

- ▶ **Dr Hakob Matevosyan**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Irina Mützelburg**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Beril Ocaklı**
Geographer and
Institutional Economist
- ▶ **Lena Pieber**
Political Scientist
- ▶ **Alexandra Prokopenko**
Expert for Economic Policy
and Sociologist
- ▶ **Sophia Winkler**
Social Scientist
- ▶ **Dr Tatiana Zhurzhenko**
Political Scientist

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT / ACADEMIC COORDINATION

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

COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ **Dr Stefanie Orphal**
Communications Director
Press
- ▶ **Stephanie Alberding**
Communications Coordinator
Social Media
- ▶ **Dr Anne Boden**
English-Language Publications
Editor
- ▶ **Iaroslav Boretskii**
Infographic Designer *KonKoop*
- ▶ **Anja Krüger**
Communications Coordinator
Event Management

- ▶ **Yvonne Troll**
Communications Coordinator
Editorial
- ▶ **Hannah Guhlmann**
Trainee
- ▶ **Elena Goerttler-Reck**
Trainee (on parental leave)

ADMINISTRATION

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

EDITORIAL OFFICE ZENTRALASIEN-ANALYSEN

- ▶ **Richard Schmidt**
Editor
- ▶ **Rostam Onsori**
Editor (until March 2023)

VISITING RESEARCHERS

- ▶ **Dr Yuliya Bidenko** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Asel Doolotkeldieva**
- ▶ **Andriy Fert** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Tamar Khoshtaria**
- ▶ **Prof. Ákos Kopper**
- ▶ **Oleg Lutohin**
- ▶ **Prof. Oksana Mikheieva** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Alina Mozolevska** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Tamás Peragovics**
- ▶ **Helen Pidgorna** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Adrián del Río**
- ▶ **Liliia Sablina**
- ▶ **Sezin Şentürk**
- ▶ **Anastasiya Shurenkova** (UNET)
- ▶ **Tetiana Skrypchenko** (UNET)
- ▶ **Dr Malkhaz Toria**

- ▶ **Inna Volosevych** (UNET)
- ▶ **Natalia Zaika** (UNET)
- ▶ **Alena Zelenskaia**
- ▶ **Dr Olena Zinenko** (UNET)

RESEARCH AFFILIATES

- ▶ **Dr Leandra Bias**
- ▶ **Veronika Pfeilschifter**

RESEARCH AND STUDENT ASSISTANTS

- ▶ **Katalin Bayer**
- ▶ **Nodar Etsadashvili**
- ▶ **Franziska Fischer**
- ▶ **Noah Harris**
- ▶ **Joschka Hofmann**
- ▶ **Isabella Hoyer**
- ▶ **Felix Jehn**
- ▶ **Martha Jurowski**
- ▶ **Margarita Kayanja**
- ▶ **Larissa Kokonowskiy**
- ▶ **Alice Lackner**
- ▶ **Verena de Lange**
- ▶ **Domas Lavrukaitis**
- ▶ **Nikol Levova**
- ▶ **Mario Meyer**
- ▶ **Thomas Nawrath**
- ▶ **Alexandra Nowicky**
- ▶ **Eugenia Scanferla**
- ▶ **Tim Wenzel**
- ▶ **Paul Wernig**
- ▶ **Vitus Widmann**
- ▶ **Noah Ziegler**
- ▶ **Jan Philipp Zimmermann**

INTERNS

- ▶ **Tessa Conrardy**
- ▶ **Felix Jehn**
- ▶ **Lavinia Teodorescu**

Visiting Researchers

In 2023, ZOiS was a temporary base for visiting researchers from various regions and disciplines and at various career levels. A new programme funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research since 2023 deserves special mention here: *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)*. It offers scholarships both to Ukrainian researchers who come to ZOiS and to non-residential fellows who stay in Ukraine and continue to conduct their research there.

Dr Adrián del Río was a visiting researcher at ZOiS until September 2023 with funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He was also affiliated with the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and the University of Uppsala. During his time at ZOiS, he focused on his book manuscript on elite divisions within authoritarian governments and published two working papers on the V-Dem Institute, both of which are published in *Comparative Political Studies*.

Dr Asel Doolotkeldieva spent one month at ZOiS as part of the DAAD-funded project *Central Asia: Connecting Protest Research(ers)* with Beate Eschment. She participated in the ZOiS event format *In conversation with...* Her stay at ZOiS was also dedicated to preparing a joint workshop for protest researchers at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

Dr Tamar Khoshtaria, a Senior Researcher at the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) and assistant professor at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia, was at ZOiS from June to August 2023 as part of Georgia's Researchers' Mobility Programme (GRMP), funded by the EU and implemented by DAAD. While at ZOiS, she worked on her research project *Exploring the Migration Experience of Young Georgians in Berlin* and published a *ZOiS Spotlight* on this topic.

Prof. Ákos Kopper has been a visiting researcher at ZOiS since July 2022 with funding provided by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He is on leave from Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Hungary. At ZOiS, he has focused on researching populist foreign policy and taking part in meetings and conferences at the institute.

Oleg Lutohin, the former director of the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Museum in Yekaterinburg, was at ZOiS from November 2022 until the end of 2023. Part of his stay was funded by the *Memory Works* programme of the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany. During his time at ZOiS, he focused on preparing an application for a third-party funded project

focused on the memory of the regime changes in 1989/91 and its relevance for the present challenges to democracies.

Dr Tamás Peragovics is a research fellow at the Institute of World Economics and assistant professor at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Hungary. He was a visiting researcher at ZOiS from April to June 2023 with funding from the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. During his stay, he gave a lecture on the challenges and opportunities of China's engagement in Eastern Europe, presented his paper at the ZOiS internal colloquium, participated in the ZOiS podcast *Roundtable Osteuropa* and published a *ZOiS Spotlight*. He also wrote an article for the journal *OSTEUROPA*.

Liliia Sablina was at ZOiS from April to July 2023 with funding from the Central European University, where she is currently a PhD student. Together with Tatiana Golova, she was working on Russian-language pro-war networks and discourses related to post-Soviet migrants in Germany, with a focus on social media. They also published a *ZOiS Spotlight* together and presented their article at the internal ZOiS colloquium. She participated at the 2023 ZOiS Annual Conference.

Sezin Şentürk is a PhD candidate at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. She visited ZOiS from October to November 2023 via the Erasmus Short-Term Doctoral Traineeship Program. She helped to prepare a questionnaire for the ERC-funded *MoveMeRU* project and supported the project's social media activities. Additionally, she presented an article on Azerbaijani youth's political perspectives at the internal ZOiS colloquium.

Dr Malkhaz Toria is associate professor at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia. He visited ZOiS from June to September 2023 with funding from Georgia's Researchers' Mobility Programme (GRMP). While at ZOiS, he focused on drafting an academic article on the proposed research project *Designing a Conceptual Framework and Practical Tools for Raising Awareness of Georgian-Abkhaz/Ossetian Historical Dialogue among the New Generation of Georgia*. He also participated in two workshops at ZOiS.

Alena Zelenskaia from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich was at ZOiS from April to June 2023. During her stay, she participated in the reading circle of the ERC-funded project *MoveMeRU*, in a workshop in June 2023, and at the 2023 ZOiS Annual Conference.

Dr Yuliya Bidenko is associate professor at Karazin Kharkiv National University. In 2023, she published in various formats, including a *ZOiS Spotlight* on the hidden factors behind Ukrainian resilience. She gave the keynote lecture for a workshop on *Ukraine – Portrait of a European Society* at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). She also participated in conferences, workshops and other events such as the BASEES-ZOiS round table at the British Association for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies Annual Conference.

Andriy Fert is a PhD student at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and, in 2023, was a research fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna. He joined the international research project *Postsecular Approach to Memory Processes in Central-Eastern Europe* (Visegrad Fund, 2023–2024). As a UNET Fellow, he studied the impact of the Russian war against Ukraine on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and conducted preliminary conversations with priests, parishioners and experts on church issues. Additionally, he worked on a research paper and presented his methodology at the monthly fellow's meeting.

Tetiana Maloholovchuk-Skrypchenko has worked for the Ukrainian research institution Sociological Rating Group since 2018. She joined ZOiS to work on a project focused on the subjects and processes of reconstruction and local development in the de-occupied regions of Ukraine. In 2023, she gave a presentation at the ZOiS Annual Conference on research and ethics during the war in Ukraine and was a speaker at the ZOiS workshop *Risk in the Field and Beyond: Ethical Challenges in Area Studies*.

Prof. Oksana Mikheieva is a professor of sociology at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. In 2023, during her time at ZOiS, she published several articles in peer-reviewed and other journals as well as edited volumes. She also participated in workshops, conferences, panel discussions and other events. At ZOiS, she works on her research project about the everyday experiences of forced Ukrainian migrants in the EU and home infrastructure on the move.

Dr Alina Mozolevska currently works at Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University in Ukraine and is also an affiliated member of the research groups *Helsinki Hub on Emotions, Populism and Polarisation* at Helsinki University and *War, Migration and Memory* at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Germany. Her research focuses on the role of digital popular culture in the mediatisation of Russia's war against Ukraine. She has taken part in research colloquia and online meetings at ZOiS and participated in

conferences, workshops, and lectures. She has published several articles based on her research at ZOiS.

Helen Pidgorna focuses on researching the education strategies and experiences of Ukrainian refugee families with secondary school-aged children in Germany. In 2023, she prepared and started the data collection. She also presented a previous study on refugee children's education in Sweden at the internal ZOiS colloquium and published a *ZOiS Spotlight* on this topic.

Anastasiya Shurenkova has extensive experience of designing and conducting sociological surveys and data analysis and is a research fellow at the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting in Kyiv. During her time at ZOiS, her research focused on Ukrainian businesses during and after the war as well as ethical challenges and methodological issues arising from sociological research in time of war. She participated in meetings, workshops and conferences and also took part in a ZOiS podcast episode on researching Ukraine at war.

Inna Volosevych is currently Deputy Director of the Ukrainian research company Info Sapiens. She joined ZOiS in 2023 to work on a research project monitoring the impact of the war on the Ukrainian population. During her fellowship, she worked on various publications, including a *ZOiS Spotlight* on the economic effects of Russia's war on Ukraine's internally displaced people. She attended conferences, workshops and meetings and presented her work at the *Lim-Spaces* conference *Living with Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectations in Ukraine and Moldova*.

Natalia Zaika from the Institute for Behavioral Studies at the American University Kyiv came to ZOiS to pursue a project exploring the evacuation behaviour of Ukrainians since the beginning of the war. It looks at socio-demographic characteristics and risk perception as factors for decision-making in this regard. In 2023, she presented her work in various formats and also participated in an episode of the ZOiS podcast about evacuation behaviour. She became a member of the working group at the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine set up to develop a demographic strategy.

Dr Olena Zinenko is a senior lecturer in the Media and Communications department of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. At ZOiS, she is working on a project about the mediatisation of the war in the discourse of popular culture. She presented her preliminary research results at the internal ZOiS colloquium and prepared a workshop together with UNET Fellow Alina Mozolevska about digital media, disinformation and the visualisation of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Cooperation beyond Academia

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

ZOIS Caucasus Network

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

In 2023, the network organised two events: an online discussion with the researchers Givi Silagadze (Georgia) and Nareg Seferian (Armenia) on *The South Caucasus as a Place of Refuge? Migration and Insecurity* as well as the screening and subsequent discussion of the film *Panjara – a Feminist View of the South Caucasus* with Azerbaijani filmmaker Rovshana Orujova. Throughout the year, network members were also preoccupied with developments in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the challenges and consequences of Russian migration to the South Caucasus, and the dynamics of cooperation and conflict in the region.

The Colloquium for Children's Literature (KLK)

The Colloquium for Children's Literature (KLK) is an open networking platform whose aim is to foster academic exchange on Eastern European children's and young adult literature and increase the visibility of research in this subject area. Since 2020, the colloquium organised by Nina Frieß (ZOIS), Eva Kowollik (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) and Karoline Thaidigsmann (Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg) has provided a forum for researchers with an interest in children's and young adult literature

to discuss their work, collaborate on conferences, publications and other projects, and promote greater integration of this literature into research and curricula. The meetings take place once a semester online or in hybrid form. The thematic focus in 2023 was children's literature under pressure, and the colloquium addressed the very different challenges faced by children's literature in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, as well as the post-Yugoslav space and Poland.

Berlin Research 50 (BR50)

ZOIS is a member of the Berlin Research 50 (BR50) network, an initiative of the capital's non-university research institutions whose goal it is to strengthen Berlin as an international science metropolis. BR50 also serves to coordinate joint activities, such as supporting Ukrainian researchers, and is the main port of call for cooperation with the Berlin universities and exchange with society and politics. In this context, the member institutions also coordinate their research communication activities. At the network meeting on 4 July 2023 at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, the organisers focused on the use of artificial intelligence. The participants discussed the possibilities and problems associated with large language models and text-to-image generators in research communication. The annual general meeting of the BR50 institutions took place at ZOIS on 7 September 2023.

Position Paper on Central Asia

In 2023, on the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, ZOIS was involved in the drafting of a position paper by German research, funding and intermediary organisations which makes recommendations for cooperation between Germany and the countries of Central Asia in the areas of science, research and education. Together with Christopher Conrad (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), Hannelore Kress (Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training) and Ludwig Stroink (Helmholtz Centre Potsdam – GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences), ZOIS Managing Director Christian Schach devised a strategy for cooperating with Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan that are eager to intensify cooperation with Germany and Europe, and not just because of Russia's aggressive posturing.

Gender Equality and Diversity

Everyone's talking about gender equality and diversity, but what do they mean for the workplace? What can employers do to empower women in all areas of work? And how can they create an environment in which no one feels excluded?

These issues are important to us at ZOiS as well. We recognise that people can only unlock their full potential if they have a workplace that is free from fear and discrimination. We have therefore set out various measures in our Gender Equality Plan which aim to promote the equality of all genders; the consistent use of gender-fair language; resolute action against gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment and violence; a positive work-life balance; and the integration of the gender dimension into research. And once

a year, ZOiS holds a workshop for all its staff on issues around diversity and an inclusive working environment. In putting these principles into practice, ZOiS has initially opted for a shared responsibility model: here, the Heads of each department ensure that we are fulfilling our gender equality goals. In addition, a trusted person has been appointed to deal with cases of bullying, stalking and gender-based violence. However, it has become increasingly apparent that there is a need for improved coordination of the wide range of measures defined in our Gender Equality Plan. In late 2023, we therefore initiated the election of a Gender Equality Officer, which will take place in 2024 – a further step in embedding gender equality and diversity even more firmly in ZOiS's institutional culture in future.

Proportion of female employees at ZOiS			
	Number of staff	Number of women	Percentage (%) of women
Institute Management	2	1	50
Departmental Heads [including Heads of Research Clusters, Administration, Communications, IT]	8	5	62.5
Research Staff			
Researchers	13	10	76.9
Doctoral Students	6	4	66.6
Visiting Researchers	11	9	81.8
Editors of Zentralasien-Analysen	1	0	0
Research Support Staff			
Administration	3	2	66.6
Research Communication	5	4	80
IT	1	1	100
Research Management	4	4	100
Trainees	2	2	100
Research and Student Assistants	11	3	27.2
Total	67	45	67.2

Notes: 'Number of staff' means the actual number of employees in a department, not the number of full-time equivalents. The statistics for researchers include internally and externally funded positions. ZOiS has a high percentage of women (total: 67.2 %) in its workforce, with an above-average proportion of female employees in all departments. There is gender parity on the Institute Management team. Reference date for this review: 31/12/2023

Structure and Finances

ZOiS was established in 2016 following a decision by the German Bundestag, with the Federal Foreign Office acting as the awarding authority. Additional funding is obtained in the form of research grants for third-party projects. The Centre is a not-for-profit limited company, which is supported by an independent foundation of the same name. In March 2023, the Foundation Board elected Prof. Günter Stock as an academic member and, subsequently, as its chair. He succeeded Michael Scharfschwerdt, head of the Planning Staff at the Federal Foreign office, who had held the position on an interim basis and now once again assumed the role of deputy chair. An international Academic Advisory Board assists the Centre on research matters.

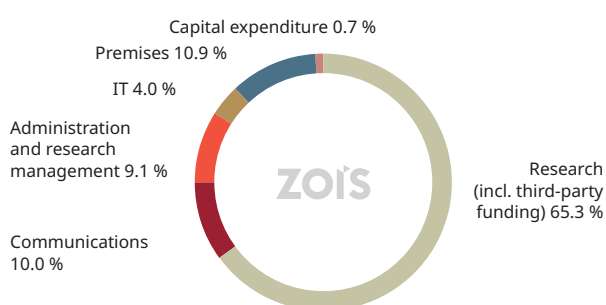
All researchers have sole responsibility for carrying out individual projects they have selected themselves. ZOiS's research programme is drawn up by the institute's management and approved by the members of the Academic Advisory Board. The awarding authority has no influence on the research work or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

The Academic Advisory Board has an international membership and represents an array of disciplines and research regions. It fosters a lively culture of debate, despite the geographical distance between members, and currently convenes once or twice a year. It is continuously involved in strategic development, staffing decisions, events, publications and the further expansion of the ZOiS network.

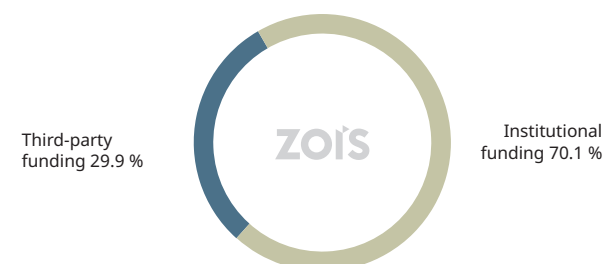
Academic Advisory Board members

- ▶ **Prof. Margarita M. Balmaceda**
Seton Hall University, South Orange, USA
- ▶ **Prof. Timm Beichelt (Chair)**
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany
- ▶ **Prof. Mark Beissinger**
Princeton University, USA
- ▶ **Prof. Katharina Bluhm**
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **Prof. Irina Busygina**
currently Harvard University, USA
- ▶ **Ivan Krastev**
Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia, Bulgaria
- ▶ **Prof. Sebastian Lentz**
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany
- ▶ **Prof. Mikhail Minakov (stellv. Vorsitzender)**
Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C., USA
- ▶ **Prof. Catherine Poujol**
National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO), Paris, France
- ▶ **Prof. Ulrich Schmid**
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
- ▶ **Prof. Silvia von Steinsdorff**
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany

Distribution of ZOiS funds

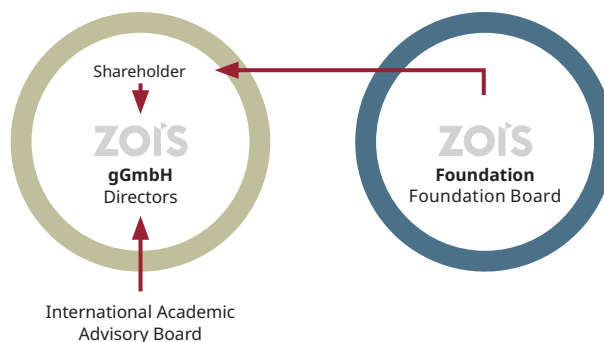


Ratio of institutional funding to third-party funding at ZOiS



ZOiS's total funding for the year 2023 amounted to EUR 4,427,330 million. This reflects a 17 per cent increase on the previous year's funding, which can be attributed mainly to the successful acquisition of third-party funds.

Structure of ZOiS



Academic Freedom and How We Manage It at ZOiS

In Germany, academic freedom – in other words, freedom of scholarship, research and teaching – is protected along with freedom of the arts, chiefly by the German constitution, the Basic Law. Academic freedom is a key prerequisite for the proper functioning of democratic processes. The topic of academic freedom took up more of ZOiS's attention in 2023, partly in response to the attacks on academic freedom within our region of research, but also in order to address the issue of online abuse and the ethical questions that arise in the research context.

Controlled, isolated, excluded: restrictions on academic freedom in authoritarian regimes

ZOiS's region of research includes several countries – such as Russia, Belarus and the Central Asian states – where academic freedom is under threat or, indeed, overtly restricted. With the adoption of legislation such as Russia's 'Foreign Agent Law', attacks on academic freedom even extend as far as Germany.

Since the start of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has intensified its repressive measures and imposed further constraints on freedom of expression. For some time now, the Russian authorities have made use of the stigma around 'Foreign Agent' status to isolate and harass critical figures in Russian civil society, while one by one, foreign civil society institutions have been declared 'undesirable organisations'. Some research organisations in Germany, including ZOiS and the German Association for East European Studies (DGO), are now also classed as 'undesirable' in Russia.

This status was imposed on ZOiS in October 2023. As a consequence, any cooperation with ZOiS is punishable by law for Russian nationals – including collaboration outside Russia. This makes it risky for Russian citizens to participate in projects run by ZOiS, appear at its events or contribute to a ZOiS publication.

Clearly, this is an attempt by the Russian Prosecutor General's Office to intimidate critical academics and their institutions. But it is also an assault on academic freedom in Germany. 'In practice, it could restrict our scope to conduct research outside Russia if, for reasons of research ethics, we are compelled to inform interviewees with a Russian passport of our institutional status before starting a conversation,' ZOiS's Director Gwendolyn Sasse explains. Not least, this status means that the distribution of ZOiS publications and other content in Russia is now prohibited as

well, making it more difficult to feed ZOiS's research results back to Russian society.

Russian nationals who work with or for one of the organisations classified by Russia as undesirable are most affected. 'ZOiS takes its institutional responsibility towards academics who are Russian citizens and have connections to ZOiS very seriously and we will do our utmost to protect them,' ZOiS's Managing Director Christian Schaich confirms. However, the 'undesirable' status is also imposed with the German public in mind and is intended to have an unsettling effect. 'Moscow is aggressively trying to influence public opinion in Germany, spread disinformation, and thus divide society,' according to a joint statement released in March 2024 by German institutions listed as 'undesirable' in Russia. We will continue to stand firm by carrying on with our research and sharing the findings with the German public, whether the topic is Russia's war against Ukraine, Russian history policy, or the anti-war movement within the Russian diaspora.

The risk of abuse: protecting academic freedom with Hate Support

Academics are increasingly exposed to online abuse and attempted intimidation. Abuse of this kind also puts academic freedom at risk, which is why ZOiS has taken steps to support its research staff.

Academic freedom does not only extend to research, publications, attendance at conferences and teaching. It also applies to the dialogue between scholars and society.

Academics who contribute to the public debate and voice their opinions on contentious social issues in the media and via social media channels may find themselves targeted by online abuse. The scope of these topics is broad – from the climate crisis to migration, feminism and gender, the coronavirus pandemic and, of course, Russia's war against Ukraine. Unlike journalists and activists, who have to deal with hate campaigns comparatively frequently, academics are often overwhelmed by the scale and intensity of these online attacks. Insults, abuse of a personal or sexual nature, orchestrated 'shitstorms', doxxing and even direct threats can be profoundly unsettling.

In many cases, it is instinctive to want to completely withdraw from the digital space as a form of self-protection. Often, however, this is exactly what the perpetrators want:

they aim to silence academics, force them to disengage from the public debate and, in extreme cases, pressure them to avoid certain topics altogether. In this way, as well as targeting specific academics, the attackers seek to have a deterrent effect on other researchers by sending a signal to everyone who has no desire to ‘subject themselves to this’, lacks the resources to deal with it effectively, or belongs to one of the more marginalised groups, for example. Women, members of the LGBTQ community and scholars with a migration background are most likely to be the targets of online abuse. The outcome, in practice, is the further curtailment of academic freedom.

Assuming that policymakers and society believe it is desirable for scholars to engage in dialogue with the public and share their expertise, these academics should not be left to deal with the reactions and associated risks on their own. This is now increasingly recognised by the public, not least as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and academic institutions have responded accordingly. For example, since 2023, SciComm-Support, a joint initiative involving the Bundesverband Hochschulkommunikation and Wissenschaft im Dialog, has provided support in the event of attacks or conflicts in science communication.

