

IFZO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 7 – 9 JULY 2022

Baltic Sea in Exchange. Transformations between Conflict and Cooperation

Abstracts

PANEL 1: IN-SECURITY ISSUES

Natalia Iost (Greifswald)

How Did the Threat Discourse Contribute to the Construction of the New Baltic Security Architecture?

The threat discourse in the Baltic Sea Region has changed significantly after the end of the Cold War. These changes can be explained by a new identity formation and shifts in cultural memory, as the Baltic States adapted to Western values and distanced themselves from the Soviet past. In the political domain, new narratives about Russia emerged, which were influenced by common history and recent developments in foreign policy. In the last decades, the relations between Russia and the Baltic States were dominated mostly by conflictual events and several escalations, leading to a splash of antagonistic rhetoric and mistrust. Russian economic pressure, cyber-attacks, border violations, and military exercises are only some decisive events that accelerated the consolidation of the Baltic States with their Western allies. The crucial turning point in these developments was the emergence of a more consolidated security architecture in the Baltic Sea Region (Veebel/Ploom 2019). My presentation inquires into foreign policy events between Russia and the Baltic States in the last decades and their narrativization as a part of a more broaden securitization discourse. I argue that securitization narratives play an important role by the construction of Russian image in the Baltic states and contribute to establishing of a new security architecture in the Baltic Sea Region.

Donatas Kupciunas (Cambridge)

Lithuanian-German Relations 1915-1933: Between Conflict and Cooperation

In 1923, Adolf Georg von Maltzan, Head of the Russian Department of the German Foreign Office, observed that Lithuania could not live, or die, without Germany – a testimony that relations between Germany and Lithuania were a bit of a roller coaster, oscillating between the extremes. This paper will try to assess the changing dynamics of German-Lithuanian relations from the occupation of Lithuania by

the German Empire in 1915, until Germany's turn to National-Socialism in 1933. Particular attention will be given to themes obscured by 'patriotic' histories, such as the influence of German romanticism and linguistics research on Lithuanian nationalism, peculiarities of 'Kulturkampf', as well as military and diplomatic exploits in checking Polish, French and Soviet influence in Lithuania.

Andris Banka (Greifswald)

NATO and Germany's Role in the Baltic Sea Region

A certain paradox has pervaded German-Baltic relations for decades. Tightly linked through culture, art, education and, above all, a genuine societal affinity for each other, in the realm of military power the two sides could not be further apart. Where over the years German leadership has emphasized the notion of positive transformation through trade, the Baltic states, on the contrary, stuck to the worldview of military power playing a central role in regional affairs. Despite geographic proximity between Germany and the Baltic states, these relations time and again have fractured along the line of how to best engage Russia. The following presentation evaluates key inflection points and controversies nestled within the German-Baltic security relationship.

PANEL 2: PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Julia Gómez Catasús (Ekenäs)

Ecological risk and mitigation strategies: Case study of wind energy projects

Wind energy is regarded as the most promising renewable energy source for an energy transition, due to the global potential for wind-power generation. This fact has boosted the innovation, development, and application of wind energy worldwide, with growing concerns over its potential ecological conflicts. The current challenge is that the verification of ecological impacts and the implementation of measures to minimize them keep up with the fast rate of wind-power development. In this research, we present a literature review on the ecological impacts associated to wind farms, as well as the mitigation strategies that are commonly implemented to minimize them, with a special focus on Finnish wind energy projects. Up to date, most efforts have been invested in addressing the factors that explain bird collisions and in seeking alternatives that minimize or eliminate them. However, the indirect impacts associated with wind farms may be equally important but are commonly overlooked, such as habitat loss, habitat deterioration or disturbance (visual, noise and vibration impacts) which may ultimately lead to the displacement of individuals and affect species abundance or density more insidiously. This review identifies knowledge gaps in the ecological impacts associated to wind farm infrastructure and highlights the importance of taking these into account during technology development and the design of mitigation measures that alleviate their impacts. Researchers highlight the importance of implementing rigorous comprehensive planning, and additional management standards are needed to reconcile wind energy production with the protection of the environment, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.

