



EEGA

Leibniz ScienceCampus

Report

2017 – 2018

**Eastern Europe –
Global Area**

Table of Contents

01	Preface	03
02	Research Areas	04
03	Events and Activities	06
04	EEGA Fellows	16
05	EEGA Members	21
	Contact	22
	Imprint	23

01 Preface

3

The public perception of Eastern Europe in Germany is often coined by news about acute crises and even violent conflicts – accompanied by discourses of cultural alienation and unreliability. In this situation, we have founded the EEGA – the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe – Global Area”. The general idea behind it is to contribute to a deeper and better understanding of the region through scientific knowledge. Our intention is to provide a platform for cooperative research with and on Eastern Europe. Therefore, we support scholars, especially young scholars, in building up and improving their regional and international research relations with colleagues and institutions from the region. EEGA also aims at enhancing communication between scientists and the media, organising media-training for young researchers and arranging an exchange-format, the EEGA Science Lounge, two times a year.

EEGA also pursues the goal of connecting institutional competencies from universities to specialised research institutions. It unites eight partners, three universities and five research institutes (from three different research organisations), in order to create synergies from their specific fields of competencies, like fundamental and applied research goals – or, very important, in edu-

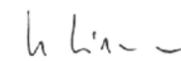
cating students and young scholars from the partner institutions in the field of Area Studies. The Leibniz Association supports EEGA financially not least to sustain the cooperation between such organisations.

EEGA’s specific approach to a better understanding of developments and events in Eastern Europe is to accept that its countries, regions, cities as well as governments, companies and individuals are participating in processes of globalisation, actively and passively, like other regions in the world. It applies, therefore, a quite pragmatic definition of its regional object, concentrating on transregional relations rather than on a strict classic geographic or political demarcation. Innovative research ideas should originate from observing actors who position themselves in transregional relations – and, inversely, are positioned. EEGA fosters research networking in five thematic areas around contemporary and current societal and political processes in the area, giving seed-money for new ideas, facilitating cooperative research, and transmitting findings to the media and the public. Thereby, it aims to address scholars from younger and contemporary history, sociology, economy, and human geography.

Take a look for yourself!



Professor Dr Sebastian Lentz
(Spokesperson of the Steering Committee)



Professor Dr Matthias Middell
(Spokesperson of the Steering Committee)

02 Research Areas

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe

Coordination: **Helena Flam** (University of Leipzig) and **Judith Miggelbrink** (Technische Universität Dresden)

Research Area 2

Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order

Coordination: **Frank Hadler** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) and **Matthias Middell** (Centre for Area Studies)

Research Area 3

Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies

Coordination: **Sebastian Henn** (University of Jena), **Thomas Glauben** (Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies – IAMO) and **Thorsten Posselt** (Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy)

Research Area 4

Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications

Coordination: **Jürgen Heyde** (University of Halle-Wittenberg), **Yvonne Kleinmann** (University of Halle-Wittenberg/ Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies) and **Stefan Troebst** (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe)

Research Area 5

Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation and Diffusion

Coordination: **Gert Pickel** (University of Leipzig) and **Holger Lengfeld** (University of Leipzig)

03 Events and Activities

Panel Discussions, Talks, Thematic Workshops, and Conferences

7

Panel discussion (October 2017) about “Current approaches for writing recent history in Eastern Europe”

Sandra Dahlke (Deputy Director of the German Historical Institute Moscow), Miloš Řezník (Director of the German Historical Institute in Warsaw), and Dietmar Wulff (Lecturer in History at the Higher School of Economics, Campus St. Petersburg) discussed with Matthias Middell and Frank Hadler contemporary history and national historiography in times of growing international interdependence and under conditions of globalisation. The event was coordinated by Research Area 2 and took place in the facilities of the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO).



