

**Conference**

# Imperial Rule and Colonial Experience in Eastern Europe

**21–22 March 2024, Jena  
Friedrich Schiller University**

**Ernst-Abbe-Campus, Hörsaal 5  
Carl-Zeiss-Straße 3 | 07743 Jena**



**DGO**

► Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Osteuropakunde e.V.

**IMRE KERTÉSZ KOLLEG JENA**



Europas Osten im 20. Jahrhundert. Historische Erfahrungen im Vergleich

# IMPERIAL RULE AND COLONIAL EXPERIENCE IN EASTERN EUROPA

The purpose of this conference is to address the extent to which postcolonial approaches provide new insights for explaining politics and society in Eastern Europe as opposed to the study of empires. The focus will be on the relationship between empire and violence, integration and disintegration, as well as the promise of prosperity and identity. Ukrainian writer Yuri Andrukhovych and historian Botakoz Kassymbekova will open the conference with discussions of the biographical and historical dimensions of imperial rule and colonial experience.

## PROGRAM

### THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2024

17:30 OPENING

**Joachim von Puttkamer**, Friedrich Schiller University/  
Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena

**Ruprecht Polenz**, German Association for East  
European Studies, Berlin

AWARD CEREMONIES

**Klaus-Mehnert-Prize**

**Karin-Wolff-Prize**

KEY NOTE

**Imperial Rule and Colonial Experience**

**Yuri Andrukhovych**, author, Ivano-Frankivsk

DISCUSSION

**Yuri Andrukhovych**, Ivano-Frankivsk

**Botakoz Kassymbekova**, University of Basel

**Moderation: Manfred Sapper**, DGO/Osteuropa, Berlin

20:00 RECEPTION

## FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2024

9:00 LECTURE

**Imperial Rule and Colonial Experience:  
Eastern Europe in the Global Context**

**Maria Todorova**, University of Illinois

9:30 PANEL DISCUSSION

**Maria Todorova**, University of Illinois

**Manuela Boatcă**, University of Freiburg

**Moderation: Joachim von Puttkamer**, Friedrich Schiller University/Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 PARALLEL PANELS

**Aspects of Imperial Rule and Colonial Experience**

**Promises**

**Ulrike von Hirschhausen**, University of Rostock

**Robert Kindler**, Free University of Berlin

**Immo Rebitschek**, Friedrich Schiller University/  
Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena

**Moderation: Gabriele Freitag**, DGO, Berlin

**Identity**

**Zaal Andronikashvili**, Leibniz Institute for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin

**Tsypylma Darieva**, Center for East European and International Studies, Berlin

**Galina Babak**, Humboldt University of Berlin/Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

**Moderation: Susanne Frank**, Humboldt University, Berlin

**Violence**

**Jörn Happel**, Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg

**Andreas Heinemann-Grüder**, Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies

**Juliane Prade-Weiss**, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich

**Moderation: Volker Weichsel**, DGO/Osteuropa, Berlin

13:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:30 VIDEO INSTALLATION AND DISCUSSION  
**When the Past Does Not Want to End**

**Aliaxey Talstou**, artist and author, Hamburg  
**Alexey Markin**, artist and activist, Hamburg

15:30 PANEL DISCUSSION  
**Imperial Continuities and Decolonization:  
A Political Discourse**

**Dan Diner**, historian and publicist, Berlin  
**Anna-Veronika Wendland**, Herder Institute for  
Historical Research on East Central Europe, Marburg  
**Martin Schulze Wessel**, Ludwig Maximilian University,  
Munich

**Moderation: Gwendolyn Sasse**, Center for East  
European and International Studies, Berlin

17:00 END OF CONFERENCE

## PARTICIPANTS

**Zaal Andronikashvili** is a research associate at the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research (Berlin) and a professor at Ilia State University, Tbilisi. His research interests include Narratology (theory of sužet), small/minor literature(s) – world literature, cultural semantics, political theology, and the cultural history of Georgia, as well as Soviet and post-Soviet cultural history.

© Naguschewski/ZfL



**Yuri Andrukhovych** is an Ukrainian writer, born 1960 in Stanislav (now Ivano-Frankivsk). By now he has published five collections of poems and seven novels. Andrukhovych also writes the literary essays, some of which have been published in German translations: “The Final Territory”, “Angels and Demons of Periphery”, “The Price of Our Freedom”, etc.

© Valentyn Kuzan



**Galina Babak** is a post-doc fellow at Masaryk Institute and Archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences and a guest professor at HU Berlin. Her research interest is directed towards the project of “Soviet modernization” from the 1920s to the beginning of the 1930s in Ukraine, and the political and cultural history of the 20th century.

© privat



**Manuela Boatcă** is a Professor of Sociology and Head of School of the Global Studies Programme at the University of Freiburg. She has published on world-systems analysis, decoloniality, global inequalities and the geopolitics of knowledge in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

© Universität Freiburg



**Tsypylma Darieva** is a senior researcher at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), where she heads the Migration and Diversity research cluster. She is teaching anthropology and transregional Central Asian Studies at HU Berlin. Her research interests include anthropology of migration, urban anthropology, transnational diasporic networks, cosmopolitanism etc.