Jaroslav Dvorak, Valentina Burkšienė (Klaipeda)

E-Communication of Environmental NGOs

The current chapter examines the electronic communication of NGOs operating in the field of environmental protection in Klaipeda, the third-largest city in Lithuania. In the study we answer the following research question: how should environmental NGOs deal with e-communication management strategies in order to be heard by decision-makers? The content analysis method was used in this study. This approach helped us to analyze the information available on the websites of respected NGOs as well as on the Google platform, and to logically classify and categorize all the data collected. The research found out that due to limited financial and human resources and analytical skills, the e-communication capacity of NGOs operating in Klaipeda is highly fragmented. In principle, e-communication is limited to presenting information about a problem or feedback to a proposal that does not provoke a significant reaction from the population.

Meanwhile, nationwide NGOs communicate much more aggressively and can make a real impact on legislative change, and co-create according to the global capacities of environmental governance as they have both employee and financial backing.

Niclas Neumann (Greifswald)

Sustainable cultivation of medicinal plants in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

The demand for high quality medicinal plants in the pharmaceutical industry is high and steadily increasing. At the same time, stocks are declining sharply worldwide due to rapidly changing climatic conditions and excessive collection. Due to ever improving analytics, even the smallest amounts of impurities can be detected, which leads to exclusion of whole lots for the production of herbal drugs. The mostly imported goods are therefore often not able to meet the required quality standards of the pharmaceutical industry. This is increasingly leading to supply bottlenecks. Patients are also more often affected directly, which leads to a deterioration in supply with essential pharmaceuticals. In extreme cases, therapies have to be changed or discontinued. The goal of the Innovation Network Medicinal Plants in MV is therefore to develop new sustainable cultivation strategies at an early stage and to open up Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania as a potential cultivation area for valuable medicinal plants. Due to its agro-economic infrastructure and history, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania offers almost ideal conditions for the cultivation of medicinal plants. Against the background of man-made climate change, it is also relevant when establishing new methods to prioritize sustainability from the outset. For this reason, other forms of cultivation of medicinal plants are also being tested, such as the use of hydroponic systems. The aim of the innovation network is to provide data for the feasibility of medicinal plant cultivation in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and to compare the quality of different cultivation methods.

PANEL 3: FOREST LANDSCAPES

Giedrė Mickūnaitė (Vilnius)

Into the woods: cases of being with the forest in Lithuanian culture

The Romantic call to turn back to nature not only prompted artistic output either juxtaposing humans to, or immersing them into the wilderness. The global 19th century contributed significantly in shaping the reflection of nature and preventing it being reduced to natural resource. For the Lithuanian part this changed attitude was expressed best in verses by Adam Mickiewicz as well as Antanas Baranauskas. Yet, these poetic notions have their visual and performative roots as well as fruits, which this paper discusses through several time and medium-wise distinct case studies. Each of them reveals aspects of relation with nature that can be indicated by prefixes from, together with, and within:

In 1523 the bison hide, intended to be stuffed with hay and exhibited in Lateran, received a verbal package in a form of the poem *De statura, feritate ac venationis bisontis carmen* by Nicolaus Hussovianus. Its passage on the theatre of bison hunt reveals nature as a resource of the spectacular. In 2000s the Baltos kandys collective started collaborative project "Miškan" (Into the forest) highlighting the need to create together with nature or alike nature.

Finally, Marija Olšauskaitė ir Julija Steponaitytė „Songs from the Compost: mutating bodies, imploding stars" (2020) explores human as part of nature and creative potential of dissintegration.