↑
Dietmar Wulff, Sandra Dahlke,
and Miloš Řezník (from left
to right) / © EEGA



↑
Participants of the conference /
© EEGA

→
Keynote speaker Professor
Nikolaus Katzer (DHI Moscow) /
© EEGA

↓
Presentation by Tamás Hardi
and Andrea Miklosné-Zadar
(Budapest) / © EEGA



Conference (November 2017) on “Self-Positioning of Eastern European Societies in Global Relations – Conceptions of Space and Self-Presentations in School Textbooks”:

The conference was organised by the Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA in cooperation with the German Association for East European Studies (DGO). The event was a collaborative effort of Research Area 2 and 4 in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO): With the collapse of the Soviet Union, not only political and economic but also a social reorientation was connected for the successor states and countries from the Soviet sphere of influence. This process was and is affected by various aspects and is different in each state. The textbooks play an important role in communicating the reinterpretation of one's own history: as a source of information for the younger generation. They play a major role in the formation of identity as well and are therefore very well suited as a subject of investigation for the question of how societies (re) position themselves.

In 2013, Russia introduced unified textbooks for the subject of history. This is part of the idea to consolidate national sovereignty, so Nikolaus Katzer (Moscow). He associates the project with dangers of manipulation, falsification and reinterpretation of history. The leitmotifs of the new historiography in Russia are the lack of interest in the West and the pursuit of economic cooperation with global players such as China.

As a special indicator for self-positioning in the global context, Stephanie Zloch (Braunschweig) presented the aspect of migration in textbooks. She mentioned Poland, the Czech Republic and Russia as examples of countries that have lost a younger and more entrepreneurial part of society in the recent past.

Tamás Hardi and Andrea Miklosné-Zadar (Budapest) presented the results of a survey on self and external perception of societies. As a general trend, it can be observed that after the regime change, states attempted to define themselves as non-Eastern in the international context.

These countries included also Poland, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania, according to Rune Brandt-Larsen (Lund). Unlike Hardi and Miklosné-Zadar, Larsen defines the process of nation building and the establishment of a national community image through a feeling of togetherness. All four countries positioned themselves as part of Europe, but their understanding of it differs.

Péter Bagoly Simo (Berlin) dealt with the case study of Romania. In Romanian schools, national identity is an integral part of teaching: cultural artefacts are discussed, teaching takes place only in Romanian. According to Bagoly Simo, Romanians increasingly developed a Central European identity.

An example of the common self-portrayal of several countries is the macro-region “Lower Danube”, a promising link for cross-border relations, according to Volodymyr Poltorak (Odessa). According to Poltorak, the prevailing dominance of national historiography leads to tensions between neighboring countries. In the spirit of the European integration process, Poltorak called for the use of cross-border materials and a shift from ethnic to general civilisation aspects of history.

Svitlana Potapenko (Kyiv) spoke of the presentation of historical events and people from the 16th until the 18th century. This part of Ukrainian history, in which Cossacks are portrayed to Ukrainian pupils as historical protagonists, and which is Potapenko's field of research, is depicted in the textbooks as rich in heroes and important events. The constant focus on national identity serves as a protective mechanism of the Ukrainian nation in the globalised world.

Hungary has developed many different spatial concepts in recent decades. Péter Balogh (Budapest) showed examples of an active repositioning of the country in a European and global context. Balogh illustrated the fact that the national aspects still play a role with a geography book from the year 2002 where only the names of Hungarian ethnographic regions are listed. Hungary underlines its position as a micro-region: it is mainly located in the Carpathian Basin, secondarily in Central Europe.

How problematic the idea of space can be in the context of nation building was presented by Oleksandr Zabirko (Münster) who used the example of Ukraine. Until the independence in 1991, it was a blank spot on the map of European legal history and its law has been established beyond its present borders. The readjustment of state and law from a national-historical perspective was carried out with the aid of the sometimes metaphorical concepts of statehood, people and struggle. Emphasising the European nature of Ukrainian national law places the country on the one hand as European. However, on the other hand, Zabirko points to a history of mistrust of the West.

