

August 20, 2018
6.15 pm
Hauptgebäude, HG 109
Große Scharrnstr. 59; Frankfurt (Oder)



Opening Talk Viadrinicum 2018

Memory Wars Before and After the “Ukraine Crisis” Dr. Tatiana Zhurzhenko (Vienna)

The notion of “memory wars” in Eastern Europe has come to characterize conflicts on the 20th century’s difficult past inside and between the post-communist states. In most of them the recovery of traumatic memories met the agenda of the ruling elites seeking to demonstrate state sovereignty and re-constitute national majorities, but also to negotiate the new national identities with the European idea. The decade of “memory wars” should be understood in the context of a growing competition between two transnational projects - the EU integration and Russia-led “Eurasian” project. In 2004-2014 the narrative of the “Great Patriotic War” and the “common victory” in WWII figured as one of the core elements of Russia’s soft power in the post-Soviet space. However, explaining the Ukraine crisis as an exacerbation of “memory wars” would be an essentialization and a teleological construct. Rather, in the wake of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict antagonistic narratives were weaponized by Moscow to fuel unrest, undermine public institutions and de-legitimize the Ukrainian state. The hybrid war against Ukraine has in fact ruined Russia’s soft power in the region. Its deepening conflict with the West and its alienation from Europe may signify a new situation in which the “Great Victory” narrative symbolizes Russia’s “geopolitical solitude” (Surkov) rather than its status of a European great power. At the same time, in Eastern Europe rising nationalism and populism is inward-looking and EU-sceptic, signalling the advent of a new era of “mnemonic solipsism” which seems to succeed the decade of „memory wars”.



Tatiana Zhurzhenko was Research Director of the Ukraine in Global Dialogue and Russia in Global Dialogue programs at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna (2014-2018). She graduated in political economy (1989) and philosophy (1993) at V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine). Since 2005 Tatiana Zhurzhenko has been teaching at the University of Vienna. She has published widely on borders and borderland identities, memory and gender politics and feminism. Lately, she co-edited the volume *War and Memory in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus* (Palgrave 2017).

Moderation: Professor Dr. Andrii Portnov (Frankfurt/Oder)

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Viadrinicum - Summer School
Große Scharrnstraße 59, 15230 Frankfurt (Oder)
viadrinicum@europa-uni.de
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August 22, 2018
6.15 pm
Hauptgebäude, HG 109
Große Scharrnstr. 59; Frankfurt (Oder)



Book Presentation. Viadrinicum 2018

Memory Politics in Poland: The Case of the Museum of WWII in Gdańsk Prof. Dr. Paweł Machcewicz (Warsaw)

The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk opened its doors in March 2017, becoming the largest historical museum in Poland and one of the largest of its kind in the whole world. In the recent years it has also turned into one of the biggest battlefields in the realm of memory politics and the politics of history in Poland. From its inception the Museum of the Second World has been attacked by the nationalist right-wing forces as “too European”, “pseudo-universalistic” and “not Polish enough”, which cast a big shadow over its future after Law and Justice Party had come to power. As a result, its permanent exhibition is currently being changed, which caters to the demands of the current political leadership. In his talk Paweł Machcewicz will elucidate the history of the museum’s creation and the reactions it brought about in more detail and locate them in the larger context of the current politics of history in Poland. The event will also feature a presentation of his book about the museum, which was recently translated into German.



Prof. Dr. Paweł Machcewicz is a historian, professor at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He is the founding director of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk (until 2017) and a co-founder of the Institute of National Remembrance. He is the author of the books *Rebellious Satellite: Poland 1956* (2009) and *Poland’s War on Radio Free Europe, 1950-1989* (2014), as well as the editor and co-author of the two-volume series *Jedwabne and Beyond* (2002). He has also published about politics of history and memory conflicts in Poland and East Central Europe after 1989, i.a. *Historical Battles 2000-2011* (2012). His most recent book *Muzeum* describes the history of creating the Museum of the Second World in Gdańsk and the controversies it evoked (published in German in 2018 under the title *Der umkämpfte Krieg. Das Museum des Zweiten Weltkriegs in Danzig. Entstehung und Streit*).