© privat





© privat

**Dan Diner** is Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 1999 to 2014 he served as director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture in Leipzig. Presently he heads the Jacob Robinson Institute for the History of Individual and Collective Rights in Jerusalem. In Berlin he chairs the Alfred Landecker Foundation.



© privat

**Susanne Frank** holds the chair of East Slavic Literatures and Cultures at the Institute for Slavic Studies at HU Berlin. Her research interests include the history of East Slavic literatures, Russian and (post)Soviet Literatures in (post)imperial contexts, theories of world literature and global literatures, literature and nation-building, etc.



© Roman Thiel

**Gabriele Freitag** is executive director of the German Association for East European Studies. Previously, she was a research associate at the Research Center for East European Studies at Bremen University and managing director of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies at the FU Berlin. She received her doctorate with a thesis on Jewish migration in the early years of the Soviet Union.



© Barbara Frommann

**Andreas Heinemann-Grüder** is a professor of political science at the University of Bonn. His research focuses on post-Soviet politics, comparative federalism, civil-military relations, and irregular armed forces. He has served as an advisor to the German Chancellery, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and the NATO, and the EU Stability Pact.



© Fabian Winkler

**Jörn Happel** has been Professor of the History of Eastern Europe and East Central Europe at Helmut Schmidt University/University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg since October 2020. He studied Eastern European history, political science and modern history in Giessen and worked as a research assistant at the University of Basel for many years.

**Ulrike von Hirschhausen** is Professor of Modern European and Global History at the University of Rostock. In 2023 she published “Empires. Eine globale Geschichte 1780–1920” together with Jörn Leonhard. From the summer of 2024, she will hold a fellowship at Harvard University.

© Katrin Neuhauser



**Botakoz Kassymbekova** teaches Modern History with a focus on Soviet history, Stalinism and Russian imperialism at the University of Basel. Her current research project deals with the post-Stalinist Soviet Union and examines how Soviet citizens processed and/or repressed Stalinism in the late phase of their lives.

© privat



**Robert Kindler** is a professor for East European history at Freie Universität Berlin. He received his PhD from the HU Berlin with a dissertation on the history of Stalinism in Kazakhstan. Among other things, he dealt with transnational resource conflicts in the North Pacific. He is currently working on a monograph on the history of Kazakhstan in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

© privat



**Tamina Kutscher** is a Slavicist, historian and freelance journalist. She was editor-in-chief of the dekoeder platform from 2016 to 2023. Prior to this, she worked as an editor for the n-ost network and carried out numerous projects in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She also teaches the journalism course at Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences.

© Tamina Kutscher



**Alexey Markin** is an artist and art historian. He studied Art History and Political Science at the University of Hamburg. He is a PreDoc fellow of the Liebelt Foundation and will be a lecturer at the Art History Department of the UHH from the summer semester 2024. His main areas of interest are post- and decolonial theories and art during the Cold War.

© privat





© Ansgar Gilster

**Ruprecht Polenz** is president of the German Association for East European Studies. From 1994 to 2013, he was a member of the Bundestag and, from 2005 to 2013, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Polenz studied law in Münster.



© privat

**Juliane Prade-Weiss** is Professor of Comparative Literature at Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. Her work focuses on the link between language and violence, particularly on negotiations of complicity with totalitarianisms in Middle and Eastern European literatures. She currently pursues the project “Discourses of Mass Violence in Comparative Perspective”.



© Anne Günther

**Joachim von Puttkamer** holds the Chair of Eastern European History at the University of Jena and has also been Director of the Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena since 2010. His research interests include police brutality and society in the People’s Republic of Poland. He is the editor of the Handbook of Central and Eastern Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



© Olja Zubova

**Immo Rebitschek** is an assistant professor for East European History at the University of Jena. He authored a book and several edited volumes on the history of Soviet criminal justice, Stalinism, biopolitics and food policies in Tsarist Russia. He currently writes a book titled *The Hungry Empire – Relief and Autocratic Humanitarianism in Late Imperial Russia (1891–1914)*.



© Ole Witt

**Manfred Sapper** is editor-in-chief of the journal *OSTEUROPA*. He studied political science, history and sociology in Frankfurt/Main, Siena and Moscow. Sapper received his doctorate with a thesis on the impact of the Afghan war on Soviet society.



**Gwendolyn Sasse** has been Director of the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) in Berlin since its establishment in 2016. She is also the Einstein-Professor for the Comparative Study of Democracy and Authoritarianism at Humboldt University, Berlin (since 2021). Previously, she was Professor of Comparative Politics at the University of Oxford.