ZOiS researchers were in the public spotlight more frequently in the context of Russia’s war against Ukraine as well. As a result, the Institute’s management decided to set up a Hate Incident Reporting Point, with support from two external organisations – thefuturepast and HateAid. The role was taken on by Communications Coordinator Anja Krüger in early 2023. ‘Right now, the focus is on prevention, such as assisting staff to apply for non-disclosure of personal information held in the population register. In addition, I regularly share information on the topic so that our colleagues can always be sure that in cases of abuse, ZOiS will fulfil its responsibility towards its staff,’ Krüger explains. In 2024, ZOiS – together with thefuturepast and HateAid – plans to publish guidelines on setting up internal contact points for reporting hate incidents in order to draw attention to the issue and show that academic institutions are able to stand firm against abuse.

Research ethics at ZOiS: academic freedom does not mean anything goes

Academic and social progress is only possible in a democratic society if researchers are free to state their opinions. However, academic institutions such as ZOiS and their researchers also share responsibility for the impacts of their work.

The relationship between academic freedom and research ethics is a further topic that has held our attention at ZOiS. Ethical research standards are intended to prevent any harm to participants or the environment that might ensue in the course of research. In ZOiS’s case, for example, conducting research on certain topics in authoritarian states may pose considerable risks, especially for in-country interviewees, but also for local partner organisations and the researchers themselves. The war in Ukraine has created additional security risks associated with attacks by Russia. In 2023, academics from ZOiS and many other German institutions were again prevented from conducting fieldwork in Ukraine due to security concerns. In addition, war-related psychological harm may occur if someone has experienced violence, loss or displacement, for example. Interviewing the person concerned requires a high degree of sensitivity and may be psychologically stressful for the researchers themselves.

Ethical research standards are now being demanded by academic institutions and funding providers in Germany too, and are increasingly being scrutinised through institutionalised procedures. At ZOiS, an Ethics Committee was set up in 2022, comprising the Institute’s management, the head of External Funding and Research Management, one member of the research staff and the head of one of the research clusters, who are elected for two years. ZOiS was also involved in establishing an inter-institutional Ethics Committee, which began work in 2022. ‘ZOiS’s Ethics Committee sees itself primarily as a forum for peer reflection on issues around research ethics. The responsibility for complying with good research practice lies with the researchers themselves,’ say current Committee members Katrin Hoffmann and Nina Frieß.

In the social sciences, the extent to which institutionalised ethics reviews could, in practice, curtail freedom of research has been a contentious issue for some time. This view is not shared by most researchers at the Institute. Some scholars have concerns about the amount of paperwork involved in achieving compliance with ethical principles, say Hoffmann and Frieß. However, they emphasise that flexibility is maintained throughout the research process and point out that prior reflection on ethical issues also helps to ensure the quality of the research: ‘We don’t see any contradiction between protecting research participants and the quality of the research; transparent interviewing is the only way to generate data suitable for analysis.’ In short, ongoing discussion and reflection on these topics are crucial for balanced and ethically sound research practice.



Academic and social progress is only possible in a democratic society if researchers are free to state their opinions.

Research Cluster

Societies between Stability and Change

Head: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

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

Dr Nadja Douglas | Term: 2016–2023

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

Prof. Regina Elsner | Term: 2017–2023

Literature and Power in the Post-Soviet Space

Dr Nina Frieß | Term: since 2016

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

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

Regional Protests on Russian Social Media

Dr Tatiana Golova | Term: since 2021

Emigration during War: A New Generation of Russian Migrants

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

Languages of Conflict: Ideas of Europe in European Memory

Dr Félix Krawatzek in cooperation with Dr Gregor Feindt (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), Dr Friedemann Pestel (University of Freiburg), Dr Rieke Trimčev (University of Greifswald)
Term: since 2011, based at ZOIS since 2018

The Proliferation of Memory Laws and the Return of the Nation

Dr Félix Krawatzek in cooperation with Dr George Soroka (Harvard University) | Term: since 2018

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

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis | Term: 2018–2023

Russia²

Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2019

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Database on Protest Waves in Eastern Europe, 1980–2022

Dr Ivaylo Dinev | Term: since 2022

Part of the research network *KonKoop*

Central Asia: Connecting Protest Research(ers)

Dr Beate Eschment, Dr Asel Doolotkeldieva | Term: 2023

RESEARCH AFFILIATES' PROJECTS

'Traditional Values' in the Service of Authoritarian Foreign Policy

Dr Leandra Bias | Term: since 2023

This research cluster examines the relationship between society and state, with a particular focus on a) the dynamics of social mobilisation and b) discourses and communication spaces. Contested spaces – physical and discursive areas in which political and historical claims, values and expectations, identities, memories and legacies are negotiated – take centre stage. The individual projects explore the grey zone between stability and change by investigating, on the one hand, the interlinked dynamics of social, political, economic and cultural change and, on the other, the processes that prevent or limit change. The research cluster gathers insights from sociology, political science, geography, anthropology, theology and cultural studies and brings them together in dialogue. Its methodological approaches include in-depth interviews and focus groups, opinion polls, social media analysis, and the use of various types of text data and visual data.

A range of local, national, and international actors are examined – including activists, ordinary citizens, political and cultural elites, and state institutions. Both democratic and authoritarian states respond – in different ways – to societal needs and demands. Issues around legitimacy, trust, (limited) participation, shared values and memory are of great importance in understanding state-society relations in various types of regime. The key questions addressed by this research cluster include the following: What are the conditions under which societal actors gain a hearing, and how do they inform state-society relations in the longer term? How are political ideas articulated by societal and state (or state-affiliated) actors and embedded in discursive networks with the potential to undermine or support the state?

Historical legacies

A highlight for the research cluster in 2023 was the official completion of Sabine von Löwis's postdoctoral pro-

ject. Her postdoctoral thesis *Das Phantom der alten Grenze am Zbruč. Kontinuitäten und Brüche sozialräumlicher Strukturen in der Westukraine* (The Phantom of the Old Border at the Zbruč: Continuities and Ruptures in the Socio-spatial Structures of Western Ukraine) was accepted by Leipzig University in early 2023. Its publication in book form is now in preparation. Sabine von Löwis has made a major contribution to the development of the concept of the 'phantom border', meaning borders which continue to resonate in structures and mindsets long after they have ceased to exist. In 2023, Sabine von Löwis gave a presentation on this topic at the German Congress of Geography. As part of her engagement in research communication, she also contributed to the Green Belt Network Meeting organised by the Saxony-Anhalt Regional Heritage Association (*Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt*).

Memory discourses and narratives

Another ambitious project reached the home stretch in 2023: Félix Krawatzek and his three external project partners focused on completing the manuscript of their co-authored book on memory discourses in Europe, which was due to be submitted in early 2024. The book marks the completion of a long-term collaboration that explored the blind spots in the study of ideas of Europe, particularly in relation to discourses that do not revolve around political institutions or publicly visible intellectuals but contribute to the diversity and ambivalence of perspectives on Europe. Based on an empirical analysis of media discourses in various European countries, Félix Krawatzek explored how the use of memory narratives produces an event and possibly a critical juncture. These terms are part of the standard conceptual repertoire in the social sciences and history studies, but mainly focus on the impacts of these ruptures.

As part of their joint project on the role of memory laws, Félix Krawatzek and

George Soroka (Harvard University) published a survey-based article on Russia in the journal *Perspectives on Politics*. The article considers whether sweeping legislative and juridical measures aimed at safeguarding the historical legacy of the USSR's involvement in World War II influence societal attitudes regarding history. The authors find that the Russian state has limited ability to influence attitudes through legislation and that the discursive context is important in determining whether people tolerate statements that deviate from the prevailing official perspective.

Protest movements and activism

The starting points, dynamics and impacts of protests are the main topic of a number of projects in this research cluster. Since 2022, the focus of Tatiana Golova's research on regional protest movements in Russia has shifted towards political and civil society activism among Russian migrants (see *Migration and Diversity* research cluster). The study of transnational aspects of oppositional migrant activism is a logical extension of the research on mobilisation processes in Russia and their discursive networks on social media. Tatiana Golova was also involved in civic education, focusing on the broader topic of (re-)forming civil society. For example, she was an academic consultant for a series of podcasts produced by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) and she also collaborated with *dekoder* on FAQs on propaganda mechanisms in Russia.

Politicised migrants from Russia

Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse were forced to find a new focus for their long-planned survey on political attitudes in selected Russian regions, which had previously been postponed due to the pandemic. In summer 2023, they therefore conducted a survey – one of the first to be carried out among new migrants who had left Russia since February 2022 – in five



Demonstration against the imprisonment of investigative journalist Bolot Temirov in Kyrgyzstan in 2022. Protests in Central Asia are the focus of a project initiated by Beate Eschment and Asel Doolotkeldieva.

countries simultaneously (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey). This type of survey poses considerable methodological challenges which make it more difficult to draw comparisons across countries, but it also offers deeper insights into the country contexts and the profiles of the new generation of migrants. Data analysis then commenced in the second half of the year. Politicisation before and after the departure from Russia and possible links to networks in Russia and/or other countries are of particular interest to this research cluster (see p. 39).

Relations between state and society

In 2023, Nadja Douglas concluded her comparative study of the relationship between public initiatives and state power structures, publishing two further articles: *Police and Protest in the Digital Age – A Post-Soviet Comparison of Citizen-Police Relations* in the jour-

nal *Policing and Society*, and *Belarus: ‘Securitization’ of State Politics and the Impact on State-Society Relations in Nationalities Papers*. For this article and a conference paper on the low level of public trust in state institutions in Belarus, she was able to make use of survey data collected as part of a ZOIS project on the Belarus protests in 2020–2021. In 2023, Nadja Douglas was a sought-after media commentator on the impacts of Russia’s war against Ukraine on Belarus and Moldova.

Protests in Central Asia, Bulgaria and the Balkans

The one-year (2023) project on protests in Central Asia – funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) following a project application by Beate Eschment and Asel Doolotkeldieva – focused on networking of scholars across the region and Europe and on connecting young academics. The highlight of the project was a workshop at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek,

where 26 academics spent several days discussing content and methods in protest research with students and doctoral candidates.

Ivaylo Dinev – whose research is located at the intersection between protest movements and (protest) parties – continued to collect protest data from Eastern Europe. He presented his research on Bulgaria and the Western Balkans at various conferences, including the ECPR General Conference 2023 and a conference organised by the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia and Central European University. His article *Barricades and Ballots: Exploring the Trajectory of the Slovenian Left* was published in the journal *East European Politics* in 2023. He made frequent appearances in the international media as a commentator on political developments in Bulgaria and on the party landscape ahead of the 2024 European elections.

Visual research on activism

In 2023, Piotr Goldstein was employed by ZOIS and the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). He organised an international ZOIS-DeZIM workshop on *Multi-modal Research and Publishing*, which included both academic content and training elements. His own experiences of using visual ethnography methods to research everyday activism were shared with the EASA's Anthropology and Social Movements Network and the Laboratoire d'anthropologie politique and were presented at the *Grammars of Resistance* workshop at Sussex University. Piotr Goldstein's project *Visualising the Invisible* now consists of three ethnographic documentaries on 'everyday' and 'invisible' (migrant) activism in Serbia and elsewhere (see pp. 26 f.).

Based on qualitative interview data from the *MOBILISE* project, which ended in 2023, Piotr Goldstein – in collaboration with Magdalena Muszel (University of Gdańsk) – continued his research on 'everyday activism', with a focus on Poland, and gave presentations at the 2023 BASEES Annual Conference in Glasgow and the *Alternative Futures & Popular Protest* conference in Manchester.

Discourses and discursive spaces

At the end of 2023, Regina Elsner completed her project *Morality Instead of Peace*, which focused on social and ethical discourses in the Russian Orthodox Church. As part of the project, she explored the interaction between the Church's theological doctrine and its sociopolitical discourse, producing an interdisciplinary analysis – located at the interface between theology and the social sciences – of the role of religion in the context of war and other crisis periods in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. The findings of her study were published in the journal *Religion, State and Society* and elsewhere. The three country examples show that the

Church's rudimentary social and ethical positions can be formed, adapted and manipulated in different sociopolitical contexts. In 2023, Regina Elsner was invited to the Faculty Seminar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies in Baltimore in order to discuss the influence and theological bases of Russian nationalism and imperialism. In 2023, she was, once again, one of the most sought-after ZOIS experts, making frequent appearances in the national and international media and political and faith-based forums; she also participated in various events and contributed to publications for a wider audience. In April 2023, Regina Elsner was appointed Professor of Eastern Churches and Ecumenical Theology at the University of Münster but continues to be a research affiliate at ZOIS.

Russophone literature outside Russia

The international network *Russophone Voices*, co-founded by Nina Frieß, is dedicated to the study of literature produced in the Russian language outside Russia. In 2023, the network continued to expand its activities, e.g. with a workshop at ZOIS, a panel at the ASEES Convention and an application for external funding. Nina Frieß's public lecture *Between Soviet Tradition and Decolonisation: Kazakhstan's Literary Landscape Today* at the Tsvetaeva Centre, University of Freiburg, as part of the *Zeichen der Zukunft* (Signs of the Future) programme in November 2023 is an example of her public engagement for a new perspective on Russophone literature.

Gender and feminism in authoritarian regimes

Leandra Bias joined ZOIS as a research affiliate in 2023. Her research on gender discourses in authoritarian regimes and contexts of war and on feminist networks in East and South-east Europe is a valuable addition to the research cluster. We celebrated

with her when she was awarded the ECPR's Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize in Gender and Politics in 2023 for her dissertation *The (Im)Possibility of Feminist Critique in Authoritarianism: Revisiting Western Knowledge-Transfer in Russia and Serbia* (University of Oxford). She summarised its main line of argument in an article for *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* and worked towards the publication of her dissertation as a monograph by Oxford University Press. Leandra Bias participated in numerous public and non-public events and discussions on gender and war, including a series of workshops on *Feminisms and Wars* organised by the Swedish Defence University, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and the University of Iceland.

Infrastructure projects between democratisation and authoritarianism

In parallel to her work in the *De:link//Re:link* research network (see pp. 34 f.), Beril Ocaklı continued her research on large-scale infrastructure projects and geopolitics, focusing on resource extraction, connectivity and the energy transition as material forms of democratic and authoritarian governance in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Here, she builds on the work undertaken for her doctoral thesis *Extractive Socionatures and Resistance: The Un/making of Kyrgyzstan's Gold Rush* (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin 2023). Her research reveals the discrepancies between national development discourses (generation of growth and prosperity based on infrastructure) and the authoritarian mechanisms which come into play during project implementation. In 2023, she gave lectures at the University of Oxford and the Royal Geographical Society in London. Her engagement in research communication particularly aimed to foster innovative links between artistic and multimodal infrastructure research.

Research Cluster

Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

Head: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Confidence-Building and Conflict Settlement: The Case of Transdnistria

Dr Nadja Douglas, Prof. Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham) | Term: since 2017

Orthodox Peace Ethics and Militarisation in the Post-Soviet Space

Prof. Regina Elsner | Term: since 2020

'Unity in Diversity?': The Situation of National Minorities in Kazakhstan

Dr Beate Eschment | Term: since 2018

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

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis | Term: since 2017

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

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

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

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

Political Orientations and Identities in De Facto States

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

Identities in Wartime: The Case of Ukraine

Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2016

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

The Liberal Script in Ukraine's Contested Border Regions

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

Part of the *Contestations of the Liberal Script – SCRIPTS* Cluster of Excellence at the Freie Universität Berlin

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

PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Claudia Eggart, Dr Félix Krawatzek, Dr Julia Langbein, Dr Irina Mützelburg | Term: since 2021

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

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

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

Dr Irina Mützelburg, Dr Félix Krawatzek | Term: since 2022 | Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

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

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

In:Security in Eastern Europe

Dr Nadja Douglas | Term: since 2022 | Part of the research network *KonKoop*

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

In 2023, the research was largely informed by the impacts of the war against Ukraine, with a particular focus on refugee movements. The externally funded projects *LimSpaces*, *The Liberal Script in Ukraine's Contested Border Regions* and *KonKoop*, which are coordinated by this research cluster and involve several others, also took up considerable space. Here, the main emphasis was on dynamics in border regions, shifts in conflict dynamics, and issues of security and insecurity against the background of the war against Ukraine.

The war against Ukraine: implications for border regions

Various projects investigated the impacts of Russia's war of aggression, particularly in Ukrainian border regions. Tatiana Zhurzhenko continued her research on the Polish-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Hungarian border regions, while the Ukrainian-Moldovan/Transnistrian border region was the subject of further study by Sabine von Löwis. Focus groups were formed and interviews conducted, mainly on war-related challenges in the relocation of businesses, acceptance of refugees, and new border regimes. Tatiana Zhurzhenko also gave various talks

and presentations on refugees, memory discourses and transnational Ukrainian networks and their influence on border dynamics in the context of the war. As well as continuing her research on the Ukrainian-Transnistrian border region, Sabine von Löwis authored a chapter on political borders in Ukraine for *Die Ukraine. Kampfum Unabhängigkeit. Geschichte und Gegenwart*. This interdisciplinary volume, which is edited by Wolfgang Benz, was published in 2023 and was presented at a panel discussion at the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpj) in Berlin.

Challenges for trade and logistics

In the *LimSpaces* sub-project *Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania*, Claudia Eggart concentrated on the border crossing between Moldova, Ukraine and Romania. As a consequence of Russia's war against Ukraine, this was transformed into a geostrategic bottleneck for the global circulation of goods exports. The project mainly examines how geopolitical tensions in the region affect the lived experiences of logistics workers. In methodological terms, the project applies an interdisciplinary approach, combining perspectives from architecture (Sandra Parvu, ENSA Paris-La Villette), economic sociology (Sophie Lambroschini, Centre Marc Bloch) and social anthropology (Claudia Eggart, ZOiS) in cooperative field research. In 2023, two rounds of local data collection took place in the field to explore the research questions.

As well as presenting their research findings at workshops and international conferences in 2023, the three researchers compiled their empirical data into draft articles which will be published in a special issue of *Geopolitics*, edited by Tatiana Zhurzhenko and Sabine von Löwis, and other journals in 2024.

Shifting dynamics at post-Soviet borders

Other particularly noteworthy events were the presentations of the book *Post-Soviet Borders: A Kaleidoscope of Shifting Lives and Lands* by Sabine von Löwis and Beate Eschment, which was published by Routledge in 2022. These presentations took place at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University, in February 2023 and at a discussion hosted by ZOiS in March 2023. In addition, in collaboration with Ekaterina Mikhailova from the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Beate Eschment and Sabine von Löwis organised a workshop on *Ethnic Minorities in Border Regions*, which took place in September within the framework of the *KonKoop* research network. The event focused particularly on the situation at the former Soviet Union's external borders, how cross-border relations and border regimes have changed since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and to what extent this contributes to conflictual and/or cooperative dynamics.

Conflict constellations and confidence-building

The war has resulted in new or amended research questions for other projects as well. In the conflict between Moldova and Transnistria, which declared its independence in 1992 and is backed by Russia, there appeared to be little risk of an escalation until February 2022. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, however, relations between Tiraspol and Chişinău have deteriorated. Through her involvement in the workshop *Security Needs of State and Society in Moldova: Options for the OSCE* and in interviews in Chişinău, Nadja Douglas researched and discussed the subsequent development of these relations. She and her co-author Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham) published the findings

in *Confidence Building in the Shadow of War: Moldova, Transnistria, and the Uncertain Future of the 5+2 Process in OSCE Insights*.

Together with Lena Pieber and Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis organised the two-day international workshop *The Political Economy of Unrecognised Statehood*, which took place at ZOiS in October within the *KonKoop* framework and included a public panel discussion. The event focused mainly on methodological issues in conflict research, world market (dis-)integration processes in de facto states, and economic practices and conflict dynamics.

In May, a further *KonKoop* workshop organised by Nadja Douglas and Sabine von Löwis focused on the Arctic region. With *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Changing Arctic Realities – Between Cooperation and Conflicting Interests* as its theme, the event brought together experts to discuss developments in the Arctic from an anthropological, political, environmental and scientific perspective against the background of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine. Peaceful international cooperation in the region is vital, particularly from

an ecological perspective, but has been massively disrupted by the war.

Surveys in Ukraine

Gwendolyn Sasse conducted opinion polls in Ukraine and shared the findings in policy briefings in Germany and the United Kingdom and at EU level. Her many appearances in the national and regional media in Germany to discuss issues relating to the war and her engagement in political education are particularly noteworthy, for example at the 15th Federal Congress on Civic Education 2023. She also shared her expertise in a series of video lectures on Ukraine (a joint project involving ZOiS and the Federal Agency for Civic Education) and presented her book *Russia's War Against Ukraine* (Polity, 2023), which has been incorporated into the programme of the Regional Centres for Civic Education, at many different educational and cultural events.

Gwendolyn Sasse's international visibility increased further with the English translation and revision of her book and its publication as *Russia's War Against Ukraine* by Polity Press

in 2023. She also presented the book at numerous events, including at Carnegie Europe in Brussels, the Ukrainian Institute in London, the Kennan Institute and the University of Oxford, and discussed it in various international media contributions and podcasts.

Security and insecurity

Since the start of the full-scale war against Ukraine in February 2022, the public debate has increasingly turned to issues of global security. These issues are also of relevance to the work of the *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* research cluster. With the project *In:Security in Eastern Europe* within the *KonKoop* research network (see pp. 36 f.), Nadja Douglas began in February 2023 to investigate perceptions of various aspects of security and insecurity in the societies of Eastern Europe. Within this project framework, a workshop on perceptions of *In:Security in Border Regions* at ZOiS in June drew on diverse disciplinary and regional perspectives and fields of expertise. Nadja Douglas also conducted fieldwork in Poland and Lithuania in order to analyse the specific experiences and perceptions of *in:security* among various stakeholders in countries bordering Russia and in the wider neighbourhood.

Sabine von Löwis and Kristine Beurskens (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography) organised a double session on *Border In/Securities – At the Nexus of Space and Emotions in Central and Eastern Europe* at the BASEES Annual Conference in Glasgow. While borders are often discussed in relation to external securitisation and migration, the panel brought together case studies which explore borders primarily as an individual space of experience connected to perceptions of security and insecurity. As one of the outcomes, a special issue on various border regions in East and South-east Europe and Central Asia was prepared for publication in the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*.



As a consequence of Russia's war against Ukraine, the thematic line 'In:Security in Eastern Europe' as part of the *KonKoop* network was launched by Nadja Douglas in 2023. It addresses different aspects of security and insecurity, e.g. in border regions.

Perceptions of uncertainty

Closely connected to questions of security and insecurity is the complex issue of uncertainty, which plays a key role in the context of the *LimSpaces* project. Here, the research focuses on actors such as refugees from Ukraine and relatives from Moldova who are working abroad in order to support their families back home. Based on case studies, strategies for dealing with multipositionality and liminality – in other words, the transition between arrival and return – are investigated. At the workshop *Interim Results of LimSpaces – Researching Uncertainty, Multipositionality, and Liminality of Moldovans and Ukrainians amidst War*, which took place in Paris in late May/early June, the project participants' interim findings were discussed with invited guests. At a public event at L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Inna Volosevych from the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS* reported on the economic situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine, while Stefan Dorondel (Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest) spoke about fluvi-al border shifts and perceptions of the state among riparian communities and users of the Lower Danube.

The ethical dimension of research in war

During the workshop, ethical and practical issues and challenges that arise when conducting research in war and involving refugees in this process were also discussed; these issues and challenges create uncertainties for researchers and 'subjects' alike. This topic arose in many of the discussions in this research cluster throughout the year and was explored at the workshop *Spatially Related Research Practice in Challenging Environments: Authoritarianism, Conflicts and War* at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography in March 2023, to which Sabine von Löwis was an active contributor. The subject was also addressed at a

discussion session during the 2023 ZOiS Conference and at the *KonKoop* Kick-Off Conference.

