ORIENTALISM, COLONIAL THINKING AND THE FORMER SOVIET PERIPHERY

Exploring Bias and Stereotype Representations of Eastern and Central Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia

Vilnius University
August 27-29, 2015

With the support of:
The Ukraine crisis has placed the entire post-communist world back at the very centre of global debates in the media, politics and academia. Concepts such as sovereignty of post-Soviet and post-communist states have been brought into question once again, alongside the historical development, international alignment and the aspirations of state actors in the region.

In this context, a narrative of “Russian interests versus Western interests/values” seems to have gained currency in Western media and political discourses. Smaller actors of Eastern and Central Europe, Central Asia, the Baltics and the Caucasus see their perspectives ignored or put on a secondary level. This has led some scholars to suggest the existence among Western and Russian commentators of a “colonial”, “Orientalist” bias that favours the former imperial “centre” and sees formerly subaltern actors as passive entities in a greater game, giving a stereotypical and demeaning image of such countries and their people. This in turn leaves countries of the former Czarist and Soviet peripheries unable to influence the mainstream debate and to present a self-centred approach in a world in which perceptions and narratives more and more legitimize actions in international relations.

The purpose of the conference is to provide an academic framework for the discussion of these ideas and put them to the test of peer debate. The goal is to discuss the relevance of Post-Colonial Studies to Post-Communist Studies and hopefully open an innovative chapter in the academic understanding of the Post-Communist World. The conference is organized around three main underlying leitmotifs.

The first one is the assessment of the impact of colonial and Orientalist thinking on policy-making processes about former subjects of the Russian and Soviet power, both in the international arena and in internal affairs. How do existing prejudices in media, politics and academia contribute to consolidating the idea of post-communist countries as “passive” actors with “limited sovereignty”, “subordinated”, limited in their possibility to freely choose an international alignment, and of common people in Eastern European countries as “backward”, or “second-class Europeans”? How does this affect decisions taken at a European level concerning security crises of the post-Soviet world? What are the recurrent (and competing) images and via what tools are they routinized?
The second underlying theme is the analysis of the issue from a historical perspective. The purpose is to discuss whether colonial thinking and the possible understanding of Eastern Europe as a subaltern, passive entity biases Western views of history in the region. Asking whether there exists a “hierarchy of historical narratives” in the way the history of countries of the former Soviet bloc are perceived by scholars, media and politicians, the section aims to explore if and how these prejudices impact Western receptiveness of historical interpretations and discourses coming from former imperial subjects, making them less effective than competing narratives coming from Russia or the West itself, and to understand how does this impact regional and international relations.

The last leitmotif is the applicability of the concept of Orientalism and Post-Colonial studies to the study of the context in which Russian/Soviet colonial thinking was first developed, i.e. the early Czarist imperial “frontier”: the North Caucasus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Central Asia, broadly understood to include the five “Stans” as well as regions that experienced significant Russian/Soviet influence at different points in their history, such as Mongolia and Xinjiang. To what extent, in what forms, and why do Orientalist stereotypes still bias our understanding of the Asian part of the former Czarist and Soviet sphere, and what is the impact of this on political and academic agendas?
Conference venue

How to reach us

The conference will take place at the main building of Vilnius University, in Universiteto gatvė 3. To reach the conference venue, you can enter from the main entrance on Universiteto gatvė or, also, from Šv. Jono gatvė. An additional entrance exists from Pilies g. through the restaurant “Aula”.

Vilnius University is a 9 min. car ride or a 24 min. walk from the train or bus stations. The University is located 15 min. by car from Vilnius International Airport. If you are travelling by car from Kaunas, you will need to enter Vilnius from the south-west along the E272 road. If you are coming from Riga, you can use the E272 from the north.

Location within the Old town
Location within the University area
Location within Vilnius University’s main building
Conference programme

Thursday, August 27th

Morning programme

08:00 – 10:30
Registration and welcoming coffee

10:30 – 11:15
Welcoming speech from Dr. Valdas Jaskūnas and Rector;
Technical details from administrative coordinator

11:15 – 12:30
Opening keynote roundtable: “Can small actors be heard? Experiences of former peripheries in the international arena and academia”
- Dr. Violeta Davoliūtė, Vilnius University;
- Dr. Anton Shekhovtsov, Legatum Institute/University College London
- Farrukh Irnazarov, Central Asian Analytical Network
- Dr. Irina Morozova, IOS, University of Regensburg
- Jaba Devdariani, Austrian Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Moderates: Fabio Belafatti, Vilnius University

12:30 – 13:30
Networking lunch for presenters and keynote speakers

Afternoon programme

Parallel panel sessions

Ukraine’s choices: between and beyond the traps of imperial thinking
Moderator: Roman Horbyk, Sodertorn university
- Dr. Maryna Romanets, University of Northern British Columbia
  Russian neo-Imperial Fantasies: Constructing the “Near Orient” of Ukraine’s Political Body.
- Dr. Nadia Bureiko, University of St. Gallen
  Shaking the frontier: Ukraine moves West?