Karin Reichenbach (Leipzig)

Children of the Forest. Conceptions of Forest and Rurality in Ethnic Neopagan Identity Discourse

Ethnic Neopagan or Native Faith currents are new religious movements in which the worship of ancestry and nature plays an essential role. Forests and rural landscape are perceived as in harmony with grown nature and as preserved land of the forefathers. They are therefore treated as sacred places by Neopagan communities and sought out for ritual practices, but also to learn about rural customs and adopt them into their concepts of religiosity. Since beyond merely nature-religious traits, the sacralization of nature is very closely intertwined with a sacralization of history and ethnic descent, the paper explores in which way references to 'the forest' as the perceived essence of untamed nature are significant in Neopagan identity constructions. Using examples from Central Europe, mainly Poland, it will be analysed in how far imaginations of forests and rurality serve to archaize and naturalise anti-modern societal ideas and to what extent they overlap with blood and soil thinking, social Darwinism, ethnicist essentialism and eventually even racism.

Wiebke Staasmeyer (Heidelberg)

Forest and Wilderness as Musical Constructions of Home in the Grand Duchy of Finland

Pines, birches, firs. In Europe, Finland is the country with the largest proportion of forests, including so-called »primeval forests«. But what ideas were associated with the Finnish forest and wilderness in the Grand Duchy of Finland (1809–1917)? What shaped the images and narratives and what changed them? The lecture focuses primarily on the role of the forest in the construction of home. First, Eino Leino's text *kotiseutu* (Homeland, 1910) will be used as an example to establish the connection between forest and homeland, which also reveals first conflicts, in order to ask in a second step about the role that music plays in forest imaginations and constructions of home. Jean Sibelius, who described himself as an »apparition from the forests« and was still perceived as a »tone poet of the Finnish forest« by Kalevi Aho in 1998, composed several forest works: Not only in the the Song of the Woodmen (*Metsämiehen laulu*) but also in symphonic poems about mythological forest figures (*Skogsrået* and *Tapiola*) Sibelius dealt with the topics of forest. This paper, however, will focus on provincial songs (*Maakuntalaulut*), which are less well-known outside Finland and were written for various regions between 1852 and 1934. Selected examples will be used to show which topoi were linked to the forest in poetry and music.

Sebastian van der Linden (Greifswald)

Imaging Forests from Space – a Bird View Perspective on Forest Landscapes

Detailed mapping and monitoring of forest landscapes is one key application of modern Earth observation to better understand the processes driving global environmental change. Changes in forest cover are manifold, including natural disturbance such as storms or biogenic infestations, human-induced changes like deforestations by burning or clear cut, as well as afforestations. The presentation gives an overview of modern Earth observation, reaching from brief insights on technological possibilities, standard procedures and products, the role of forests in so-called ecosystem services, all the way to semantic challenges (How many trees make a forest?) or controversial questions of nature conservation.

PANEL 4: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Gustavs Strenga (Greifswald)

Building a landscape of remembering medieval heroes in the Baltic - premodern and modern

This presentation will link physical spaces with memories and imagined histories of the past. The medieval Livonia (modern day Latvia and Estonia) was Christianised during the 13th century. When the national identities of the ethnic groups emerged in the 19th century, the events, spaces and personalities of the Middle Ages became important for the Baltic Germans, Latvians and Estonians. For the Baltic

Germans the spaces where the first bishops (Riga Cathedral) and the Masters of the Teutonic Order (St. John's church in Wenden) were buried became relevant for their historical memory alongside the castles of Riga and Wenden that were the residences of the Order's masters. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries Latvians developed interest into their medieval history, focusing on the hillforts. Some of the hillforts were bound together with historical personalities - the indigenous leaders of the 13th century described in the medieval chronicles and whenever a place was mentioned, a ruler's name appeared. After the Republic of Latvia was founded, their portraits became symbols of the nation's medieval past. The paper will try to demonstrate how the cultural heritage was used as a formative part of the historical memory of these national groups.