Displacement from Ukraine

A key topic at the interface with the *Migration and Diversity* research cluster was displacement from Ukraine in its various facets. The *FORUM* network was established in 2022 by the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) and the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). It aims to connect scholars across Europe engaged in research on Ukrainian refugees in various contexts and to facilitate dialogue and coordination of this research. The network is growing steadily and has evolved into a visible and reliable platform for research on displacement issues (see pp. 37 f.).

As a co-organiser of *FORUM*, ZOiS also contributes to the network's research activities. Sabine von Löwis coordinates surveys among Ukrainian refugees in Germany, Poland and the Republic of Moldova and among internally displaced persons in Ukraine. Six rounds of surveys are being conducted. The project requires extensive consultation with local researchers on the thematic priorities of the surveys and research activities in the field (see p. 38).

The research carried out by Irina Mützelburg and Félix Krawatzek as part of the externally funded *LimSpaces* project also addresses displacement issues. This sub-project focuses on displaced Ukrainian schoolchildren and their educational situation and is located at the interface between two research clusters: *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* and *Youth and Generational Change* (see p. 40).

National minorities in Kazakhstan

Some projects were less affected by the dynamics of Russia's war against Ukraine. For example, with reference

to selected nationalities, Central Asia expert Beate Eschment explores how members of minorities view Kazakhstan today and examines the effects of the government's nationalities policy on their situation now and in the past. Over the course of 2023, she prepared a wide-ranging opinion poll which is intended to capture to what extent members of seven ethnic communities in Kazakhstan identify as Kazakhstani or as belonging to their ethnic group, how they view the government's nationalities policy, and what kind of expectations they have for the future. The aim is not only to gain an impression of the current mood but also, through a comparison with the 2019 survey, to track developments and any changes that may have occurred between first President Nursultan Nazarbayev's final years in government and the situation under his successor Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Beate Eschment also shared her expertise at various international conferences, including at George Washington University, the Institute for Philosophy, Political Science and Religion Studies in Almaty and the Institute of Applied Ethnopolitical Research in Astana.

Orthodox peace ethics

Regina Elsner was appointed Professor of Eastern Churches and Ecumenical Theology in the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Münster, in April 2023 but continues to be a research affiliate at ZOiS. Her research on the peace ethics discourse in the Orthodox Churches in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine against the background of increasing militarisation and escalation in Russia's war against Ukraine is continuing. In 2023, she gave presentations on the war's implications for Orthodoxy at a seminar organised by the European Association for the Study of Religions and at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

Research Cluster

Migration and Diversity

Head: PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Migration and Transformation in Metaphors: The Transnational Lifeworlds of Georgian Educational Migrants in Germany and their Families in Georgia
Diana Bogishvili | Term: since 2019

Transformation of Urban Spaces and Religious Pluralisation in the Caucasus
PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva | Term: since 2017

From Molotov Cocktails to Farewell Parties: Causes of Emigration for Participants in the 2013–14 Euromaidan Protests in Ukraine
Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Term: since 2019

Visualising the Invisible: Using Visual Ethnography to Explore Extra-Institutional Activism of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities
Dr Piotr Goldstein | Term: since 2017, based at ZOIS since 2019

Political Migration from Russia and Azerbaijan
PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva, Dr Tatiana Golova | Term: since 2022

Russian-speaking Pro-war Activism in Germany on Social Media
Dr Tatiana Golova, Liliia Sablina (Central European University) | Term: since 2023

Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe: Between Personal Agency, Civil Society and the State (FORUM)
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2022

Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis, Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse | Term: since 2022

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-war Movements (ERDAM)
PD Dr Tsypylma Darieva, Dr Tatiana Golova | Term: 2023–2025

Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (MOBILISE)
Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse, Dr Piotr Goldstein, Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Term: 2018–2023

Project to Initiate Research and Cooperation between EU and Eastern Partnership Countries (RemitEU)
Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse, Diana Bogishvili | Term: 2021–2023

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

The individual projects are located at the interface between social science research on mobility and migration, on the one hand, and on social and political participation in migrant communities, on the other. Identities, networks, transnationality and values among new and established migrant groups, diaspora communities, refugees and previously under-researched minorities in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia are also studied. The results are made visible for academics and the general public.

Key questions for the research cluster

The research cluster addresses the following key questions: How is the migration induced by Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine since February 2022 affecting social cohesion and societies in the home and host countries? Which new forms of solidarity and dissent are emerging, with a focus on diversity, in the context of forced and voluntary migration to Germany and Eastern European countries?

The research cluster covers a broad geographical range besides Germany; the Eastern Partnership countries (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) have particular strategic significance. For Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia, the 'Europeanisation' of their sociopolitical values and norms poses a challenge. Here, Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine raises new questions,

shifting the focus more strongly towards the new waves of migration from Russia and displacement from Ukraine to Germany.

Key events in 2023

Much of 2023 was devoted to further data-gathering and preparation of publications as part of individual research and PhD projects. Sociologist Diana Bogishvili and social scientist Kostiantyn Fedorenko embarked on the final stages of their doctoral studies as part of the research cluster.

The expansion of international cooperation and strategic research networks should also be mentioned. In addition, structures were established for more intensive sharing of ideas and a sharpening of the research cluster's thematic focus. They particularly include: 1) regular meetings for researchers and visiting academics to discuss current projects and research plans, 2) organisation of workshops and other events, and 3) researchers' active involvement in the ZOIS Annual Conference in autumn 2023.

Challenges of ethno-religious diversity

The project *Transformation of Urban Spaces and Religious Pluralisation in the Caucasus* concluded with the publication of *Religious Activism in Eastern Europe and Beyond* as a special issue of the journal *Religion, State and Society*, edited by Tsypylma Darieva and Jeanne Kormina (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin). As well as the contributions by the editors, the article by Regina Elsner (a researcher at ZOIS until March 2023) should be mentioned in particular. The three articles provide insights into religious forms of political and urban bargaining in authoritarian Russia and semi-democratic Georgia. Religious activism, in this context, covers the civil society, social and political spheres.

The challenge of ethno-religious diversity was explored further within the framework of the *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (KonKoop)* research network (see p. 36), which involves several of the research clusters. In collaboration with Ketevan Gurchiani (Ilia State University), Tsypylma Darieva looked at issues of governance and practices of coexistence in multiethnic and multireligious societies in the South Caucasus. Moral discourses, cultural norms and institutional structures are of particular significance for peace and conflict management in Eastern Europe. The sub-project *Ethno-religious Diversity* contributes conceptually to research on the fragility of peaceful coexistence in the South Caucasus. A series of online lectures organised by Tsypylma Darieva and Jesko Schmoller (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) since October 2023 focuses on lived religion in the context of war.

War-induced migration from Russia

Several projects investigate diverse forms of migrant activism and mobilisation processes in the context of the war against Ukraine. The new wave of war-induced migration from Russia to Germany and the South Caucasus plays a key role in expanding the fields of research.

One of the high points in 2023 was the final phase of the pilot project *Political Migration from Russia and Azerbaijan*, with further networking objectives. An article in *Russland-Analysen* and ZOIS Report 3/2023, entitled *Russian Migrants in Georgia and Germany: Activism in the Context of Russia's War against Ukraine* by Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova, were among the key outcomes of qualitative data analysis. Other outcomes were a ZOIS *Spotlight* and presentations at several academic conferences and in the political sphere. The study was based on 45

qualitative semi-structured interviews, social media analyses and ethnographic observations at selected locations in Georgia and Germany. The ZOIS Report reveals how politically engaged migrants from Russia (re-)organise themselves in these two different countries in the context of emigration. Despite disparities in the migration regulation regimes, the numbers of Russian migrants taken in, and attitudes to these newcomers in the two countries, the authors observe more similarities than differences in migrant activism in Germany and Georgia.

An international workshop, entitled *Exploring New Exodus from Russia: Migration, Adaptation and Transnational Engagement* and organised by Tatiana Golova and Tsypylma Darieva, was held in February 2023, along with a *ZOIS Forum* on the same topic. One outcome of the workshop which should be mentioned was a special issue on forms of transnational engagement by Russian migrants in the wider Europe; conceptualised by Tsypylma Darieva, Tatiana Golova and Margarita Zavadskaya (Finnish Institute of International Affairs), it was accepted for publication in the journal *Post-Soviet Affairs*.

New research network on Russian migrants

In response to the pressing socially relevant questions for European policy relating to war-induced migration from Russia, ZOIS researchers worked on expanding their international networks. December 2023 saw the launch of the *Emerging Russian Diasporas and Anti-war Movements (ERDAM)* research network, which is funded by the German Foundation for Peace Research and coordinated by Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova. Funding of EUR 30,000 was obtained to support the conceptual development of this two-year project. *ERDAM* brings

together researchers at different career stages at universities and research institutions in Armenia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway and Poland. The aim is to study forms and infrastructures of mobilisation of new Russian diasporas in 10 Western and Eastern European countries. The participants are mainly concerned with the impact of new Russian diasporas on the political dynamics between home and host countries. One of the network's key goals is to facilitate the transfer of expertise and knowledge to policy-makers and a wider public. *ERDAM* thus contributes to the internationalisation and visibility of the research cluster in the external sphere.

Polarisation tendencies in the Russian-speaking diaspora

Alongside the pilot project on Kremlin-critical political engagement among migrants from Russia, a further project by Tatiana Golova in collaboration with Liliia Sablina (Central European University) looked at Russian-speaking pro-war activists in Germany. Combining the two perspectives made it possible to better illuminate the conflicting positions and polarisation tendencies among post-Soviet migrants in Germany. The two projects' complementary methodologies – analysis of qualitative interviews with anti-war activists, on the one hand, and discursive network analysis of posts on Telegram channels used by Russian-speaking migrants in Germany, on the other – were also helpful in this regard. Preliminary research findings were presented at a ZOIS Research Colloquium and at the 2023 ZOIS Annual Conference. In addition, Tatiana Golova made it a priority to share this expertise with the wider public, for example via the project *Young Ethnic Germans from Russia and the Ukraine War* (Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V.).

Euromaidan activists in Germany

Motives for emigrating and visions of returning among Ukrainian activists who were involved in the 2013/14 Euromaidan protests and later migrated to Germany are foregrounded in Kostiantyn Fedorenko's doctoral research. Qualitative interviews with activists show that voluntary migrants intend to stay in Germany, whereas most refugees express a desire to return home. In 2023, Kostiantyn Fedorenko broadened his research question and conducted interviews with Ukrainian activists in the context of the full-scale Russian attack on their country since February 2022. Some of the interviewees see their activism as a logical continuation of the Euromaidan. The results of the study were presented inter alia at a discussion on *Wartime Ukraine and Ukrainians: Politics, Migration and European Integration* at Charles University in Prague. In addition, some of the findings featured in a collection of articles published by the Genshagen Foundation's *#EUmeetsEurope* project and in a *ZOIS Spotlight*.

Invisible migrant activism in Eastern Europe

Civil society participation by migrants and multimodal research methods were at the forefront of Piotr Goldstein's activities in 2023. The three ethnographic documentaries which evolved from the project *Visualising the Invisible* should be mentioned in particular. A special feature of the documentaries is that they are designed to appeal to academics and activists, making them an effective knowledge-sharing tool. Three highlights of Piotr Goldstein's activities were: 1) an international workshop on multimodal research, organised in conjunction with the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), 2) public screenings of his

three films on everyday migrant activism in various European countries, and 3) a screening of his film *Active (citizen)* at ZOIS as part of the Long Night of the Sciences (*Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*). Piotr Goldstein presented the results of his research at several conferences and workshops, including a workshop hosted by EASA's Anthropology and Social Movements Network and the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris in October 2023 and the *Grammars of Resistance* workshop at the University of Sussex.

Transnational diaspora activism

A milestone in Tsypylma Darieva's research was the publication by Transcript of her long-term study of mobility and transnational diaspora activism, entitled *Making a Homeland: Roots and Routes of Transnational Armenian Engagement*, in June 2023. The study shows that homeland-oriented social engagement by Armenian diaspora communities in the US and other Western countries is an important identity resource and mobilising force for the second and later generations of Armenian post-migrants. Tsypylma Darieva presented her findings at various international conferences and was invited to be a keynote speaker at a transcultural studies workshop at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (USA) in June.

Migration, integration and shifting values

As part of her PhD research, Diana Bogishvili investigated the transformative effects of migration from Georgia to Germany on the cultural values of transnational families; this was based on her analysis of biographical interviews. She presented her findings in a lecture on *The Cultural Values of Non-Migrants in Georgia* at the 30th Conference of Junior Scholars in the

Field of East European Studies (JOE). In a further lecture during the *Long Night of the Sciences* Diana Bogishvili focused on how the mindsets and values of Georgian migrants and their relatives in the home country are transformed by the transfer of values, ideas and experiences.

Ukrainian refugees and integration in Europe

The key question for the *Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Transnational Europe (FORUM)* research network relates to the experiences of refugees from Ukraine in their respective host societies. *FORUM* brings together scholars from several European countries to better understand the role of national and local policies in shaping refugees' everyday experiences and strategies for action.

As part of their project *Displacement from and in Ukraine: Decisions, Trajectories, Attitudes, Perspectives*, Gwendolyn Sasse and Sabine von Löwis are conducting surveys among Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Po-

land and Germany and among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. The aim is to build knowledge on the experiences of fleeing and arriving in the new societies, as well as on issues of identity and the individual sense of belonging (see p. 38).

Visiting scholars in the research cluster

Within the framework of the EU-funded *Georgia's Researchers' Mobility Programme*, Dr Tamar Khoshtaria (Ilia State University, Tbilisi) spent three months at ZOIS as a visiting researcher. During her residency, she investigated how experiences of migration influence the cultural and political values and beliefs of young Georgians in Germany. Liliia Sablina, a doctoral candidate at Central European University, undertook a four-month residency at ZOIS from April to July 2023. As part of the project *Building Online Bridges for Hate: Russian-Speaking Pro-War Activism in Germany*, she and Tatiana Golova explored questions relating to pro-Kremlin mobilisation on social media. Prof. Oksana Mikheieva (Ukra-



Dortmund, July 2023. Protest against Russian aggression after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine. Kostiantyn Fedorenko studies the activism of Ukrainian migrants in Germany.



Pro-Ukrainian graffiti in Tbilisi: Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova are investigating the mobilisation of Russian migrants – for example in anti-war activism – in countries like Georgia.

inian Catholic University, Lviv), a Fellow of the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS*, was also integrated into the research cluster's work in 2023. Her research focused on everyday experiences and future expectations among young forced migrants from Ukraine. The activities of the visiting researchers at various stages of their careers contributed to network-building and fostering young talent.

Research cooperation on migration from Georgia

The *RemitEU* project initiated by Diana Bogishvili opened the way for cooperation between the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) and the Center for Social Sciences (CSS) in Georgia. This ongoing research partnership focuses on migration and migrants' social and political remittances to their country of origin, with particular reference to Georgia. The University of Trento, the University of Sarajevo, the Western Balkans Institute in Belgrade, the Vrije Univer-

siteit Brussel, the Foreign Policy Council 'Ukrainian Prism', Moldova State University and the Trento-based think tank Centro per la Cooperazione Internazionale were recruited as further international partners. As an important secondary outcome of the project, a bibliographic database on the topic of migration was established; this evolved from systematic literature and data research and will be available for use in future projects. Key insights gained during the initial phase of cooperation are that when recruiting new project partners, trust-building measures take a considerable amount of time and intercultural skills are a critical factor determining the viability and success of a multinational consortium.

Protest and migration

The *MOBILISE* joint project came to a close in 2023 with the *Exit and/or Voice in Times of Crisis* workshop organised at ZOiS. During the five-year funding period, researchers in Germany, the

UK, France and the Netherlands explored the question of why some people protest in times of social, political or economic unrest, while others decide to migrate. The focus was on Ukraine, Poland, Morocco and Argentina – four countries that have recently experienced both massive emigration and mass protests. In Ukraine, the migration situation changed dramatically with Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Led by Gwendolyn Sasse, the team at ZOiS was primarily involved in collecting data in Poland and Ukraine, as well as collecting data on Polish and Ukrainian migrants in Germany, the UK and Spain. Gwendolyn Sasse, Piotr Goldstein and Kostiantyn Fedorenko were involved in quantitative online surveys in Ukraine and qualitative surveys in Poland in 2023. The results were presented at international conferences, including the ASN World Convention and the APSA Annual Meeting, published in blog posts and presented in briefings.

Research Cluster

Youth and Generational Change

Head: Dr Félix Krawatzek

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

Emigration during War: A New Generation of Russian Migrants

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

History for Young People: Historical Narratives and Perceptions

Dr Nina Frieß, Dr Félix Krawatzek | Term: 2020–2023

Defining the Nation: Young Poles and Their Sense of Identity

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

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

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

Dr Félix Krawatzek. Coordination: Johanna Mogwitz

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

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

Sophia Winkler | Term: since 2022

Part of the project *MoveMeRU*

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

Dr Irina Mützelburg, Dr Félix Krawatzek | Term: since 2022

Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

RESEARCH AFFILIATES' PROJECTS

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

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

In the process of sharpening the research cluster's profile, questions of intergenerational transmission of social attitudes and perceptions of history have moved into the foreground, significantly enhancing the focus of the research cluster, i.e. young people in Eastern Europe.

Furthermore, in cooperation with the *Societies between Stability and Change* research cluster, a new research project was launched by Félix Krawatzek and Gwendolyn Sasse to investigate the political and social attitudes of persons who have left Russia since the start of the Russian full-scale war in Ukraine in February 2022. Based on a comparative face-to-face survey in several countries in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Turkey, systematic data are collected on the sociodemographic characteristics, attitudes, expectations and behaviours of this new generation of migrants.

Visiting researchers in the research cluster

In 2023, the research cluster's work was enriched by the contributions of several visiting scholars. Sezin Şentürk, a PhD student at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, was affiliated to the research cluster for one month thanks to a grant from the Erasmus+ programme. PhD student Alena Zelenskaia from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich (LMU) and intern Tessa Conrardy from Harvard University were also integrated into the research cluster's work. Thanks to a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Malkhaz Toria, associate professor of history and the director of the Memory Study Center in the Caucasus at Ilia State University in Tbilisi also joined the research cluster for a four-month research stay.

Research findings on refugee pupils from Ukraine

The research conducted by Irina Mützelburg and Félix Krawatzek on the educational situation of refugee pupils from Ukraine in Germany forms part of the joint project *Living with Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectation in Ukraine and Moldova (LimSpaces)*. In 2023, the focus was on comprehensive data-gathering, resulting in the publication of a *ZOiS Report* entitled *Education and Displacement: Ukrainian Families in Germany* and the presentation of results at various events (see pp. 39 f.).

Surveys among young people in Poland

In the first half of the year, a survey on political attitudes in a time of war was conducted by Piotr Goldstein, with input from the *MoveMeRU* team, as part of the project on young Poles and their sense of identity. The survey, involving 2,000 young Poles aged 16 to 34, shows that public opinion towards Ukrainian refugees has changed. For example, support for a temporary right to remain for refugees has increased, yet only 25 per cent of respondents want Ukrainian refugees to have long-term integration prospects in Poland. Ahead of the Polish parliamentary elections in October, the survey showed that the far-right party, *Konfederacja*, is popular mainly with young voters; this was reflected in the final election results. The survey also served as a basis for preparing questions for further data-gathering in 2024.

Teaching and supporting young researchers

In the context of teaching and fostering young researchers, the German Academic Scholarship Foundation's sum-

mer school, conducted by Nina Frieß and Félix Krawatzek, should be mentioned in particular. At this 10-day interdisciplinary workshop for Foundation scholarship holders, insights gained from the now completed project *History for Young People: Historical Narratives and Perceptions* were explored and deepened. Key project findings, which are presented in an edited volume on *Youth and Memory in Europe* published by De Gruyter in 2022, were thus revisited and used productively for teaching purposes. In addition, Félix Krawatzek plays an active role as a mentor for the *Europaeum* network of leading European universities and for the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS* and gave a seminar series on youth in Eastern Europe at the University of Aarhus.

Progress on the PhD project on new left youth in the South Caucasus

PhD candidate Veronika Pfeilschifter focused on three areas of activity: fieldwork, presentation and writing up her research findings. Her fieldwork in Georgia continued and was provisionally concluded. A brief study visit to Armenia focused on exploring ethical issues and boundaries in the context of war and conflict. Findings on the Georgian left's understanding of justice and results of the study conducted with Félix Krawatzek on the discursive landscape of youth in the South Caucasus were presented at international conferences. Veronika Pfeilschifter also continued to refine the concept for the sub-project in Armenia, which examines ideologies and emotions among leftist young women. The aim is to complete the first two sub-projects in the cumulative PhD project in spring 2024.



A bridge between the Estonian city of Narva and the Russian town of Ivangorod: Estonia is one of the countries where the MoveMeRU project is investigating the transmission of historical memories between generations with and without a (Soviet) Russian migration background.

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

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

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

The project will refine our understanding of differences and similarities in the intergenerational transmission of memories in migrant and non-migrant families, offering important insights into the drivers of and obstacles to integration. The results will have major implications for policy-making in destination countries and for public awareness of intergenerational shifts within migrant communities.

The project team starts work

The project team now has a full complement of staff; besides Principal Investigator Félix Krawatzek and coordinator Johanna Mogwitz, the other team members are postdoctoral researcher Hakob Matevosyan, who is responsible for opinion surveys, a postdoc to manage the focus groups, and PhD student Sophia Winkler, who handles media analysis. The PhD position is supervised in cooperation with Florian Töpfl, Professor of Political Communication at the University of Passau.

The project work is informed by the regular exchange between team members in working group meetings and a Reading Group, and by the dialogue with external project partners in Estonia, Germany and Canada. During the last six months of the year, the team focused on refining the research design, producing the first drafts of academic papers and – as a related task – devising questionnaires for the surveys and focus groups.

First research stay in Estonia

In October, several members of the project team visited Estonia in order to investigate in more detail how ‘transmission of memories’ is positioned as a topic within Estonian society, before the process of data-gathering begins.



Opposites in Tallinn: The cornflower as a national symbol and sign of Estonia's independence on a block of flats from Soviet times.



Traces of the Soviet past in Estonia: A Lenin bust and the mascot of the 1980 Moscow Olympics at a jumble sale in Tallinn.

The programme for the visit included meetings with fellow scholars, representatives of ministries, foundations, the media and a museum, public figures and a female activist. Rather than confining themselves to the capital Tallinn, the researchers also visited the city of Tartu, home to one of the country's foremost universities, and the border city of Narva, which lies directly adjacent to Russia. The visit was important in that it created space for an initial exchange with local partners, which the project team will take forward and develop in the coming years.

Networking and dialogue

The *MoveMeRU* team also organised two workshops in 2023. Taking *Crossing Borders: Migration, Generational Change and Historical Narratives* as their theme, the experts looked at how history is recounted and perceived, particularly at a time of conflicts and social crises, and considered how migration and generational change affect these historical narratives. The two-day international workshop took place in June in collaboration with the *KonKoop* research network, which is hosted by ZOiS (see p. 36), and the *Ambivalences of the Soviet* research network, organised by the Northeast Institute. The workshop findings were published on the H-Soz-Kult website.

In early December 2023, a group of distinguished academics attended a research workshop at the invitation of the project team. The guests were Samuel Greene, Ethics Advisor to the *MoveMeRU* project, Florian Töpfl, Supervisor for the PhD position, and political scientist Katerina Tertychnaya. The discussions focused on the research design, surveys and focus groups as research methods, and a review of the draft questionnaires. The related PhD project on media analysis was also discussed. Ethical issues were explored

to pave the way for future project phases. The workshop proved crucial in determining the project's future direction of travel and established a basis for the fieldwork planned for 2024.