Eastern Europe and Europeans in public and self-perceptions
Moderator: Dr. Dariya Orlova, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- Ruth McKenna, PhD candidate, University of Glasgow
  Central and Eastern Europe in the British Imagination
- Dr. Irina Novikova, University of Latvia
  Imagining Russia/nness in post-Soviet Latvian media
- Philipp Lottholz, PhD candidate, University of Birmingham/American Univ. of Central Asia, and Dr. Polina Manolova, University of Birmingham
  No escape from ideology? A comparison of political and moral orientations in the former Soviet periphery

Ukrainian cultural spaces and symbols: finding post-colonial identities? (Part I)
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University
- Dr. Natalia Koltakova, Army Academy named after Hetman Petro Sahaydachnyi
A Cultural Stereotype as a Text of Culture in the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature

- **Daria Semenova**, PhD candidate, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
  Southern and Eastern Soviet periphery as exoticized adventure landscape: how are the potentially disinterested Ukrainian narratives biased by the imperialist discourse stereotypes?

**Colonial and Orientalist narratives in literature and cinema in the former Periphery**
Moderator: Dr. Rasa Balčkaitė, Associate Professor, Vytautas Magnus University

- **Dr. Enis Sulstarova**, University of Tirana
  Constructing Albanian Communist and Post-Communist Identities Through Literature: Orientalism in the Works of Ismail Kadare

- **Dr. Rasa Balčkaitė**, Associate Professor, Vytautas Magnus University
  Colonial Narratives in the Soviet Cinema: “Kidnapping, Caucasian style” (1967)

- **Katrin Staudinger**, Independent cultural anthropologist
  Free Nomads, Noble Robbers and Unscrupulous Slave Raiders: The Turkmen Test Case for Orientalism on the Russian Imperial Periphery

15:05 – 15:35
Coffee break

15:35 – 16:30
Aula Parva

**Plenary lecture: Dr. John Heathershaw, University of Exeter**
Rising Powers and Post-Western International Relations: a research prospectus for Central Asian Studies

16:30 – 17:40
Kovalevskio auditorija

**Parallel panel sessions**

**Ukrainian cultural spaces and symbols: finding post-colonial identities? (Part II)**
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

- **Dr. Iryna Borysiuk**, Associate Professor, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University
  Between Silence and Speaking: Representation of National Identity in the Poetry by Oksana Zabuzhko

- **Nataliya Bezborodova**, Graduate student, University of Alberta
  The “New Year’s Tree” of the Maidan as a Mediator of Decolonization Discourse in Ukraine

(Re-)Negotiating colonial and centre-periphery relationships in the former Communist world
Moderator: Dr. Uku Lember, Tallinn University

- **Dr. Vilius Ivanauskas**, Lithuanian Institute of History
  Ethnic Particularism in Soviet peripheries: Local intellectuals as the mediators creating Soviet “West”, Soviet “Exotic” and Soviet “East”

- **Estelle Bunout**, PhD candidate, University of Lorraine
  Recognition as an incentive for revision of possessive conceptions of Eastern Europe in Poland and Germany after 1945? Realizations and limits on the basis of the Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (PISM) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP).

17:40 – 18:40
Seminar room 238

**Knowledge regimes, subaltern voices and New Area Studies**
Moderator: Dr. John Heathershaw, University of Exeter
- **Dr. Claus Bech Hansen**, University of Bonn
  *Subaltern voices from the post-Soviet periphery: The translation of western epistemic cultures in Central Asia*

- **Dr. Markus Kaiser**, University of Bonn
  *Migration in Eurasia*

**Soviet Asia through the lenses of cinema: orientalising “the East” in the 1920ies and 1930ies**
Moderator: Dr. Rasa Baločkaite, Associate Professor, Vytautas Magnus University

- **Caroline Damiens**, PhD candidate, National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations
  *The Soviet cine-expeditions in the 1920-30s: modernizing/sovietising Siberia Indigenous peoples through film*

- **Dr. Cloé Drieu**, French National Centre for Scientific Research
  *Bolshevik imperialism, nationalist agencies and Socialist realism in Uzbek films: the birth of a new Soviet orientalism (1924-1938)*

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**17:40 – 18:00**
**University café**

**Coffee break**

**18:00 – 18:55**
**Aula Parva**

**Teleconferenced plenary address**
**Prof. Alexander J. Motyl, Rutgers University**
*The Life and Inevitable Death of the Russian Imperial Narrative*

**18:55 – 19:00**
**Aula Parva**

**Technical details for the following day**
Friday, August 28th

Morning programme

08:00 – 09:00
Registration for newcomers
Floor 2 corridor

09:00 – 09:05
Technical details and general announcements
Aula Parva

09:05 – 10:00
Plenary lecture: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College
Aula Parva
The Orient in Soviet Thought, or the Curious Career of a Concept

10:00 – 11:10
Parallel panel sessions
Seminar room 238

Constructing new identities and national myths: personality cults and new textbooks
Moderator: Dr. John Heathershaw, University of Exeter

- Dr. Rasa Čepaitienė, Lithuanian Institute of History
  Post-Soviet Paternalism: the Formation of the Cult of Personality of Presidents in Former Republics of the USSR, its Functions and Forms of Expression