Toms Kencis (Riga)

Battle for the Middle Ages in the Baltic

As some of the earliest written sources of Baltic history, chronicles and other medieval manuscripts have played an important role in nation-building processes and the formation of national imagery. Creative interpretations of medieval history have produced multiple layers of cultural memory, each anchored in the ideological agendas of its time and creators. Literature and art exploit scholarly discoveries and amplify the political impacts of specific interpretations of sources. The nationalist construction of national histories is a well-studied subject matter. Less so – endeavours into this direction by failed national projects and the national actors within state socialism systems.

Mutually antagonistic creative interpretations of medieval Baltic history have left a complex cultural heritage. Baltic German colonial program was challenged by rising national sentiments of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian nations in formation. The latter acquired state-sponsored forms during the interwar period to be censored and re-interpreted according to Marxism-Leninism during the Soviet occupation. However, a fine legitimacy game was played on contradictions inherent to socialist ideology and cultural policy, sustaining the multivocality and openness of the past. The history of Baltic visual art provides some fascinating cases illustrating this process regarding medieval history. This research is funded by ERDF, no. 1.1.1.2/VIAA/4/20/628 project.

Torben Kjersgaard Nielsen (Aalborg)

The Danish Flag in Collective Memory: Making and Re-Making a Medieval Myth

According to folklore, the Danish flag, the Dannebrog, fell from the sky in Estonia on 15 June 1219. This makes the Dannebrog – allegedly – the world's oldest national flag in continuous use.

As the popular and well-known myth has it, the flag as a divine sign salvaged the Danish royal forces from defeat in a crusade battle against pagan Livonians. The flag thus signalled a powerful alliance between the expansionist Danish king and the Christian God. The design of the flag, a white cross on a red background, obviously points to a crusader heritage.

Today, the Dannebrog in a very formal sense is the national symbol par excellence, on a par with other nations' flags. However, the Dannebrog is also a very popular symbol to ordinary Danes. In this capacity, the Dannebrog is used for birthdays and other celebrations; it is applied as a logo to sell every-day – and

not even necessarily Danish – products; Danish people flies it with pride during sports games etc. Many people fly the flag each Sunday – to mark the day off-work. In short, the Dannebrog is an extremely polyvalent symbol. Many non-Danish find the manifold use of the flag quite hard to understand.

In this presentation, I shall discuss first the establishment and the gradual elaboration of the original foundation myth in the sixteenth century, and I shall offer some examples of the use of the flag and its myth in the subsequent centuries until the final ‘democratisation’/‘popularisation’ of the flag as a part of a new patriotic and national(-ist) sentiment in nineteenth century Denmark.

I shall end the presentation with discussing the flag’s present ‘coding’ and ‘en-coding’ in a modern Danish nation marked by e.g. (reactions to) globalised migration. I shall under way offer my analysis of how and why the medieval myth of the flag that fell from the sky has been so malleable and applicable over the centuries.

PANEL DISCUSSION: ROLE MODELS OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Yvonne Bindrim/ Marko Pantermöller (Greifswald)

Finnish language legislation as a model for other multilingual societies?

Finnish language legislation can be considered exemplary: Speakers of Swedish in Finland enjoy linguistic rights that representatives of other regional and minority languages are still fighting for. But even an established and functioning multilingualism reacts sensitively to social and political transformations. This is noticeable in the everyday life of Swedish speakers in many areas of society. Accordingly, strong legislation alone is not sufficient for the realisation of linguistic rights. Potential linguistic consequences must be consistently considered.

Vanessa Gieseler/ Stefen Fleßa (Greifswald)

Estonia as an eHealth pioneer

Estonia has successfully implemented eHealth many years ago and occupies a leading position within the EU. More than 95 % of the data generated by hospitals and doctors are digitized. Citizens have access to their medical records, electronic prescriptions and the most suitable health professionals. The printing costs for paper prescriptions went down from 63,668 EUR in 2009 to around 1,000 EUR in 2010. The break-even point for Estonia's investment was almost achieved by the reduction of paper consumption.

