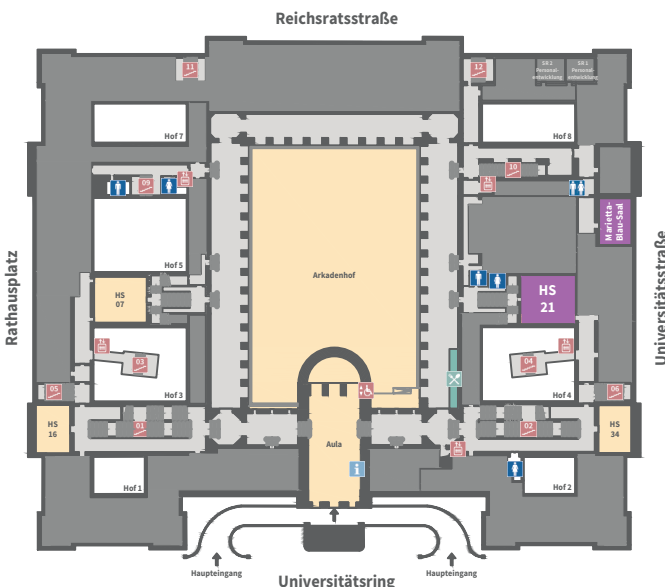


The Western European discussion about the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 showed, as Polish writer Szczepan Twardoch (2022) notes, that for many Western European intellectuals (East) Central Europe represents a kind of "terra nullius," an exotic, magical or cursed no-man's land between Europe and Asia. So, despite proclamations of an "Eastern turn" (Haines 2008), Central Europe still seems to serve as a projection space for Western European imaginations.

This three-day international conference understands Central Europe not as this empty void, but as a region with the "greatest variety within the smallest space," as Milan Kundera put it in his famous article "The Tragedy of Central Europe." It aims to critically continue the discourse on Central Europe in cultural studies and the humanities and addresses current media and political transformations from an explicitly interdisciplinary perspective.

With this conference, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CENTRAL network.



Site Map of Main Building (Ground Floor)
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Registration for
Online and On-Site
Participation

centraleurope.univie.ac.at

Contact

Institute for Slavic and Hungarian Studies
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Dorotheenstraße 65, D-10117 Berlin
T: +49-(0)30-2093-73350
seidelay@hu-berlin.de

Department of Comparative Literature
Universität Wien
Sensengasse 3a, A-1090 Wien
T: +43-1-4277-430 71
paula.wojcik@univie.ac.at

Chair of the Organizing Committee

Anna Seidel Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Members of the Organizing Committee

Paula Wojcik Universität Wien
Danuta Sosnowska Uniwersytet Warszawski
Josef Šebek Univerzita Karlova v Praze
Stephan Krause GWZO Leipzig
Alfrun Kliems Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Central European Network
for Teaching and Research
in Academic Liaison

CENTRAL
10th Anniversary
Conference

23-25
September
2024

University of Vienna

Marietta-Blau-Saal or via Zoom

IMAGINING CENTRAL EUROPE

(Re-)Shaping
a Geopolitical Concept
in Literature, Visual Arts,
and Popular Culture

| 23 September 2024

13:00

Registration

@ Main Venue: Marietta-Blau-Saal (University of Vienna, Main Building)

13:30–13:45

Greeting & Introduction

@ Diff. Venue! HS21 (University of Vienna, Main Building)

13:45–14:30

Keynote Lecture by

Prof. (emer.) Dr. Dr. h.c. Aleida Assmann

@ Diff. Venue: HS21 (University of Vienna, Main Building)

Chair: Alfrun Kliems

14:30–15:00 Coffee Break

15:00–17:00 **Panel 1**

(Re)Locating Central Europe in 21st Century Literature

@ Marietta-Blau-Saal (University of Vienna, Main Building)

Chair: Paula Wojcik

Alfrun Kliems (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Towards a (New) History of Central European Literature: Reflections on a Seemingly Spent Topic

Danuta Sosnowska (Uniwersytet Warszawski)

The Invisible Religiosity in Central European Culture: The Case of Czech Literature in the First Decade of the 21st Century

Petr A. Bílek (Univerzita Karlova v Praze)

Heterotopias of Crisis: The 1980s Debate of Central Europe of the Political and Cultural as a Typical Binary Opposition Concept

Csongor Lőrincz (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Border Politics between Sovereignty and Trade in Ádám Bodors's The Sinistra Zone

19:30

Central European Culture Salon

A conversation with Tanya Malyarchuk, Ziemowit Szczerek, Katharina Raabe, Tino Schlench, and Iryna Herasimovich (Volkskundemuseum, Laudongasse 15–19, 1080 Wien // Großer Festsaal)

Moderated by Martin Thomas Pesl

| 24 September 2024

9:30–11:00 **PhD Elevator Pitch Event**

Moderated by Josef Šebek

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00 **Panel 2**

Shifting East: Central European Discourse(s) in Belarus and Ukraine

Chair: Anna Seidel

Olena Pavlova (KNU Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv)

"Laughable" Ephemera in the Context of "Construction" of Central Europe: The Ukrainian Perspective on the Media Landscape

Heinrich Kirschbaum (Universität Freiburg) & **Yaroslava Ananka** (Universität Leipzig)

Divertimenti of Decolonization: Belarusian Literature on and in "Central Europe"

Manuel Ghilarducci (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

The Shadows of the Kingdom of Belarus: (Re)Imaginations of Central/Middle Europe in Ihar Babkoŭ's Works

13:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:30 **Panel 3**

Intermedial (De)Constructions of Central Europeanness

Chair: Josef Šebek

Libuše Hečzková & Kateřina Svatoňová (Univerzita Karlova v Praze)

Beer in Film: An Imagined National Identity!?

Mónika Dánél (ELTE Budapest)

Accented Territories, Porous Borders: East-Central Europe as a Multilingual Geopoetical Space in Literature and Film

Dobrota Pucherová (Slovak Academy of Sciences / Universität Wien)

Central Europe in Contemporary Slovak Theatre

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–18:30

City Drift: Traces and Spots of Central Europe in Vienna

19:00 Dinner (speakers only)

| 25 September 2024

9:30–11:00 **Panel 4**

New Media – New Borders:

Digital Re-Shapings of Central Europe

Chair: Danuta Sosnowska

Anastasia Tormakhova (KNU-Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv)

Ukrainian Art of the 21st Century: The Struggle for Central European Values in Digital Media

Justyna Jaworska (Uniwersytet Warszawski)

Centralisation and Carnival Resistance: The Case of the Monthly "Dialog"

Tomasz Majkowski (Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie)

Glory to Arstotzka! Imagining Central Europe in Digital Games

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–12:30 **Panel 5**

Voices from Outside: Exoticizing (?) Central European Space(s)

Chair: Stephan Krause

Miriam Finkelstein (Universität Konstanz)

In Search of Old Homeland: Imaginations of Poland in Contemporary Kazakhstani Literature

Dariusz Skórczewski (Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawła II)

Europe of Dreamers, Beggars, and Solidarity: Tropes of Central European Discourse in Wojciech Kudyba's Narrative Prose

12:30–13:30 Lunch Break

13:30–16:30 **Open Space Workshop**

New Perspectives, Questions and Challenges in Central European Cultural Studies

16:30–17:00

Closing of the Conference