



Call for Papers: Conference | June 15-17, 2022
Deadline for Abstracts: March 13, 2022

Post-Imperial and Post-Socialist Legacies in Today's Populisms in Central and Eastern Europe

It is a pleasure to invite you to submit contributions to the conference “Post-Imperial and Post-Socialist Legacies in Today’s Populism in Central and Eastern Europe”. The conference is organized by the Research Institute Social Cohesion (FGZ) and the Leibniz Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO). It will take place in Leipzig on June 15th to 17th, 2022.

Populism has become a supra-national phenomenon leading researchers to re-evaluate the positioning of national societies and regions today. The varieties of populism that can be observed in Central and Eastern Europe tend to re-establish societies with a strong emphasis on national identity and sovereignty. References to historical predecessors of the post-imperial time - who opposed to foreign infiltration into the respective nations – are made by political leaders to reconstruct the national myths and identities that emerged in the interwar period. The conference addresses to what extent populist parties and movements reinterpret historical peculiarities to restore national pride and give a new sense of direction. What influences did the different experiences of the imperial age, the collapse of the empires or the legacies of socialism and transformation after 1989 have on the various forms of populism of today?

Through this call for papers we invite scholars to submit contributions against the background of historical upheavals and developments in politics and society - with our particular interest being in the post-imperial legacies and its relevance in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe:

- Are there post-imperial legacies that play a role in contemporary populism in the region?
- Can the differences among national populisms be traced back to the experiences of the (post)imperial time and transition phase? Or does the imperial past no longer play a role?

We are also particularly interested in comparative approaches that examine different forms of populism within Eastern and Central Europe (intra-regional comparison) as well as in comparison with other world regions (inter-regional comparison).



Areas of interest

Topics for this call for papers can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Post-imperial transition and nation-building
- Actualization of political leaders and figures of the imperial and post-imperial times
- Return to a politics “of pride and glory”
- Historical events in current populist discourse
- Influence of post-socialist political structures and cultures on populism today

Please send your abstract no more than 300 words with a short biographical note by 13 March 2022 to Paolo Zucconi at paolo.zucconi@uni-leipzig.de.

In the run-up to the conference, we will circulate the manuscripts of the presentations and papers among the commentators.

For any enquiries regarding the conference, please contact Hana Rydza at hana.rydza@leibniz-gwzo.de.

About us

The Research Institute Social Cohesion (FGZ) is an institute funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which is located in ten different federal states, focusing on the regional diversity of social cohesion in Germany and beyond. The almost 200 scientists from many different disciplines use empirical studies and large-scale comparisons to develop practical suggestions that help meet today's societal challenges. The researchers cover aspects such as identities, inequalities and solidarity, media and conflict culture, political polarization and populism, but also anti-Semitism and hate crime.

The Leibniz Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) focuses on the region between the Baltic Sea, Black Sea and Adriatic Sea from the Early Middle Ages to the present in a comparative perspective. The institute aims at contributing to a deeper understanding of the current political, economic and social developments in the countries, societies and cultures of Eastern Europe, especially the countries of East Central Europe.