The system found its origin in a crisis: in 2007, Estonia was the target of a two-week cyberattack on the country's state infrastructure. Consequently, Estonia established a blockchain-based data management system, known as E-Estonia, both in the area of state administration and in the health system.

Annelie Ramsbrock (Greifswald)

Freedom in deprivation of liberty. Denmark as a role model for the West German Prison System

The question of how offenders could be made into socially conforming members of society in the course of their prison sentence was posed in a completely new way in the Federal Republic after the experiences of the Nazi dictatorship. What was the prison supposed to do? How should it be set up and how should the inmates be treated in order to correspond to the self-image of a social order built on liberal principles? Answers to these questions seemed to be provided by a programme of behavioural regulation that had proven itself especially in Scandinavia. In will discuss the reasons why the Danish prison system in particular was to become a role model for the Federal Republic of Germany and the political concerns that were formulated against it at the same time.

PANEL 5: HEALTH SCAPES

Nina Pilz (Greifswald)

Corona Patriotism: Patriotic Pandemic Narratives in Sweden and Germany

The rapid spread of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has led to a global pandemic that affects almost every country in the world. Nevertheless, national responses to the pandemic prevailed over a cooperative international approach: Borders were closed, travel bans were imposed and national strategies for containing the virus were developed and compared. The COVID-19 crisis seems to have reinforced thinking in national categories and strengthened a sense of belonging to local and national communities. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, growing patriotic tendencies could be observed in various dimensions, ranging from pride in one's own country and its strategy to holding certain groups responsible for rising infection rates. Sociologist Gina Gustavsson regards "public health patriotism" as one of the main reasons for the Swedes' strong support for the permissive Swedish strategy (Gustavsson, 2021). The conference contribution examines whether similar patriotic lean-ings can be found in Germany, where much stricter measures were taken. To encourage the population's compliance with extensive restrictions, the German government and public au-thorities have heavily emphasized the importance of solidarity and responsibility through-out the health crisis. Have the two principles been shown and communicated as national values and patriotic duties that must be performed to successfully cope with the spread of the virus? Focusing on these two keywords as well as on the feeling of pride, the paper searches for patriotic narratives in the German media discourse and explores the role they played in the early stage of the pandemic.

Victoria Oertel (Greifswald)

Conceptual Foundations of a Controversial System - Psychiatric Care in the GDR

Innovations in health care and medical research sometimes fundamentally change our view of medical concepts – as it happened when Robert Koch discovered that bacteria caused tuberculosis which

subsequently led to the wide acceptance of a germ theory of disease. Other times the interplay between conceptual work and medical care/research is more subtle, as it is the case for the praxis of psychiatric medicine in the former GDR after the issuing of the “Rodewischer Thesen” in 1963. These demanded a rather radical change towards a better integration of clinical science with social therapy (“Soziotherapie”) in psychiatric care, however, this wasn't actualized in most instances. Some authors have assumed ideological reasons among others behind the failure to implement the innovations. I will further investigate the conceptual groundwork philosophically interested physicians and medically interested philosophers in the GDR did with regard to psychological disorder and psychiatric disease. They argued for a strong connection between the socialistic order of society as the perfect environment for human life and the mental health status of such society's members. Not giving up on that alleged causal connection seemed to prevent open discourse and thus might be part of the reason why the advancement of innovative psychiatric care according to the system's own standards often failed.

Nils Hansson, Felicitas Söhner, Thorsten Halling (Düsseldorf)

Bridging the Baltic: Insights into transfers of knowledge in the Baltic Sea Region during the Cold War via oral history

During the last years, a growing number of scholars have investigated the methodological challenges and tactics of interviewing groups of ‘elite scientists’ in medicine, e.g. with regard to witness seminars (Wellcome) and video podcasts featuring renowned physician-scientists. This talk presents preliminary results of an ongoing oral history project within the ‘Bridging the Baltic network’ (funded by the German Research Foundation and the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health), an interdisciplinary group of scholars in northern Europe with a prime interest in the transfer of knowledge during the Cold War and beyond.

