

EASTERN PLATFORM SEMINAR

“Post-soviet space between the EU and Russia. The state of the crisis: winding down or going global?”
March 18-19, 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The two-day seminar is organized by the [Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies](#) of the University of Tartu and the [Centre for EU-Russia Studies \(CEURUS\)](#) in cooperation with [Eastern Platform-Platform Ukraine](#), a multidisciplinary project based at the [School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies \(SSEES\)](#), University College London. The event is generously supported by the [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung](#).

Eastern Platform-Platform Ukraine is a multi-disciplinary initiative aimed to analyse and better understand the Ukrainian crisis of 2014 by creating a unified resource and network of academics studying the post-socialist space which has the ambition to develop and grow as a forum and incubator to promote high quality research and knowledge sharing on the broader post-Soviet space.

Academic conveners of the event are Dr. Stefano Braghiroli (University of Tartu), Prof. Andrey Makarychev (University of Tartu), and Anna-Cara Keim (University College London). For further details about the event visit <http://skytte.ut.ee/en/eastern-platform-seminar>.

The Tartu Seminar “Post-soviet space between the EU and Russia. The state of the crisis: winding down or going global?” represents the second edition of a previous event organized in April 2015 by the European College of the University of Tartu, in cooperation with the University College London within the framework of *Platform Ukraine*.

The seminar constitutes an opportunity to discuss the consequences of the Ukrainian crisis and its expansive destabilization potential in the region and globally. The event seeks to shed light on the evolution of the crisis and its impact on the nature of the EU-Russia relations at a time when few dare to predict how events will unfold in the future. Conflict in Ukraine has potential to crystallize into a new frozen conflict, thereby posing an additional challenge not only to the post-Cold War security architecture in Europe, but also to agreed definitions of “borders” and “neighbourhoods”. At the same time, acute global challenges may pave the way to functional rapprochement between Moscow and the West which could reduce the conflict in Ukraine to a factor of secondary relevance.

The organizers of the seminar welcome contributions addressing developments in and around Ukraine, in post-Soviet space more broadly, and in EU-Russia relations from different methodological and disciplinary angles, including politics, history, economics, anthropology, sociology, geography, semiotics, and media studies. The goal is to gain a better understanding of the multiple challenges threatening peace, security, democracy and prosperity in the region, and to identify and assess possible scenarios for the future. While the focus will be mostly on the Ukrainian crisis and its repercussions at the continental level, contributions involving relevant comparisons with other events and/or geographical areas will also be welcome. Contributions are expected to capture the multidimensionality of the current developments and the related patterns and relevant cleavages in the European and Eurasian political and cultural space.

The overarching objective of the seminar is therefore not only to map the challenges to the instable development of the EU-Russia relations, but also to understand and conceptually frame these challenges and their expansive potential within the former Soviet space and at the global level. Contributions are welcome from a wide multi-disciplinary perspective addressing (but not limited to) the following issues:

1. *Re-framing the post-Soviet space's relationship with Moscow and the West*
2. *Global consequences of a regional crisis;*
3. *Beyond geopolitics: What future for the EU-Russia relationship?;*
4. *The crisis from different regional and national perspectives.*

IMPORTANT DATES:

Paper proposals (max. 150 words) should be submitted by February 12, 2016 via the submission system available at <http://skytte.ut.ee/en/eastern-platform-seminar> or by e-mail directly to Dr. Stefano Braghiroli (stefano.braghiroli@ut.ee). Applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process by February 15. Should you need more information please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Stefano Braghiroli (stefano.braghiroli@ut.ee).

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT:

The Tartu Seminar will consist of distinct panels (depending on the number of quality paper proposals received), addressing different conceptual and functional dimensions of the crisis and its implications around the suggested issue clusters. The panels will not overlap in order to maximize attendance and active participation.

VENUE:

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

The University of Tartu, founded in 1632, is Estonia's leading centre of research and training. It is located in Estonia's second largest city which is located 186 km southeast of Tallinn and is home to about 100 000 people. Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies offers academic programmes at all levels of higher education, and aims to excel in internationally recognized scholarship as well as applied research. The institute hosts a number of research centres, including 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.

For more information about the University and the Institute, see www.ut.ee/en and www.skytte.ut.ee/en

COSTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. There is no registration fee.

Successful applicants from the 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).

Website of the event: <http://skytte.ut.ee/en/eastern-platform-seminar>