

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

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 – who opposed to foreign infiltration into the respective nations – are made by political leaders to reconstruct the national myths and identities that have emerged since 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, and the legacies of socialism have on the variety of populisms of today?

The Leibniz Institute for the 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.
www.leibniz-gwzo.de

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.
www.fgz-risc.de/das-forschungsinstitut/standorte/leipzig

In collaboration with the Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA)

Venue GWZO: Specks Hof (Entrance A), Reichsstraße 4–6, 04109 Leipzig
FGZ: Strohsackpassage, Nikolaistraße 10, 04109 Leipzig

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Conference

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Leipzig, June, 16–17, 2022



Image: Leader of the Slovak populist party OĽaNO at a protest rally in front of Slovakia's government office. Source: Martin Mikula, ČTK.

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Venue: GWZO (Conference Room)

10.00–10.30

Welcome and Introduction

10.30–12.15

Panel 1a: Historical Narratives, Identities and Populism in Eastern and Central Europe

Chair: Kaja Schelker (GWZO)

Andrzej Sadecki (Charles University, Prague)
Between Grievance and Nostalgia to the lost Greatness:
Exploiting the Legacies of the Treaty of Trianon in
Viktor Orbán' Hungary

Pál Dunay (George C. Marshall European Center for
Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen)
The (Nearly) Unique Experiences of Hungary's Populist
Transition

Jogilė Ulinskaitė, Monika Verbalytė, Rosita Garškaitė
(Vilnius University, Vilnius)
Emotional Narratives of Post-communist Trans-
formation: how People Explain and Populists Exploit

Comment: Alexander Yendell (FGZ)

Lunch Break: 12.15–13.15

13.15–15.00

Panel 1b: Historical Narratives, Identities and Populism in Eastern and Central Europe

Chair: Polina Gundarina (GWZO)

Edit Zgut (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw)
'We won't let Brussels dictate us': Eurosceptic Populism
in Hungary and Poland

Hana Rydza (GWZO)
Different Context, Different Populisms? A Comparison
of the Austrian, Slovakian and Czech Populists

Paolo Zucconi (FGZ)
The Czech Republic and Russia: a Complex Relationship
between Historical Legacies and Populism

Comment: Juraj Marušiak (Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Bratislava)

Discussion over Coffee: 15.00



Friday, June 17, 2022

Venue: FGZ (Room 5.55)

10.00–11.45

Panel 2: Ukraine and Russia: Imperial Legacies, Nationalism and Populism

Chair: Aurelia Ohlendorf (GWZO)

Matthew Blackburn (University of Warsaw, Warsaw)
A Deadly Dance on the Carcass of Empire:
The Complex Interplay of Statism, Populism and
Nationalism in contemporary Russia (2012–2022)

Victor Apryshchenko (Southern Federal University,
Rostov-on-Don)
Patriotism as Populism: Memory and Identity in (Non)
contemporary Russia Politics/Law

Valeria Korablyova (Charles University, Prague)
A Subaltern Empire Meets Technopopulism: Reading
the Russian War in Ukraine from the Postcolonial
Perspective

Comment: Mikhail Ilchenko (GWZO)

Coffee Break: 11.45–12.00

12.00–13.00

Concluding Discussion

Discussion over Lunch: 13.00