The starting point of this subproject is the idea to trace keylines of development in medicine over the past 50 years at selected universities in the Baltic Sea region from the perspective of retired professors in medicine. The focus is on how the interviewees locate themselves and their institution in the national and international research context.

Key questions include what role the scientific exchange in the Baltic Sea region actually played in research practice and in everyday clinical practice, how the European/international collaboration changed after the 1990 across the (former) Iron curtain, and which factors (barriers and drivers) influenced the scientific exchange? The talk will present first results from our recent video-recorded interviews with professors in Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, Poland and Germany and raise questions about transfers of knowledge during the Cold War in the Baltic Sea region.

PANEL 6: LEGITIMACY OF COMMEMORATION (I)

Arne Segelke (Greifswald)

Whose War? Commemorating the First World War in Denmark

The Scandinavian countries remained neutral during the First World War but were affected by this global event. Some Scandinavians even volunteered to fight in one of the armies, but their number remained small in comparison to the members of the Danish minority in Germany who had been drafted into the Prussian army. Remembering the war and commemorating the dead proved a difficult task in Denmark after the ceasefire. Most of the dead were regarded as “Danish” but had fought on the side of Germany. When the Danish-German border was shifted following a referendum in connection with the Treaty of Versailles, some of the home-towns of the fallen soldiers were reunited with Denmark. To cope with the problem of commemoration, politics of memory involved multiple levels. On a European level – neutral or not, as a European country Denmark was affected by the war –, the war was regarded as a catastrophe and commemorated with a large monument. On a national level, the war was regarded as a kind of catalyst for longer-running developments and chiefly viewed from an economic perspective while the (civil) experience of the war years in neutral Denmark was remained chiefly connected to the communicative memory. On a regional level, the memorialisation of the border shift in 1920 (by means of monuments and performances) opened up the possibility of regarding members of the Danish minority who fell in the war as “martyrs” for the reunification with Denmark. On a local level, the dead were commemorated as local citizens and members of the local community. Such multi-level politics of memory helped in defusing possible conflicts of memory and securing societal stability during the inter-war years.

Maciej Górny (Warszaw)

Whose war, whose memory?

The Great War, with the passage of time, generated mechanisms of memory and mourning, veterans’ organisations and representations of wartime sacrifice throughout East Central Europe, too. Did it follow West European patterns? What does it tell? How did the new states of the region respond to vital and symbolic needs of the war generation?

The paper will follow Polish and Czechoslovak politics of memory on a background of East Central Europe and with an eye on all those whose position was less than privileged in terms of ethnicity, class, and sex. The multilayered policies of memory and legislation in respect to war veterans pursued in the interwar period will form another thread. Finally, by focusing on state rituals it will also try to establish links between the memory of war and seemingly unrelated national and class-related symbols.

Peter Polak-Springer (Qatar)

„The Anti-Semitic Movement”: The Palestinian Arab Press on Anti-Semitism and Authoritarianism in Interwar Central Europe”

Recent years have seen a rise in scholarly interest on Arab views of “Europe’s Twenty Years’ Crisis” (1919-39), with a particular focus on Palestinian Muslims views of fascism and Nazism. This paper aims

