

Since February 24, 2022, Russia has been waging an open war of aggression against Ukraine. By calling this war a “military special operation” and clearly denying Ukraine full sovereignty, Russia seems to be reproducing the framework known from the heyday of imperialism. In connection with the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, it is necessary to recall Russia’s imperial traditions and genocidal repressions of the 20th century. Soviet imperialism combined the traditions of Tsarist Russia with Bolshevism, expanding its reach to half of Europe. This was accompanied by brutal terror and extermination of local populations opposed to Soviet power. Contemporary Russian imperialism undermines the very foundations of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states of our region.

This conference will examine the retreat from the imperialist template as an opportunity to critically analyze Russia’s policies in the post-Soviet space. Participants will discuss Russia’s past and present attempts to (re)establish dominance and control in the post-Soviet sphere. In this way, Russian practices will also be compared and contrasted with the general features of “imperialist” international policy. The conference will focus on Russia’s past and present attempts to (re)establish dominance and control in the post-Soviet sphere, with special emphasis on:

1. The historical evolution of the Russian and Soviet empires and the development of Russian imperial thought and ideology;
2. History as a tool of contemporary, expansionist actions of (modern) Russia;
3. History and memory as a source of attitudes of societies of countries subjected to Russian attack or pressure and an instrument of these countries’ policy towards Moscow.

Guidelines for authors and important dates

You are kindly requested to send in abstracts up to 300 words in English as well as a short biographical sketch (not more than 100 words). Submission should include up to 5 appropriate and short keywords that capture the principal topics of the paper. The Programme Council of the conference reserves the right to select the papers according to the conference concept. Article files should be provided in Microsoft Word format or as a PDF of the document. Text in final version should not exceed 40 thousand characters including spaces. All references in your manuscript must be formatted using The Chicago Manual of Style.

Submission should be made via the conference website:

<https://historyconflicts.uken.krakow.pl/call-for-papers-and-submission/submission/>

Final version of the text and other correspondence concerning the conference should be sent to: history_conflicts@up.krakow.pl

Please, remember the following important dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: April 14, 2025 (inclusive)
- Notification of Acceptance/Rejection: May 5, 2025 (inclusive)
- Presentation files: video or presentation slides deadline: June 10, 2025 (inclusive)
- Conference: June 12-13, 2025.
- Final Paper Submission Deadline: September 30, 2025 (inclusive)

Participation in the conference:

The conference organizers do not charge any participation fees. The conference organisers will provide accommodation and catering as well as the opportunity to participate in activities connected with the conference. The conference organisers do not, however, cover travel costs for conference participants. Conference proceedings will be published in 2026.

Conference Committee

Honorary Patronage:

Professor Piotr Borek, Ph.D., Rector of the University of the National Education Commission, Krakow

Convenors:

Professor Jan Rydel, University of the National Education Commission, Krakow

Prof. Zheng Wang, Seton Hall University (To be confirmed)

Professor Stefan Troebst, Dr. phil. habil., Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe), University of Leipzig

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Antje Zettler, Managing Director of the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe), University of Leipzig

Rafał Rogulski, Director of Institute of European Network Remembrance and the Solidarity, Warsaw

Conference Secretariat

Przemysław Łukasik, Ph.D., University of the National Education Commission, Krakow

Main organiser:

University of the National Education Commission, Krakow

Partner institutions:

Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe), University of Leipzig

Institute of European Network Remembrance and the Solidarity, Warsaw

Paweł Włodkowiec Institute, Wrocław

Polish-German Science Fund

Comparative Research Team on Imperialism, Polish Academy of Sciences

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