

## Anna Novikov: Dissemination. Evening talks report

### An online discussion series "The New Nationalisms in the Baltic Sea Region"

In November-December 2020 the IFZO research cluster "New Nationalisms" together with the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Mecklenburg Vorpommern conducted an online series of 5 evening talks. In connection with the research focus of the cluster on constructions of utopian and dystopian narratives by the new nationalist actors in the Baltic Sea region (such as the AfD in Germany, PiS in Poland or the Sverigedemokraterna in Sweden), invited experts from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Estonia and Denmark discussed various aspects of New Nationalisms from an international comparative perspective. Hereby, the presenter and discussants were analyzing new forms of nationalism and extremism which had been established in all countries of the Baltic Sea region. During discussions participants addressed questions such as: What is the "Nordic Model"? How are nationalist ideologies are popularized through fashion and clothing? What types of rhetoric use the radical opponents of abortion in Poland? How do the extreme right-wing activists in Germany and Sweden use the Covid 19 pandemic in order to promote their ideology? The evening talks consisted of five 1.5 hour online events streamed through the Youtube-channels of the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung and the IFZO. The first two events took place in English with simultaneous translations into German. The remaining talks were streamed in German. The interaction with the audience took place via an integrated chat function and the moderator was distributing the questions. The talks took place on Wednesdays, from November 11 till December 9 2020.

The aim and purpose of this dissemination event was to present state-of-the-art research results of the cluster in an engaging public environment and to inform as much as raise sensibility for the transnational topic of nationalism/right-wing extremism in the Baltic Sea region. The moderated talks enabled an experts and broader public exchange beyond academic borders with varying numbers of participants up to 30. Some events have been recorded and published afterwards, which allowed discussion in the comments section.

The talks have been framed by three thematic areas: The first one, including "Nordic Model and Extreme Right", "Extreme Right in Sweden and Germany during the Corona Pandemic", "Comparison of Right-wing Structures in Germany and Eastern Europe", was dealing with new nationalist rhetoric and policies in Germany, Northern and Eastern Europe. The second thematic area focused on gender policies, conservatism, religion and reproductive rights in Poland as well as on cross-national feminism as an enemy of the new right. The third thematic area was dedicated to the manifestation of visual and cultural forms of the new nationalist ideologies represented in special dress and performance.

The first talk “Nordic Model and Extreme Right” (11 November) focused on the extreme right wing rhetoric and strategies versus the social welfare and economic systems in the Nordic countries. This discussion was conducted by journalist Jana Sinram and Susi Meret from the University of Aalborg, and moderated by Arne Segelke from the University of Greifswald.

The second talk “Patriotism, but make it fashion! – Zugehörigkeitsgefühl durch Kleidung in der neuen Rechten in den post-kommunistischen Ostseeanrainern“ (18 November) focused on the new nationalism populist sartorial and performative strategies. The talk was moderated by Yvonne Bindrim, a member of the IFZO cluster “New Nationalisms” and the discussion was led by Anna Novikov, IFZO postdoc at the “New Nationalism cluster and Linda Kaljundi from Tallinn University.

The third talk „Lebensschutz-Bewegung und Kampagnen gegen Schwangerschaftsabbrüche“ (25 November) was dedicated to the recent wave of protests against the abortion ban issued by the right wing Polish government and to the questions of feminism and gender roles versus its conservative perception by the right wing activists. Iwona Dadej from the Zentrum für Historische Forschung Berlin and the Polish Academy of Sciences discussed this topic with moderator Cordelia Hess, speaker of the IFZO cluster “New Nationalisms”.

In the talk on 2 December „Vergleich rechte Strukturen in Deutschland und Osteuropa“ Sophie Schmalenberger (University of Aarhus) and Jan Behrends (Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam) discussed the similarities and the differences of the new nationalist and right wing parties’ policies between Eastern Europe/Russia and Germany in the recent two decades. The discussion was moderated by Stephan Kessler from the University of Greifswald. The event was recorded by the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung and was uploaded to the Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28xo67Nuzts>

On 9 December Fabian Virchow (Hochschule Düsseldorf) and Charlotta Seiler Brylla (University of Stockholm) discussed in „Extreme Rechte in Schweden und Deutschland während der Corona-Pandemie“ how the current pandemic situation and the conspiracy theories linked to it promotes the distribution of right wing ideology in the two countries. Cordelia Heß moderated the discussion. This discussion was recoded as well and can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKUI0MTz13Q>.