Moderation: Professor Dr. Andrii Portnov (Frankfurt/Oder)

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Panel Discussion. Viadrinum 2018

viadrinum

Looking for Hybrid Solutions to Hybrid Conflicts? A Transsectoral Perspective



August 28, 2018, 6.15 pm, Europa-Universität Viadrina
Große Scharrnstraße 59, 15230 Frankfurt/Oder, HG 109

Oksana Potapova (Kyïv), NGO activist and artist, Theatre for Dialogue
Professor Dr. Stefan Selke (Furtwangen), sociologist, research professor on
transformative and public science, Furtwangen University (HFU)
Nils-Eyck Zimmermann (Berlin), expert and author of various books on active
citizenship, civil society and learning, Competendo e.V.

In the light of the recently erupted conflicts, hybridity appears to pose a double challenge. On the one hand, this notion came to be strongly associated with unconventional warfare, that requires an overhaul of traditional methods of peacebuilding and conflict prevention. On the other hand, as a vivid metaphor, hybridity is often invoked to fill in the lacunae in our perception of complex social phenomena. The blurred vision feeds into discordant action and, thus, invites a profound epistemological question about the role of knowledge and its function in devising ways of dealing with conflicts. Among other issues the discussion will address the question, to which extent these challenges can be met by a transsectoral mode of thinking – a comprehensive approach to knowledge production, (civic/artistic) activism and education based upon the possible synergies between academia, civil society and the arts.

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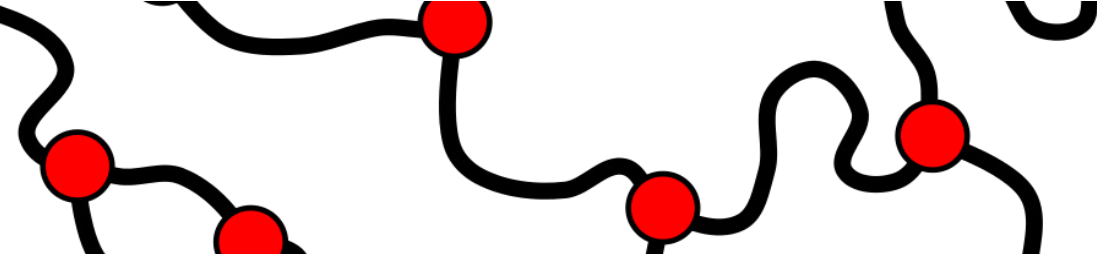


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Panel Discussion. Viadrinum 2018

Conditio Post-Sovietica? Tackling the Conflicts in Post-Soviet Space



August 29, 2018, 6.15 pm, Europa-Universität Viadrina
Große Scharrnstraße 59, 15230 Frankfurt/Oder, HG 109

Dr. Jurij Aston (Berlin), Deputy Head of the Ukraine Task Force, German Foreign Office
Professor Dr. Lars Kirchhoff (Frankfurt/Oder), Director of the Institute for Conflict Management

Varvara Pakhomenko (Kyiv), Geneva Call Representative for Ukraine

The collapse of the USSR ushered in several decades of instability in the post-Soviet region marked by a few intra- and interstate military conflicts, an overwhelming majority of which was triggered or entrenched by the issues of ethnic and national identity. The tendency for these conflicts to be protracted in time with the interchanging periods of low and high intensity necessitates an effective combination of short-term peacekeeping measures and long-term peacebuilding initiatives that could invest into the future stability of the region. In addition to that, proponents of hybrid turn in peacebuilding theory call for the necessity to engage local actors and international institutions of various kind into a more comprehensive dialogue and cooperation for the sake of more sustainable peacebuilding efforts. In a leap from theory back to practice this begs the question, to which extent the conflicts in the post-Soviet space lend themselves to such hybrid approaches in peacebuilding practices and how the situation on the ground looks for stakeholders and actors from various fields and levels of action.

Moderation: **Dr. Cécile Druey Schwab** (Bern), Senior Researcher at University Bern

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