- Rafi Beykhanov, PhD candidate, Tel Aviv University
  Shaping the Azerbaijani National Pantheon in post-Soviet Azerbaijan Textbooks

Donelaičio auditorija

Phantom memories: Orientalism and mediated representations of Ukraine (Part I)
Moderator: Roman Horbyk, Sodertorn university

- Dr. Yuliya Yurchuk, Sodertorn university
  Narratives of the Second World War: Contesting the “hierarchy of historical narratives” from the East and the West

- Niklas Bernsand, PhD candidate, Lund university
  Ukraine as a site of Orientalist projections: perceptions of Ukraine-Russia crisis in Sweden

Seminar room 239

De-territorialization and colonial thinking: migrants and exiles from the former “periphery” (Part I)
Moderator: Prof. Vytis Čiubrinskas, Vytautas Magnus University/Vilnius University

- Klaudia Ordzowiały-Grzegorczyk, PhD candidate, Jagellonian University
  Images of the Russian Empire. Polish exiles in the Caucasus during the 19th century

- Masha Averbuch and Matan Sandler, Grad. students, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
  Uses of Soviet Imperialist Narratives for National Assimilation: the Case of the “Russian” Veterans in Israel

11:10 – 11:40
Coffee break
University café

11:40 – 13:15
Parallel panel sessions
Donelaičio auditorija

Phantom memories: Orientalism and mediated representations of Ukraine (Part II)
Moderator: Roman Horbyk, Sodertorn university
• Dr. Dariya Orlova, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
  *Ukraine as ‘Not-Yet-Europe’: Self-Orientalism in the Mediatised Discourse of Ukrainian Political Elites*

• Roman Horbyk, PhD candidate, Sodertorn university
  "Ukraine can not": Orientalist discourses in the coverage of Ukraine in British and Russian press before the Ukraine-Russia crisis, 2009 – 2013

• Dr. Julia Sushytska, CREPHAC, University of Strasbourg
  *Europe on the Edges of Europe: Confronting Internalized Oppression*

De-territorialization and colonial thinking: migrants and exiles from the former “periphery” (Part II) Moderator: Prof. Vytis Čiubrinškas, Vytautas Magnus University/Vilnius University

• Matan Sandler, Graduate student, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
  "Refusinks"– How a National Myth Conforms to Imperial Discourse

• Farrukh Irnazarov, PhD candidate, University of Groningen
  Mass Media as a Source of Xenophobia and Violence against "Gastarbeiters" in Russia

• Masha Averbuch, Graduate student, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
  *The Soviet Conundrum: Imperial Narratives Interchange in Israel Postcolonial Discourse*

From Czarist to (Post-)Soviet Orientalism: forms, problems and critiques
Moderator: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College

• Prof. Michael Kemper, University of Amsterdam
  *Soviet Critiques of Soviet Orientalism*

• Dr. Masha Kirasirova, New York University Abu Dhabi
  "The Eastern International”: Between Soviet Orientalism and Anti-Colonialism

• Dr. Kevork Oskanian, University of Birmingham
  *Czars, Commissars, and Siloviki: Russian Empire between East and West*

Orientalizing the other: ethnic minorities and “alien” invaders in Ukraine, Georgia and Central Asia
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

• Mehmonsho Sharifov, PhD candidate, University of Bergen
  *Colonial inheritance of the failed State: self-orientalization or “politics of anti-politics” in Tajikistan*

• Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University
  Between the "Russian World” and "Yellow Peril": (Re-)Presentations of Russia’s Non-Slavic Fighters in Eastern Ukraine

• Dr. Salome Dundua, Associate Professor, Tbilisi State University
  *Muslim Georgians and Integration Process: from Czarist Russia’s Politics until Today*

13:15 – 14:15
Networking lunch for presenters and keynote speakers
Afternoon programme

14:15 – 15:10
Aula Parva
Plenary lecture: Dr. Nick Megoran, Newcastle University
*Central Asia as Oriental: discourses of danger in policy, the academy, and popular culture*

15:10 – 16:15
Seminar room 238
Parallel panel sessions

**Colonial thinking and contemporary policies in the Caucasus and beyond**
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University
- **Dr. Yordan Lyutskanov**, Associate Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
  *Balkanism, self-colonisation, economy of gratitude, non-prestigious neighbours: Towards understanding (quasi)colonial experience in the wider Black Sea region as multilateral structure*
- **Danilo Mandić**, PhD candidate, Harvard University
  *Secession within the Periphery: Separatist Movements, the State, and Organized Crime in Serbia and Georgia, 1989-2012*

16:15 – 16:45
Coffee break

16:45 – 18:20
Parallel panel sessions

**Post-colonial patterns and interpretations in Baltic literature: between literary work and politics**
Moderator: Dr. Giedrė Pranaitytė, Vytautas Magnus University
- **Dr. Laura Larušaitė**, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore
  *The Burden and Advantage of Internal Colonization: Lithuanian and Latvian Émigré Novels*
- **Dr. Benedikts Kalnačs**, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia
  *Representations of Postcolonial/Postimperial Space in Contemporary Baltic Literatures: Competing Narrative Patterns*
- **Dr. Giedrė Pranaitytė**, Vytautas Magnus University
  *Tragic Memories about the Massive Exile of Lithuanians to Siberia in 1941: at the Intersection of Politics, History and Literature*

