

## **"Recovered Territories": The Use of History in the Creation of the New Polish Borderland after the Second World War**

In the post-doctoral project "Recovered Territories" I analyse the processes of reconceptualising the Polish relation to the new northwestern border after the Second World War through a study of the relation to the littoral regions (the so-called Greater Pomerania) and the access to the sea, as well as the use of history in these processes. The accent is first of all on the processes of incorporating the new borderland into the historical narrative of the Polish state and attempts to eradicate the memory of the old, pre-war Polish-German border. The new border, although imposed, was thus to become regarded as a 'natural' one. The topic is studied in four main aspects: the official use of history, the scholars' use of history, the relationship between the scholarly and official discourses, and the lasting effects on the contemporary Polish relation to the north-western borderland, as expressed in political and scholar evocations of history. The method of research is conceptual history, allowing to identify the key concepts in the political and historical discourse, and analyse the narratives behind those concepts, as well as the ways in which the different narratives fought for the dominant place in the discourse.