Interaction with the public

A public panel discussion organised in collaboration with the Robert Bosch Academy was held on the eve of the workshop. With Félix Krawatzek in the chair, Polish sociologist Karolina Wigura and Jean P. Froehly, representing the German Federal Foreign Office, discussed *War, Memory, and Emotions: Decoding Europe's Responses to the War in Ukraine*. This public event provided additional context from diverse perspectives and did much to enrich the subsequent workshop discussions.

In 2023, the research project continued to build its social media presence (Instagram and Facebook) in order to share its research findings with an interested public and give the Russian-speaking communities being studied within the project framework an opportunity to engage actively with the research. The team also hosted and featured in two episodes of ZOiS's *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast, which introduced the project and shared preliminary findings of the survey in Poland. In addition, the team participated in various events, including a workshop organised as part of the Long Night of the Sciences (*Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*), the 2023 ZOiS Annual Conference and other workshops and panel discussions.

Besides this external outreach, the interaction with the funding provider – the European Research Council – was of key importance for the project and focused mainly on ethical issues and matters relating to project workflow.

Research Cluster

Political Economy and Integration

Head: Dr Julia Langbein

ZOIS-FUNDED PROJECTS

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

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

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

Alexandra Prokopenko | Term: since 2023

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

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

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

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

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

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

Term: since 2022

Economic Agency in the Context of De Facto Statehood

Lena Pieber | Term: since 2022

Part of the research network *KonKoop*

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

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

Part of the joint project *LimSpaces*

Geo-economics and Governance in a Financially Diversified Belt and Road Initiative: Mechanics and Implications in Eastern Europe and Eurasia

Valentin Krüsmann | Term: since 2021

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

With its focus on the interplay between economic, political and social developments, the *Political Economy and Integration* research cluster has added a new dimension to ZOiS's research programme since 2020. The research cluster also explores the global context, e.g. in its analyses and comparative studies of the economic integration strategies pursued by the EU, Russia and China in Eastern Europe. Core topics of relevance to all its projects are:

- 1) economic (dis)integration processes,
- 2) economic agency and development strategies, and
- 3) market integration and its impacts on power relations in the domestic and foreign policy fields.

In 2023, the research cluster's activities focused on four thematic priorities:

- 1) the effects of trade liberalisation with the EU on economic development in Georgia and Moldova,
- 2) China's economic engagement in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),
- 3) the role of economic factors in the emergence and resolution of conflicts, and, as a new addition,
- 4) Russia's economic development in the context of Western sanctions.

Effects of trade liberalisation on Moldova and Georgia

Following on from *ZOiS Report 1/2022*, which identifies economic actors in Georgia and Moldova who have benefited from trade liberalisation with the EU, Julia Langbein, Denis Cenusă (Expert-Grup, Chişinău) and Irina Guruli (Economic Policy Research Center, Tbilisi) authored an academic paper which they presented at various international conferences and published in the *Journal of European Integration*.

The paper contributes to the literature on EU trade policy by introducing a political economy perspective on how EU trade liberalisation affects development in trading partners.

Also within the *LimSpaces* framework, Julia Langbein is working with Sabine von Löwis on an analysis of how Moldova's increasing economic integration with the EU affects the functioning and survival strategies of local markets, with reference to the example of Piaţa Centrală in Chişinău (see p. 40).

BRI and Global Gateway: a comparison

Further important milestones were reached in the *China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia* project, which is part of the *De:link//Re:link – Local perspectives on transregional processes of (dis)entanglements* joint project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) since April 2021. In collaboration with Tanja A. Börzel and Lunting Wu from the *Contestations of the Liberal Script – SCRIPTS* Cluster of Excellence at Freie Universität Berlin, Julia Langbein and Valentin Krüsmann worked on a comparative study of the approaches to development pursued by China's BRI and the EU's Global Gateway initiative. Their findings will be published initially in the *SCRIPTS Working Paper Series*.

Fieldwork on BRI in Serbia

As part of his PhD project, Valentin Krüsmann spent five weeks conducting fieldwork in Serbia. He was mainly concerned with the ongoing development of Belgrade's metro system, which is sponsored by France, with a major Chinese state-owned contractor commissioned to carry out the construction. Besides Belgrade, the fieldwork also included visits to other projects with Chinese involvement in Bor, Smederevo and Zrenjanin.

Output of research on local perspectives on BRI

Initial research findings were presented and discussed in numerous national and international forums, including several chaired by the researchers. The research and fieldwork on Georgia were submitted for publication in a special issue of the interdisciplinary journal *Mobilities* under the title *Whom the Roads Bypass: Rikoti's East-West Connections in a Disconnected Georgia* by Valentin Krüsmann and Beril Ocaklı (as a collaborative outcome of the ZOiS workshop on *Connectivity and Disconnectivity in the South Caucasus*). Preliminary findings from the fieldwork in Kazakhstan were the subject of a presentation, titled *A Greening Belt and Road? China's Role in Kazakhstan's Energy Transition*, at the ZOiS Annual Conference 2023.

An article by Valentin Krüsmann, Julia Langbein, Beril Ocaklı and co-author Tamás Peragovics (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), published in the journal *OSTEUROPA*, takes stock of the BRI ten years on. Case studies from Hungary, Serbia, Georgia and Kazakhstan reveal that BRI project implementation is not solely dependent on China; in some cases, local regimes actively participate in circumventing or ignoring the rules. The article also shows that it is now increasingly rare for China to be the sole actor in New Silk Road projects and that other international lenders are taking a more active role in project financing.

Further milestones in the project on China's engagement in Eastern Europe and Eurasia in the BRI context were a *World Café* and *ZOiS Forum* in November 2023. Cooperation with consortium partners at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies (BICC) and Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) enabled the research cluster to enter into dialogue with researchers work-

ing on China's engagement in East Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan and also present and discuss artistic and multimodal infrastructure research in this context. In addition, Tamás Peragovics and Nadia Ali (BICC) joined Beril Ocaklı and Valentin Krüsmann for a recording of ZOIS's *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast, titled *Not Just China: Regional Actors and the Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan, Georgia and Hungary*, in which they share their insights on the role of local and other non-Chinese actors in implementing BRI projects.

A political economy perspective on conflicts in Eastern Europe

The study of the causes and dynamics of conflicts in Eastern Europe from a political economy perspective continued and became more focused in 2023 within the framework of the *KonKoop* research network (see pp. 36 f.). In her PhD project *Economic Agency in the Context of De Facto Statehood*, Lena Pieber explores the relationships between de facto states' economic struc-

tures and decision-making processes and their conflict dynamics. The first stage of empirical data-gathering was undertaken in Georgia in April and May 2023. Lena Pieber presented her preliminary findings at various doctoral colloquia and workshops. A two-day workshop on *The Political Economy of Unrecognised Statehood*, organised by Lena Pieber, Sabine von Löwis and Julia Langbein, was held at ZOIS in October 2023 and included a public panel discussion. The workshop discussions with German and international scholars focused on methodological issues, world market (dis)integration processes affecting de facto states, economic practices and conflict dynamics.

Russia's economic development in the context of Western sanctions

With Alexandra Prokopenko's project *Crisis Habit: Why Russia's Economy Has Been So Resilient to Sanctions*, the research cluster continued to broaden its thematic scope in 2023. The project shows that the professionalism of Russia's technocrats in the economic and

financial policy field is a key factor explaining why the Russian economy is quite resistant to shocks, particularly in relation to the impact of the sanctions imposed on Russia after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. At the same time, this successful crisis management hinders the development of institutional mechanisms for managing the Russian economy. A *ZOIS Report* on this topic was published in November 2023 and was well-received by experts and journalists in Germany and abroad.

The impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine

And finally, in 2023, the research cluster was once again involved in various formats and events which examined the impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine. At the ZOIS Conference, Julia Langbein and Alexandra Prokopenko organised a panel discussion on the opportunities for and limits to data collection in Russia. The topic attracted considerable media interest in the wake of the conference.



The rail line project to connect Belgrade and Budapest: China's involvement in infrastructure projects in Eastern Europe as part of the Belt and Road initiative is a focus of this research cluster.

Cross-cutting Projects

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

Heads of project: Prof. Gwendolyn Sasse,
Dr Julia Langbein,
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

Coordination: Dr Kerstin Bischl

Funding: German Federal Ministry
of Education and Research

Term: 2022–2026

The *KonKoop* research network started work in April 2022 and comprises six institutions from across Germany: the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) as the coordinating body, the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg, the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) in Leipzig, Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU Jena), Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE) and the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF) in Potsdam. Various national and international partners are also associated with the network.

The network is made up of several interdisciplinary research teams that seek to identify how conflicts arise in Eastern Europe, which actors are involved and which factors contribute to escalation and de-escalation, but also

which conditions guarantee security or enable cooperation. The teams focus on regions in Southeast and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

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

Project team at ZOiS

KonKoop is coordinated by Kerstin Bischl at ZOiS. A team of ZOiS researchers is working on several projects within the *KonKoop* framework, including PhD student Lena Pieber with her doctoral research on economic agency in the context of de facto statehood (see p. 35). Other more wide-ranging projects by Ivaylo Dinev and Nadja Douglas focus on protest waves in Eastern Europe (see p. 18) and perceptions of insecurity and related discourses (see p. 22), respectively. Infographic designer Iaroslav Boretskii joined the team in 2023; he made a significant contribution to the development of the official project website and devised visualisations for the individual projects in cooperation with the Multi-Perspective Laboratory for Peace and Conflict Cartography at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography.



Round table at the first conference of the *KonKoop* research network in March 2023.

Developments in 2023

In 2023, the work of the *KonKoop* research network was largely informed by the Kick-Off Conference, which was held at ZOiS in Berlin and brought together more than 60 researchers from all over the world for discussions of conflict and cooperation-related issues and their visualisation. Highlights of the conference were the constituent meeting of *KonKoop*'s Academic Advisory Board and project presentations by the five doctoral candidates.

The programme for 2023 also featured a total of six *KonKoop* workshops, held online or in person. They explored topics such as ethnic minorities in border regions, the political economy of de facto states, in:security, migration, generational change and historical narratives, and conflicting interests in the Arctic. Training in research methods was also provided in Berlin, primarily for junior researchers in the network; this was organised by the Data Lab at ZOiS and was necessary due to the changed realities resulting from Russia's war against Ukraine. All the workshops were accompanied by a number of public appearances by *KonKoop* members and by relevant publications. The work on the individual projects, conducted in parallel, took the form of literature studies, background research and initial fieldwork in all cases. In addition, various collaborative arrangements were established with academics in the study area and with institutions in Germany.

Multi-Method Data Lab

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

The Multi-Method Data Lab based at ZOiS is an interdisciplinary platform that processes and links quantitative and qualitative research data on political, social, economic and spatial dynamics in Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War. Ivaylo Dinev supports researchers with data collection and analysis and produces guidelines on the use of specific methods. He also runs workshops for junior scholars on research methods and techniques in the social and political sciences. In addition, the Data Lab publishes working papers, journal articles and reports for conferences/seminars on data gathering and processing. The *Conflict and Cooperation Database*, set up in 2023 and accessible via the website, is designed specifically as a tool for the research community: it lists public datasets on project-related topics and regions and includes brief descriptions and search functions.

Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)

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

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

In 2023, ten fellows conducted research on different subjects related to the war against their country as part of *UNET* (see p. 10). Their projects covered a wide range of topics from civil society and digital popular culture to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, home infrastructure, the educational experiences of forced Ukrainian migrants, recovery in de-occupied regions, and evacuation behaviour.

Developments in 2023

In 2023, two waves of fellowships were launched. A special series of the *ZOiS Spotlight* entitled *Spotlight on Ukraine* was introduced to showcase the fellows' research and their discoveries from the fieldwork in wartime Ukraine. *UNET* also experimented with a new networking format and gathered scholars for a retreat aimed at improving their mental health. The presentations and discussions had a particular focus on trauma-informed research, and even gave rise to a podcast about this topic. The fellows travelled the world in person (and also via zoom) to share and reflect on what is happening in war-torn and war-mobilised Ukraine. They also forged new partnerships through joint events with teams from Fulbright Ukraine, Prisma Ukraïna, the American University Kyiv, the Kyiv School of Economics, the

Centre for Economic Strategy, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies and the German Association for East European Studies.

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

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

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

Each of the researchers carries out their own projects on the experiences, strategies, networks and attitudes of the refugees, all of which are shaped by local and (trans-)national policies and practices. The network also encourages discussion of empirical, conceptual and ethical issues and preliminary research findings. It is coordinated by Nora Ratzmann at DeZIM and Sabine von Löwis at ZOiS.

Developments in 2023

The *FORUM* network steadily expanded in 2023 and currently meets every two months online to exchange information and reports, propose panels for conferences and initiate new research. Particular mention should be made of the panel at the ASN Annual World Convention in New York in May 2023, which included researchers from DeZIM, ZOiS, Prisma Ukraïna and European University Viadrina. The panellists outlined and discussed the challenges of researching forced migration, with a focus on topics such as conceptual and methodological approaches, dealing with trauma, data availability, the use of visual and participatory methods, and multiple displacements since the outbreak of war in Eastern Ukraine in 2014.

Additional events that showcased research and analysis of displacement from and in Ukraine and the arrival of refugees in various countries and contexts were held in cooperation with other ZOiS projects, e.g. the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)*, institutions (e.g. Prisma Ukraïna)

and scholars. For example, Dr Karolina Łukasiewicz (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow), who researches post-2014 and post-2022 migration policy in Central and Eastern European urban contexts, presented the findings of case studies from Hungary and Poland. A further *FORUM* network event was a *UNET*-organised online discussion of a study conducted by the Centre for Economic Strategy that included a comparative analysis of the situation of Ukrainian refugees in various European countries and their plans for return.

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

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

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

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

Developments in 2023

In 2023, the first four rounds of surveys were conducted at intervals in the participating countries. This generated a comprehensive body of interesting data; the process of data-gathering is continuing. The questions focused particularly on experiences of being displaced and arriving, options for return, issues of identity, integration into social and cultural networks, and educational and career prospects.

Interim results, details of the mental mapping methodology, and the perceptions and roles of borders in the context of displacement were presented by Sabine von Löwis at

two events: the annual workshop of the *Working Group on Geographical Migration Research* in Osnabrück in November, where she spoke about *Fleeing Spaces: Mental Maps of Displacement from Ukraine since February 2022*, and at the ASN Annual Convention in New York in May as part of the discussion on *Displacement and (In)visibility: Methodological Challenges in the Study of Displacement in/from Ukraine*. The experience of borders and the mental mapping of Ukrainian displacement were also a focus of a lecture on *Narratives of Ukrainian Displaced: The Mental Mapping and Appearing and Disappearing B/orders in Regard to Identity* as part of the *Invisible University for Ukraine (IUFU)* programme at Central European University in October.

Emigration during War: A New Generation of Russian Migrants

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

Russia's war against Ukraine has triggered significant emigration from Russia. Georgia and Armenia are popular destinations for Russian migrants, but also Turkey and countries in Central Asia. Young urbanites with higher levels of education are disproportionately represented in this wave of migration. Moreover, the large share of young men among those who have left Russia suggests that the wish to avoid the draft played a key role in the decision to migrate. Political opposition to the war, fear of repression, and ne-

gative assessments of one's own life prospects are other push factors. This project aims to gain insights into the characteristics, attitudes, expectations and behaviours of this new generation of migrants.

Developments in 2023

In 2023 the planned face-to-face surveys were conducted with new Russian migrants in the host countries. The project team is now analysing this data and planning further qualitative research. The project straddles two research clusters: *Youth and Generational Change* and *Societies between Stability and Change*.

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

Head of project: PD Dr Sabine von Löwis
Funded by: German Research Foundation (DFG), Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR)
Term: 2021–2024

LimSpaces is a joint project conducted by ZOiS, the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) in France and the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin. In its original conception, the project was intended to look at the everyday life in the regions bordering the European Union (EU), especially in Moldova and Ukraine. However, in light of Russia's war

against Ukraine, this plan had to be radically altered. The thematic focus of the sub-projects carried out at ZOiS was also adjusted as research stays in Ukraine have not been possible since February 2022. Two of the three sub-projects straddle several research clusters at ZOiS and are presented in this chapter. A new addition in 2023 was the work by Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis on individual trade, with a focus on Moldova. A further sub-project on *Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania* is carried out by social anthropologist Claudia Eggart in the *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* research cluster (see p. 21).



A traffic jam at the Russian-Georgian border in September 2022: Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, thousands of Russians have left their country. A new ZOiS research project looks into their attitudes.

Sub-project

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

Heads of project: Dr Irina Mützelburg
Dr Félix Krawatzek

Term: since 2022

In this *LimSpaces* sub-project, Irina Mützelburg and Félix Krawatzek explore the educational situation and strategies of Ukrainian pupils in Germany. These children and teenagers are attempting to learn German and establish social contacts in Germany, while also maintaining their connection with school in Ukraine so that they can reintegrate smoothly when they return home. The project uses a combination of qualitative in-depth interviews and online surveys among Ukrainian parents in Germany.

In the first six months of 2023 (until the start of her maternity and parental leave), Irina Mützelburg focused mainly on collecting and evaluating data, in the form of interviews with school administrators, teachers and Ukrainian parents in Germany. Together with Félix Krawatzek, she published ZOIS Report 1/2023, entitled *Education and Displacement: Ukrainian Families in Germany*, which is based on an online survey of displaced Ukrainian parents and on data from interviews with parents and young people. She also presented and discussed the preliminary findings in a series of academic lectures at the Institut Convergences Migrations in Paris, Dresden University of Technology and ZOIS's internal and external events. This project is located at the interface between the *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* and *Youth and Generational Change* research clusters.



The Piața Centrală Market in Chișinău is the focus of a new project which looks at the effects of international agreements on the market and its traders.

Sub-project

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

Heads of project: Dr Julia Langbein
PD Dr Sabine von Löwis

Term: since 2023

Individual trade as part of large wholesale and consumer markets currently faces major challenges, the effects of which are investigated in this *LimSpaces* sub-project. Russia's war against Ukraine and economic and political instability in Moldova are among the factors which put a question mark over the anticipated positive effects of the Association Agreement (AA) with the EU and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). Other challenges are the high short- and medium-term costs of implementing and aligning with EU standards, and the associated social impacts. In the medium term, this may lead to the closure of markets or individual traders' businesses, a scenario which is familiar from other Eastern European countries following EU integration and is associated with loss of jobs and access to social security systems. With reference to Piața Centrală, a large traditional market in Chișinău (Republic of Moldova), the project analyses how traders and markets respond to changing conditions, such as those arising from the AA and DCFTA, and to their social and economic impacts. This project straddles the *Political Economy and Integration* and *Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions* research clusters.

In 2023, Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis initiated and supervised fieldwork in collaboration with a colleague in Chișinău. The discussions with traders, market administration and local experts at Piața Centrală offered a diverse range of perspectives. In conversations with traders and experts, a generally negative view predominates, with a focus on the problems caused by the DCFTA and closer alignment with the EU. In some cases, however, there are positive assessments of these processes, mainly due to expectations of robust standards and quality improvements. The more generalised assessments are, in many cases, not backed by references to specific examples or contexts. Concurrently, the market is affected by overt restructuring processes, partly as a result of the COVID pandemic and other global developments. Further work on the research questions will focus in more detail on the linkages between individual experiences and strategies, on the one hand, and external requirements arising from the DCFTA and AA, on the other.

Supporting Young Researchers

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

Internal and external research colloquia

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

ZOiS holds an **internal research colloquium** for its research staff and visiting scholars. In 2023, the existing Monday colloquium evolved into a regular discussion series which now takes place every two weeks during the semester and provides a platform for academic exchange and the development of strategies and relevant research guidelines. The purpose of the internal colloquium is to facilitate discussion of work-in-progress, project applications, selected reading and researchers' own experiences of fieldwork in a time of crisis and war, not least in light of the need to safeguard good research practice and researchers' personal safety.

In the 2023 summer semester, the internal colloquium was led by Félix Krawatzek and focused on studies of postcolonial theory and decolonial perspectives. In the 2023-2024 winter semester, it was chaired by Tsypylma Darieva and Claudia Eggart and explored issues relating to research practice in a time of crisis. The discussions foregrounded urgent challenges in social science ethics in the increasingly authoritarian societies of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This included explorations of power relations in research, ethical responsibility towards study participants, and risks and security issues during fieldwork, which are increasingly arising in the online sphere as well.

The internal colloquium thus provides a space for systematic interdisciplinary dialogue across ZOiS's research clusters; in this dialogue, new research issues and methodologies are tested and discussed. It is recognised that ethical issues are relevant to all researchers at ZOiS; based on the lively participation and positive feedback, the debate around this topic should continue, this time with a focus on ethical issues in the management of collected data.

ZOiS's **external research colloquium**, organised in cooperation with the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), was held monthly during the semester and served as a forum for discussion of work-in-progress by scholars – from PhD students to established academics – engaged in research on Eastern Europe. The external research colloquium was discontinued at the end of the 2023 summer semester.

Interns and research assistants

ZOiS offers students the opportunity to take up internships or research assistantships in order to gain practical experience in research or research communication. This involves a diverse range of tasks, from literature and background research, data compilation, processing and evaluation, and editing to involvement in academic networking. Student assistants are also placed with ZOiS's Communications team, where they work on website editing, event organisation, research, and editorial tasks, for example. In 2023, 27 research assistants and three interns were employed at ZOiS.

Mentoring and supervision

Other important mechanisms for fostering young talent at ZOiS are mentoring of students and primary and secondary supervision of dissertations and theses up to PhD level. In 2023, Tsypylma Darieva, Beate Eschment, Félix Krawatzek, Tatiana Golova, Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis, Hakob Matevosyan and Gwendolyn Sasse supervised studies at the University of Vienna, Nazarbayev University in Astana, the University of Passau, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin and Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Hungary.

Tsypylma Darieva participated in the mentoring programme of the German Association for East European Studies (DGO). Félix Krawatzek took on a mentoring role within the Europaeum university network. Ivaylo Dinev mentors junior researchers in the framework of the BMBF-funded *KonKoop* research network. Nadja Douglas,

Tsypylma Darieva, Regina Elsner, Nina Frieß, Félix Krawatzek, Julia Langbein, Stefanie Orphal, Gwendolyn Sasse and Sabine von Löwis were mentors for *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)* Fellows in 2023.

Doctoral students at ZOiS

► Cooperation with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences

The cooperation with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin aims to provide intensive training for postgraduate students from all disciplines with a focus on Eastern Europe. The doctoral candidates who are selected for this methodology training programme at BGSS join one of ZOiS's research clusters in parallel to working on their dissertations. They also participate in events and contribute to ZOiS publications. Diana Bogishvili and Kostiantyn Fedorenko have been based at ZOiS since 2019.

In 2023, **Diana Bogishvili** focused on analysing her surveys of transnational families for her PhD, which explores how migration influences the values of Georgian migrants in Germany and their relatives in Georgia. She presented the preliminary findings of her study at the 30th Conference of Junior Scholars in the Field of East European Studies (JOE) and the Long Night of the Sciences.

With the *Project to Initiate Research and Cooperation between EU and Eastern Partnership Countries (RemitEU)*, Diana Bogishvili continued working on a joint project application involving ZOiS and the Center for Social Sciences (CSS) in Georgia. The University of Trento, the University of Sarajevo, the Western Balkans Institute in Belgrade, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Moldova State University, the Foreign

Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”, and the Trento-based think tank Centro per la Cooperazione Internazionale were recruited as further international partners. The project was completed in 2023.

Kostiantyn Fedorenko is a doctoral student at the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences and a member of the MOBILISE project team (*Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest*). For his dissertation project, he is researching activism and emigration, with a particular focus on participants in the 2013/14 Ukrainian Euromaidan protests who emigrated before 2022 and Ukrainian activists in Germany whose activism is related to Russia's current war against Ukraine.