**Local actors as agents beyond patronizing attitudes: Eastern Europe, Central Asia**
Moderator: Dr. Nick Megoran, Newcastle University
- **Dr. Fabio Indeo**, external research fellow, University of Camerino
Post-soviet Central Asia: focusing on the regional dimension

- Dr. Jens Boysen, German Historical Institute Warsaw
  *Historical lecturing and political alarmism: Poland’s efforts at influencing EU strategic attitudes towards Russia and the post-soviet space*

- Vassiliy Lakhonin, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
  *The importance of ‘listening to people’ when studying international aid and development: A case study of the rural aid-recipients in Kyrgyzstan*

Mongolia, Xinjiang, China proper: imperial history and colonial stereotypes from the “Far East” to Europe
Moderator: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas, Vilnius University

- Lina Bartusevičiūtė, Graduate student, Shanghai Fudan University
  *Being “ex-Soviet” in China: the difficulties of re-branding Lithuania as an independent political entity*

- Dr. Bartosz Kowalski, University of Lodz
  *Creating a Soviet sphere of influence in the Republic of China. Xinjiang under Sheng Shicai 1933-1942*

- Sachi Leith, New York University Abu Dhabi
  *Unsettling Nomadism: becoming minor in Galan Tschinag’s Die Rückkehr*

Conflict of narratives and narratives of conflict: Ukrainian VS Russian perspectives on Euromaidan
Moderator: Dr. Vilius Ivanauskas, Lithuanian Institute of History

- (Teleconferenced) Dr. Svitlana Potapenko, Nat. Academy of Sciences, Ukraine
  *Does Ukraine Have Elites? Russian Narrative vs. Ukrainian History*

- Liliia Usik, PhD Candidate, University of Potsdam
  *The Conflict of Narratives in Russian vs. Ukrainian Social Media*

- Dr. Oksana Myshlovskà, Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
  *Taking the grief to the international level: Ukraine and the Russian Federation debates on the ongoing crisis in Ukraine at the Geneva-based human rights protection bodies*

Technical details for the following day
Saturday, August 29th

Morning programme

08:00 – 09:00
Floor 2 corridor
Registration for newcomers

09:00 – 09:05
Aula Parva
Technical details and general announcements

09:05 – 10:00
Aula Parva
Plenary lecture: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
Re-inventing Eurasia: On the applicability of (post)colonial approaches to the study of (post)communist countries

10:00 – 11:10
Seminar room 238
Parallel panel sessions

Kazakh-Russian Relations: Soviet Visions and post-Soviet Revisions (Part I)
Moderator: Dr. Zbigniew Wojnowski, Nazarbayev University
- Dr. Gabriel McGuire, Associate Professor, Nazarbayev University
  Abai Zholy as Socialist Realism and as National Romance
- Christopher Baker, PhD candidate, Indiana University; Associate Professor, American Univ. of Central Asia
  At play in the Soviet Library: history, texts and power in the late Soviet era

Applying Post-colonial approaches to the FSU: useful practice or intellectual divertissement? (Part I)
Moderator: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- Giorgia Zino, Graduate student, University of Bologna
  Soviet Union as an Internal Colonization Experience? Nation-based internal colonialism in Russian-Lithuanian Relationships
- Dr. Sergei I. Zhuk, Associate Professor, Ball State University
  Ukrainian Maidan as the Last Anti-Soviet Revolution: Subaltern Studies and Epistemological Dangers of Soviet Nostalgia for Writing Soviet and Post-Soviet History

Travelogues to and from the Empire’s Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part I)
Moderator: TBC
- Anastasia Tserkovna, PhD candidate, Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University
  Multiculturalism as an Artistic Component of Imagological Liminality of the Ethnoimage of Ukraine in English Travel Journals of the Romantic Period
- Roman Horbyk, PhD candidate, Sodertorn University
  "Heliotropismus geheimer Art": Walter Benjamin’s trips to the East and Orientalist confusions of the European left

11:10 – 11:40
University café
Coffee break

11:40 – 13:15
Seminar room 238
Parallel panel sessions

Kazakh-Russian Relations: Soviet Visions and post-Soviet Revisions (Part II)
Moderator: Dr. Zbigniew Wojnowski, Nazarbayev University
Dr. Aziz Burkhanov, Associate Professor, Nazarbayev University
Kazakh- and Russian-language Newspapers of Kazakhstan: Discourse on Language Policy in the late Soviet and post-independence Era

Dr. Dina Sharipova, Associate Professor, KIMEP University
Ethnic Nationalism in Kazakhstan through post-colonial theory

Aray Rakhimzhanova, Graduate student, University of Roehampton
Traditional culture vs Colonial legacy: Case study of the dance Qara Jorğa

Applying Post-colonial approaches to the FSU: useful practice or intellectual divertissement? (Part II)
Moderator: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Jaroslava Barbieri, University of Oxford/London School of Economics
Ukrainian barricades: the last ‘limes Europae’? Euromaidan as a challenge to Europe and Russia's conception of borders

Dr. Uku Lember, Tallinn University
Soviet era Estonian-Russian intermarriages as non-colonial encounters?

