BAYERISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

KOLLEG-FORSCHUNGSGRUPPE
UNIVERSALISM AND PARTICULARISM IN EUROPEAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Universität zu Köln

CONFERENCE

Neoimperialism and Human Rights

3–4 November 2026 · Munich

Library Hall · Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities · Alfons-Goppel-Straße 11 · 80539 Munich

TUESDAY · 3 NOVEMBER

13:00–13:30	**Martin Schulze Wessel Heike Paul Angelika Nußberger**	Opening of the Conference, Introduction into the Topic
Topic 1 · The Use of Gender Regimes to Legitimize Imperial Claims Moderation: Martin Schulze Wessel		
13:30–14:00	**Heike Paul & Axelle Germanaz**	'Manifest Domesticity' Reloaded: The Neo-Imperial Politics of the Tradwife-Movement
14:00–14:30	**Katharina Bluhm**	Illiberal Conservatism and Gender: The Russian Case
14:30–15:00	**Ivo Gruev**	Axes of (Il)Liberalism: Exploring the Neoimperial Politics of Gender Backlash
15:00–15:30	**Discussion**	
15:30–16:00	**Coffee Break**	
KEYNOTE		
16:00–16:45	**Egils Levits**	Ideological Structure and Global Challenge of Neo-Imperialism
Topic 2 · Friend-Enemy Thinking and the Denial of Human Rights in War Moderation: Carlo Masala		
17:00–17:30	**Oleksandra Matviichuk · online**	Omnipresent human rights violations in Ukraine - justice now, justice later?
17:30–18:00	**Ganna Yudkivska**	Founding Fictions and Imperial Lies: Human Rights Language in War and the Test of Who is Bound by It
18:00–18:30	**Birgit Virnich**	Ukraine: When Culture Becomes Resistance - Memory, Identity and Self-Determination in a Neo-Imperial War
18:30–19:00	**Angelika Nußberger**	From Chechnya to Ukraine - the Legal Assessment of Wars by the Russian Constitutional Court
19:00–19:30	**Discussion**	
20:00	**Dinner in Pfälzer Weinstube, Residenzstr. 1, 80333 München**	

WEDNESDAY · 4 NOVEMBER

Topic 3 · Religion / Civil Religion as a Resource of Neo-Imperialism **Moderation: Angelika Nußberger**		
09:00–09:30	**Martin Schulze Wessel**	Patriarch Kirill I's Neo-Imperial Theology: "War: Beyond Visible Causes and Effects"
09:30–10:00	**Regina Elsner**	Christian Values as a Tool of Neo-Imperialism? The Russian Orthodox Church and the global Christian Right
10:00–10:30	**Pål Kolstø**	The Moscow Patriarchate as Russian Soft Power in Africa
10:30–11:00	**Discussion**	
11:00–11:30	**Coffee Break**	

Topic 4 · From the Rhetoric of Human Rights to the Rhetoric of Might **Moderation: Heike Paul**		
11:30–12:00	**Christoph Safferling**	Justice on Trial: From the Rhetoric of Rights to the Rhetoric of Power
12:00–12:30	**Michael Riepl**	The Rhetoric of National Self-Determination as an Instrument of Imperialism and Power Politics
12:30–13:00	**Discussion**	
13:00–13:30	**Martin Schulze Wessel** **Heike Paul** **Angelika Nußberger**	Final Discussion
from 13:30	**Light Lunch**	