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Lecture Series

Winter Semester 2026/2027

East to East –
Connecting Eastern Europe
& East Asia

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Venue: Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Specks Hof
(Entrance A), Reichsstraße 4–6, 4th floor, 04109 Leipzig and online



Please register here to attend online.

Programme

The intensification of Chinese-Russian cooperation in the wake of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has increasingly brought into focus the fact that Eastern Europe and East Asia are commonly referred to as the »East«. Against the background of current debates about a changing world order, the GWZO's lecture series »East to East« explores, in close cooperation with Leipzig University (ReCentGlobe, Institute for East Asian Studies), historical entanglements between Eastern Europe and East Asia. Invited international scholars address economic and intellectual perspectives as well as perspectives from the history of science, while also looking beyond Sino-Soviet/Russian relations.

The opening and closing panel discussions address the question of whether current shifts should be understood as deglobalisation and the emergence of new blocs, or rather as a new phase of trans-regional exchange under changed conditions.

October 21, 2026 | Kick-Off Roundtable

Prof. Dr. Frank Hadler (GWZO), Prof. Dr. Nadin Heé (Leipzig University, ReCentGlobe / Department of East Asian Studies), Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Kaske (Leipzig University, Department of East Asian Studies), Prof. Dr. Jie-Hyun Lim (Sogang University, Critical Global Studies Institute, Seoul)

with a lecture by Prof. Dr. Jie-Hyun Lim
Positivist versus Imaginative East: Displacing East and West in the Global East

November 4, 2026

Prof. Dr. Stefan Rohdewald (Leipzig University, Historisches Seminar)
Multiple Configurations of Eastern Transimperialities: Crossroads Asia, Transottomanica and Meta Area Studies

November 25, 2026

Prof. Ph.D. Yoko Aoshima (Hokkaido University, Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Sapporo)
How Changes to the Russian and Soviet Borders in Eastern Europe from a Japanese Perspective Belong to Global Affairs

December 9, 2026

Dr. Karina Khasnulina (GWZO), Dr. Jan Zofka (GWZO)
The Economy of the Sino-Soviet Alliance and its Afterlives

January 6, 2027

Dr. Péter Vámos (ELTE Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Budapest)
The Two Traditions of China Studies in Hungary

January 20, 2027

Prof. Dr. Felix Wemheuer (University of Cologne, Institute of East Asian Studies)
Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and early »Reform and Opening« in China (1978–1989): A Transnational History of Intellectual Exchanges

February 3, 2027 | Closing Roundtable

Studying Global Easts in a Changing World Order
PD Dr. Daniel Hedinger (Leipzig University, Research Centre Global Dynamics), Dr. Steffi Marung (Leipzig University, Global and European Studies Institute), Prof. Dr. Maren Röger (GWZO), Prof. Dr. Sören Urbansky (Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of History)
Moderator: Dr. Jan Zofka (GWZO)

Concept and coordination:

Prof. Dr. Frank Hadler, PD Dr. Daniel Hedinger, Prof. Dr. Nadin Heé, Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Kaske, Thaddäus Meier, Prof. Dr. Stefan Rohdewald, Dr. Jan Zofka

In cooperation with:



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