The understanding of space and position does not have to refer exclusively to one's own state. Using the example of the bilateral textbooks and their preparation, Jörg Stadelbauer (Freiburg) showed that the presentation in textbooks in the past was understood as a spatial production intended to serve the imaginative power of the students. However, the external constraints of school education limited this function.

A more distanced perspective on the topic has been presented in the concluding words by Sebastian Lentz and Gabriele Freitag, who pointed out that the hermeneutic approach needs to be complemented by questions about who produced the objects and under which circumstances. (Text by Dorota Kusiak)

Conference (November 2017) on “Socialist Internationalism & the Global Contemporary: Transnational Art Historiographies from Eastern and East-Central Europe”

The conference was organised by Marina Dmitrieva and Beáta Hock from the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) and Antje Kempe (University of Greifswald), in cooperation with the Chair of Art History of Eastern Europe at the Humboldt University of Berlin (Michaela Marek), and the Institute of Art History and Visual Culture at the Estonian Academy of Arts (Krista Kodres and Kristina Jõekalda): The focus of the conference, which took up topics central to Research Area 4, was on the multiple ways of interpreting ‘socialist internationalism’ within the practice of art history. The topics were centred around contemporary or 20th-century art and its criticism. Questioning the centres and the existing periodisation, but also highlighting the vast contri-

bution of single outstanding personalities in this system, were the reoccurring features of the event.

Workshop (November 2017) on “Islamophobia in Eastern Europe: Theoretical Implications and Empirical Findings”:

The workshop, organised by Dr Alexander Yendell, was linked to a first meeting, contributed to the analysis of the existing research gaps by a stronger combination of theory and empiricism. The so-called “refugee crisis” has made clear that devaluing attitudes towards Islam and Muslims are strong in some Eastern European countries and even lead to political demands which are incompatible with the democratic commandment of religious freedom and EU anti-discrimination rules. With the increasing migration of Muslims within the context of globalisation and flight, there is currently a huge integration problem which is a major threat to the coexistence of people of different cultures and religions. Existing research is often concentrated almost exclusively on the analysis of medial discourse in connection with anti-Islam and is rather descriptive than theory orientated, with the result that there is considerable research desideratum on the subject. This applies both to the knowledge of universal theories, for example, from sociology and social psychology, as well as empirically reliable material from quantitative and qualitative social research. The event took place in the scope of Research Area 5.



The final discussion at the conference “Socialist Internationalism & the Global Contemporary”: Beáta Hock, Marina Dmitrieva, Antje Kempe and Robert Born / © Photo: K. J.



Svitlana Potapenko presents the EEGA
© Photo: Olga Tucha / Die Deutsch-Ukrainische Akademische Gesellschaft e.V.

Workshop (January 2018) on “Re-Tracing Gender – Women in Central and Eastern European Avant-Garde” in Warsaw

The workshop was organised by the Institute of Polish Culture at University of Warsaw. It aimed at uncovering and conceptualising a map of relations, collaborations and inspirations between both Central and Eastern European female avant-garde artists of the Great Avant-garde of 1920’–1930’ and the Neo-Avant-garde of 1970’. The participants discussed the tensions between national, political, gendered, artistic, and class identities of female avant-garde artists and their relations with their works and ideas. The other important topic considered the conditions for possible emancipation in arts – then and now. Cooperation partners were Research Area 4 and the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO).

Workshop (March 2018) on “Russia’s North Pacific between Imperialism and Globalization. Institutions and Spaces” in Moscow

Russia, though controlling the longest coast in the North Pacific, has been studied predominantly in her relations with the European and the Atlantic worlds. The workshop focused on Russia as a Pacific power from the 19th century until the present. Which political, economic, social, cultural or environmental entanglements created transnational spaces in the Pacific realm, how and why did they stabilise or break up or exclude Russia? Which were and are the driving forces behind these processes – states, companies, discourses or nature? The aim of the workshop was not only to take stocks of research in historiography and related disciplines, but also to discuss perspectives for future research and cooperation between regional studies, historical and the social sciences. The EEGA co-sponsored Sebastian Lentz’s participation in the workshop. Lentz presented the EEGA and its fellowship programmes to the participants, commented on one of the panels, and participated actively in discussions on the workshop’s concepts, theoretical context and results.