In 2023, Kostiantyn Fedorenko interviewed 10 Ukrainians in Germany who are engaged in war-related activism. This enabled him to explore cross-contextual activism in more depth, as a number of these interviewees – both voluntary and forced migrants – view their activities as the logical continuation of Euromaidan under different circumstances. Kostiantyn Fedorenko presented the results of these interviews at a MOBILISE seminar at ZOiS and at a discussion hosted by Charles University in Prague. In addition, some of the findings on Ukrainians' experiences of migration to Germany featured in a collection of articles published by the Genshagen Foundation's #EUmeetsEurope project and appeared in a ZOiS Spotlight.

► De:link//Re:link

Valentin Krüsmann, a doctoral student at ZOiS since May 2021, works on the project *China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia* as part of the *Local Perspectives on Transregional (Dis-)Entangle-*

ments (De:link//Re:link) research network. His topic is multi-country cooperation on infrastructure projects with Chinese participation in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Eastern Europe. In 2023, Valentin Krüsmann spent five weeks conducting fieldwork in Serbia for his doctoral studies. He was mainly concerned with the development of Belgrade's metro system, which is sponsored by France, with a major Chinese state-owned contractor commissioned to carry out the construction. Besides Belgrade, the fieldwork also included visits to other projects with Chinese involvement in the Serbian cities of Bor, Smederevo and Zrenjanin.

Valentin Krüsmann also conducted fieldwork on infrastructure projects in Georgia and Kazakhstan. He and co-author Beril Ocaklı submitted the preliminary findings from Georgia for publication in a special issue of the interdisciplinary journal *Mobilities*. Valentin Krüsmann gave a presentation on China's role in Kazakhstan's energy transition at the 2023 ZOiS Annual Conference.

► KonKoop

Lena Pieber joined ZOiS in April 2022 as a doctoral student in the research network *Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: The Consequences of the Reconfiguration of Political, Economic, and Social Spaces since the End of the Cold War (KonKoop)*. For her PhD, she is investigating the economic agency of de facto states that formed after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, comparing economic developments and linkages in Georgia and Abkhazia with those of the Republic of Moldova and Transnistria. She undertook the first part of her empirical data-gathering in Georgia in April and May 2023 and then conducted various online interviews from June to November.

An international workshop on *The Political Economy of Unrecognised Statehood*, organised by Lena Pieber, Sabine von Löwis and Julia Langbein, was held at ZOIS in October 2023. Lena Pieber presented her preliminary research findings at various colloquia and workshops.

► LimSpaces

Claudia Eggart is a researcher in the project *Living with Uncertainty: Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectation in Ukraine and Moldova (LimSpaces)* at ZOIS. In March 2023, she visited Moldova in order to conduct a more detailed exploration of insights gained during her initial visit in summer 2022 for the *LimSpaces* sub-project *Border Logistics and Geopolitics at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova and Romania*. Here, she is interested in the interfaces between local and global dynamics at the border triangle and how they affect the general understanding of border dynamics. The implications of Russia's war against Ukraine for the movement of people and goods also form part of her research.

In 2023, *Third World Quarterly* and *Europe-Asia Studies* each published an article by Claudia Eggart. For ZOIS, she authored a *Spotlight* on grain logistics as a geopolitical issue. She attended various conferences and workshops, including the BASEES Annual Conference in Glasgow and a *LimSpaces* workshop in Paris, and gave a presentation on her PhD project at the PechaKucha Night hosted by ZOIS during its annual conference.

In parallel to her work at ZOIS, Claudia Eggart completed her doctoral studies at the University of Manchester, submitting her dissertation, entitled *Lived Geopolitics: Re-scaling Market Infrastructures and Retail Hubs in Odesa and Bishkek*, in December 2023.

► MoveMeRU

Sophia Winkler joined ZOIS in September 2023 as a doctoral student in the project *Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (MoveMeRU)*. In her doctoral research, she is conducting an analysis of the media landscape that Russian speakers abroad are exposed to. Her primary objective is to extract historical narratives from Russian transnational media, including social media, and decode their functions, key actors and target groups. To that end, she is conducting a media analysis in collaboration with the Chair of Political Communication with a Focus on Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Region at the University of Passau. In 2023, she gave a presentation on her PhD project at the PechaKucha Night hosted by ZOIS during its annual conference.

Sophia Winkler is also responsible for the *MoveMeRU* project's social media content. She developed basic principles for its research communication and regularly produces short videos for its Instagram channel.

► Research Affiliates

Veronika Pfeilschifter is a doctoral student and research affiliate within the *Youth and Generational Change* research cluster. For her PhD on *Concepts, Ideologies and Emotions: Taking Stock of the New Left in the South Caucasus*, she looks at the new generation of young leftists in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In May 2023, she travelled to Tbilisi and Yerevan in order to carry out fieldwork.

As part of her cumulative PhD research in 2023, she and co-author Félix Krawatzek submitted an article for publication in *Europe-Asia Studies*. Together with Cesare Figari Barberis, she also wrote a *ZOIS Spotlight* on state dominance and its discontents among Azerbaijani youth. Veronika Pfeilschifter attended various conferences in 2023, including the Conference of Europeanists in Reykjavik and the Conference of the British International Studies Association in Glasgow. At an event hosted by the ZOIS Caucasus Network, she discussed the film *Panjara – Feminist Views on South Caucasus* with its director Rovshana Orujova.



The online world between Germany and Russia and the identity of social media users with a Russian background in Germany is the focus of Sophia Winkler's PhD project. She joined ZOIS in September 2023 as part of the ERC-funded project 'MoveMeRU'.

Seminars and courses

- ▶ BA course | Tsypylma Darieva
Migration, Diaspora and Activism in Central Asia and the South Caucasus
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, winter term 2023/24)
- ▶ Seminar | Hakob Matevosyan
Methods in Social Sciences and Humanities
Graduate School Global and Area Studies, Leipzig University (Leipzig, summer term 2023)
- ▶ BA seminar | Gwendolyn Sasse
Russia's War against Ukraine
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, summer term 2023)
- ▶ Block seminar | Nina Frieß, Félix Krawatzek
Geschichte(n) der Jugend. Eine kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Reise durch (Ost-)Europa
Summer academy for scholarship holders of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation
(Wrocław, 06–14/09/2023)

One-off events

- ▶ Habilitation lecture | Sabine von Löwis
Waffenstillstandslinien: Räume der Sicherheit und Unsicherheit. Beiträge der Geographie zur Friedens- und Konfliktforschung
Leipzig University, Faculty of Physics and Earth System Sciences (Leipzig, 09/01/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Tsypylma Darieva
Sprachbiographien bei Minderheiten Russlands
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Munich, 12/01/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Tsypylma Darieva
New Russian Exile and Migrants' Activism in Georgia
Universität Hamburg (Hamburg, 18/01/2023)
As part of the lecture series *Einwanderung, Exil, Flucht – Formen der Migration im und aus dem östlichen Europa*
- ▶ Lecture | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
From Borderlands to Bordered Lands' Revisited
Central European University, Invisible University for Ukraine (Budapest, 21–28/01/2023)
As part of the winter school *Evidence and Truth – Reflecting on the War in Ukraine in a Global Context*
- ▶ Workshop | Ivaylo Dinev
Methods Training by DataLab and VisLab
Organised by Ivaylo Dinev as part of the BMBF-funded *KonKoop* competence network
(Berlin, 02–03/02/2023)
- ▶ Workshop | Ivaylo Dinev
KonKoop Workshop for Young Researchers
Organised by Ivaylo Dinev as part of the BMBF-funded *KonKoop* competence network
(Berlin, 10/05 and 03/07/2023)
- ▶ Workshop | Beate Eschment, Tatiana Golova
Connecting Protest Research(ers)
Centre for East European and International Studies (Bishkek, 15–17/05/2023)
Workshop for young researchers organised by Beate Eschment and Asel Doolotkeldieva as part of the DAAD-funded project *Central Asia: Connecting Protest Research(ers)*
With a contribution by Tatiana Golova on *Studying Protest Discourses on Social Media: A Case Study of a Regional Protest in Russia*
- ▶ Guest seminar | Beril Ocaklı
Re/researching Connections. Geopolitics and Poetics of the BRI Infrastructure in Eurasia
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institute for African and Asian Studies (Berlin, 02/06/2023)
As part of the seminar *The BRI in China and Central Asia*

- ▶ Lecture | Nina Frieß
Nomadenmythen in der Literatur und Kultur Kasachstans
 Heidelberg University (online, 05/06/2023)
 As part of the lecture series *Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte der slavischen Völker*
- ▶ Seminar | Beate Eschment
Zentralasienforschung am ZOiS
 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 12/06/2023)
 Seminar for students of the Kazakh-German University
 Lecture *Die Erforschung zwischenethnischer Beziehungen in Kasachstan*
- ▶ Guest seminar | Irina Mützelburg
Bildung für neuzugewanderte Kinder und Jugendliche
 Dresden University of Technology (Dresden, 16/06/2023)
 As part of the seminar *Grundlagen der Bildungsforschung*
- ▶ Lecture | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Russia's Politics in the Newly Occupied Territories and Ukraine's Response
 University of Freiburg (online, 22/06/2023)
 As part of the seminar *The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict: Root Causes, Dynamics, and Approaches to Conflict Management*
- ▶ Lecture | Nadja Douglas
Policy Consulting Related to Eastern Europe
 Centre for East European and International Studies (Berlin, 27/07/2023)
 As part of a visit by a group of students of Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München
- ▶ Guest seminar | Beril Ocaklı
Extractive Socionatures and Resistance. The Un/Making of Kyrgyzstan's Gold Rush
 Aarhus University, Anthropology Department (online, 28/09/2023)
 As part of the master's seminar *Contemporary Anthropological Themes: Anthropology of Resource Extraction*
- ▶ Lecture | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Why and How to Study Borders (In Times of War)?
 Central European University (online, 04/10/2023)
 As part of the course *Identities-Borders-Orders: Migration and Belonging*
- ▶ Workshop | Beate Eschment
Europäische Perspektiven im Dialog: Zentralasien und die westliche Forschung
 Bukhara State University (online, 06/10/2023)
 Lecture *Publishing in Western Scientific Journals*
- ▶ Workshop | Beate Eschment
Europäische Perspektiven im Dialog: Zentralasien und die westliche Forschung
 Samarkand State University (online, 11/10/2023)
 Lecture *Publishing in Western Scientific Journals*
- ▶ Lecture | Christian Schaich
Verwaltungsrecht: Theorie und Praxis des Unterrichtens
 Faculty of Law at Narikbayev KAZGUU University and other universities in Kazakhstan
 (Astana, 24–26/10/2023) (with Christian Reitemeier)
- ▶ Lecture series | Gwendolyn Sasse
Rethinking and Reimagining Ukraine in Times of War – and After
 Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 01/11/2023)
 Organisation of the lecture series
- ▶ Seminar | Félix Krawatzek
Youth in Eastern Europe: Where Political Socialisation Differs (and Where Not)
 Aarhus University (Aarhus, 23/11/2023)

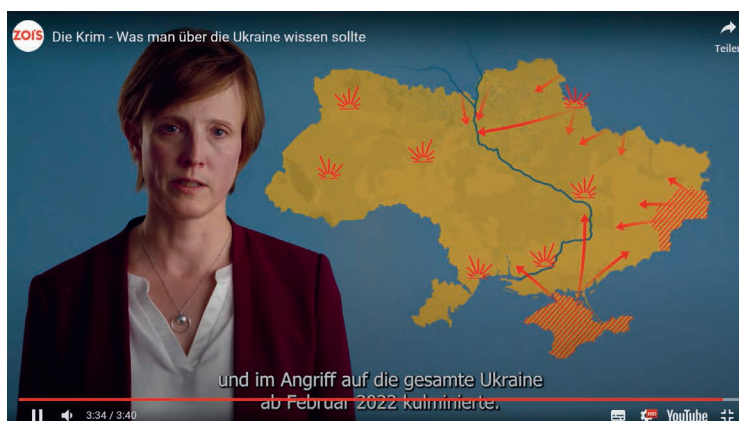
Video Glossary on Ukraine

Without adequate knowledge, it is more difficult to make informed judgements about developments in politics and society. In the specific case of Russia's war against Ukraine, the situation is compounded by the deliberate dissemination of fake news. In collaboration with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), ZOiS has therefore produced a series of videos titled 'What You Need to Know about Ukraine', which is designed to provide academically sound information about Ukraine in an easily accessible format.

When Russia started its full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Eastern Europe experts found themselves suddenly confronted with a surge of interest in Ukrainian politics and society. It became apparent at the same time that the German public's level of in-depth knowledge about this European country was relatively low.

Closing knowledge gaps, tackling disinformation

Lack of knowledge opens the way for the spread of disinformation, particularly in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. This applies especially to topics such as Ukrainian history, statehood, language, identity and de-



In 13 videos researchers explain key aspects of Ukraine's history and society for a general audience – a still from the video on Crimea with Gwendolyn Sasse.

velopments since 2014. In collaboration with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), ZOiS has therefore produced 13 short videos which aim to raise the German public's level of knowledge about Ukraine by providing clear and accessible explanations of concepts relating to Ukrainian politics, economics and society and key events in Ukrainian history. The glossary is intended to build a sound knowledge base so that users can make a more informed assessment of recent events.

All you need to know about Ukraine

In selecting the terms to be included in the video glossary, every effort was

made to debunk common myths about Ukraine while also turning the spotlight on often overlooked topics, such as multilingualism, civil society and regional diversity in Ukraine and their political relevance. As the videos are aimed specifically at a German-speaking audience, we felt it was also important to recall the atrocities committed during the German occupation of Ukraine in the Second World War.

Civic education for young people

Ensuring that the videos appealed to a younger audience proved to be a particular challenge. It was important to build on this target group's existing level of knowledge without falling short of the objectives of research communication, namely to present a full picture of the relevant research. As a solution, animated graphics were produced in order to visualise geographical details, statistics and symbols. These animated graphics are used in a variety of ways and do much to enhance the quality of the videos. The videos are available on ZOiS's and bpb's YouTube channels and on the ZOiS website. They have been added to the bpb media library in the expectation that they will be used increasingly as an educational tool in schools and non-school settings.

Terms explained in the video glossary

- ▶ **Chernobyl** (Anna Veronika Wendland)
- ▶ **Regions** (Anna Veronika Wendland)
- ▶ **Crimea** (Gwendolyn Sasse)
- ▶ **Donbas** (Gwendolyn Sasse)
- ▶ **Russian Occupation** (Tatiana Zhurzhenko)
- ▶ **Independence** (Bozhena Kozakevich)
- ▶ **Culture** (Susann Worschech)
- ▶ **Maidan** (Wilfried Jilge)
- ▶ **German Occupation 1941–1944** (Tatjana Tönsmeier)
- ▶ **Holodomor** (Guido Hausmann)
- ▶ **Oligarchs** (Steffen Halling)
- ▶ **Languages in Ukraine** (Monika Wingender)
- ▶ **Civil Society** (Susann Worschech)

A Trainee's Experience of ZOiS

As part of its efforts to foster young talent, ZOiS has established a training programme with a focus on research communication. Since April 2023, Hannah Guhlmann has been learning the specifics of press and public relations at a research institute. Here, she shares some of her insights.

Who, when, why?

'The Centre for East European and International Studies? That's a long name!' This is a fairly typical reaction when I tell people where I work. But for me, it fits the pattern: after all, I started off by taking a Bachelor's degree in *Political Science and Career-Oriented Linguistics in Intercultural Contexts* and then completed a Master's in *European Studies – Eastern Europe in a Global Perspective* in Leipzig. Of course, it wasn't about choosing the courses with the longest names that I could find, but seeking out as much interdisciplinarity as possible. The diversity of Central and Eastern Europe has fascinated me ever since I spent a year in Estonia while still at school. Later, I completed a voluntary community service in Slovenia for a year, took up internships in Ukraine and Hungary and studied for a semester in Romania. Another internship and a part-time job with an NGO led me towards the communications sector, and I realised that this was where I belonged. I was keen to hone my skills, so applying to ZOiS was the obvious choice.

ZOIS: the ideal size

ZOIS has more than 60 employees, including my five colleagues in the Communications team. When we were discussing the training plan, they explained that the communications portfolio at ZOiS is not spread across vari-

ous departments which then organise placements for the trainees; instead, there is a single team covering all the various roles. And this is one of the strengths of the training programme at ZOiS: the Institute is small enough for trainees to get to know everyone in person, but large enough to offer a diverse range of formats for them to experiment with, from conventional press releases to podcasting and various social media channels.

Team spirit

Trainees at ZOiS are not required to have any practical experience in communications and PR, but some previous exposure is certainly helpful. I had already gained communications experience, particularly with social media, so I wasn't a complete novice when I arrived. I can tell from my colleagues' trust in me that my skills are appreciated. Whether it's designing a campaign or posting live during a two-day conference – seeing my ideas coming to life in posts for thousands of followers is very satisfying.



Hannah Guhlmann at the 2023 Forum Science Communication in Bielefeld.

Getting out of the office

Knowledge does not come without effort – and besides allowing me the freedom to broaden my experience, ZOiS gives me the chance to choose and attend external training courses. With the podcasting seminar, I was thrown in at the deep end. Just how much work goes into making a half-hour podcast – from the concept to the script, the technical aspects, and then the presenting, editing and broadcasting – became clear to me when I was involved in various stages of the production of ZOiS's *Roundtable Osteuropa* podcast. Then at the seminar, I was sent out into the street for an hour with recording equipment and instructions to find someone to interview. After a few rejections, a chance encounter turned out to be an inspired choice. It feels good to move out of your comfort zone and think beyond the confines of the office – that's a lesson I won't forget.

Research communication: full of surprises

For many people, a traineeship is the conventional route into the field of communications. But research communication as a distinct branch of communications? That was a whole new world for me. The associations and networks that advocate for research communication outside the universities and think tanks and act as intermediaries have a wealth of resources available and do much to support research communication professionals, as well as academics engaged in this field. Despite my university experience, I only really discovered that when I started my traineeship at ZOiS.

ZOiS Events

Within its programme of events, ZOiS offers a variety of formats, tailored to diverse target groups. We differentiate between academic events and those designed to promote knowledge transfer to a wider audience. The first of these categories includes **lectures, panel discussions, workshops and conferences** that are mainly intended for the academic community, such as the **ZOiS Research Colloquium**, which is held in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt–Universität zu Berlin and European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder).

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

ACADEMIC EVENTS

Public lectures and panel discussions

- ▶ **The South Caucasus as a Place of Refuge? Migration and Insecurity (online, 06/07/2023)**
Organised by the ZOiS Caucasus Network
Nareg Seferian (Virginia Tech), Givi Silagadze (Caucasus Research Resource Center Georgia).
Chair: Nadja Douglas and Tsypylma Darieva (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **Accommodating Ethnic Minorities in Border Regions. Lessons from the Danish–German Border for Eastern Europe (ZOiS, 28/09/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Martin Klatt (European Centre for Minority Issues). Chair: Ekaterina Mikhailova (Leibniz Institute of East and Southeast European Studies)
- ▶ **Managing Conflicts with De Facto States: Do Economic Actors and Interests Matter? (ZOiS, 17/10/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Dmitry Chervyakov (Berlin Economics), Mete Hatay (PRIO Cyprus Centre), Anne Holper (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder). Chair: Lena Pieber (ZOiS)

Conferences

- ▶ **KonKoop Kick-Off Conference (ZOiS, 02–03/03/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Organised by Kerstin Bischl (ZOiS). With Tsypylma Darieva, Nadja Douglas, Regina Elsner, Sabine von Löwis, Lena Pieber, Gwendolyn Sasse (all ZOiS)
- ▶ **Energy Transition, Sustainability and Inclusive Development in Central Asia (Global Village Berlin, 20/06/2023)**
Co-organised by Beril Ocaklı (ZOiS) in cooperation with SPCE Hub, German Association for East European Studies (DGO) and Intersectoral School of Governance Baden-Württemberg (ISoG BW)
With a contribution by Beate Eschment and chaired by Beril Ocaklı (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **ZOiS Conference 2023**
Paradigms in Times of War: Unpacking Research and Policy Challenges (ZOiS, 16–17/11/2023)
With Kerstin Bischl, Ivaylo Dinev, Tsypylma Darieva, Nadja Douglas, Nina Frieß, Tatiana Golova, Félix Krawatzek, Valentin Krüsmann, Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis, Hakob Matevosyan, Beril Ocaklı, Alexandra Prokopenko, Gwendolyn Sasse, Tetiana Skrypchenko (all ZOiS)

Workshops

- ▶ **Exploring the New Exodus from Russia: Migration, Adaptation and Transnational Engagement (ZOiS, 16–17/02/2023)**
Organised by Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **Russophone Voices: Rethinking Russia (ZOiS, 17–18/02/2023)**
Organised by Nina Frieß (ZOiS)

- ▶ **Evacuation Alerts: Behavioural Insights from Ukraine (online, 01/03/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (UNET)*
Organised by Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Exit and/or Voice in Times of Crisis: Migration, Protest & Activism (ZOiS, 24/03/2023)**
Part of the joint project *MOBILISE*
Organised by Gwendolyn Sasse and Piotr Goldstein (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **European Memories (ZOiS, 21–22/04/2023)**
Organised by Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Interdisciplinary Approaches to Changing Arctic Realities – Between Cooperation and Conflicting Interests (online, 24/05/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Organised by Nadja Douglas and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **In:Security in Border Regions (ZOiS, 08/06/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Organised by Nadja Douglas and Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **Crossing Borders: Migration, Generational Change and Historical Narratives (ZOiS, 12–13/06/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Organised by Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS) and Alina Jašina-Schäfer (Research Network *Ambivalences of the Soviet*, represented by the Northeast Institute)
- ▶ **Multimodal Research and Publishing Workshop (ZOiS and DeZim, 19–20/06/2023)**
In cooperation with the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM)
Organised by Piotr Goldstein (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Ethnic Minorities in Border Regions – Potential for Conflict or Cooperation? (ZOiS, 28/09/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Organised by Beate Eschment, Sabine von Löwis (both ZOiS) and Ekaterina Mikhailova (Leibniz Institute of East and Southeast European Studies)
- ▶ **The Political Economy of Unrecognised Statehood (ZOiS, 17–18/10/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Organised by Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis and Lena Pieber (all ZOiS)
- ▶ **Round Table on Cybersecurity (ZOiS, 18–19/10/2023)**
Organised by Christian Schaich (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Risk in the Field and Beyond: Ethical Challenges in Area Studies (ZOiS, 20/11/2023)**
Organised by Nina Frieß and Katrin Hoffmann
- ▶ **MoveMeRU Workshop (ZOiS, 07–08/12/2023)**
Part of the ERC-funded project *MoveMeRU*
Organised by Johanna Mogwitz

ZOiS Research Colloquium

- ▶ **Post-Soviet Vicious Circle: Revolution as Reproduction of the Hegemony Crisis (ZOiS, 11/01/2023)**
Volodymyr Ishchenko (Freie Universität Berlin)
- ▶ **Educational Situations of Pupils Who Have Fled to Germany from Ukraine (ZOiS, 08/02/2023)**
Irina Mützelburg and Félix Krawatzek (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **From Social to Intangible Remittances: A Conceptual Recalibration with Empirical Evidence from Southeast Europe (ZOiS, 14/06/2023)**
Janine Pinkow-Läpple (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies)
- ▶ **Building Online Bridges for Hate: Russian-Language Pro-war Activism in Germany (ZOiS, 12/07/2023)**
Tatiana Golova (ZOiS) and Liliia Sablina (Central European University)

ZOiS Forum

- ▶ **Taming the Garden: (In)Visible Politics and Socionatures in Georgia (Kino Krokodil, 17/01/2023)**
In cooperation with Kino Krokodil
Salomé Jashi (director). Chair: Beril Ocaklı (ZOiS)
- ▶ **War-Induced Migration from Russia (ZOiS, 16/02/2023)**
Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS), Angelina Davydova (environmental and climate journalist), Margarita Zavadskaya (Finnish Institute of International Affairs). Chair: Tatiana Golova (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Stimmen gegen Russlands Krieg (ZOiS, 20/04/2023)**
In cooperation with dekode
Nadja Douglas (ZOiS). Chair: Ingo Petz (dekoder)
- ▶ **'In the Enemy's Language?' Russophone Poetry in Times of War (ZOiS, 09/05/2023)**
Anuar Duisenbinov (poet), Miriam Finkelstein (University of Vienna), Dinara Rasuleva (writer).
Chair: Nina Frieß (ZOiS)
- ▶ **The Power of Images: Icons of War (Evangelische Immanuel-Kirchengemeinde, 28/06/2023)**
Regina Elsner (University of Münster; ZOiS), Anastasia Magazova (journalist).
Chair: Polina Aronson (sociologist, journalist)
- ▶ **Ukraine: Humour as a Weapon of War (ZOiS, 11/07/2023)**
Orest Semotiuk (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Narrating Every Day Life During War Time in Ukraine (ZOiS, 21/09/2023)**
In cooperation with Prisma Ukraïna and Fulbright Ukraine
Olha Haidamachuk (National Technical University 'Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute'), Alina Mozolevska (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University), Yuliia Soroka (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS)
- ▶ **RUKLA – Momentan keine Feindsicht (ZOiS, 12/10/2023)**
Ramūnas Misiulis (Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Germany), Steffi Wurster (filmmaker).
Chair: Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Matters of Life: The Art of Infrastructure and Science (ZOiS, 28/11/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded network *De:link//Re:link*
Jamila Maria Adeli (art historian), Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi (University of Fribourg).
Chair: Beril Ocaklı (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Panjara – Feminist Views on South Caucasus (ZOiS, 30/11/2023)**
Organised by the ZOiS Caucasus Network
Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS), Rovshana Orujova (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Veronika Pfeilschifter (ZOiS). Chair: Nadja Douglas (ZOiS)
- ▶ **War, Memory, and Emotions: Decoding Europe's Responses to the War in Ukraine (Robert Bosch Academy, 07/12/2023)**
In cooperation with the Robert Bosch Academy
Jean P. Froehly (Federal Foreign Office of Germany), Samuel Greene (King's College London), Karolina Wigura (Kultura Liberalna). Chair: Félix Krawatzek (ZOiS)

In Conversation with...

