

The Leibniz ScienceCampus »Eastern Europe – Global Area« (EEGA) is committed to developing new research perspectives on Eastern Europe, engaging in knowledge exchange activities on the region with stakeholders, and promoting young researchers. It follows the idea that the multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted examination of processes of globalisation are a key for a better understanding of the actual societal developments. The focus is on Eastern Europe's diverse, tension-filled, and sometimes paradoxical globalisation projects »from within« and »from the outside«, and thus, on the self-positioning of Eastern European societies under the global condition.

The EEGA brings together interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise from researchers affiliated with both universities and research institutes in the Leipzig-Jena-Halle science region. Together with partners from the region, the EEGA explores the fields of migration and mobilities; business strategies and political economies; cultural and intellectual perspectives and identities; and political integration in a changing global arena. Promoting an informed understanding of Eastern Europe in its diverse traditions and positions, developments and (internal) dynamics and supporting young researchers are the primary mission.

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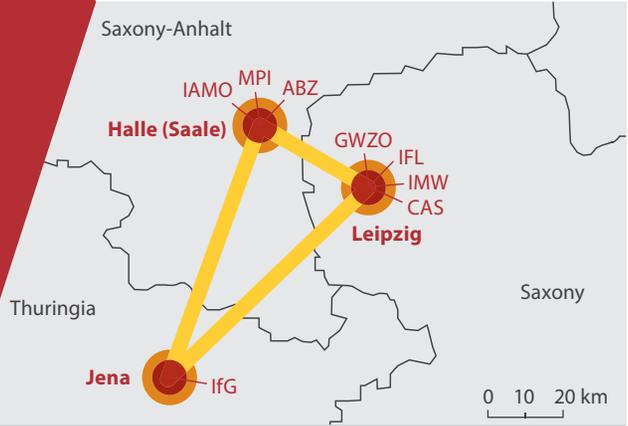
Leibniz ScienceCampus

Eastern Europe – Global Area

Research Area 1

Mobilities and Migration Regimes in Eastern Europe

The transformation of Eastern Europe has resulted in high levels of subnational territorial inequality, displacements and expulsions, as well as complex patterns of ethnic, cultural, religious and political identities and orientations. Stark contrasts of vibrant and dynamic places on the one hand and marginalized places on the other characterize the region. These trends have resulted in complex patterns of mobility, mobile and immobile groups as well as forms of control and flows. Research approaches take into account intersecting social, economic, cultural, political and infrastructural components. Five interdependent mobilities are distinguished here: corporeal travel of people, physical movements of objects, imaginative travel, virtual travel and communicative travel.

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- › Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig (IfL)
 - › Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Halle (Saale) (IAMO)
 - › Institute of Geography at Friedrich Schiller University Jena (IfG)
 - › Aleksander Brückner Center for Polish Studies (ABZ)
 - › Center for Area Studies at Leipzig University (CAS)
 - › Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW)
 - › The Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO)
 - › Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (Saale) (MPI)

Research Area 2

The Self-Positioning of Eastern Europe in a New World Order In-The-Making

The end of the Cold War has been widely perceived as the starting point of changes to and within world order. The research area conceptualises »world order« as the result of multiple interventions by many actors that can be explored only by including various spatial scales and formats. It aims to stimulate the debate on the self-positioning of Eastern European states and societies by inviting area experts studying both Eastern Europe and different other world regions. The focus is on positioning strategies of Eastern European collective actors within this changing world (order), new spatial formats of political organisation emerging within Eastern Europe, and the region's engagement with other world regions.

Research Area 3

Business Strategies and Frameworks of Political Economies

Recent economic development in many national economies of Eastern Europe has been characterised by three major distinct albeit interdependent trends. The first trend of marketisation in the 1990s abandoned the system of state-controlled prices and introduced market prices. The second trend of integration in the global economy is reflected by growing trade relations between Eastern European (EE) and non-EE countries and international engagement in EE markets. The third trend refers to the challenges of transition towards knowledge-based economies in which innovations matter for economic growth. This research area aims to further explore these issues by addressing the following research fields and questions: Corporate coping strategies and state intervention, trade patterns and regional specialisations, in- and outward-bound foreign direct investments, translocal knowledge flows, evolution of new economic, and patterns of urban and regional resilience.

Research Area 4

Cultural and Intellectual Perspectives and Identifications

As processes of globalisation in and for Eastern Europe have shaped the region for a long time, the EEGA research approaches reach back into the first era of globalisation around 1900 and to the emergence of Eastern Europe on the political map after World War I. The research area shifts the focus onto important, but as yet little researched questions by conceiving historical actors in Eastern Europe as active global players instead of just imagining the region as a mostly passive object of global developments. Exploring the cultural and intellectual manifestations of globalisation in and for the region, Eastern Europe will be conceptualised »on a global scale«. Based on this approach, the research area aims at overcoming perspectives on Eastern Europe that reproduce exceptionalism from within and »orientalisation« from the outside.

Research Area 5

Eastern Europe in Times of Europeanisation

Around 1989/1991, the transition paradigm that forecasted Western models of state and economy becoming globally universal, proved to be mainstream among research, government and policy-making communities. Roughly 25 years later and under the impact of the Ukraine Crisis, the relevance of the once powerful paradigm has been contested. The spreading of new ideas, institutions, policies, models, or repertoires of behaviour, attitudes and values from their point of origin to new sites and Europeanisation as derivatives of broader processes of globalisation have impacted Eastern Europe – but not in the same manner, form, and with the same outcomes everywhere. This research area will explore actors in Eastern Europe between »uniqueness« and »normality« within Europe and the globalised world.