

**Dimension:** The Political Dimension of Border Formation and Dissolution in the Wider Baltic Sea Region

**Working title:** Traditional values, deviancy and foreign interference in post-Soviet space

Selected dominant myths and narratives concerning norms and deviancy in identity politics, applicable policy areas, and international relations will be examined in a comparative perspective involving Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, the latter being considered both in terms of its domestic context and as an influential international actor.

By assessing the attributes, roles and functions ascribed to selected clusters of ideas and concepts in the context of the consolidation of post-Soviet statehood and identity in 2000-14, an estimation of the characteristics and evolution of the chosen themes, including, to the extent possible, the local and international dynamics driving and/ or shaping this development will be made.

The focus will be on (1) engagement and (2) confrontation as means of invoking gradual or abrupt change in selected areas, in this case the internationally supported efforts to mitigate the HIV/ AIDS epidemic and its consequences in the region as an example of the former, and selected human rights-oriented interventions on LGBT issues, as examples of the latter.

The purpose is to shed light on some of the ways in which foreign interference in combination with locally held notions and ideas affect selected minority groups and also to investigate through examples relating to a concrete theme, how myths and narratives can shape the way an issue is addressed in the communities which it concerns.