to contribute to the scholarly debate on this issue by shedding light on a new and unresearched dimension of it, namely, on how Palestinians viewed politics and society in interwar Eastern Europe, with particular attention to anti-Semitism and Jewish affairs. Certainly, long before the Nazis appeared on the political scene, Palestinian press venues were closely following developments in this region, which like the Middle East, saw newly emergent small states replacing the downfall of monarchical empires. Among these, the Palestinian public was particularly interested in Poland and Romania, where Jewish issues, anti-Semitism, and Zionism played a prominent role in politics and society. Poland was particularly of interest since it was the most viable springboard of Jewish migration to Palestine. Recent research has been strictly concerned with how Palestinians received Hitler's anti-Semitic politics as well as fascist regimes in general. This paper aims to emphasize the nuances and diversity in Palestinians' stance on political anti-Semitism and authoritarianism by investigating questions such as the following: How did Palestinians' views of fascism compare to those of the authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe? How did their views of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe compare to those of Hitler's Germany? How did Palestinian portraits of Eastern European Jews compare to those of Western Europe? To respond to such inquiries, this paper will draw from the Palestinian Arabic-language press of the interwar era, including major venues such as Filastin, ad-Difa, Mirat ash-Sharq, Jamiat al-Arabiya, and Jamiat al-Islamiyya.

PANEL 7: LEGITIMACY OF COMMEMORATION (II)

Christian Lübcke (Hamburg), Karsten Richter (Schwerin)

"Who brings nothing was not there". A contribution to the current situation of naval war graves in the Baltic Sea

There are hundreds of wrecks from World War I and World War II in the Baltic Sea. Against the background of increasing diving tourism and new technical possibilities, these wrecks are being visited more and more frequently by scuba divers and amateur researchers. In some cases this is not a problem, however many of these wrecks have the status of an underwater monument but also the legal status of a naval war grave. The bones of the war dead still lie in the wrecks, but divers often disregard the peace of the dead in their search for souvenirs. The illegal trade in found objects is flourishing.

In a lecture, employees of the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (German War Graves Commission) will present their work in the Baltic Sea and inform you about the current situation under water.

Rezeda Lyykorpi (Greifswald)

Creeping Germanisation and debates over Königsberg's memory in Kaliningrad

During the presentation I am going to look at the phenomenon of Creeping Germanisation in Kaliningrad. The term was applied by particular Kaliningrad media sources and implied two primary meanings: 1) endeavors by external forces to strengthen a foreign (particularly German) presence in Kaliningrad and

weaken Russian influence and 2) suspiciousness towards Kaliningraders' deep affinity for Königsberg history. Thus, the examples of Creeping Germanisation included, among the others, the beer "Königsberg" produced in Kaliningrad with almost exclusively German text on the label, the celebration of Long Sausage (Die Lange Wurst) Festival related to Königsberg traditions, and the commemoration of the 240th anniversary of the birth of Königsberg born Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann. The critics of Kaliningraders' interest in Königsberg's memory insisted that the affinity for German heritage raises concerns in the region with special geopolitical location and exclave status. I will discuss how the debate over memory of Königsberg in Kaliningrad developed from year 2016 up to 2021 and discuss various opinions on the reasons behind the controversy.

Anton Saifullayeu (Warsaw/Greifswald)

Discovery of Belarusian identities after the socio-political crisis of 2020

The identity structure in post-Soviet Belarus is a unique combination of (post)Soviet cultural opportunism and cultural pluralism coexisting with repressive autocracy. For a long time, it was thought that nation-building processes in Belarus were severely slowed down because of the large influence of Russia and the general weakness of national identity. But the situation changed in 2020. Belarusian society in 2020 unexpectedly surprised internal and external observers. There was already not just a (quasi)political movement "against Lukashenko" but a socio-political, cultural, digital, and informational resistance against autocracy in its post-Soviet face. Different political and intellectual forces and different social classes were involved in the protest movement, which in turn contradicted the established stereotype of an unformed national identity of Belarusian society and a lack of feeling as a community. The cultural manifesto of protest relied largely on national semantics. On the one hand, the protest movement in Belarus in 2020 fully embraced and assimilated post-Soviet nationalism with characteristic features of postcolonial nationalism. On the other hand, society during and after the protest demonstrated cultural and political inclusiveness. It is worth noting that there is still no clear practical research yet. But since available materials and the analysis of the occurred processes inside Belarus, it is already possible to formulate some theoretical and methodological theses concerning identity changes and social changes in the Belarusian society.