Prof. Vladislav Inozemtsev, Moscow Higher School of Economics/Centre for Post-Industrial Studies
Colonies vs. Dependencies: An Invitation to a Discourse

Travelogues to and from the Empire’s Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part II)
Moderator: TBC

Agnieszka Sadecka, PhD candidate, University of Tuebingen
Orientalising/Orientalised? - a Polish Reporter’s Travel to the Former Empire

Prof. Zahid Anwar, University of Peshawar
Afghan depiction in Victorian travelogues during the Great Game

Ibrahim Mirzayev, Humboldt University, Berlin
An Oriental in Occident? Letters of Rashid bek Ahundov from Brussels

Constructing an orientalised historical knowledge of Central Asia: comparative perspectives
Moderated by: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College

Dr. Svetlana Gorshenina, University of Lausanne
"Natives" and the birth of archeology in Russian Turkestan: transitioning from “invisible” to “subordinate”

Kunduz Niiazova, Graduate student, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
Russian Academic Thinking on Turkestan and Palestine

Michael Erdman, PhD candidate, School of Oriental and African Studies
Central Asians as the Good Other to the Corrupted Ottomans: An Examination of the Portrayal of Pre-Islamic Central Asia in the Turkish History Thesis

Networking lunch for presenters and keynote speakers
Afternoon programme

14:15 – 15:10
Aula Parva

Plenary lecture: Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Becoming ‘Oriental’ to Justify Hegemony: The Imperial Purpose of Self-Orientalization in Russian Eurasianism

15:10 – 16:15
Seminar room 239

Parallel panel sessions

Travelogues to and from the Empire’s Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part III)
Moderator: TBC

- Dr. Duccio Colombo, Associate Professor, University of Palermo
  *Carrying the Red Man’s Burden: Pavel Luknickii, or Kipling in the Soviet Pamir*

- Fabio Belafatti, Vilnius University
  *A communist orientalist? Joshua Kunitz’s “Dawn over Samarkand” as a travelogue*

The Rusyn minority: searching for a new, post-colonial position in Ukraine’s security equation
Moderator: TBC

- Dr. Sandor Foldvari, Debrecen University
  *Ethnic Identity and The “Carpathian Card” — Rusyns in the security policies of Ukraine and Its European Neighbours*

- Serge Gurbich, Graduate student, Kyiv-Mohila Academy
  *Carpathian Rusyns in both east-European and Soviet and post-Soviet discourses*

Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part I)
Moderator: Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

- (Teleconferenced) Dr. Giovanni Savino, Sholokhov Moscow State University
  *Title to be confirmed*

- Dr. Anton Shekhovtsov, Legatum Institute/University College London
  *Neo-Eurasianism and the Russian-Ukrainian war*

16:15 – 16:45
University café

Coffee break

16:45 – 18:20
Donelaicio auditorija

Parallel panel sessions

Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part II)
Moderator: Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

- Dr. Natalia Kovalchuk, Ukrainian Catholic University
  *Russian Pan Slavism revisited*

- Magda Dolinska-Rydzek, PhD candidate, Justus-Liebig University in Giessen
  *Russian Civilization in the Fight with the Western Antichrist: Elements of the Imperial Discourse in post-Soviet Russia*

- Konstantyn Fedorenko, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation
  *New "Holy Alliance": Russian Reply to European Orientalism*
Women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: between “orientalist” stereotypes and new identities
Moderator: Dr. Irina Novikova, University of Latvia

- **Ewa Polak**, independent scholar
  
  *Women, Nation and Anti-Sovietism; Pop-culture in the service of O’zbekchilik*

- **Dr. Feruza Shermatova**, International Ataturk-Ala Too university
  
  *Paradoxes in defining women identity in Kyrgyzstan: veil versus traditional clothing*

- **Rūta Skriptaitė**, graduate student, University College London
  
  *The misrepresentation of Eastern and South-eastern European women in the popular culture and media as a result of the acceptance of imposition of “the other” paradigm on them*

Conclusive remarks: Fabio Belafatti, Dr. Valdas Jaskūnas
# Conference programme – Schedule view

## Thursday, August 27th

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<thead>
<tr>
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### Ukraine’s choices: between and beyond the traps of imperial thinking
- Seminar room 238
- Dr. M. Romanets, “Russian neo-Imperial Fantasies: Constructing the “Near Orient” of Ukraine’s Political Body”
- Dr. N. Bureiko, “Shaking the frontier: Ukraine moves West?”

### Eastern Europe and Europeans in public and self-perceptions
- Seminar room 239
- R. McKenna, “Central and Eastern Europe in the British Imagination”
- Dr. I. Novikova, “Imagining Russia/ness in post-Soviet Latvian media”
- P. Lottholz, Dr. P. Manolova, “No escape from ideology? A comparison of political and moral orientations in the former Soviet periphery”

### Ukrainian cultural spaces and symbols: finding post-colonial identities? (Part I)
- Kovaľskio aud.
- Dr. N. Koltakova, “A Cultural Stereotype as a Text of Culture in the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature”
- Dr. Semenova, “Southern and Eastern Soviet periphery as exoticized adventure landscape: how are the potentially disinterested Ukrainian narratives biased by the imperialist discourse stereotypes?”