- ▶ **Kasachstan 2023: Wo steht das Land ein Jahr nach den gewalttätigen Ausschreitungen im Januar 2022? (ZOiS, 18/01/2023)**
Beate Eschment, Nina Frieß (both ZOiS)
- ▶ **Cultural Imperialism and Language Activism: Russia's Minorities in the Context of War (online, 26/01/2023)**
Vlada Baranova (Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies), Monika Wingender (Justus Liebig University Giessen). Chair: Tsypylma Darieva (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Fragile Gemeinschaften, starke Überzeugungen: Protestdynamiken im heutigen Kirgisistan und Kasachstan (ZOiS, 21/03/2023)**
Asel Doolotkeldieva. Chair: Beate Eschment (ZOiS)



With director Rovshana Orujova in attendance, the ZOIS Caucasus Network held a screening of the documentary film 'Panjara', which looks at the political work of feminist activists in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

- ▶ **Democratic Attitudes as the Backbone of Ukrainian Resilience (ZOIS, 24/03/2023)**
Olga Onuch (University of Manchester). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOIS)
- ▶ **Rebuilding Ukraine: What the International Community Needs to Understand Now (online, 28/03/2023)**
Jörn Grävingholt (German Institute of Development and Sustainability), Susan Stewart (German Institute for International and Security Affairs). Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOIS)
- ▶ **Ten Years of the 'Belt and Road' in Central and (South)Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: A Reality Check (ZOIS, 22/06/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded network *De:link//Re:link*
Valentin Krüsmann (ZOIS), Tamás Peragovics (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest).
Chair: Julia Langbein (ZOIS)
- ▶ **Confidence Building in the Shadow of War: Moldova, Transdnistria, and the Uncertain Future of the 5+2 Process (ZOIS, 04/10/2023)**
Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham). Chair: Nadja Douglas (ZOIS)
- ▶ **Russian Migrant Activism in the Context of Russia's War against Ukraine (ZOIS, 12/10/2023)**
Tatiana Golova, Tsypylma Darieva (both ZOIS). Chair: Stefanie Orphal (ZOIS)
- ▶ **Displaced Ukrainians in Europe and Germany: Who Are They and What Are Their Intentions to Return (ZOIS, 08/11/2023)**
Dariia Mykhailyshyna (Center for Economic Strategy Kyiv). Chair: Sabine von Löwis (ZOIS)
- ▶ **Why Russia's Economy Has Been so Resilient to Sanctions (online, 21/11/2023)**
Alexandra Prokopenko (ZOIS). Chair: Julia Langbein (ZOIS)

Other events

- ▶ **'A State in a State' (ZOIS, 06/02/2023)**
Film screening organised by the ZOIS Caucasus Network
Tekla Aslanishvili (director), Evelina Gambino (University of Cambridge).
Chair: Nadja Douglas and Tsypylma Darieva (both ZOIS)
- ▶ **World Café: Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine: Dynamiken und Auswirkungen (ZOIS, 22/02/2023)**
Tsypylma Darieva, Nadja Douglas, Regina Elsner, Beate Eschment, Tatiana Golova, Félix Krawatzek, Irina Mützelburg, Beril Ocaklı, Gwendolyn Sasse, Tatiana Zhurzhenko (all ZOIS)
- ▶ **Displacement, Emplacement, and Self-Organisation: Ukraine 2014–2021 (ZOIS, 16/03/2023)**
Part of the BMBF-funded *Ukraine Research Network@ZOIS (UNET)*
Discussion with Emily Channell-Justice (Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute).
Chair: Anastasiya Leukhina (ZOIS)



At the World Café in February 2023, ZOiS researchers pooled their expertise in a discussion of the dynamics and effects of Russia's war against Ukraine from different perspectives.

- ▶ **Ende der Sowjetunion: Leben mit neuen Grenzen (ZOiS, 29/03/2023)**
Presentation of the edited volume *Post-Soviet Borders: A Kaleidoscope of Shifting Lives and Lands* (ed. by Sabine von Löwis and Beate Eschment)
Beate Eschment (ZOiS), Sabine von Löwis (ZOiS), Stephan Rindlisbacher (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder), Tatiana Zhurzhenko (ZOiS). Chair: Carolin Leutloff–Grandits (European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)
- ▶ **China in Eastern Europe: Challenges and Opportunities (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 02/05/2024)**
Part of the BMBF-funded network *De:link//Re:link Silk Road Talks* in cooperation with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin with Tamás Peragovics (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest). Chair: Julia Langbein (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Kinderliterarisches Kolloquium: Bilderbuch (online, 12/05/2023)**
Organised and chaired by Nina Frieß (ZOiS)
- ▶ **Long Night of the Sciences 2023 (ZOiS and Museum für Naturkunde, 17/06/2023)**
With contributions by Diana Bogishvili, Nadja Douglas, Claudia Eggart, Regina Elsner, Nina Frieß, Piotr Goldstein, Katrin Hoffmann, Félix Krawatzek, Hakob Matevosyan, Gwendolyn Sasse and Tatiana Zhurzhenko (all ZOiS)
- ▶ **War, (Re-)Construction, and Feminist Futures (ZOiS, 30/08/2023)**
Part of the *Viadrinicum 2023: Transsectoral Summer School Learning City. Beyond the Classroom*
Linda Gusia (University of Prishtina), Nataliia Otrishchenko (Lviv Center for Urban History), Oksana Potapova (London School of Economics). Chair: Claudia Eggart (ZOiS)
- ▶ **PechaKucha Evening at ZOiS (ZOiS, 16/11/2023)**
PechaKucha presentations at the ZOiS Conference 2023
- ▶ **Die Zukunft der Ukraine in Europa (Deutsche Parlamentarische Gesellschaft, 25/11/2023)**
Parliamentary evening in cooperation with the German Foundation for Peace Research
Andrea Gawrich (Justus Liebig University Giessen), Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS).
Chair: Ulrich Schneckener (German Foundation for Peace Research)
- ▶ **World Café: New Insights about the Belt and Road Initiative from (Eur)Asia to (East)Africa: Strategies, Narratives and Reactions (ZOiS, 28/11/2023)**
Jamila Adeli (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Nadia Ali (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies), Linda Ammann (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Kai Kresse (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient), Valentin Krüsmann (ZOiS), Julia Langbein (ZOiS), Katja Mielke (Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies), Beril Ocaklı (ZOiS), Kadara Swaleh (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)
- ▶ **Kinderliterarisches Kolloquium: Kinderliteratur unter Druck (online, 14/12/2023)**
Organised and chaired by Nina Frieß (ZOiS)

ZOiS Publications

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

ZOiS REPORT

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

- ▶ *Education and Displacement: Ukrainian Families in Germany*
ZOiS Report 1/2023 by Irina Mützelburg and Félix Krawatzek (30/03/2023)
- ▶ *Russians in the South Caucasus: Political Attitudes and the War in Ukraine*
ZOiS Report 2/2023 by Félix Krawatzek, George Soroka and Isabelle DeSisto (03/05/2023)
- ▶ *Russian Migrants in Georgia and Germany: Activism in the Context of Russia's War against Ukraine*
ZOiS Report 3/2023 by Tsypylma Darieva and Tatiana Golova (06/10/2023)
- ▶ *Permanent Crisis Mode: Why Russia's Economy Has Been So Resilient Against Sanctions*
ZOiS Report 4/2023 by Alexandra Prokopenko (21/11/2023)

ZOiS SPOTLIGHT

ZOiS Spotlight is a short weekly publication by ZOiS researchers and guest contributors featuring analyses, insights, and background information on current developments in Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet space. It is aimed at the broader public and published on the ZOiS website on Wednesdays in English and German. This year also saw the launch of the special series *Spotlight on Ukraine*, in which fellows of the *Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS* write about their research in the context of the war against Ukraine.

- ▶ *The Major Powers of the Global South and the War Against Ukraine*
ZOiS Spotlight 1/2023 by Ewa Dąbrowska (11/01/2023)
- ▶ *Ukraine: Humour as a Weapon of War*
ZOiS Spotlight 2/2023 by Orest Semotiuk (25/01/2023)
- ▶ *Kosovo and Serbia: Teetering on the Brink of Escalation*
ZOiS Spotlight 3/2023 by Vedran Dzihic (08/02/2023)
- ▶ *The Puzzle of Ukrainian Resilience: Hidden Factors and Potential Risks*
ZOiS Spotlight 4/2023 by Yuliya Bidenko (22/02/2023)
- ▶ *The International Grain Trade and the War*
ZOiS Spotlight 5/2023 by Linde Götz (09/03/2023)
- ▶ *China's Peace Plan for Ukraine: Responsible Leadership?*
ZOiS Spotlight 6/2023 by Valentin Krüsmann (22/03/2023)
- ▶ *Russia's Ethnic Minorities in the Struggle against Cultural Imperialism*
ZOiS Spotlight 7/2023 by Vlada Baranova and Tsypylma Darieva (05/04/2023)
- ▶ *Ukrainian Activists in Germany: Feeling Positive Despite Daily Challenges*
ZOiS Spotlight 8/2023 by Kostiantyn Fedorenko (19/04/2023)
- ▶ *Blind Spots in German Historical Awareness: Occupied Ukraine in the Second World War*
ZOiS Spotlight 9/2023 by Tatjana Tönsmeier (03/05/2023)
- ▶ *The Significance of the Lachin Corridor in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*
ZOiS Spotlight 10/2023 by Nadja Douglas (17/05/2023)
- ▶ *A Shapeshifting China in Central Asia*
ZOiS Spotlight 11/2023 by Beril Ocaklı (31/05/2023)

- ▶ *China in Central Europe: Out of Steam?*
ZOiS Spotlight 12/2023 by Tamás Peragovics (14/06/2023)
- ▶ *Western Assets in Russia: Navigating a Challenging Landscape*
ZOiS Spotlight 13/2023 by Alexandra Prokopenko (28/06/2023)
- ▶ *Reimagining Care in Belarusian Protest Art*
ZOiS Spotlight 14/2023 by Antonina Stebur (12/07/2023)
- ▶ *The Economic Effects of Russia's War on Ukraine's Internally Displaced Women*
ZOiS Spotlight 15/2023 by Inna Volosevych (26/07/2023)
- ▶ *Flexible Solidarity: Polish and Hungarian Responses to Forced Migration*
ZOiS Spotlight 16/2023 by Karolina Lukasiewicz and Kamil Matuszczyk (06/09/2023)
- ▶ *Lived Geopolitics: Grain Logistics Between the War and the Border*
ZOiS Spotlight 17/2023 by Claudia Eggart (20/09/2023)
- ▶ *Young Poles' Political Preferences: A Fresh Wind for the Upcoming Election?*
ZOiS Spotlight 18/2023 by Hakob Matevosyan (04/10/2023)
- ▶ *What Young Georgians Think About Their Government*
ZOiS Spotlight 19/2023 by Tamar Khoshtaria (19/10/2023)
- ▶ *The Pro-war Mobilisation of Germany's Russian-speaking Communities*
ZOiS Spotlight 20/2023 by Tatiana Golova and Liliia Sablina (01/11/2023)
- ▶ *Brussels' Approach towards Hungary and Poland amidst the War against Ukraine*
ZOiS Spotlight 21/2023 by Lunting Wu and Kamil Matusiewicz (15/11/2023)
- ▶ *The Uncertain Education of Ukrainian Refugee Children*
Spotlight on Ukraine 1 by Helen Pidgorna (22/11/2023)
- ▶ *Why Nagorno-Karabakh Has Been Sacrificed and Why This Could Also Be an Opportunity*
ZOiS Spotlight 22/2023 by Nadja Douglas (29/11/2023)
- ▶ *State Dominance and its Discontents among Azerbaijani Youth*
ZOiS Spotlight 23/2023 by Veronika Pfeilschifter and Cesare Figari Barberis (13/12/2023)
- ▶ *Evacuation Decisions: Lessons from Russia's War against Ukraine*
Spotlight on Ukraine 2 by Natalia Zaika (19/12/2023)

PODCAST: ROUNDTABLE OSTEUROPA

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

- ▶ *From Russia, with Memories*
Roundtable Osteuropa 34 (03/03/2023)
With Félix Krawatzek and Hakob Matevosyan. Chair: Johanna Mogwitz
- ▶ *Nostalgia in Political History Museums in Germany and Russia*
Roundtable Osteuropa 35 (24/03/2023)
With Jörg Morré and Oleg Lutohin. Chair: Félix Krawatzek
- ▶ *Russlands Strategie gegenüber dem „nahen Ausland“: Einblicke aus Moldau und Belarus*
Roundtable Osteuropa 36 (31/03/2023)
With Nadja Douglas and Sabine von Löwis. Chair: Julia Langbein
- ▶ *Researching Ukraine at War*
Roundtable Osteuropa 37 (15/06/2023)
With Anastasiya Shurenkova and Natalia Zaika. Chair: Stefanie Orphal
- ▶ *Not just China: Regional Actors and the Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan, Georgia and Hungary*
Roundtable Osteuropa 38 (30/06/2023)
With Nadia Ali, Valentin Krüsmann and Tamás Peragovics. Chair: Beril Ocaklı
- ▶ *Osteuropaforschung: Brauchen wir eine Neuausrichtung?*
Roundtable Osteuropa 39 (18/07/2023)
With Gwendolyn Sasse and Elisa Satjukow. Chair: Stefanie Orphal

- ▶ *Research, Mental Health and Traumatising Contexts: How to Take Care?*
Roundtable Osteuropa 40 (29/08/2023)
With Christa Cocciole and Hanna Vakhitova. Chair: Kerstin Bischl
- ▶ *Youthquake Polska: Elections under Conditions of Heightened Polarisation*
Roundtable Osteuropa 41 (09/10/2023)
With Félix Krawatzek and Hakob Matevosyan. Chair: Johanna Mogwitz
- ▶ *Die Ukraine auf dem Weg in die EU*
Roundtable Osteuropa 42 (07/12/2023)
With Gwendolyn Sasse and Julia Langbein. Chair: Stefanie Orphal

MEET THE AUTHOR

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

- ▶ *'The EU is trying to establish asylum norms in non-EU countries so that there are fewer refugees living in the EU itself.'*
Meet the Author with Irina Mützelburg (04/04/2023)
- ▶ *'Change can happen only if domestic political forces and civic associations become strong enough'*
Meet the Author with Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos (24/08/2023)
- ▶ *'Diasporic engagement with the homeland remains pluralist, ambiguous, and de-centralised'*
Meet the Author with Tsypylma Darieva (28/09/2023)
- ▶ *'In Ukraine and Russia, surrogacy is seen as work'*
Meet the Author with Veronika Siegl (10/11/2023)
- ▶ *'The focus on Putin has narrowed the perspective'*
Meet the Author with Katharina Bluhm (08/12/2023)



A welcome class for displaced Ukrainian schoolchildren at a Berlin school: Education in the context of displacement is the subject of a ZOIS report by Irina Mützelburg and Félix Krawatzek.

EXPERT*INNENSTIMME

Since 2021, a new format, the *Expert*innenstimme (Expert Voice)*, has been providing interview-based analyses of selected current events and developments. ZOIS researchers give short answers to three questions in which they explain the significance, background and consequences of a news report drawing on their respective professional expertise. These assessments are available in German on the ZOIS website.

- ▶ *Armenien sagt Militärübung mit Russland ab*
Nadja Douglas (11/01/2023)
- ▶ *Rücktritt der Regierung in Moldau*
Nadja Douglas (14/02/2023)
- ▶ *Internationaler Frauentag*
Leandra Bias (08/03/2023)
- ▶ *„Tag des Sieges“ in Russland in Zeiten des Krieges*
Tatiana Golova (08/05/2023)
- ▶ *Zehn Jahre Neue Seidenstraße*
Julia Langbein (07/09/2023)
- ▶ *Angriff auf Bergkarabach*
Nadja Douglas (25/09/2023)
- ▶ *Treffen mit den zentralasiatischen Staatschefs in Berlin*
Beate Eschment (28/09/2023)

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 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). Since 2020, the *Zentralasien-Analysen* series has been edited at ZOIS.

- ▶ *Vorgezogene Präsidentschaftswahl in Kasachstan / Organisation der Turkstaaten*
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 155 (06/01/2023)
- ▶ *Verwaltungsjustiz in Kasachstan / Koalitionen in Kirgistan*
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 156 (06/02/2023)
- ▶ *Stadt und Kosmopolitismus in Zentralasien / Islamischer Aktivismus von Frauen in Kirgistan / Vorgezogene Parlamentswahl in Kasachstan*
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 157 (05/04/2023)
- ▶ *Verfassungsreferendum in Usbekistan*
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 158 (05/06/2023)
- ▶ *Reformprozess und vorgezogene Präsidentschaftswahl in Usbekistan*
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 159 (18/07/2023)
- ▶ *Turkmenen in Iran / Konferenz 'Energy Transition, Sustainability and Inclusive Development in Central Asia'*
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 160 (09/11/2023)

ZOiS in the Media

TV/VIDEO

- ▶ *Политолог: В последните месеци наблюдавахме политическо лицемерие*
Ivaylo Dinev | Nova TV (24/01/2023)
- ▶ *Theologin zu Rolle der Kirchen im Ukraine-Krieg*
Regina Elsner | ORF III (26/01/2023)
- ▶ *The Day: The Role of Belarus in Russia's War Against Ukraine*
Nadja Douglas | Deutsche Welle (31/01/2023)
- ▶ *Ein Jahr großflächiger Krieg*
Gwendolyn Sasse | 3sat (13/02/2023)
- ▶ *Ein Jahr russischer Angriffskrieg gegen die Ukraine*
Gwendolyn Sasse | 3sat (23/02/2023)
- ▶ *Belarus: Ein Land unter Druck*
Nadja Douglas | ARTE (28/02/2023)
- ▶ *Russland drillt Kinder zu einer „Generation Putin“*
Félix Krawatzek | ntv (16/03/2023)
- ▶ *Russland: Soldatenappelle an Putin*
Félix Krawatzek | ARTE (26/03/2023)
- ▶ *Die Krim: Anfang und Ende des Ukraine-Kriegs?*
Gwendolyn Sasse | BR24 (06/04/2023)
- ▶ *Мирзиёев Берлинда. 3-муддат ва микрочиплар*
Beate Eschment | Ozodlik (03/05/2023)
- ▶ *Euromaidan – Chronik eines angekündigten Krieges*
Gwendolyn Sasse | ARTE (30/05/2023)
- ▶ *‘Боят настанa’ откъм главния прокурор – Въпросите задава Емилия Милчева*
Ivaylo Dinev | TV1 Bulgaria (10/06/2023)
- ▶ *The Politics since June 2013*
Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Television (10/06/2023)
- ▶ *Gwendolyn Sasse, Osteuropa-Expertin, zu möglichen Rissen in Putins Machtapparat*
Gwendolyn Sasse | tagesthemen (27/06/2023)
- ▶ *Lücken und Leerstellen – der unvollständige Blick auf die Ukraine*
Gwendolyn Sasse | Phoenix (03/07/2023)
- ▶ 台頭する“第3極”トルコ“全方位外交”の光と影
Alexandra Prokopenko | NHK Box (20/08/2023)
- ▶ *Mirziyoyev Germaniyaga nima uchun bordi? – Berlindan maxsus reportaj*
Beate Eschment | Ozodlik (30/09/2023)
- ▶ *Germany's Military Support for Ukraine*
Kostiantyn Fedorenko | TV Pyramy (26/10/2023)
- ▶ *ДЕМ ДАЛЪШЕ? ‘Как армянская диаспора помогает родине?’*
Tsyrylma Darieva | AliQRu (11/11/2023)
- ▶ *Трусеве и бойкот: За отношенията в ‘некоалицията’, ултиматумите и работата на НС*
Ivaylo Dinev | Nova TV (24/11/2023)

RADIO/PODCAST

- ▶ *Orthodoxien im Krieg*
Regina Elsner | rbb Inforadio (01/01/2023)
- ▶ *Kirche ist keine Friedensstifterin*
Regina Elsner | WDR (05/01/2023)
- ▶ *Ивайло Динев: Негласуващите могат да предопределят много по-различна политическа карта*
Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (16/01/2023)
- ▶ *Wann endet der Krieg in der Ukraine?*
Gwendolyn Sasse | MDR (11/01/2023)
- ▶ *Трудности с третия мандат*
Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (16/01/2023)

