

Call for Papers

Seventh Annual Conference of the German-Ukrainian Historians' Commission

## **Wars in Ukraine in the 20th and 21st Century: Media, Experts, Disinformation**

*Regensburg, October 19-21, 2022*

Submission deadline for proposals: **July 12, 2022**

The annual conference of the German-Ukrainian Historians' Commission is organized in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg (IOS) and the Ilya Mechnikov University in Odesa.

The **organizational committee** of the conference constitutes of: Prof. Dr. **Guido Hausmann** (Regensburg), Prof. Dr. **Polina Barvinska** (Odesa, Regensburg), Prof. Dr. **Tanja Penter** (Heidelberg) and Prof. Dr. **Yurii Shapoval** (Kyiv, Tübingen).

**Conference venue:** Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung Regensburg (IOS), Landshuter Straße 4, 93047 Regensburg

**Format:** hybrid (online and offline participation possible)

**Languages:** English and Ukrainian

*The German-Ukrainian Historical Commission is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.*

For organizational questions please contact:

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The political legitimization of military action is necessary not only in Russia's current war against Ukraine in order to maintain social acceptance, loyalty and support for military violence and counter-violence in one's own country and beyond its borders. This applies to Russia's current war against Ukraine as well as to other or past wars. In modern societies in the 20th and 21st centuries, the mass media, i.e. the mass press, radio, film, television and, more recently, social media (Internet) are the decisive media to create this legitimization communicatively.

In times of war, the claim to truth is particularly important for the communicative production of political legitimization: truth and lies, information and disinformation, propaganda and counter-propaganda meet here in radical, differentiated and veiled forms. The home front must be mobilized, the enemy will be degraded. Apart from the responsible politicians and diplomats, the actors involved in this process include journalists (e.g. war reporters), experts such as historians and geographers, writers or artists and their works, as well as simple eyewitnesses to the events of the war.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, Ukraine has been the victim of imperialist wars in a special way. In the First World War, the main parties involved were Austria-Hungary, the German Empire and Russia, in the Second World War Hitler Germany and the Soviet Union, in the current war Russia.

The conference asks about:

- Information and disinformation campaigns (with the potential to legitimize and delegitimize) about war actions on the territory of Ukraine, especially with regard to imperial, colonial and post-colonial narratives,
- the media representations of the respective war opponents and enemy images,
- the media forms (visual, acoustic, textual media).

While we chiefly aim to initiate a German-Ukrainian dialogue about these issues, academic contributions from other countries are also very welcome. Accommodation will be provided and travel expenses refunded for conference speakers.

Please **submit your proposals** (500-800 words) and a short CV (one page maximum) to Lena Lopatschowa ([Lena.Lopatschow@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:Lena.Lopatschow@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)) by **July 12, 2022**. Please mention if you are willing to participate in person in Regensburg, or online.