### Colonial and Orientalist narratives in literature and cinema in the former Periphery
- Donelaščio aud.
- Dr. E. Sulstarova, “Constructing Albanian Communist and Post-Communist Identities Through Literature: Orientalism in the Works of Ismail Kadare”
- Dr. R. Balockaitė, “Colonial Narratives in the Soviet Cinema: “Kidnapping, Caucasian style” (1967)”
- K. Staudinger, “Free Nomads, Noble Robbers and Unscrupulous Slave Raiders: The Turkmen Test Case for Orientalism on the Russian Imperial Periphery”

### Knowledge regimes, subaltern voices and New Area Studies
- Seminar room 238
- Soviet Asia through the lenses of cinema: orientalising “the East” in the 1920ies and 1930ies
- Dr. P. Manolova, “National Identities and Post-Soviet Cultural Imperialism: The Case of Latvia”

### Soviet Asia through the lenses of cinema: orientalising “the East” in the 1920ies and 1930ies
- Seminar room 239
- Dr. P. Manolova, “National Identities and Post-Soviet Cultural Imperialism: The Case of Latvia”

### Ukrainian cultural spaces and symbols: finding post-colonial identities? (Part II)
- Kovaľskio aud.
- Dr. N. Koltakova, “A Cultural Stereotype as a Text of Culture in the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature”
- Dr. Semenova, “Southern and Eastern Soviet periphery as exoticized adventure landscape: how are the potentially disinterested Ukrainian narratives biased by the imperialist discourse stereotypes?”

### (Re-)Negotiating colonial and centre-periphery relationships in the former Communist world
- Donelaščio auditorija
Dr. C. Bech Hansen, "Subaltern voices from the post-Soviet periphery: The translation of western epistemic cultures in Central Asia"

C. Damiens, "The Soviet cine-expeditions in the 1920-30s: modernizing/sovietising Siberia Indigenous peoples through film"

Dr. M. Kaiser, "Migration in Eurasia"

Dr. C. Drieu, "Bolshevik imperialism, nationalist agencies and Socialist realism in Uzbek films: the birth of a new Soviet orientalism (1924-1938)"

Dr. I. Borysiuk, "Between Silence and Speaking: Representation of National Identity in the Poetry by Oksana Zabuzhko"

N. Bezborodova, "The "New Year’s Tree” of the Maidan as a Mediator of Decolonization Discourse in Ukraine"

Dr. V. Ivanauskas, "Ethnic Particularism in Soviet peripheries: Local intellectuals as the mediators creating Soviet "West", Soviet “Exotic” and Soviet “East”"

E. Bunout, "Recognition as an incentive for revision of possessive conceptions of Eastern Europe in Poland and Germany after 1945? Realizations and limits on the basis of the Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (PISM) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP).

17:40
18:00
Coffee break

University café

18:00
18:55
Teleconferenced plenary address: Prof. Alexander J. Motyl, Rutgers University, "The Life and Inevitable Death of the Russian Imperial Narrative"

Aula Parva

18:55
19:00
Technical details for the following day

Aula Parva

Friday, August 28th

Time | Event and location
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08:00 | Registration for newcomers
09:00 | Floor 2 corridor
09:00 | Technical details and general announcements
09:05 | Aula Parva
09:05 | Plenary lecture: Prof. Adeeb Khalid, Carleton College, "The Orient in Soviet Thought, or the Curious Career of a Concept"
10:00 | Aula Parva
10:00 | Constructing new identities and national myths: personality cults and new textbooks
Seminar room 238
11:10 | Donelaičio aud.
10:00 | De-territorialization and colonial thinking: migrants and exiles from the former "periphery" (Part I)
Seminar room 239
11:10 | Dr. Y. Yurchuk, "Narratives of the Second World War: Contesting the "hierarchy of historical narratives" from the East and the West"

