

Researching Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe: Lessons from KonKoop

Conference

24 – 25 February 2026

Venues:

Conference and supporting programme

► Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien (ZOIS), Anton-
Wilhelm-Amo-Str. 60, 10117 Berlin (2nd floor)

Conference opening

► Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science (BBAW), Jägerstraße 22-23, 10117
Berlin

24 February 2026

Supporting programme at ZOIS

12pm

**Between the EU and Russia: Business Perspectives on Economic (Dis)Integration in
Moldova and its Transnistrian Region.**

How firms navigate shifting ties across the Dniester and with external partners
In Conversation with Julia Langbein and Sabine von Löwis (ZOIS)

3pm

**Getting started with your PhD-project in the Humanities or Social Sciences (Event for
prospective PhD students)**

6pm

Opening at BBAW

The Long Shadow of War: Learning from History for Russia's War against Ukraine

With [Josip Glaurdić](#) (University of Luxembourg), [Anne Deighton](#) (University of Oxford),
[Oleksandr Zabirko](#) (University of Regensburg/ Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science's
Young Network TransEurope), **Chair: [Gwendolyn Sasse](#)** (ZOIS)

25 February 2026

9.30am – 9.40am Opening by [Jan C. Behrends](#) (ZZF/ Viadrina)

9.40am – 11.00am Panel 1

Contested Symbols, Memory, and the Politics of Ambiguity

[Katarina Damčević](#) (IOS): **Ambiguity as Strategy: Semiotic Gaslighting in Post-Conflict Memory Politics**

[Nicola Gajić](#) (IOS): **Is There a Freedom of Nationhood? Imposed Memory, Patriotic Gatekeeping, and Protest Politics in Serbia**

[Eric Gordy](#) (SSEES): **Holding on to the Bad Memory: How Regimes use Denial for Legitimation**

Chair/ Discussant: [Tsypylma Darieva](#) (ZOIS)

11 – 11.30am Coffee Break

11.30am – 1pm Panel 2

The Russia Question Beyond Ukraine: Global Repositioning of a State at War

[Maria Raquel Freire](#) (University of Coimbra): **Anti-colonial rhetoric, imperial practice: Russia's African strategy**

[Andreas C. Goldthau](#) (University of Erfurt): **Destabilization, disruption and disorder. Russia's geopolitical strategy**

[Géza Tasner](#) (FSU Jena): **Russia in the South Caucasus: The Future of the Middle Corridor Amid Regional Turmoil**

[Sebastian Hoppe](#) (ZOIS): **(Geo)political Flexibility vs. Extractive Exhaustion. Unpacking the Adaptive Capacity of Wartime Russia**

Chair: [Andrea Gawrich](#) (JLU Gießen)

Discussant: [Jan C. Behrends](#) (ZZF/ Viadrina-University)

1pm – 2pm Lunch

2pm – 3:30pm Panel 3

The political economy of conflict dynamics: Insights from de-facto state research

[Lena Pieber](#) (ZOIS): **Economic Agency of De Facto States**

[Julia Langbein](#), [Sabine von Löwis](#), [Ivaylo Dinev](#) (all ZOIS), Maxim Slav (National Institute for Economic Research, Academy for Economic Studies of Moldova): **Between the EU and Russia: Business Perspectives on Economic (Dis)Integration in Moldova and its Transnistrian Region**

Prof. Magdalena Dembinska (University of Montreal): **Business as Usual: Transnistrian Entrepreneurs in a Two-Level-Game (post-2022)**

Discussant: Stefan Wolff (University of Birmingham)

3:30pm – 4pm Coffee Break

4pm – 5.30pm Panel 4

Water and Resource Imaginaries in (Post)Conflict Contexts

Flora Roberts (Utrecht University): **Aging Dams, Fresh Concerns: Towards a Political Ecology of Soviet Water Infrastructure in the Fergana Valley**

Mela Zuljevic (IfL): **Mapping Legacies of War and Resistance to Extractivism in the Riverscapes of BiH**

Nafisa Mirzoramshedzoda (HNEE/ University of Fribourg): **Invisible Flows: Informality and Water Management in the Downstream Fergana Valley**

Oleksandra Shumilova (Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB)): **Water Resources and Infrastructure in Times of War: What has been Learned after Four Years of the Russia-Ukraine Armed Conflict**

Chair: Martin Welp (HNEE)

Discussant: Jennifer Sehring (IHE Delft)

5.30pm – 6pm Coffee Break

6pm Output Stations

KonKoop Research Map: A Tool for Navigating Peace and Conflict Studies in Eastern and Southeast Europe (Katarina Damčević/ IOS – Library)

From Data Catalogues to Mapping Protest Waves: How to Build a Platform for Data on Conflict, Cooperation, and Protest (Ivaylo Dinev/ ZOIS – K3)

Active (Citizen) - Can Anyone Be an Activist? Multi-screen video installation. (Piotr Goldstein (ZOIS) and Jan Lorenz (UAM Poznań))

6.30pm Final Panel

DataLab and VisLab: Infrastructures for Reflexivity and Criticality in Peace and Conflict Research (Labs)

With:

Mela Žuljević (IfL), Ivaylo Dinev (ZOIS), Iaroslav Boretskii (ZOIS), Nafisa Mirzoramshedzoda (HNEE), Chair: Kerstin Bischl (ZOIS)

8pm Reception

----- End of conference

KonKoop is financed by the BMFTR