- ▶ *How Ukraine Forged a Culture of Resilience*
Gwendolyn Sasse and Yuliya Bidenko | Carnegie Europe Podcast ‘Europe Inside Out’ (08/02/2023)
- ▶ *Ein Jahr Angriffskrieg auf die Ukraine: Orthodoxe Kirchen und Friedensbewegung in der Krise?*
Regina Elsner | NDR (17/02/2023)
- ▶ *Der Kreuzzug der Russisch-Orthodoxen Kirche*
Regina Elsner | Salonkolumnisten (17/02/2023)
- ▶ *Osteuropa-Expertin: Westen will globalere Allianz gegen Russland*
Gwendolyn Sasse | rbb Inforadio (18/02/2023)
- ▶ *Das Gespräch*
Gwendolyn Sasse | NDR Kultur (19/02/2023)
- ▶ *Aufräumen mit den Irrtümern über die Ukraine*
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (20/02/2023)
- ▶ *Lange Nacht der Weltreligionen: Die Utopie der Toleranz*
Regina Elsner | Deutschlandfunk (20/02/2023)
- ▶ *Moskaus Pläne: Union mit Belarus*
Nadja Douglas | Deutschlandfunk (21/02/2023)
- ▶ *Angriff – Russlands Weg in den Krieg gegen die Ukraine*
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk (21/02/2023)
- ▶ *Putins Welt, wie sie ihm gefällt*
Nadja Douglas | SWR1 (21/02/2023)
- ▶ *Will sich der Kreml Belarus einverleiben?*
Nadja Douglas | WDR (21/02/2023)
- ▶ *Retour sur 1 an de guerre en Ukraine*
Félix Krawatzek | Radio Canada (23/02/2023)
- ▶ *Das Jahr ohne Frieden – Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine und seine Folgen*
Gwendolyn Sasse | rbb Live-Podcast (24/02/2023)
- ▶ *Westliche Firmen umgehen Russland-Sanktionen*
Beate Eschment | SRF (28/02/2023)
- ▶ *Was bloß hat Russland mit Moldawien vor?*
Nadja Douglas | SRF (15/03/2023)
- ▶ *Situation in der Republik Moldau*
Nadja Douglas | Radio Bremen Zwei (17/03/2023)
- ▶ *radioWelt*
Beate Eschment | Bayern 2 (20/03/2023)
- ▶ *#251 Erklär mir die Krim, Gwendolyn Sasse*
Gwendolyn Sasse | Podcast ‘Erklär mir die Welt’ (11/04/2023)
- ▶ *Gold Mining and Resource Nationalism in Kyrgyzstan*
Beril Ocaklı | Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty Majlis Podcast (30/04/2023)
- ▶ *Ивайло Динев: Махалото отиде в посока, полезна за ГЕРБ и ‘Възраждане’*
Ivaylo Dinev | Bulgarian National Radio (15/05/2023)
- ▶ *HR-Info aktuell*
Beate Eschment | Hessischer Rundfunk (19/06/2023)
- ▶ *Osteuropa-Expertin: Erste Risse im System sind deutlich geworden*
Gwendolyn Sasse | SRF (01/07/2023)
- ▶ *Präsidentchaftswahl in Usbekistan*
Beate Eschment | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (09/07/2023)
- ▶ *Kasachstan und Afghanistan haben ein Handelsabkommen geschlossen. Wie steht es um die Beziehung zwischen Zentralasien und den Taliban?*
Beate Eschment | SRF (10/08/2023)
- ▶ *Der Weg zu Verhandlungen über den Krieg in der Ukraine*
Gwendolyn Sasse | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (25/09/2023)
- ▶ *Lage der Nation: Konflikt um Bergkarabach*
Nadja Douglas | Podcast ‘Lage der Nation’ (28/09/2023)
- ▶ *‘Crimea is by no means secure anymore’*
Gwendolyn Sasse | Podcast ‘twenty4two’ (29/09/2023)

- ▶ *Der Morgen*
Félix Krawatzek | SR2 Kulturradio (04/10/2023)
- ▶ *Putins rote Linie – Wem gehört die Krim?*
Gwendolyn Sasse | SWR Kultur (10/10/2023)
- ▶ *Будет ли Казахстан ужесточать контроль над ‘серым’ экспортом в Россию?*
Beate Eschment | Deutsche Welle (20/10/2023)
- ▶ *Germany’s Energy Ties to Russia*
Kostiantyn Fedorenko | Hromadske Radio (21/10/2023)
- ▶ *Stolz auf die eigene Identität*
Beate Eschment | Deutschlandfunk Kultur (25/10/2023)
- ▶ *‘Түрк мамлекеттер уюму саясий бирикмеге айланды’*
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- ▶ *Wie viel Rückhalt hat Putin in Russland?*
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- ▶ *Д-р Ивайло Динев: Гражданското общество в България е във възходящ тренд*
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- ▶ *Experten kritisieren pauschales Vorgehen gegen Ukrainisch-Orthodoxe Kirche*
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- ▶ *Kriegsszenen im Sandkasten und Waffenübungen: Putins Propaganda erfasst nun sogar Kinder*
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- ▶ *Ist die Krim verhandelbar?*
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- ▶ *‘Breite Kreise haben die Bedeutung der Ukraine erkannt’*
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- ▶ *‘Kritik kommt auch von Gläubigen’*
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- ▶ *Demokratie im Kreuzfeuer*
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- ▶ Prokopenko, Alexandra; Luzin, Pavel. *Russia's 2024 Budget Shows It's Planning for a Long War in Ukraine*. Carnegie Politika, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (11/10/2023).
- ▶ Prokopenko, Alexandra. *Putin Is Betting On a New Class of Asset Owners to Shore Up His Regime*. Carnegie Politika, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (14/09/2023).
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- ▶ Soroka, George; Krawatzek, Félix; DeSisto, Isabelle. *Not Loyalty, But Exit and (Perhaps) Voice: Surveying Recent Russian Migrants to Armenia and Georgia*. Harvard University (01/06/2023).
- ▶ Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. *Terror, Collaboration and Resistance: Russian Rule in the Newly Occupied Territories of Ukraine*. In: Eurozine (17/01/2023).
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Events

LECTURES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- ▶ Lecture | Sabine von Löwis
Alte und neue Grenzen in der Ukraine zwischen Geopolitik und Imperium
Geographische Gesellschaft Passau e. V., University of Passau (Passau, 16/01/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Beril Ocaklı
China and Infrastructure Frontiers in Post-Soviet Geographies
Freie Universität Berlin (Berlin, 17/01/2023)
As part of the *Geographical Colloquium*
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
Shades of Blue: Claiming Europe in the Age of Disintegration
Institute of European Studies, German Historical Institute Washington (online, 24/01/2024)
(with Gregor Feindt, Friedemann Pestel, Rieke Trimçev)
- ▶ Book presentation | Gwendolyn Sasse
Der Krieg gegen die Ukraine
Berliner Landeszentrale für politische Bildung (Berlin, 26/01/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Erinnerungspolitik im ukrainisch-russischen Konflikt: Vom Zerfall der Sowjetunion bis zur russischen Invasion 2022
Volkshochschule beider Basel (online, 30/01/2023)
As part of the lecture series *Der Krieg in der Ukraine und die Folgen – Geschichte, Geopolitik und Zukunft der Zivilgesellschaft*
- ▶ Lecture | Regina Elsner
Ukraine: Die Kirchen und der Krieg
Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau, Pro Oriente Graz (online, 01/02/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Regina Elsner
Die Russische Orthodoxe Kirche in Putins Russland: Symphonie und Repressionen
West-Ost-Gesellschaft (Freiburg, 03/02/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Regina Elsner
Religion, Utopie und Gewalt
Thalia Theater Hamburg (Hamburg, 12/02/2023)
As part of the *Lange Nacht der Weltreligionen*
- ▶ Lecture | Christian Schaich
Die Wissenschaftslandschaft in Deutschland
European Humanities University, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya Office (Vilnius, 13/02/2023)
Lecture for academic administrators from Belarus in exile

- ▶ Lecture | Nina Frieß
Protest und Poesie in Kasachstan. Der ‘Blutige Januar’ 2022 in der kasachstanischen Dichtung
 University of Potsdam, Center for Cultural Semiotics (Potsdam, 15/02/2023)
 As part of *Internationale Semiotische Woche*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Ukraine & Beyond – Das Jahr im Krieg
 KörberForum (Hamburg, 16/02/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Regina Elsner
Quo vadis? Die russisch-orthodoxe Kirche als politische Akteurin
 Diözesanrat des Erzbistums Berlin, Katholische Akademie (Berlin, 18/02/2023)
 As part of the *Studententag zur Friedens- und Sicherheitspolitik nach dem Angriff auf die Ukraine*
- ▶ Book presentation | Beate Eschment, Sabine von Löwis
Post-Soviet Borders: A Kaleidoscope of Shifting Lives and Lands
 George Washington University, Institute for European Studies (online, 21/02/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Regina Elsner
Challenges of Orthodox Co-existence in Times of War
 European Association for the Study of Religions (online, 24–25/02/2023)
 As part of the seminar *The Impact of the War on Religious Life: A Focus on Ukraine*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
‘Das ist unser Land. Das ist unsere Geschichte.’ – Der Kampf der Ukraine um ihre nationale Identität
 Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Berlin, 27/02/2023)
 As part of the event *Cafe Kyiv – We Choose Freedom*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Regina Elsner
Ostkirchen und Orthodoxie
 Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Berlin, 27/02/2023)
 As part of the event *Cafe Kyiv – We Choose Freedom*
- ▶ Lecture | Regina Elsner
Die (De-)Legitimierung von Atomwaffen aus russisch-orthodoxer Perspektive
 Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft (Heidelberg, 01–02/03/2023)
 As part of the consultation process *Religion, Diplomatie, Frieden*
- ▶ Book presentation | Gwendolyn Sasse
Der Krieg gegen die Ukraine
 Europa-Union Göttingen (Göttingen, 16/03/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Regina Elsner
Zur Rolle der Kirchen im Krieg in der Ukraine
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen Sachsen (online, 23/03/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Nadja Douglas
Situation rund um den Latschin-Korridor
 Deutsch-Armenische Gesellschaft (online, 17/04/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Félix Krawatzek
Instrumentalisation of the History of the Second World War for the Russian War of Aggression against Ukraine
 Museum Berlin-Karlshorst (Berlin, 20/04/2023)
- ▶ Round table | Nina Frieß
Wir lesen Čingiz Ajtmatov. Internationaler Runder Tisch zum 95. Geburtstag des kirgisischen Nationalschriftstellers
 M. O. Auezov Institute of Literature and Arts of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Almaty, 21/04/2023)
- ▶ Book presentation | Gwendolyn Sasse
Der Krieg gegen die Ukraine
 Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Magdeburg (Magdeburg, 25/04/2023)



At the ZOIS Forum 'Narrating Everyday Life During War', UNET Fellow Alina Mozolevska presents the results of her research on the mediatisation of the war against Ukraine in digital popular culture.

- ▶ Lecture | Gwendolyn Sasse
Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine
Kreisrat Gifhorn (Gifhorn, 26/04/2024)
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
A Shared History and a Divided Memory: What Russians and Ukrainians Make of Their Country's History
University of Fribourg (Fribourg, 27/04/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Nadja Douglas
Waffenstillstand und trotzdem Krieg? Hintergründe zum Konflikt zwischen Armenien und Aserbaidschan
August Bebel Institute (Berlin, 04/05/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Tsypylma Darieva
The Impact of the War in Ukraine: Current Challenges and Perspectives for Georgia
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Frankfurt/Oder, 10/05/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Putins Russland
Humboldt Lab at Humboldt-Forum (Berlin, 15/05/2023)
As part of the series *Short Talk: Demokratien unter Druck* of the Cluster of Excellence *Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Der Weg der Ukraine nach Westen
Landesvertretung Nordrhein-Westfalen beim Bund (Berlin, 25/05/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Beril Ocaklı
Infrastructure, Resource-making and Slow Violence along the Middle Corridor
Oxford University, Russian and East European Studies (Oxford, 29/05/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Vom Widerspruch zum Widerstand: Aufstände in der DDR und Osteuropa
Berlin Wall Memorial (Berlin, 06/06/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Irina Mützelburg
La réception des élèves ukrainiens déplacés en Allemagne – une situation liminale entre inclusion et exclusion
Institut Convergences Migrations (Paris, 08/06/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Sabine von Löwis
Buchvorstellung: Die Ukraine – Kampf um Unabhängigkeit – Geschichte und Gegenwart
Berliner Landeszentrale für politische Bildung (Berlin, 14/06/2023)

- ▶ Keynote | Tsypylma Darieva
Making a Homeland: Exploring ‘Roots’ Mobility and Armenian Diasporic Engagement
 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (online, 14–15/06/2023)
 As part of the conference *Arts, Heritage and Belonging: Armenian Transcultural Entanglements*
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
From the Centre of the World to One of its Peripheries? New Russians in the South Caucasus
 University for Continuing Education Krems (online, 15/06/2023)
 As part of the seminar series *Beyond the Usual Suspects: Overlooked (F)actors in Migration Governance*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Flucht und Exil: Geschichte und Gegenwart in der Ukraine
 German Association for East European Studies, Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation (Berlin, 16/06/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Nina Frieß
Russlands Geschichtspolitik: Perspektiven aus Kasachstan, Litauen und Tatarstan
 Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Munich, 29/06/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
Propaganda and Disinformation: Russia’s War in Ukraine
 Harvard University (Cambridge, 17/07/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Beate Eschment
Seidenstraße, Tausendundeine Nacht und Sowjetstern: Ein Blick nach Zentralasien
 Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, German Association for East European Studies (Düsseldorf, 18/07/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
Education and Displacement: Ukrainian Families in Germany
 Harvard University (Cambridge, 19/07/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Gwendolyn Sasse
Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine
 Berliner Akademie für weiterbildende Studien e.V. (Berlin, 28/08/2023)
 As part of the *Berliner Sommer-Uni*
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
Geschichtliche Meistererzählungen und gesellschaftliche Wahrnehmungen: Polnische Blicke auf Geschichte und Gegenwart
 German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Wrocław, 07/09/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Die Ukraine: Selbst- und Fremdbilder
 international literature festival berlin (Berlin, 13/09/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Christian Schaich
Juristische Ausbildung und Forschung in Deutschland
 German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation (Berlin, 11/10/2023)
- ▶ Keynote | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Russia’s Rule on the Newly Occupied Territories of Ukraine and the Challenge of De-occupation
 Ukraine in a Changing Europe Research Centre, Institute of International Studies, Charles University, RECET, University of Vienna (Vienna, 19/10/2023)
 As part of the conference *600 Days of the All-Out War: Fighting for Freedom, Fighting for Democracy*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
A Decade of War: Origins of Russian Aggression in Ukraine
 Ukrainian Institute London (London, 23/10/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Alexandra Prokopenko
War in Ukraine: Where Are We Now?
 Harvard University, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies (Cambridge, 28/10/2023)
 As part of the *Davis Center 75th Anniversary Celebration*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Russia’s War and Putin’s Goals – Threatening the Whole of Europe
 Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft (Berlin, 06/11/2023)
 As part of the *NATO Talk 2023*

Welcome to the ZOiS Annual Conference 2023 Paradigms in Times of War: Unpacking Research and Policy Challenges

Gwendolyn Sasse



ZOiS Director Gwendolyn Sasse greets participants at the two-day 2023 ZOiS Annual Conference titled 'Paradigms in Times of War: Unpacking Research and Policy Challenges'.

- ▶ Keynote | Tsypylma Darieva
Exploring Migration Flows from Russia to Georgia: Migrants' Activism in the Time of Crisis
Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Jena, 09–10/11/2023)
As part of the conference *South Caucasus after 'Zeitenwende': Dimensions of Translocality and Societal Change*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Nadja Douglas
South Caucasus after the 'Zeitenwende'
Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Jena, 09–10/11/2023)
As part of the conference *South Caucasus after 'Zeitenwende': Dimensions of Translocality and Societal Change*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Tatiana Golova
Junge Russlanddeutsche und der Ukrainekrieg
Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V. (Berlin, 11/11/2023)
- ▶ Panel discussion | Félix Krawatzek
The Future of Russia-Europe Relations
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (Oslo, 14/11/2023)
As part of *The Russia Conference 2023: Russia and the West – A New Reality*
- ▶ Lecture | Félix Krawatzek
A Generation of New Russian Migrants in the World: Insights into Attitudes and Behaviour
Aarhus University (Aarhus, 23/11/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Nina Frieß
Zwischen sowjetischer Tradition und Dekolonialisierung. Kasachstans zeitgenössische Literaturlandschaft
University of Freiburg, Tsvetaeva Centre (Freiburg, 23/11/2023)
As part of the lecture series *Zeichen der Zukunft. Ost West: Dialoge und Perspektiven*
- ▶ Keynote | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
War, Displacement, and Transnationalization of Ukrainian Society: Why it Will be Different from the 'Russian World' – And from the Post-WWII Ukrainian Diaspora
Södertörn University, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (Södertörn, 23–24/11/2023)
As part of the *CBEES Annual Conference 2023: The War and its Effects*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Beate Eschment
Krieg in Europa: Kasachstan und der Krieg in der Ukraine
Friedrich Naumann Foundation (online, 27/11/2023)

- ▶ Book discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
Kennan Long View Series – Russia’s War Against Ukraine
Wilson Center (online, 27/11/2023)
- ▶ Book discussion | Gwendolyn Sasse
The Curse of Empire: Russia’s War against Ukraine
St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford (Oxford, 28/11/2023)
with Martin Schulze Wessel and Timothy Garton Ash
- ▶ Panel discussion | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Erinnerung an den Zweiten Weltkrieg in Russland
Museum Berlin-Karlshorst (Berlin, 28/11/2023)
As part of the event series *Geschichte im Konflikt: Erinnerungen an den Zweiten Weltkrieg im östlichen Europa*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Tatiana Golova
Ich bin’s nicht, Wladimir Putin ist es gewesen
Ballhaus Prinzenallee (Berlin, 29/11/2023)
Chair of the discussion with the participants of the theatre play of the same title
- ▶ Lecture | Gwendolyn Sasse
What Does Russia’s War on Ukraine Teach Us about Democracy?
University of Zurich (Zurich, 30/11/2024)
As part of the *Democracy Studies Annual Lecture*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Ex Oriente Lux? What Can We Learn from Ukraine and East-Central Europe?
European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Frankfurt/Oder, 30/11/2023)
As part of the opening of the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies
- ▶ Book presentation | Tsypylma Darieva
Catherine Wanner: Dispossession: Anthropological Perspectives on Russia’s War Against Ukraine
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, 30/11/2023)
Organisation of the event as part of the *Working Group on Lived Religion in Eastern Europe and Eurasia*
- ▶ Lecture | Tatiana Golova, Tsypylma Darieva
Anti-war Activism among Russian Migrants in Germany and Georgia
Reforum Space Berlin (Berlin, 05/12/2023)
Presentation of the *ZOiS Report 3/2023*
- ▶ Panel discussion | Kostiantyn Fedorenko
Wartime Ukraine and Ukrainians: Politics, Migration and European Integration
Charles University, Ukraine in a Changing Europe Research Centre (Prague, 06/12/2023)
- ▶ Lecture | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Displaced Borderlands: Civilizational Belonging in the Narratives of Kharkiv Residents Relocated to the European Union after February 2022
Università di Bologna (Bologna, 15/12/2023)
As part of the seminar series *Ukrainian Studies Today: How to Study and Research Ukraine in Times of War*

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- ▶ Conference | Regina Elsner
IOTA Conference 2023
International Orthodox Theological Association (Volos, 11–15/01/2023)
Organisation and chair of the panel *Healing of Wounded Memories: Theologies of Reconciliation and Justice in an Ecumenical Perspective*
Discussant at the round table *The Place of Religion in the Public Sphere*
- ▶ Conference | Sabine von Löwis
ABS 3rd World Conference – Borders, Edges and Interfaces
Association for Borderlands Studies (Eilat, 13–18/02/2023)
Presentation *Ceasefire Lines: Spaces of In/Security*

- ▶ Conference | Ivaylo Dinev
'Lost in transition': Social Sciences, Scenarios of Transformation, and Cognitive Dissonances in East Central Europe after 1989
 Centre for Advanced Study Sofia, Central European University (Budapest, 03–04/03/2023)
 Presentation *Framing of Civil Society in Bulgarian Protests since 1989*
- ▶ Workshop | Sabine von Löwis
Spatially Related Research Practice in Challenging Environments: Authoritarianism, Conflicts and War
 Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Leipzig, 22–24/03/2023)
 Chair and contribution to the session *Storytelling*
 Chair of the *World Café*
- ▶ Conference | Regina Elsner
Political Theologies after Christendom
 Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford (Oxford, 27–29/03/2023)
 Presentation *Unpacking Violence. Exploring Religious Structural Violence as a Pretext for War in Orthodoxy*
- ▶ Conference
BASEES Annual Conference 2023
 British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (Glasgow, 31/03–02/04/2023)
Tsyppylma Darieva, Tatiana Golova
 Presentation *Pro-democracy Activism by Russian Migrants in Germany and Georgia in the Context of the Russian War against Ukraine*
Nadja Douglas
 Presentation *The Role of Trust in Belarusian Societal Mobilization 2020/2021*
 Chair of the panels *Strategy, Conflict, and Security* and *Foreign Policy*
Claudia Eggart
 Presentation *Customs Rule. Waiting at the Border Triangle between Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania*
Piotr Goldstein
 Presentation *Not Only NGOs and Protest Movements: Everyday Activism in Today's Poland*
Félix Krawatzek
 Presentation *New Russians in Armenia and Georgia: Fusion, Attitudes and Political Behaviour*
 Chair of the panel *Russia(ns) in the World*
 Presentation *Bringing the Lyrical to the Political: The Socio-Political Landscape in the South Caucasus through the Lens of Young People* (with Veronika Pfeilschifter)
Sabine von Löwis
 Chair of the double panel *Border In/securities – At the Nexus of Space and Emotions in Central and East Europe*
Gwendolyn Sasse
 Keynote *Quo Vadis Area Studies amidst Russia's War against Ukraine*
- ▶ Conference | Félix Krawatzek
PSA Annual Conference 2023
 Political Science Association (Liverpool, 03–05/04/2023)
 Presentation *Germany's Collective Memory, the Populist Radical Right, and Memory Entrepreneurship: National- and Subnational-level Evidence* (with Matthias Dilling)
- ▶ Conference | Piotr Goldstein
2023 ASA Conference
 Association of Social Anthropologists, (London, 11–14/04/2023)
 Presentation *Frequencies of Migration and Change in an Inner Periphery*
 Presentation *Researching with Transborder Workers Playfully and Convivially Using Visual Methods*
- ▶ Conference | Félix Krawatzek
MPSA Annual Conference 2023
 Midwest Political Science Association (online, 13–16/04/2023)
 Presentation *Émigre Russian Responses to the War in Ukraine* (with George Soroka and Isabelle DeSisto)

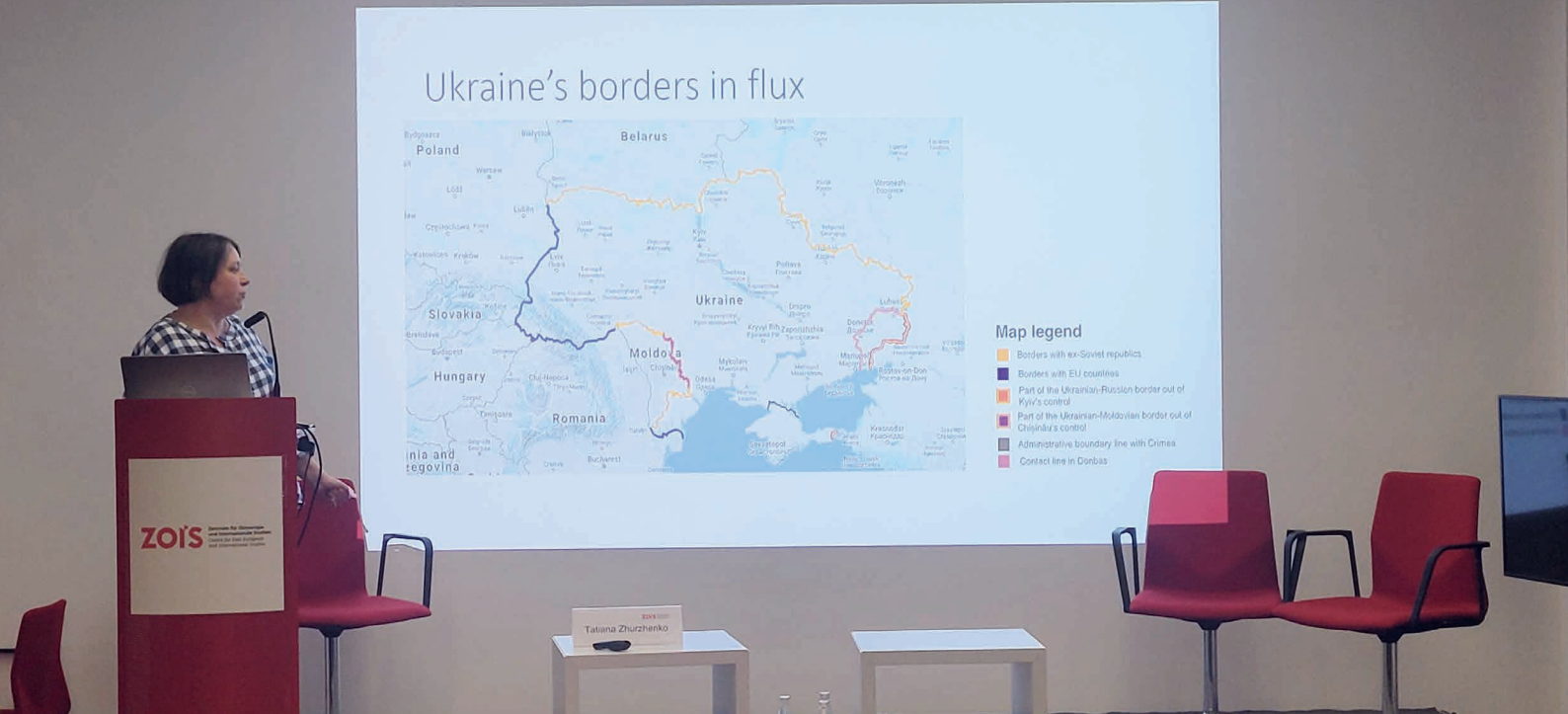


At a ZOIS Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative, Beril Ocaklı, Jamila Maria Adeli and Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi (from left to right) look at the world's largest infrastructure project from a social and artistic point of view.