K. Ordzowiały-Grzegorczyk, “Images of the Russian Empire. Polish exiles in the Caucasus during the 19th century”

M. Averbuch and M. Sandler, "Uses of..."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>From Czarist to (Post-)Soviet Orientalism: forms, problems and critiques</td>
<td>Seminar room 238</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prof. M. Kemper, &quot;Soviet Critiques of Soviet Orientalism&quot;</td>
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<td>Dr. M. Kirasirova, &quot;The Eastern International&quot;: Between Soviet Orientalism and Anti-Colonialism&quot;</td>
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<td>Dr. K. Oskanian, &quot;Czars, Commissars, and Siloviki: Russian Empire between East and West&quot;</td>
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<td>11:40</td>
<td>De-territorialization and colonial thinking: migrants and exiles from the former &quot;periphery&quot; (Part II)</td>
<td>Seminar room 239</td>
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<td>M. Sandler, &quot;&quot;Refusinks&quot;- How a National Myth Conforms to Imperial Discourse&quot;</td>
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<td>F. Irnazarov, &quot;Mass Media as a Source of Xenophobia and Violence against &quot;Gastarbeigers&quot; in Russia&quot;</td>
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<td>M. Averbuch, &quot;The Soviet Conundrum: Imperial Narratives Interchange in Israel Postcolonial Discourse&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15</td>
<td>Orientalizing the other: ethnic minorities and &quot;alien&quot; invaders in Ukraine, Georgia and Central Asia</td>
<td>Kovalevskio aud.</td>
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<td>M. Sharifov, &quot;Colonial inheritance of the failed State: self-orientalization or &quot;politics of anti-politics&quot; in Tajikistan&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. K. Andrijauskas, &quot;Between the &quot;Russian World&quot; and &quot;Yellow Peril&quot;: (Re-)Presentations of Russia's Non-Slavic Fighters in Eastern Ukraine&quot;</td>
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<td>Dr. S. Dundua, &quot;Muslim Georgians and Integration Process: from Czarist Russia's Politics until Today&quot;</td>
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<td>14:15</td>
<td>Networking lunch for presenters and keynote speakers</td>
<td>University café</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15</td>
<td>Plenary lecture: Dr. Nick Megoran, Newcastle University, &quot;Central Asia as Oriental: discourses of danger in policy, the academy, and popular culture&quot;</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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<td>15:10</td>
<td>Colonial thinking and contemporary policies in the Caucasus and beyond</td>
<td>Seminar room 238</td>
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<td>Prof. Emeritus Ronald G. Suny, &quot;The Armenian Genocide and its historical interpretations&quot;</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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<td>15:10</td>
<td>Teleconferenced address</td>
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<td>M. Krutikhin, Head, RusEnergy think-tank A. Sekmokas, former Minister of Energy of Lithuania, independent energy expert.</td>
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<td>15:10</td>
<td>Public discussion: Energy strategies in the FSU as a form of imperialization and de-imperialization policy</td>
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<td>16:15</td>
<td>Secession within the Periphery: Separatist Movements, the State, and Organized Crime in Serbia and Georgia, 1989-2012&quot;</td>
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### Local actors as agents beyond patronizing attitudes: Eastern Europe, Central Asia

**Seminar room 238**

- **Dr. F. Indeo**, "Post-soviet Central Asia: focusing on the regional dimension"
- **Dr. J. Boysen**, "Historical lecturing and political alarmism: Poland’s efforts at influencing EU strategic attitudes towards Russia and the post-Soviet space"
- **V. Lakhonin**, "The importance of 'listening to people' when studying international aid and development: A case study of the rural aid-recipients in Kyrgyzstan"

### Conflict of narratives and narratives of conflict: Ukrainian VS Russian perspectives on Euromaidan

**Seminar room 239**

- **Dr. S. Potapenko**, "Does Ukraine Have Elites? Russian Narrative vs. Ukrainian History"
- **L. Usik**, "The Conflict of Narratives in Russian vs. Ukrainian Social Media"
- **Dr. O. Myshlovskaya**, "Taking the grief to the international level: Ukraine and the Russian Federation debates on the ongoing crisis in Ukraine at the Geneva-based human rights protection bodies"

### Mongolia, Xinjiang, China proper: imperial history and colonial stereotypes from the “Far East” to Europe

**Kovalevskio aud.**

- **L. Bartusevičiūtė**, "Being "ex-Soviet" in China: the difficulties of re-branding Lithuania as an independent political entity"
- **Dr. B. Kowalski**, "Creating a Soviet sphere of influence in the Republic of China. Xinjiang under Sheng Shicai 1933-1942"
- **S. Leith**, "Unsettling Nomadism: becoming minor in Galan Tschinag’s Die Rückkehr"

### Post-colonial patterns and interpretations in Baltic literature: between literary work and politics

**Donelaičio aud.**

- **Dr. L. Laurušaitė**, "The Burden and Advantage of Internal Colonization: Lithuanian and Latvian Émigré Novels"
- **Dr. B. Kalnačs**, "Representations of Postcolonial/Postimperial Space in Contemporary Baltic Literatures: Competing Narrative Patterns"
- **Dr. G. Pranaitytė**, "Tragic Memories about the Massive Exile of Lithuanians to Siberia in 1941: at the Intersection of Politics, History and Literature"

### Saturday, August 29th

#### Time  Event and location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00</td>
<td>Registration for newcomers</td>
<td>Floor 2 corridor</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Technical details and general announcements</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:05</td>
<td>Plenary lecture: Mykola Ryabchuk, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, &quot;Re-inventing Eurasia: On the applicability of (post)colonial approaches to the study of (post)communist countries&quot;</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Kazakh-Russian Relations: Soviet Visions and post-Soviet Revisions (Part I)</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Travelogues to and from the Empire’s Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part I)</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Applying Post-colonial approaches to the FSU: useful practice or intellectual divertissement? (Part I)</td>
<td>Donelaičio auditorija</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Dr. G. McGuire, &quot;Abai Zholy as Socialist&quot;</td>
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<td>11:10</td>
<td>A. Tserkovna, &quot;Multiculturalism as an</td>
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<td>11:10</td>
<td>G. Zino, &quot;Soviet Union as an Internal</td>
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</table>
Realism and as National Romance"
C. Baker, "At play in the Soviet Library: history, texts and power in the late Soviet era"

