6th EASTERN PLATFORM - TARTU SEMINAR


October 16-17, 2020

CALL FOR PAPERS:
The two-day seminar is organized by the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies of the University of Tartu with support from the German Embassy in Estonia. The event represents the sixth edition in a series of annual seminars launched in 2015. It gives an opportunity for researchers and practitioners from different disciplinary areas (comparative politics, economics, sociology, geography, semiotics, and media studies) to debate and discuss potential future practical scenarios and conceptual issues that characterize the dynamics within the wider Europe.

This year’s event will continue the previous discussions about the future of the post-cold war liberal order both in Europe and in the wider context, with a more specific attention to be given to the current German Presidency of the Council of the EU and its identified priorities. The COVID-10 pandemic, being another element in the chain of global crises, adds more uncertainty to the security architecture in Europe, but also challenging agreed definitions of solidarity, integration, borders and leadership. The event seeks to shed particular light on the transformations within the European liberalism and its conflictual encounters with illiberal politics, both among EU member states and among EU neighbors. The organizers are planning to look at how these developments affect core European powers and resonate in Central, Eastern and Baltic Europe torn by the dichotomy between transnational solidarity and national sovereignty.

The organizers of the seminar welcome contributions touching upon the conceptual trajectories of liberalism, post-liberalism and illiberalism in the context of the global pandemic; different strategies of public legitimation of governmental policies during the “state of exception”; comparative analysis of national strategies of crisis management; the new measures of digital surveillance and control; the theoretical debate on and practical implementation of the concept of resilience, as well as other pertinent subjects. Contributions are expected to address the multidimensionality of the current developments and the future patterns and relevant cleavages. The seminar aims to map the future challenges to the liberal international order and to understand and conceptually frame these challenges and their expansive potential within the broadly understood Europe and at a global scale.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT:
The Tartu Seminar will consist of a limited number of open panels (open to early stage PhD students), addressing different conceptual and functional dimensions of the theme. The panels will not overlap in order to maximize the attendance and active participation of the contributors to all the sections.

VENUE:
The seminar will take place at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu (Lossi 36) [http://goo.gl/maps/h5DAT].

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:
Participants are responsible for arranging their travel and accommodation. Successful applicants from University of Tartu’s partner universities are eligible to apply for reimbursement of the following costs: accommodation in Tartu (up to 50 EUR per day); transportation within Estonia (bus/train tickets Tallinn-Tartu-Tallinn).
IMPORTANT DATES:
Paper proposals – which must include a short abstract, applicants’ affiliation, position, and CV – can be submitted by September 1, 2020 by e-mail to:
Prof. Andrey Makarychev: andrey.makarychev@ut.ee
Dr. Stefano Braghiroli: stefano.braghiroli@ut.ee

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE INSTITUTE:
The Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at the University of Tartu combines top-level scholarly research with a dynamic, international learning environment at all three levels of higher education. The Institute is located in the heart of Estonia's second largest city marked by consolidated university traditions and academically oriented environment.
The Institute aims to excel in internationally recognized scholarship by carrying out cutting-edge research in a number of individual and larger research projects funded by both Estonian national research grants as well as external funds. They cover a wide range of topics from political philosophy to constructivist approaches in international politics and conflict studies to issues of comparative politics such as representation and electoral studies on the national and supra-national (EU) levels. The Institute hosts the Centre for EU–Russia Studies, a multidisciplinary centre for research and teaching at the University of Tartu, which serves as a contact point for scholars, students and experts who share an interest in the evolving relationship between the European Union and the Russian Federation. The Institute is committed to free and open exchange of ideas.

Website: https://skytte.ut.ee/en/research/research-seminars