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JUSTUS-LIEBIG-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
GIESSEN



WORKSHOP OF THE DAAD VISITING  
LECTURESHIP "BELARUS"

THE GRAMMAR OF  
DICTATORSHIPS:  
PAST (IS) CONTINUOUS,  
FUTURE – INDEFINITE?

WORKSHOP OF THE DAAD VISITING LECTURESHIP "BELARUS"

# THE GRAMMAR OF DICTATORSHIPS: PAST (IS) CONTINUOUS, FUTURE – INDEFINITE?

Before 2020 Belarus has been known as true dictatorship in the heart of Europe (Condoleezza Rice, 2005) or the last dictatorship in Europe (Andrew Wilson, 2011). Intensive expert debates following the breakdown of the invasion to Ukraine showed the limitations in defining the nature of dictatorships today. Some scholars even announced the semantic default stressing the inability to use the research optics of the 20th century toward the contemporary reality. Russian journalist and author Peter Pomerantsev wrote about Russia as Postmodern Dictatorship.

Dictatorships in Belarus do not rely on solid ideology and mass-scale political mobilization, but they are enough effective to preserve personal power. Based on populist demagogy and sophisticated propaganda they are permanently increasing the level of violence toward political opponents. Inevitably such escalation leads to large-scale terror toward its own people, war with the neighbors, or both. These logics of dictatorships' ontology produced "2020" in Belarus and the Russian invasion to Ukraine in 2022.

To capture the elusive essence of these dictatorships the workshop will offer a transdisciplinary approach going beyond the borders of pure academic analysis. A combination of efforts by historians, political scientists, political journalists, and writers gathered in one place will provide deep insight into the research topic and examine the past, present, and future of postmodern dictatorships.

**PROGRAM JUNE 1-2, 2023**  
**JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY GIESSEN**  
**PHIL I, E 209**

**June 1st**

**15.00-15.30**

*Introduction: Thomas Bohn (Giessen)*

**15.30-17.30**

*Panel 1. Inside the hybrid reality  
of postmodern dictatorships*

*Chair: Roza Turarbekava (Vilnius)*

*Discussants: Pavel Slunkin (Warsaw),  
Victar Shadurski (Wrocław), Julia Cimafiejeva (Zug)*

**19.30-21.00**

*Public Reading of Julia Cimafiejeva and Alhierd  
Bacharevič*

*Venue: Hermann-Levi-Saal,  
Berliner Platz 1, 35390 Giessen*

**June 2nd**

**10.00-12.00**

*Panel 2. The strategies of counter-cultures:  
A territory of (un)freedom*

*Chair: Iryna Ramanava (Giessen)*

*Discussants: Simon Lewis (Bremen), Tania Arcimovich  
(Giessen), Alhierd Bacharevič (Zug), Aliaksej  
Bratachkin (Hagen)*

**14.30-16.30**

*Panel 3. Culture and Language*

*Chair: Maria Prenner (Giessen)*

*Discussants: Aliaksei Paluyan (Kassel), Natallia  
Pazniak (Giessen), Dr. Andrei Zinkevich (Wien)*

**17.00-17.30**

*Conclusion: Pavel Tereshkovich (Vilnius)*

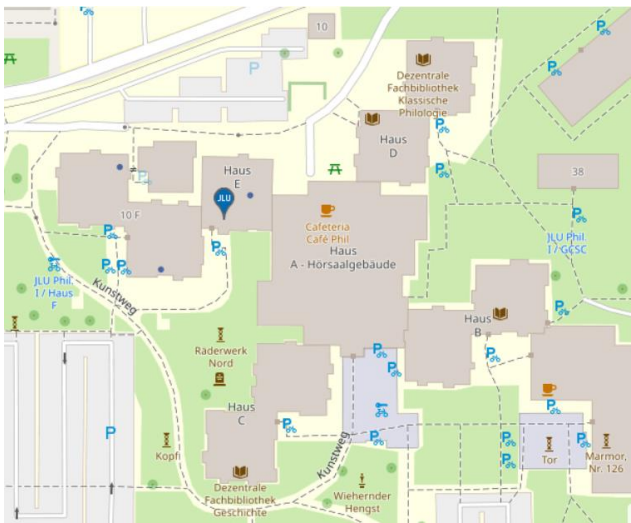
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Working languages: English, Russian

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