Talk by Svitlana Potapenko at The German-Ukrainian Forum of Young Researchers in Kyiv (December 2017):

The German-Ukrainian Forum of Young Researchers, organised by Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen and the German-Ukrainian Academic Society in collaboration with a number of the Ukrainian and German scientific and educational institutions, brought together 45 scholars from both countries and provided them with a platform for close communication and exchange. The Forum covered the fields of Exact Sciences, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities. The third day in Kyiv was dedicated to fellowship and development opportunities for Ukrainian scholars in Germany. Here, Svitlana Potapenko gave a brief talk on the recent interdisciplinary conference “Self-Positioning of Eastern European Societies in Global Relations: Conceptions of Space and Self-Presentations in School Textbooks” (Leipzig, November 7–8, 2017) and shared her experience of the cooperation with the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe – Global Area”. She talked about the structure and fields of research of the EEGA as well as pointed out the main fellowship programmes available to the Ukrainian scholars.

12 Workshop (April 2018) on “Global sharing of agricultural risk: Stimulating the dialog and promoting cooperation between Central Asia and Germany”

The impact of rising globalisation of agricultural risks and risk management on the agricultural insurance industry is an issue rarely discussed in the academic environment. Therefore, the workshop pioneered to discuss the opportunities and challenges of globalisation process along the exemplary case of Central Asia, which is expected to also provide valuable inputs to other regions worldwide. The practical aim of the workshop was to serve as a platform to discuss the potential options to establish cooperation between Central Asian insurance and German reinsurance companies and the role of scientist as a mediator. Representatives of local insurance companies, policy-makers and scientists from Central Asia working on risk management and insurance were invited for a two-day workshop in Halle to exchange with representatives of a German reinsurance company and German scientists. Research Area 3 and the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) were involved in organising the workshop.

Workshop (April 2018) on “Food 4.0 and globalization: Chances and challenges for Western Balkan – Consumers’ role in changing global food supply chains” in Belgrade

The event has been organised by IAMO in cooperation with the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Belgrade and the Leibniz ScienceCampus “Eastern Europe –

Global Area” (EEGA, Research Area 3). The workshop aimed at pointing out the significance and current state of digitisation in agricultural production and placement of agricultural and food products in the countries of the Western Balkans. It was attended by numerous representatives of the Western Balkan countries that had the opportunity to hear what are the innovative digital solutions in agriculture, and the latest marketing tools that leading companies (and institutions) in Serbia are already applying in their business.

Workshop (May 2018) on “Material Feelings: Population Displacement and Property Transfer in Modern Europe and Beyond”

This workshop explored the emotional dimension of property transfers that accompanied expulsion and ethnic cleansing in Europe and other regions of the world in the mid-20th century. While much ink has been spilled over the fate of displaced people, the property that was left behind has attracted little attention. It is common knowledge that the property of displaced people – be it evacuees, refugees or expellees – was subject to confiscation, looting and destruction. Much less is known, however, about the emotional impact that losing and acquiring such belongings had on individuals and societies. The aim of this workshop was to investigate how emotions triggered by mass property transfers shaped the recon-



Participants of the workshop “Global sharing of agricultural risk” / © IAMO, Photo: Claudia Wollmann



Thomas Glauben, IAMO director, Zora Dajić-Stevanović and Vlade Zaric, both University of Belgrade / © Photo: Tea Livaja



Audience of the workshop on “Food 4.0” / © Photo: Tea Livaja



struction of the social order in the affected states among the displaced and dispossessed people, and among their successors. The workshop was an effort of Research Area 1 in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) and the Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies at Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg.