Artistic Component of Imagological Liminality of the Ethnoimage of Ukraine in English Travel Journals of the Romantic Period"
R. Horbyk, ""Heliotropismus geheimer Art": Walter Benjamin's trips to the East and Orientalist confusions of the European Left"

Colonization Experience? Nation-based internal colonialism in Russian-Lithuanian Relationships"
Dr. S. I. Zhuk, "Ukrainian Maidan as the Last Anti-Soviet Revolution: Subaltern Studies and Epistemological Dangers of Soviet Nostalgia for Writing Soviet and Post-Soviet History"

11:10 Coffee break

11:40 Kazakh-Russian Relations: Soviet Visions and post-Soviet Revisions (Part II)
Seminar room 238
Dr. A. Burkhanov, "Kazakh- and Russian-language Newspapers of Kazakhstan: Discourse on Language Policy in the late Soviet and post-independence Era"

Travelogues to and from the Empire's Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part II)
Seminar room 239
A. Sadecka, "Orientalising/Orientalised? - a Polish Reporter's Travel to the Former Empire"

Constructing an orientalised historical knowledge of Central Asia: comparative perspectives
Kovalevskio auditorija
Dr. S. Gorshenina, ""Natives" and the birth of archeology in Russian Turkestan: transitioning from "invisible" to "subordinate"

Applying Post-colonial approaches to the FSU: useful practice or intellectual divertissement? (Part II)
Donelaici auditorija
J. Barbieri, "Ukrainian barricades: the last 'limes Europeae'? Euromaidan as a challenge to Europe and Russia's conception of borders"

11:40 Networking lunch for presenters and keynote speakers

13:15 The Rusyn minority: searching for a new, post-colonial position in Ukraine's security equation
Seminar room 238
Dr. D. Sharipova, "Ethnic Nationalism in Kazakhstan through post-colonial theory"

Travelogues to and from the Empire's Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part III)
Seminar room 239
I. Mirzayev, "An Oriental in Occident? Letters of Rashid bek Ahundov from Brussels"

Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part I)
Donelaici auditorija
Dr. D. Colombo, "Carrying the Red Man's Burden: Pavel Luknickii, or Kipling in the Soviet Pamir"

13:15 Networking lunch for presenters and keynote speakers

14:15 Plenary lecture: Dr. Andreas Umland, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, "Becoming 'Oriental' to Justify Hegemony: The Imperial Purpose of Self-Orientalization in Russian Eurasianism"
Aula Parva

15:10 The Rusyn minority: searching for a new, post-colonial position in Ukraine's security equation
Seminar room 238
S. Gurbich, "Carpathian Rusyns in both

Travelogues to and from the Empire's Periphery: orientalization and colonial thinking (Part III)
Seminar room 239
Dr. D. Colombo, "Carrying the Red Man's Burden: Pavel Luknickii, or Kipling in the Soviet Pamir"

Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part I)
Donelaici auditorija
Dr. G. Savino, Title to be confirmed

15:10 Dr. S. Foldvari, "Ethnic Identity and The "Carpathian Card" — Rusyns in the security policies of Ukraine and Its European Neighbours"

F. Belafatti, "A communist orientalist? Joshua Kunitz's "Dawn over Samarkand"

Dr. A. Shekhovtsov, "Neo-Eurasianism and the Russian-Ukrainian war"
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>16:15</td>
<td>16:45 Coffee break</td>
<td>University café</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45</td>
<td>Women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: between “orientalist” stereotypes and new identities</td>
<td>Seminar room 239</td>
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<td>E. Polak, &quot;Women, Nation and Anti-Sovietism; Pop-culture in the service of O'zbekchilik&quot;</td>
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<td>16:45</td>
<td>Dr. F. Shermatova, &quot;Paradoxes in defining women identity in Kyrgyzstan: veil versus traditional clothing&quot;</td>
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<td>16:45</td>
<td>R. Skriptaitė, &quot;The misrepresentation of Eastern and South-eastern European women in the popular culture and media as a result of the acceptance of imposition of &quot;the other&quot; paradigm on them&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:20</td>
<td>Eurasianism and ideologies of the Empire: Russian neo-imperialism and European far-right (Part II)</td>
<td>Donelaičio auditorija</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:20</td>
<td>Dr. N. Kovalchuk, &quot;Russian Pan Slavism revisited&quot;</td>
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<td>18:20</td>
<td>M. Dolinska-Rydzkek, &quot;Russian Civilization in the Fight with the Western Antichrist: Elements of the Imperial Discourse in post-Soviet Russia&quot;</td>
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<td>18:20</td>
<td>K. Fedorenko, &quot;New &quot;Holy Alliance&quot;: Russian Reply to European Orientalism&quot;</td>
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<td>18:20</td>
<td>Conclusive remarks: Fabio Belafatti, Dr. Valdas Jaskūnas</td>
<td>Aula Parva</td>
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