

Annual Conference of the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies (VCPU)

Between Hope and Reality.

Modernization and Transformation in Central and Eastern Europe

May 22 – 23, 2025

European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

Call for Papers

The VCPU Annual Conference 2025 addresses current challenges in Polish and Ukrainian studies and is dedicated to the research project “Mod-Block-DDR.” Both areas are framed by the concepts of “modernization” and “transformation.” The presentation of research findings on socialist modernization in the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland, including their achievements and obstacles, will serve as a stimulus for discussing the political, economic, social, and cultural transformations in Central and Eastern Europe. All researchers from disciplines such as (but not limited to) economic history, the history of science, or sociology are invited to participate. At the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies, we aim to place special focus on Ukraine as a new sphere of modernization processes (e.g. migration, the opening to western Europe, and integration with the European Union) and socio-economic transformations initiated by the outbreak of Russia’s War of Aggression. These focal points highlight the diverse theoretical and methodological potential of the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies: interdisciplinarity that integrates historical, political, economic, and cultural studies and fosters transnational cooperation between scholars.

Topics of Interest

We invite original and unpublished contributions on topics including, but not limited to:

- Socialist modernization
- Political, economic, and cultural transformations in Central and Eastern Europe (broadly defined)
- Migration and integration with the EU
- Theoretical and methodological approaches to Central and East European studies
- Cross-border interdisciplinary collaborations

We welcome contributions on topics related to these themes as well as on general themes in the history of Central and East European and neighboring fields. The format of proposals should be as follows:

- **Proposals for individual papers** (title, abstract, affiliation, short biography of applicant)
- **Proposals for whole panels** in traditional or alternative formats (panel title, theme description with max. 300 words, abstracts of papers with max. 150 words each, name, affiliation, short biography of participants. Please send a single document in pdf-format)

Submission Guidelines

1. Please name your file with your surname.
2. Authors are requested to submit the proposals by **March 08, 2025**.
3. Interested participants need to register by **March 08, 2025**.
4. The official language of the conference, including all presentations and discussions, will be English.
5. Please submit your abstracts and papers to Mr. Konrad Walerski: walerski@europa-uni.de.

Publication Opportunities

Selected papers will be considered for publication in the conference proceedings or in a special brochure published by the Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung.

Registration

To participate in the conference, please register by emailing walerski@europa-uni.de by **March 08, 2025**. Your email should include the following information:

- **Full Name**
- **Affiliation** (e.g., university, research institute, or organization)
- **Position/Title** (e.g., PhD student, professor, researcher)
- **Contact Information** (email address and phone number)
- **Field of Interest/Research Topics** (Optional).
- A limited number of rooms has been pre-booked for conference participants at the City Park Hotel Frankfurt (Oder). Please indicate during registration if you would like to use this option. The prices are as follows: single room: 82.50 EUR per night; double room for single use: 92.50 EUR per night.

The Organisation Committee

- Prof. Dr. Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast
- Dr. Falk Flade
- Tetiana Lopashchuk, M.A.
- Susanne Orth, M.A.
- Konrad Walerski, M.A.

Contact Information

For queries, please contact:

Konrad Walerski, M.A.

Conference Chair

Coordinator of the Research Project "Mod-Block-DDR"

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We look forward to receiving your contributions and seeing you in Frankfurt (Oder) in May 2025!

Sponsors:



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