Workshop (June 2018) on “Mobility, migration and the remaking of East European identities in a post-Brexit Europe”

The current geopolitical changes in EU membership and Europe’s response to the so-called ‘migration crisis’ provide an important research site for re-considering questions of European identity in general and East European identities in particular. Across Europe, migration has been (re)problematized and there has been a growth of far-right nationalism that denigrates migrants through a discourse of exclusion and othering. East European migrants from post-2004 EU accession states have been very much caught in the middle of these debates and changes. On the one hand, they have seen rising nationalism and anti-migration sentiment across many parts of Eastern Europe itself. On the other hand, their own transnational mobility within the EU has been increasingly contested and nationalist claims have been staked, espe-

cially in Britain, against their rights to live and work freely in any European member state. Through comparative analysis, and as a stepping stone towards future collaborations, this workshop aimed to examine, first, representations and ideological constructions of migration from Eastern Europe and, second, the impacts of current geopolitical changes on ‘mobile’ East Europeans’ identities and practices. It focused on the perspectives of migrants themselves, paying attention to new dynamics of mobility, belonging and citizenship. The workshop engaged with themes that are being investigated in Research Areas 1, 4, and 5, took place in the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL).

Panel (June 2018) on “Southern African Liberation Movements: Transnational Connections in Southern Africa and with Countries in the ‘East’ (1960 – 1994)” at the Conference of the African Studies Association in Germany

While resistance against the South African Apartheid regime has been on the top of the agenda of socialist internationalism and Eastern European state’s foreign policy during the Cold War, the “race question” was a tricky one in the “actually existing” European socialist countries and woefully under-analyzed by Marxist-Leninist theory. The relationship between socialism and the system of

14 institutionalized racial segregation in South Africa – Apartheid – has thus also been a disputed one. At the same time, resistance against apartheid in the region itself became increasingly more militant towards the later decades of the Cold War and often closely related their agendas to Marxist-Leninist claims. This, however, did not naturally result in an undisputed relationship between liberation movements and Eastern European

states. The panel put at its centre actors and their networks and aimed to empirically shed light on the complex relationship between “real existing” European socialism and apartheid, by focussing on the perspectives and strategies of both academic and political actors in Eastern Europe and Southern Africa, navigating between these tensions.

Workshops and Trainings

Coaching Workshop with Professor Dr Ursula Rao (August 2017) on how to apply for a research grant at the German Research Foundation (DFG) with personal insights and lessons learned.

Coaching Workshop for Junior Scientists with Ruprecht Polenz (January 2018): Imagine the following: You are in a lift that takes you into the 15th floor of an office building together with a powerful politician of your choice. You only have two minutes to report your research findings to the politician, to hereby initiate an action in a certain political field of action, to ultimately convince him and to present the prospect of further political advice.

This scenario was the beginning of the coaching to which the Leibniz ScienceCampus EEGA invited on the 23rd of January 2018 in the facilities of the Collaborative Research Centre 1199 in Leipzig. Eleven young researchers from diverse research institutions in Leipzig took their chance to work together with the politician and president of the German Association for East European Studies, Ruprecht Polenz, on the topic of imparting of scientific contents to the politics.

In preparation of the workshop the participants had summarised their current research projects and had written a text about their dissertation topics based on the format of the articles of the “Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik” (German Institute for International and Security Affairs). The workshop had a strong connection to practical application not only through the discussion of the prepared texts, but Ruprecht Polenz also contrived to state clear guidance. How do I frame my scientific

contents comprehensible? Which contentual and language preparations are necessary to reach politicians?

According to Polenz the proficiency of conjunction is of great significance: Each researcher has to visualise, that politicians are running low on time and are less interested in scientific methods, but in outcomes. Polenz encouraged the participants of the workshop to make contact with politicians and to visit political events and podiums to spread “ones card” among the right people.

Besides the formal and linguistic tips given by Ruprecht Polenz to every single paper of each participant, the specific surplus value of the workshop was the intense discussion regarding the contents of the topics. The participants were impressed by the political experience and the integration of the contents. Polenz encouraged them to abstract the learnt conceptions from concrete cases of application consistently to relate them to new problems. It is this very transfer which makes researchers indispensable to political work.

