



Introduction

Greetings and welcome to the seventh quarterly newsletter of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences / Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe (KFG) "Universalism and Particularism in European Contemporary History" at the School of History at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. As we embark on the start of the winter term, this newsletter provides a recap of recent highlights and offers a preview of the months ahead.

In the opening segment of this newsletter, we're pleased to introduce the fellows who will be joining the KFG for the upcoming winter term. As organizers of and contributors to this semester's workshops and colloquia, they will play a central role in advancing the KFG's research.

The second section spotlights recent contributions to the KFG's research from the past term and links to past colloquia and conference presentations, hosted by the KFG partner, the L.I.S.A. Science Portal.

In the third segment, we'll provide a teaser of events for the upcoming winter term. Keep an eye on our event calendar, as additional workshops, conferences, and more will be added throughout the term. To ensure you stay informed, consider subscribing to this newsletter if you haven't already: kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

The current fellows of the KFG

At the center of the KFG's work are its fellows, who work on their own research projects and contribute to the KFG's research on the concepts of universalism and particularism.

The KFG Senior Fellows of the Winter term are:

- [Dr. Michal Kopeček](#)
National Self-Determination and the Struggle for Human Rights in Central European Dissent in the 1970s and 1980s: Nationalist Opposition between Universalism and Particularism

The KFG Junior Fellows of the Winter term are:

- [Dr. Una Blagojević](#)
Constructing Universalisms and Particularisms: Discourses of Human Rights in Socialist Yugoslavia (1960s–1980s)
- [Dr. Anton Liavitski](#)
Globalists: The End of the Cold War and the Birth of the Post-Socialist Middle Class
- [Dr. Guzel Yusupova](#)
“Decolonization of Russia’ as a universalist project or particularist claims?”

Access the KFG's work online

As part of the aforementioned cooperation with the Gerda Henkel Stiftung's L.I.S.A. Science Portal we continuously upload contributions from the KFG's conferences and semesterly colloquia. Lectures of previous terms include:

- Paul Bett's lecture on "[Walls, Doors and Bridges: A Changing Legacy of 1989 for Our Time](#)"
- Theodore Gerber's keynote lecture the KFG workshop "Anti-Westernism of Knowledge Production in Russian Social Science during Russia's War against Ukraine", 14 November 2024 titled "[Three Wars and the Practice of Social Science: Ethical, Scientific, and Practical Aspects of Collaboration and Cancellation in a Troubled World](#)"
- Julia Korniiuchuk's lecture on "[Freedom of Religion and its Limits in EU Relations with Orthodox Churches](#)"

Events

a. Research Insights: Fellows' Colloquium and Lecture Series

As in the previous semester the KFG is planning a (almost) weekly colloquium and a **lecture series**. You can find all the events in both series in the [events section of our website](#).

To receive the reading material for each session or to get regular updates about the colloquium and other KFG events, please contact us or subscribe to the newsletter by emailing: kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

b. Lecture Series with Una Blagojević and Hans Joas

This winter semester, the KFG is continuing its **lecture series** with two book presentations. The first lecture of the term, organized in collaboration with the [Osteuropastudien programme at LMU Munich](#), will feature **Balázs Trencsényi**, **Lucija Balikić** and **Una Blagojević**, who will talk about their edited volume "**East Central European Crisis Discourses in the Twentieth Century: A Never-Ending Story**" (Routledge, 2024).

The next edition of the lecture series, organized in collaboration with the [Chair of Modern History](#) and the [Chair of East and Southeast European History](#) at LMU München, will feature previous KFG Senior Fellow **Hans Joas** from Humboldt University of Berlin and **Friedrich Wilhelm Graf** from LMU München. They will talk about Hans Joas' latest publication "**Universalismus. Weltherrschaft und Menschheitsethos**" (Suhrkamp, 2025).

For full details on both events, visit the [events section of our website](#).

To register, please contact us at kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

c. Workshops

On **16 October**, KFG Senior Fellow [Paul Betts](#) will host the **Workshop “1989 and the Visual Arts,”** which he co-organizes with **Gabriele D’Ottavio**. Among the participants will be Senior Fellow Celia Donert.

The workshop will take place partly at **LMU** (Richard-Wagner-Straße 10, Room 114) and the [IBZ – Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft](#) (Amalienstraße 38).

On **28 November**, KFG Junior Fellow [Krzysztof Świrek](#) will return to Munich to host the **Junior Fellow Workshop “Social Classes in Central-Eastern Europe: Between Universalism and Particularism.”** In addition to Krzysztof Świrek, Volodymyr Ishchenko, Eszter Kováts and Magda Szcześniak will also be participating.

The workshop is organized in cooperation with the [Collegium Carolinum](#), where the event will take place (Hochstraße 8, 2nd floor, 81669 München).

The ninth edition of the **Interdisciplinary Workshop on Theories and Methods** will be organized by the KFG Junior Fellow [Una Blagojević](#). She will discuss the subject of Social Mobility with Agata Zysiak.

The workshop will take place on **12 February** at the **School of History (Schellingstraße 12) in Room K201 at 5pm.**

For full details on all workshops, visit the [events section of our website](#).

To register, please contact us at kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

d. Conferences

Upcoming: Industrial Policies since the 1970s in European and Global Comparison

The KFG is pleased to announce the upcoming **conference “Industrial Policies since the 1970s in European and Global Comparison,”** organized by KFG Senior Fellow [Philipp Ther](#) in Cooperation with the [Research Center for the History of Transformations](#) (RECET). Participants of the conference will include previous KFG Junior Fellow [Grace Ballor](#), Laurent Warloutzet (Paris) as well as many more.

The conference will take place on **December 1–2** at **Seidlvilla** (Nikolaiplatz 1 b, 80802 Munich). Participation is possible in person or online.

You can find the [full program](#) on the KFG website.

To register, please contact us at kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

This concludes our updates for the year. We look forward to reconnecting with you in the next edition of our newsletter. Don’t forget to subscribe to one or both newsletters the KFG is supporting:

If you want to regularly receive information on the colloquium and other KFG events, please register for the newsletter by writing to kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

We also want to draw your attention to the mailing list “Osteuropaforschung München”, which we operate jointly with the Collegium Carolinum and the Graduate School. This mailing list will keep you informed about selected events on Eastern Europe in Munich, including public lectures, study days, and other activities of interest. On average, you will receive two to three invitations per semester. Subscribe to this newsletter [here](#).