© ZOiS



**Sophie Schmäing** is an interdisciplinary trained sociologist. After studies and practical training in Halle (Saale), Poznań, Kharkiv and Berlin, she completed her PhD at the University of Giessen in 2023 with a thesis on urban democracy in post-Maidan Ukraine. She currently works at Prisma Ukraina at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin.

© privat



**Martin Schulze Wessel** is Professor of Eastern European History at LMU Munich and Director of the Collegium Carolinum since 2003/4. He is also co-founder of the German-Ukrainian Historical Commission and spokesman for the DFG research group "Universalism and Particularism in European Contemporary History".

© Historisches Kolleg München



**Aliaxey Talstou** is an artist and a writer, born in Minsk, currently based in Hamburg. He works with topics of social and political tension, technology and its impact on the human mind, and the theme of the crisis in general, while employing different media, predominantly drawings, performance, video, and text.

© Egor Rogalev



**Maria Todorova** is a historian, Balkanologist and orientalist. Her numerous works on Southeast European research such as "The Lost World of Socialists at Europe's Margins" (2020), "Scaling the Balkans" (2018), "Remembering Communism" (2014), "Imagining the Balkans" (2009) and many more are still widely read today. Todorova is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

© privat





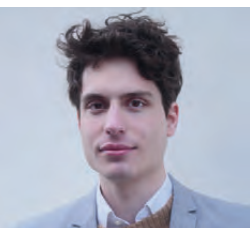
© Severin Osadchuk

**Anna Veronika Wendland** is a historian of Eastern Europe and technology. She wrote her doctoral thesis on Russophiles in Galicia, for which she won the Fritz Theodor Epstein Prize of the VOH. She has been a research associate at the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg since 2009.



© Ole Witt

**Volker Weichsel** is editor for the journal OSTEUROPA. He studied political science and Slavic studies in Mannheim and Kyiv; he received his doctorate with a thesis on national political traditions and European political concepts in the Czech Republic.



© Paul Bono

**Noah Paul Westermayer** studies Interdisciplinary Eastern European Studies and Law in Vienna. His academic roots lie in History and Slavic Studies, completed in Graz. He currently attends KU Leuven. He is a recipient of the 2024/25 Pro Scientia scholarship. His article on the Russian Flu in Austria-Hungary was published in the journal "Virus" 22 (2023).



► Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Osteuropakunde e.V.

## **GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES**

The German Association for East European Studies (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, DGO) is the largest network within the German speaking realm engaged in research on East European affairs. Since 1913, the DGO has been active as a forum for the discussion and analysis of politics, economics, and culture in Europe's East. It provides information about current developments, serves as a conduit of knowledge, and promotes dialogue between East and West.

DGO members are important multipliers from academia, politics, commerce and industry, cultural life, and the media. With the Young DGO, the DGO has an own association for members up to the age of 35. The DGO is an independent, non-profit organisation based in Berlin.

Contact:

### **German Association for East European Studies**

Schaperstraße 30 | 10719 Berlin

Tel: +49 (0)30 214 784 12

Fax: +49 (0)30 214 784 14

Mail: [info@dgo-online.org](mailto:info@dgo-online.org)

Web: [www.dgo-online.org](http://www.dgo-online.org)

Social media: [https://linktr.ee/dgo\\_berlin](https://linktr.ee/dgo_berlin)

# IMRE KERTÉSZ KOLLEG JENA



Europas Osten im 20. Jahrhundert. Historische Erfahrungen im Vergleich

## IMRE KERTÉZ KOLLEG JENA

The “Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena. Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century: Comparative Historical Experience” at the Friedrich Schiller University is a place for interdisciplinary and transnational historical research on the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

Founded in October 2010 as one of the International Centres in the Humanities (Käte Hamburger Kollegs) the Kolleg received funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for thirteen years until fall 2023. Since October 2023, the University of Jena provides the funding of the fellowship programme and the Kolleg’s management. In addition, projects such as the “Invisible University for Ukraine” (German Academic Exchange Service/DAAD) or the research network “Towards Illiberal Constitutionalism in East Central Europe: Historical Analysis in Comparative and Transnational Perspectives” (Volkswagen Foundation) continue to be financed by third-party funding.

At the heart of the Kolleg is the fellowship programme. We invite international scholars to Jena to pursue their research projects in a climate of dialogue and exchange. Our current focus is on research into the aftermath of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe, the historicization of the long transformation and the history of Ukraine in a European context.

Contact:

### **Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena**

Am Planetarium 7 | 07743 Jena

Tel: +49 (0) 3641 9 440 70

Mail: [daniela.gruber@uni-jena.de](mailto:daniela.gruber@uni-jena.de)

Web: [www.imre-kertesz-kolleg.uni-jena.de/](http://www.imre-kertesz-kolleg.uni-jena.de/)

✂ @cultureshistory  @ImreKerteszKolleg

**FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
JENA**

### **Friedrich Schiller University Jena**

Fürstengraben 1 | 07743 Jena

Web: [www.uni-jena.de](http://www.uni-jena.de)