- ▶ Conference | Beate Eschment
Policies on Ethnic Minorities in Kazakhstan: Where are We Now?
 George Washington University (online, 19/04/2023)
 Presentation *Unity in Diversity – Slogan and Reality*
- ▶ Conference | Tsypylma Darieva, Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse
ASN Annual World Convention 2023
 Association for the Study of Nationalities (New York, 18–20/05/2023)
Tsypylma Darieva
 Chair of the panel *Religion, Nationalism and Identity in the South Caucasus*
 Presentation *Local Level Governance of Migration*
Sabine von Löwis
 Discussant at the round table *Displacement and (In)visibility: Methodological Challenges in the Study of Displacement in/from Ukraine*
 Chair of the panel *Russian War Narratives*
Gwendolyn Sasse
 Discussant at the round table *Ukrainian Studies Abroad and the War: What Has Changed Since February 24, 2022?*
 Chair of the round table *Displacement and (In)Visibility: Methodological Challenges in the Study of Displacement in/from Ukraine*
 Discussant at the book panel *Oleksandra Keudel's How Patronal Networks Shape Opportunities for Local Citizen Participation in a Hybrid Regime*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
Conceptualising the Belt and Road Initiative and its Effects
 Nazarbayev University (Astana, 19/05/2023)
 Presentation *A Shapeshifting BRI in Eurasia: Between Georgian Dreams and a Jana Qazaqstan*
- ▶ Workshop | Tatiana Golova
The New Diaspora: The Socio-Political Role of the Anti-War Exodus from Russia
 Open Future Project (London, 19/05/2023)
 Presentation *Engagement of Russian Migrants in Germany in the Context of the War: from 'Anti' to 'Pro'*
- ▶ Conference | Beate Eschment
Ethnosoziale Prozesse in der Republik Kasachstan: Probleme und Perspektiven
 Institute of Philosophy, Political Science and Religious Studies (Almaty, 24/05/2023)
 Presentation *'Einheit in Vielfalt' – Schlagwort oder Realität?*

- ▶ Workshop | Claudia Eggart, Irina Mützelburg, Sabine von Löwis
Researching Uncertainty, Multipositionality, and Liminality of Moldovans and Ukrainians amidst War
 Centre Marc Bloch, Géographie-Cités (CNRS), Centre for East European and International Studies (Paris, 30/05–02/06/2023)
 As part of the project *LimSpaces*
Claudia Eggart
 Presentation *Waiting at Giurgiulesti Customs: Borders, Bureaucracy, and Geopolitics in between Ukraine, Moldova, and the EU*
 Presentation *In-and-out of Giurgiulesti: The Architecture of Infrastructure in Shifting Borderlands* (with Sandra Parvu)
Sabine von Löwis
 Presentation *Raspberries on the Frontline: Every Day in the Unresolved Conflict in Transnistria*
Irina Mützelburg
 Presentation *German Education Policies Regarding Newly Arrived Pupils – Inclusion and Exclusion*
- ▶ Conference | Claudia Eggart
EAHN Annual Conference 2023: States in Between
 European Architecture History Network (Helsinki, 07–09/06/2023)
 Presentation *Waiting at Giurgiulesti Customs: The Architecture of Infrastructure at a Border Triangle* (with Sandra Parvu)
- ▶ Workshop | Kostiantyn Fedorenko
Ukraine: A New Member State?
 University of Agder (Kristiansand, 08–09/06/2023)
 Presentation *Europe Is Not Doing Enough: Risks of Ukraine's Post-War Euroscepticism*
- ▶ Conference | Piotr Goldstein
Alternative Futures and Popular Protest
 University of Manchester (Manchester, 12–14/06/2023)
 Presentation *Beyond 'Repertoire of Contention': Everyday Activism in Today's Poland*
- ▶ Workshop | Tsypylma Darieva
GLocalEAsT: Migration, Border and Diaspora Studies in East-Central Europe
 European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Bologna, 15/06/2023)
 Discussant at the panel *East-Central Europe as a Laboratory for New Forms of Mobility*
- ▶ Workshop | Gwendolyn Sasse
Russia's War against Ukraine: Resistance, Reform and Reconstruction
 University of Manchester (online, 19/06/2024)
- ▶ Conference | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Russische Besatzungspolitik in der Ukraine 2022–23
 Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence, University of Vienna, Österreichisch-Ukrainische Historikerkommission (Vienna, 19/06/2023)
 Presentation *Russia's Policies in the Newly Occupied Territories and Ukraine's Response*
- ▶ Workshop | Nina Frieß
Zukunftsperspektiven für die deutschsprachige Slavistik
 Dresden University of Technology (Hannover, 19–21/06/2023)
 Head of the working group *Neuere Forschungsparadigmen für die/in der Slavistik*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
XIX Biennial IASC Conference
 International Association for the Study of the Commons (Nairobi, 19–23/06/2023)
 Presentation *Go Big or Go Home: Infrastructuring Post-Soviet Geographies*
- ▶ Conference | Alexandra Prokopenko
Guerre en Ukraine: ondes de choc regionales et globales
 Institut français des relations internationales (Paris, 22/06/2023)
 Presentation *Sanctions Framework and the Resilience of Russian Economy*

- ▶ Workshop | Nadja Douglas
Security Needs of State and Society in Moldova: Options for the OSCE
 Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (Chişinău, 26–28/06/2023)
 Co-organisation of the workshop and chair of the panel *What Security Needs Exist in Moldova*
- ▶ Conference | Félix Krawatzek
Twenty-Ninth International Conference of Europeanists
 University of Iceland (Reykjavik, 27–29/06/2023)
 Presentation *Bringing the Lyrical to the Political: The Sociopolitical Landscape in the South Caucasus through the Lens of Young People* (with Veronika Pfeilschifter)
 Presentation *The Appeals of History across Germany: Subnational Memory Regimes and the AfD's Language about History in Comparative Perspective* (with Matthias Dilling)
- ▶ Workshop | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Borders of Belonging: Historical and Creative Approaches to Heritage and Placemaking
 University of Bayreuth, Chair of European Historical Cultures, Bayreuth Humboldt Centre (Thurnau, 28–30/06/2023)
 Presentation *Contested Heritage at Ukraine's Border with Poland*
- ▶ Conference | Diana Bogishvili
30th Conference of Junior Scholars in the Field of East European Studies
 German Association for East European Studies, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg, 29/06–01/07/2023)
 Presentation *Die kulturellen Werte von Nicht-Migranten in Georgien*
- ▶ Conference | Piotr Goldstein
20th IMISCOE Annual Conference
 International Migration Research Network (Warsaw, 03–06/07/2023)
 Discussant at the panel *Convivial Feminist Methodology in Migration and Mobility Studies: Exploring Decolonial and Creative Ways of Knowledge Co-production*
 Presentation *'I Didn't Want to Feed the System': Polish Cooperative in Manchester Between Migrant Labour and Activist Agency*
- ▶ Conference | Gwendolyn Sasse
1989 und die Zukunft Europas: Ambivalenzen und Herausforderungen demokratischer Transformation in Mittel- und Osteuropa
 Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Berlin, 05–06/07/2023)
 Chair of the panel discussion *Widerstreitende Freiheitsideen*
- ▶ Conference | Tsypylma Darieva
Book Launch Workshop: 'Dynamics of Identification and Conflict: Anthropological Encounters'
 Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle, 07/07/2023)
 Chair of the panel *Migration and Exclusion, Displacement and Emplacement*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
Green Laboratory Armenia 2023: Colonialism and the Environment
 Heinrich Böll Foundation (Hermon, 13–16/07/2023)
 Presentation *Infrastructure, Resource-making and Slow Violence along the Middle Corridor*
- ▶ Conference | Claudia Eggart
SASE Annual Conference 2023
 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (Rio de Janeiro, 20–22/07/2023)
 Presentation *'Made in Kyrgyzstan is Gold!' The Rise of the Informal Kyrgyzstani Apparel Industry*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
RGS-IBG Annual Conference 'Climate Changed Geographies'
 Royal Geographical Society, Institute of British Geographers (London, 29/08–01/09/2023)
 Co-organisation of the panel *Rescaling Geographies of Energy (In-)Dependence between Fossil Fuels and Renewables* (with Timothy Moss)
 Presentation *New Energy on the Block? China's Greening Belt and Road Initiative in a Renewed Kazakhstan*



ZOIS researcher Tatiana Zhurzhenko talks at the 2023 Long Night of Sciences about the consequences of Russia's invasion for those Ukrainian regions that border the EU.

- ▶ Conference | Félix Krawatzek
2023 APSA Annual Meeting
 American Political Science Association (Los Angeles, 31/08–03/09/2023)
 Presentation *Post-February 2022 Russian Migrant Attitudes: Evidence from Armenia and Georgia* (with George Soroka and Isabelle DeSisto)
- ▶ Conference | Ivaylo Dinev, Félix Krawatzek
ECPR General Conference 2023
 European Consortium for Political Research (Prague, 04–08/09/2023)
Ivaylo Dinev
 Presentation *Protest Parties and Movement Parties: Comparing Four Protest Cycles in Bulgaria*
Félix Krawatzek
 Presentation *The Populist Radical Right and the Politicization of History: The Prominence, Mood, and Modi of Historical References in Parliamentary Language in Germany* (with Matthias Dilling)
- ▶ Conference | Julia Langbein
China-Europe: Reconnecting in an Era of Competition and Rivalry
 China in Europe Network (Amsterdam, 07–08/09/2023)
 Discussant at the panel *Rising Power, Limited Influence: Global China and the Liberal International Order*
- ▶ Conference | Ivaylo Dinev
SISP Conference 2023
 Italian Society of Political Science (Genoa, 14–16/09/2023)
 Presentation *Data Collection of Protest Politics in Eastern Europe: A Meta-Analysis*
- ▶ Congress | Sabine von Löwis
Deutscher Kongress für Geographie 2023
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie, Goethe University Frankfurt (Frankfurt, 19–23/09/2023)
 Presentation *Imperial Pasts Linked to Imagined Futures of European Rural Peripheries in Romania, Moldova und Ukraine* (with Béatrice von Hirschhausen)
- ▶ Conference | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
2nd PoSoCoMeS Conference: Post-Socialist Memory Cultures in Transition
 Post-Socialist and Comparative Memory Studies (Tallinn, 20–23/09/2023)
 Keynote *The Politics of Memory in the Ukrainian-Russian Conflict: From the Orange Revolution to the Annexation of Crimea to Russia's Full-Scale Invasion*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
62. Deutscher Kongress für Geographie 'Planetary Futures'
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie, Goethe University Frankfurt (Frankfurt, 21/09/2023)
 Presentation *Infrastructuring Eurasia. Between Georgian Dreams and a Jana Qazaqstan*

- ▶ Conference | Félix Krawatzek
Midterm Conference 2023
 European Sociological Association (Santa Margherita di Pula, 21/09/2023)
 Presentation *Re-inventing Youthful Futures in Times of Multiple Crises: The Socio-Political Landscapes in the South Caucasus through the Lens of Young People* (with Veronika Pfeilschifter)
- ▶ Workshop | Nadja Douglas
Challenges of the Neutrality Status in New Realities: Lessons for the Republic of Moldova
 Academy of International Affairs NRW (Bonn, 25–26/09/2023)
 Discussant at the panel *Rolle von Moldaus Neutralitätsstatus im Konfliktbeilegungsprozess zu Transnistrien*
- ▶ Conference | Sabine von Löwis, Lena Pieber, Gwendolyn Sasse, Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Conflict and (Re-)Ordering in Eastern Europe
 Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg, 11/10/2023)
 Part of the BMBF-funded research network *KonKoop*
Sabine von Löwis
 Presentation *Entangled Spaces: How to Approach the Post-Soviet?*
Lena Pieber
 Presentation *Conceptualising Economic Agency in the Context of De Facto Statehood*
Gwendolyn Sasse
 Keynote *Re-ordering (the Study) of Eastern Europe*
Tatiana Zhurzhenko
 Presentation *Displaced Borderlands: Geopolitics from Below in the War-torn Kharkiv*
- ▶ Network meeting | Sabine von Löwis
Grenze(n) im Kopf? Transformation, Nachnutzung und Erinnerung am Grünen Band
 Landesheimatbund Sachsen-Anhalt, Grünes Band Deutschland (Salzwedel, 14/10/2023)
 Lecture *Das Grüne Band als Phantomgrenze*
- ▶ Conference | Julia Langbein
55th ASEES Annual Convention
 Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (online, 19–20/10/2023)
 Presentation *EU Trade Liberalisation, Sectoral Coalitions and Development: Insights from Moldova and Georgia*
- ▶ Workshop | Piotr Goldstein
EASA Network Workshop ‘Social Movements and Citizenship’
 European Association of Social Anthropologists, Anthropology and Social Movements Network (Paris, 26–27/10/2023)
 Presentation *Hunting for ‘Acts of Citizenship’ with a Camera: Reflections on Six Years of Visual Ethnography with (Everyday) Activists*
- ▶ Conference | Beate Eschment
Die bürgerliche Identität in der Republik Kasachstan: Aktuelle Situation und Perspektiven
 Institute for Applied Ethnopolitical Research (Astana, 27/10/2023)
 Presentation *Einheit ohne Vielfalt? Überlegungen zur Identität der Bürger Kasachstans*
- ▶ Conference | Gwendolyn Sasse
15. Bundeskongress Politische Bildung
 Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Weimar, 03/11/2023)
 Panel discussion *Sektion 9: Ukraine*
- ▶ Conference | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
Ukraine’s Altered Landscape: Losing and Recovering Alterity in the Face of War
 Institute for Human Sciences, Research Center for the History of Transformations (Vienna, 09–10/11/2023)
 Discussant at the panel *Wartime Cities: Vulnerabilities, Postcoloniality, and Decentralization*
- ▶ Workshop | Piotr Goldstein
Grammars of Resistance
 University of Sussex (Brighton, 10/11/2023)
 Presentation *Resistance, Enacting Citizenship and Other (Invisible) Activisms*

- ▶ Workshop | Tsypylma Darieva, Tatiana Golova
Approaching the Exodus: Tensions and Cooperation in Emerging Communities in the South Caucasus After the Russian Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine
 Ilia State University, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Tbilisi, 12–13/11/2023)
Tsypylma Darieva
 Presentation *From Hostility to Pragmatic Hospitality: Georgian-Russian Encounters in Tbilisi's Housing Market*
 Chair of the panel *Solidarity and Tensions in New Migrant Communities*
- ▶ Workshop | Tatiana Golova
Approaching the Exodus: Tensions and Cooperation in Emerging Communities in the South Caucasus After the Russian Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine
 Ilia State University, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Tbilisi, 12–13/11/2023)
Tatiana Golova
 Co-organisation and presentation *Different Forms of Activism among Russian Migrants in Germany and Georgia*
- ▶ Conference | Piotr Goldstein
2023 AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting: Transitions
 The American Anthropological Association, Canadian Anthropology Society (Toronto & online, 15/11/2023)
 Presentation *Using Visual Ethnography to Visualize the Invisible Migrant Activism: Opportunities and Challenges*
- ▶ Conference | Julia Langbein, Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse
SCRIPTS Midterm Conference
 Freie Universität Berlin, SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence (Berlin, 22–24/11/2023)
Sabine von Löwis, Gwendolyn Sasse
 Presentation *State Sovereignty, Borders and Russia's War against Ukraine*
- ▶ Conference | Julia Langbein
Julia Langbein
 Discussant at the panel *Scope Conditions for the Rise of Contestations of and within the Liberal Script*
- ▶ Conference | Claudia Eggart, Beril Ocaklı
4th CASNiG Annual Conference 'Multilayered/Multiscalar: Central Asian Mobilities'
 Central Asian Studies Network in Germany (Leipzig, 23–24/11/2023)
Claudia Eggart
 Presentation *CONTAINER. A Material Archaeology of the Market Infrastructure*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
Beril Ocaklı
 Co-organisation and chair of the panel *Chinese Influence on Social and Political Processes in Central Asia*
- ▶ Conference | Sabine von Löwis
Produktion und Transformation von Räumen der Migration
 Arbeitskreis Geographische Migrationsforschung (Osnabrück, 23–24/11/2023)
 Presentation *Fluchträume: Mental Maps der Flucht aus der Ukraine seit Februar 2022*
- ▶ Conference | Tsypylma Darieva
Aleksanteri Conference 2023: Decolonizing Space in the Global East. Legal Choices, Political Transformations, Carceral Practices
 University of Helsinki (Helsinki, 25–27/11/2023)
 Presentation *From Hostility to Pragmatic Hospitality: Russian-Georgian Encounters in Tbilisi Housing Market*
- ▶ Conference | Nina Frieß
55th ASEES Annual Convention
 Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (Philadelphia, 30/11–03/12/2023)
 Chair of the panel *Contemporary Russophone Literatures in Search of Decolonized Languages*
 Presentation *Multinational Children's Literature in the Post-Socialist World: (De)colonizing the Canon*
- ▶ Workshop | Félix Krawatzek
Shades of Blue: Claiming Europe in the Age of Disintegration
 Stiftung Genshagen, Centre for East European and International Studies (Genshagen, 30/11–01/12/2023)
 Co-organised by Félix Krawatzek
 Input *Sources for Senses of Belonging: Does Europe Need a Foundation and if Yes, How Many?*
 Input *Europe at Different Speeds: Chances for a New Dynamic or Risk of Fragmentation*

OTHER EVENTS

- ▶ Film screening | Piotr Goldstein
Tri filma o (svakodnevnom) aktivizmu
Bulevar Books, Union of Roma Students, EU Information Point (Novi Sad, 07/02/2023)
Film screening with Q&A
- ▶ Colloquium | Beate Eschment
Zeitenwende in der Osteuropäischen Geschichte: Die Disziplin debattiert Russlands Krieg gegen die Ukraine
Verband der Osteuropahistorikerinnen und -historiker, Herder Institute (Marburg, 23/02/2023)
Discussant at the panel *Imperiale Geschichte und Dekolonialisierung: Perspektiven auf eine Debatte*
- ▶ Film screening | Piotr Goldstein
Three Films about Everyday (Migrant) Activism
University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam, 14/03/2023)
Film screening with Q&A
- ▶ Colloquium | Beate Eschment
Das Ende der europäischen und globalen Friedensordnung?
German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (Berlin, 30/03–01/04/2023)
Discussant at the panel *Beyond Europe and the Global South: Reflections on Impact of the Russian-Ukrainian War on Post-Soviet Central Asia*
- ▶ Seminar | Beate Eschment
Zentralasien – Eine Region am Schnittpunkt von alten und neuen Großmächten
Akademie Biggensee (Attendorn, 14–16/04/2023)
Lecture *Geschichte, Kultur, Politik und Konflikte in den ehemaligen Sowjetrepubliken Zentralasiens*
- ▶ Seminar | Beate Eschment
Die Türkei und Osteuropa
Akademie für Politische Bildung Tutzing (Tutzing, 02–04/06/2023)
Lecture *Zentralasien zwischen Russland und Türkei?*
- ▶ Training | Beate Eschment
Lehrerfortbildungswoche Großräume Asien und Pazifik
Akademie für Politische Bildung Tutzing (online, 19/06/2023)
Lecture *Wüsten, Steppen, Religion: Politische Transformation und Nationalitätenpolitik in Zentralasien*
- ▶ Conference | Beril Ocaklı
China verstehen
Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt (Lutherstadt Wittenberg, 06–08/10/2023)
Input and chair of the panel *Ein Blick auf China – aus der Perspektive Zentralasiens*
- ▶ Seminar | Tatiana Golova
Formen des Aktivismus in einer demokratischen Gesellschaft
Bundesverband russischsprachiger Eltern e.V. (Bergen, 08–10/09/2023)
As part of the workshop *Partizipationsräume gestalten* for Russian-speaking multipliers (with Alexey Kozlov)
- ▶ Symposium | Tatiana Zhurzhenko
War and Peace in Ukraine: Reflecting, Studying and Engaging Across Disciplines
Bielefeld University (Bielefeld, 12–13/10/2023)
Discussant at the panel *Rethinking Ukrainian Past for a Common European Future*
- ▶ Seminar | Kostiantyn Fedorenko
Democracy and Ukrainian Resistance to the Russian Invasion: Creative Solutions and New Cleavages
Kyiv School of Economics, REDEMOS (online, 30/10/2023)
Lecture *Ukrainian Wartime Activists in Germany: Cross-Context Activism*
- ▶ Seminar | Christian Schaich
Forschungsmanagement an Universitäten und außeruniversitären Forschungseinrichtungen
European Humanities University, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya Office (Vilnius, 14–15/12/2023)
Seminar for academic administrators from Belarus in exile

Consultations and Expert Talks

- ▶ Expert talk | Sabine von Löwis
Wiener Dialog zur Zukunft Europas 2023
Konrad Adenauer Foundation, University of Passau (Vienna, 17–18/04/2023)
- ▶ Coaching | Beate Eschment
Country Analysis Kazakhstan
Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (Bonn, 07–08/06/2023)
- ▶ Expert talk | Nadja Douglas
OSZE 2.0 – Zukunft der kooperativen Sicherheit in Europa
Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (Berlin, 02/07/2023)
- ▶ Coaching | Beate Eschment
Country Analysis Kazakhstan
Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (online, 24–26/07/2023)
- ▶ Expert report | Beate Eschment
ESKA 2024: Escalation Potential Analyses for Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (17/09/2023)
- ▶ Expert workshop | Beril Ocaklı
Implications of China’s Growing Role in the OSCE: Focus on Central Asia
FES Regional Office for International Cooperation in Vienna (Vienna, 16–17/10/2023)
Lecture China in Central Asia: (Geo)political Infrastructures and more-than-economic Implications
- ▶ Workshop discussion | Tsypylma Darieva, Irina Mützelburg, Gwendolyn Sasse
Exzellenz²
Federal Foreign Office (AA), Berlin University Alliance (BUA) (2023)
Conference series for knowledge exchange between AA and BUA
- ▶ Consultation | Tatiana Golova
Federal Agency for Civic Education
Academic advice for a podcast series on the civil society in Russia in the context of the Russian war against Ukraine
- ▶ **Briefings**
Tsypylma Darieva
German Federal Foreign Office
German Federal Parliament
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Nadja Douglas
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Beate Eschment
German Federal Foreign Office
Konrad Adenauer Foundation
Regina Elsner
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Tatiana Golova
German Federal Foreign Office
German Federal Parliament
Federal Agency for Civic Education
Félix Krawatzek
Ukrainian Rada
Embassy of Poland in Germany
German Federal Ministry of Defence
Embassy of Australia in Kyiv
German Federal Foreign Office

Julia Langbein

German Federal Foreign Office

Sabine von Löwis

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

German Aerospace Center

Beril Ocaklı

German Federal Foreign Office

Gwendolyn Sasse

German Federal Parliament

German Federal Foreign Office

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

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- ▶ Official Dialogue of the German Bishops' Conference with the Russian Orthodox Church
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Tatiana Zhurzhenko

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

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