

CONFERENCE

ENGINEERING IMPERIAL MEMORIES

PUTIN'S HISTORY POLITICS IN
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

APRIL 8, 2024

STRASBOURG

SALLE 4202 BÂTIMENT 4 LE PATIO
22 RUE RENÉ DESCARTES

CO-SPONSORED BY USIAS AND UR 1340 GEO,
UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG

CO-ORGANIZERS:

DINA KHAPAEVA, NIKOLAY KOPOSOV,
EMILIA KOUSTOVA

Online: <https://bbb.unistra.fr/b/emi-otp-ljt-nsp>

PROGRAM

9:00 – OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

- **Rifka Weehuizen** (Administrative Director, University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study).
- **Sandra Schaal** (Director of GEO – UR 1340 Research Center, University of Strasbourg).

9:20-10:50 – PANEL 1: *National Narratives, Memory Politics, and the Freedom of History - 1*

Chair: Sandra Schaal (University of Strasbourg)

- **Antoon De Baets** (University of Groningen), *A Human Rights View of Memory, Memory Politics and Memory Laws*.
- **Emmanuel Droit** (University of Strasbourg), *Le modèle mémoriel allemand à la croisée des chemins : Quelle mémoire négative pour la République de Berlin ?*
- **Nikolay Koposov** (Georgia Institute of Technology), *Memory Politics and the Crisis of History*.

10:50-11:10 – COFFEE BREAK

11:10-12:40 – PANEL 2: *National Narratives, Memory Politics, and the Freedom of History - 2*

Chair: Nikolay Koposov (Georgia Institute of Technology)

- **Nikol Dziub** (University of Basel), *Lessia Oukrainka et le droit à la souveraineté*.
- **Emilia Koustova** (University of Strasbourg), *Recycler, rénover, innover? Les politiques historiques en Russie, entre archaïsmes et modernités*.
- **Lev Maciel Sanchez** (independent scholar, Mexico), *The Churches as War Memorials in Contemporary Russia*.

12:40-14:00 – LUNCH

14:00-16:00 – PANEL 3: *Political Neomedievalism in Comparative Perspective*

Chair: Alexandre Kostka (University of Strasbourg)

- **Richard Utz** (Georgia Institute of Technology), *Malevolent Memories: Anti-Semitic Medievalisms in the German-Speaking World (online)*.
- **Frithjof Benjamin Schenk** (University of Basel), *Birthday Celebration as War Preparation: Alexander Nevsky's 800th Jubilee in Russia in 2021*.
- **Luiz Felipe Anchieta Guerra** (International Society for the Study of Medievalism, Brazil), *The TFP and the Transnational Right: Brazil as an Exporter of Political Neomedievalisms (online)*.
- **Dina Khapaeva** (Georgia Institute of Technology), *Putinism and the Global Appeal of Political Neomedievalism*.

16:00-16:20 - COFFEE BREAK

16:20-18:00 – ROUND TABLE: *Culture as a Weapon: Is "Great Russian Culture" an Instrument of Imperial Hegemony?*

Chair: Dina Khapaeva (Georgia Institute of Technology)

- **Victoire Feuillebois** (University of Strasbourg)
- **Eleonora Gilburd** (University of Chicago) (online)
- **Luba Jurgenson** (Université Paris-Sorbonne) (online)
- **Dmitry Dubrovsky** (Charles University, Prague)
- **Elena Ostrovskaya** (Strasbourg University)

18:00-18:30 – CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

Chair: Emilia Koustova (University of Strasbourg)

ENGINEERING IMPERIAL MEMORIES will investigate the use of historical memory by governments and non-governmental agents and their attempts to fabricate imperial memories to justify far-right populist and authoritarian politics in Russia and beyond. The panelists will examine several critical aspects of the Kremlin's history politics, including the cult of the powerful state and political neomedievalism – the use of medieval history to legitimize social inequalities and political repressions. We will also discuss the current debates about the “Great Russian Culture,” which is often presented as an essential aspect of the country's imperial legacy. Furthermore, we will trace the “genealogies” of these propaganda themes to Stalin's times and discuss how they have been modified in recent decades, including most recently in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