A workshop unit with tips for preparing a speech outline for politicians completed the coaching.

Postdoc Coaching day (June 2018) with Dr Christian Schaich (ZOiS) and Professor Dr Sebastian Lentz (IfL) about preparing and writing applications for research projects. The coaching session gave insights into the world of applications and their evaluation with special focus on how to write project proposals together with researchers from Eastern Europe.



↑
Working atmosphere at the workshop with Ruprecht Polenz / © EEGA



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Ruprecht Polenz explains how to reach politicians / © EEGA

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Special Events



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Professor Nikolaus Katzer (DHI Moscow), © Photo: Katzer

On the evening of the 7th of November 2017, **the second EEGA Science Lounge** took place. The special guest was Professor Nikolaus Katzer, who discussed with Dr Steffi Marung the topic “Between the North Atlantic and the North Pacific – To Russia's role as a mediator in Europe and Asia”. Professor Nikolaus Katzer is director of the German Historical Institute in Moscow since 2010. He is not only a proven expert on the older and younger Russian history, but also a mediator between historical science and public debate in Russia and Germany. The opening questions dealt with the present – Western, especially German – discussion and interpretation efforts on “where Russia is” and “where it wants to be”: often used crisis metaphors of the resurrected Empire with Putin acting as the new czar, and especially the talk of a new Cold War have been questioned.

In December 2017, an **EEGA Christmas party** took place in Milchbar Pinguin in Leipzig. EEGA Fellows, campus employees and partners were invited. The attendees not only talked about Christmas presents, but also about current scientific projects and their life in Leipzig.

04 **EEGA Fellows****Postdoc Fellows****07/2017 – 07/2018**

The EEGA supports one to six months stays of Postdocs at the partner institutions in the science region Leipzig–Halle–Jena. Such research residence may serve the preparation of an application for extended funding by a national or international science foundation or the preparation/development/finishing of publications. Eligible for applications are Postdocs from institutions that are related to the member institutions of EEGA through official cooperation agreements.



© Photo: Katsakioris



→ **Dr Constantin Katsakioris** (Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies) – Research Area 2, four months stay, scientific topic: the Educational Cooperation between the Socialist Countries and the Third World in the Cold War:

The benefit of EEGA to me is that I worked along with great colleagues with whom I share the same research interests. Overall, this was an exciting and very productive period for my work.

→ **Dr Osama Ahmed Naser El-Din** (Cairo University) – Research Area 3, three months stay, scientific topic: The impact of the international trade on Grain market price in Egypt:

The benefit of EEGA to me is at a macro level, the enhanced network and the expertise of IAMO staff, with several people I have met first during my stay in EEGA. At the micro level, I have learned techniques and analysis that will be useful in my further research career.

→ **Dr Oleksander Polianichev** – Research Area 4, four months stay



© FWF, Photo: Jessica Richter



→ **Eric Burton** (University of Vienna) – Research Area 3, four months stay, scientific topic:

During my guest stay I have been investigating the mobility of African students towards Eastern Europe, looking especially at the different “pipelines” from East Africa to Eastern Europe in the late colonial and early postcolonial period; The benefits of EEGA to me have been manifold: I could exchange with excellent scholars working, like me, on different aspects of East-South relations in the twentieth century, do research in nearby archives and work on articles and a research proposal. It has been an intellectually stimulating environment offering a range of new opportunities for cooperation.

→ **Dr Marcin Szerle** – Research Area 2, five months stay

→
© DHI Moscow,
Photo: Evgenij Markov



> **Dr Benjamin Beuerle** (German Historical Institute, Moscow) – Research Area 2, three months stay, scientific topic: Climate Change and Emissions in Russia. Attitudes and approaches from late Soviet and post-Soviet times (1970s–2010s):

The benefit of EEGA to me consisted in the time and possibility to discuss and develop my new research project in an intellectually stimulating environment.

