Hybrid Identities in Imperial Spaces of Northern Eurasia

University of Szczecin, 28–30 October 2026

Conference Program (as of 25 October 2026)*

Wednesday, 28 October 2026 [ul. 3 Maja 22, Grand Focus Hotel Szczecin - Meeting Room 2, Szczecin]

5:30 pm Introduction

5:45 pm – 7:00 pm **Moderated Discussion: Empire and Identity**

Panelists: Marina Mogilner (University of Illinois at Chicago) and Willard Sunderland (University of Cincinnati)
Moderator: Sören Urbansky (Ruhr University Bochum)

Thursday, 29 October 2026 [ul. A. Mickiewicza 16A, 3rd floor, Room 317 Audytorium im. Prof. Edwarda Włodarczyka, Szczecin]

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Panel 1: Russian Empire: Identity, Religion, and Minorities**

Chair: Sören Urbansky (Ruhr University Bochum)

Nataliya Sureva (Ruhr University Bochum), *Visible and Invisible on the Former Zaporozhian Frontier: Population, Status, and Belonging in the 1770s and 1780s*

Łukasz Kożuchowski (University of Warsaw), *Dangerous Dissenters or Harmless Simpletons? How Post-Uniate Peasants in Russian Poland Negotiated Religious Symbols with Imperial Officials*

Irina Kantarbaeva-Bill (University of Toulouse), *Imperial Spouses in Russian America*

Identity, Religion, and Minorities – Expert View: Charlotte Henze (University of Basel)

10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Panel 2: Russian Empire: Mediators & Hybridity**

Chair: Uladzimir Valodzin (Ruhr University Bochum)

Victoria Gerasimova (Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences / University of Warsaw), *Imperial Hybrids on the Confessional Market: Jewish Converts and the Negotiation of Identity in the Russian Empire*

Gulmira Sultangalieva (al-Farabi Kazakh National University), *Between the Steppe and the Khanates: Tatar Interpreters and Hybrid Identity in Russia's Eastward Expansion (Late 18th – First Half of the 19th Century)*

Hekang Yang (Columbia University), *Feeding the Empire: Chinese Traders, Frontier Provisioning, and Colonial Wellbeing in the Russian Far East, 1860s–1910s*

Mediators & Hybridity – Expert View: Gözde Yazici-Cörüt (University of Regensburg)

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunchtime

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Panel 3: Russian Empire & Soviet Union: Governance and Relations with the State**

Chair: Stanisław Boridczenko (University of Szczecin / Ruhr University Bochum)

Evgeniia Prusskaia (Marburg University), *Empire and Islam: Governing Muslims in the Nineteenth-Century Southern Caucasus*

Philipp Schröder (Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf), *Negotiating the "Southern City"? Hybrid Professionals and the Limits of Soviet Planning in Tashkent*

Charles Shaw (Central European University), *Rahmon Safar's 1001 Feats: Great Patriotic War Commemoration as late Soviet Spiritual Practice in Tajikistan*

Governance and Relations with the State – Expert View: Anna Ivanova (Humboldt University Berlin)

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Coffee Break

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Panel 4: Russian Empire & Soviet Union: Microstories of Individual Biographies**

Chair: Franziska Exeler (Free University Berlin)

Jonas Löffler (Max Weber Network Eastern Europe), *Between Empire, Nation, and the Cosmopolitan: Vasilij D. Korganov as a Hybrid Cultural Actor*

Markus Nesselrodt (European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)), *Navigating the Unknown: The Prussian Banker Samuel Fränkel in Early 19th Century Warsaw*

Gregory Martin (Tsinghua University Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences), *Peasant Politics and the Art of Governing: The Case of Maksim Lavrentevich Danilov*

Microstories of Individual Biographies – Expert View: Paul Werth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Friday, October 30, 2026 [ul. A. Mickiewicza 16A, 3rd floor, Room 317 Audytorium im. Prof. Edwarda Włodarczyka, Szczecin]

9:00 am – 10:30 am **Panel 5: Russian Empire, Soviet Union and Beyond: Imagination and Culture**

Chair: Pierre-Frédéric Weber (University of Szczecin)

Maria Momzikova (University of Tartu), *Two Sides of Coevalness: Temporal Relations between Nganasan and "Russian" Mythological Beings, Storytellers, and Ethnographers*

Nazrin Gadimova-Akbulut (Christian Albrechts University of Kiel), *Rethinking Soviet Nationality Policy: The Case of Azerbaijani Language Legislation in the 1950s*

Stephan Rindlisbacher (University of Basel), *The Many Meanings of Lenin in Osh: Limits of Western Approaches in Kyrgyzstan*

Imagination and Culture – Expert View: Bartłomiej Krzysztan (Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences)

10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Panel 6: Soviet Union: Hybridity, Nationality, and Self-Identification**

Chair: Charlotte Henze (University of Basel)

Zukhra Kasimova (Bucknell University), *Soviet Hybridity as a Project: Toward a New Paradigm of Soviet Modernity*

Takehiro Okabe (University of Helsinki), *The Karelo-Finnish SSR as a Soviet-Finnish Project: Finnic Nationalities in the Matrix of Soviet Imperial Rule and Finnish National Ambition*

Aleksandr Korobeinikov (Free University Berlin), *Between Indigenous Agency and Imperial Power: Hybrid Political Languages in Early Soviet Yakutia*

Hybridity, Nationality, and Self-Identification – Expert View: Zbigniew Wojnowski (University of Oxford)

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunchtime

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Roundtable: Hybrid Identities in Imperial Spaces of Northern Eurasia**

Panelists: Alima Bissenova (Nazarbayev University), Polly Jones (University of Oxford) and Paul Werth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Moderators: Stanisław Boridczenko (University of Szczecin / Ruhr University Bochum) and Franziska Exeler (Free University Berlin)

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Concluding Remarks

** The conference programme is subject to change. Speakers, sessions, timings, and other programme details may be modified due to unforeseen circumstances or changes in speakers' availability.*

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