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© Photo: Lorenz



> **Dr Torsten Lorenz** – Research Area 2 and 5, four months stay, scientific topic: Rural cooperatives, agrarianism and the self-positioning of East Central Europe during the “first globalization” (ca. 1870–1939).

The EEGA supports short-term (one to four days) and mid-term (one to four weeks) stays of visiting scholars from Eastern Europe as well as the invitation of prestigious guest scholars from other countries from Global and Area Studies and the disciplines involved.

Guest scholars 07/2017–07/2018

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© Kirn, Photo:
Viktoria Tomaschko



> **Gal Kirn** (Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin) – Research Area 4, one month stay, scientific topic: Partisan (counter-)archive, partisan art and politics, non-alignment beyond West and East:

The benefit of EEGA to me was to meet again some of my old and new colleagues in Leipzig, especially within GWZO. The latter has been a host to fruitful exchanges, conferences, but also planning of future collaboration. In this respect, the time/fellowship granted by EEGA allowed me to conduct some research for a chapter in my book and at the same time network with my peers and experts.

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© Photo: Narvselius



> **Dr Eleonora Narvselius** – Research Area 4, one month stay:

During my stay at EEGA I was working on the introductory chapter of a planned book Cultural Diversity of East-Central European Borderlands: Cityscapes, Memories, People. The main benefit of my visit to EEGA was the opportunity to exchange ideas and profit from expertise available at the host institution. It was truly inspiring to participate in the research activities at EEGA and contribute to its workshops and network meetings.

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© Photo: Bertelé



> **Dr Matteo Bertelé** – Research Area 4, two weeks stay, scientific topic: Comparative art practices in divided Europe. Eastern Europe going global:

The benefit of EEGA to me was to implement my research methodology and skills through a productive exchange of expertise and opinions with affiliated fellows and international visiting scholars, in the international stimulating environment of the GWZO.

> **Dr Ben Lu** (Chinese University of Hong Kong) – Research Area 1, two and half weeks stay

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© Photo: Kilinc



> **Dr Nilay Kilinc** (University of Surrey) – Research Area 1, one month stay:

During my stay at EEGA, I have worked on reconstructing forced return migration theories in relation to de facto citizenship. With the help of my temporary supervisor Professor Helena Flam, I was able to scrutinise this phenomenon in the case of the second generation Turkish youth who were deported to Turkey from Germany. The office and library facilities helped me have a productive working environment. In addition seminars and public lectures held in the department were useful for expanding my knowledge and networks.

> **Dr Benjamin Tallis** (Institute of International Relations Prague) – Research Area 1 and 2, two and a half months stay

> **Dr Tauri Tuvikene** (Tallinn University, Estonia) – Research Area 1, three weeks stay



→
© Photo: Ilovan

> **Dr Oana-Ramona Ilovan** (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca) – Research Area 4, two weeks stay, scientific topic: Researching Place-Making and Belonging in Urban Romania through Postcards. Before, during and after the Socialist Period:

The benefit of EEGA to me consisted of a significant contribution to my professional career: preparing the publication of research results for high profile journals (Europa Regional and Cultural Geographies) and improving the visibility of my research and of my institution; networking with colleagues having similar and complementary research interests; collaboration with Professor Dr Yvonne Kleinmann due to her training in History and in Visual Arts, and the opportunity to learn from her and develop my skills and research methodology. In addition, the intercultural experience provided by EEGA supported activities during my stay was enriching.

The EEGA awards individual scholarships for 3 months to talented postgraduate-students who want to develop a PhD proposal in one of the EEGA's research fields. The programme comprises various coaching sessions centred on "How to write a PhD-Outline". The EEGA provides access to infrastructures at the EEGA member institutions. Scholarship holders get the opportunity to participate in existing PhD- and institutional colloquia and other events of participating institutes.

First postgraduate-students in October 2017:

- > Miriam Meir (Leipzig) – Research Area 4 and 5
- > Simon Behnisch (Halle) – Research Area 4

05 EEGA Members

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