



TARTU ÜLIKOOL  
Johan Skytte poliitika-  
uuringute instituut

# Understanding Russia: Insights into Contemporary Russian Culture and Politics

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# Understanding Russia: Insights into Contemporary Russian Culture and Politics

25 October – 29 October 2021

University of Tartu Office in Tallinn, Teatri Väljak 3

The Russian Federation may often be perceived as the reincarnation of the Soviet Union, a country of authoritarian political culture single-handedly ruled by Vladimir Putin that continues to pursue an expansionist foreign policy agenda and engage in a new Cold War against the West. Whilst there is undoubtedly a grain of truth in some of these stereotypes, they hardly advance our understanding of the social, cultural and political developments that underlie current crises, drive Russia's domestic and foreign policy, and influence the daily lives and attitudes of millions of Russians.

This training programme invites you to go beyond clichés by looking at some of the key aspects of Russia's political, social and cultural developments, both in their own right and as foreign policy drivers. As the programme will be held in Russian it will also help attendees to freshen up their Russian skills.

**Target group:** EU diplomats, Estonian diplomats and civil servants, representatives from public sector.

**Workload:** 30 classroom hours (lectures and seminars), 6 hours of independent study

**Working language:** Russian

**Price per person:** 499 € + VAT (598.80 €)

**Registration:**

[https://www.is.ut.ee/pls/ois/!tere.tulemast?leht=OK.AY.VP&id\\_ay\\_programm=49743&id\\_ay\\_toimumine=65015&systeemi\\_seaded=10,2,12,1](https://www.is.ut.ee/pls/ois/!tere.tulemast?leht=OK.AY.VP&id_ay_programm=49743&id_ay_toimumine=65015&systeemi_seaded=10,2,12,1)

Participants are obliged to present upon arrival a COVID certificate of either vaccination, recovery or a negative test result

## SCHEDULE

**25.10: History of Russia's imperial and national identity**

**26.10: Recent Developments in Russia's Political System and Governance**

**27.10: Russia's social hierarchies and changing cultural landscapes**

**28.10: Russia's relations with the West, post-Soviet world, and Estonia**

**29.10: COVID-19 in Russia: Crisis Management and Vaccine Diplomacy**

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**Contact person**

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# Lecturers



**Elena Pavlova** is a Visiting Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Tartu Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies. Her research areas include Russia's politics of memory and history, corruption, and social hierarchies.



**Viacheslav Morozov** is a Professor of EU-Russia Studies at the University of Tartu Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, and Chair of CEURUS. His research interests include poststructuralism, postcolonial theory and critique, theory of democracy, ideology and discourses in Russia (including comparative aspects), and EU–Russia relations. He is a member of Academia Europaea, chair of the Program Committee of the Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, and country editor for USSR/Russia in the Making Identity Count project.



**Andrey Makarychev** is a Professor of Regional Political Studies at the University of Tartu Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies and fellow of CEURUS. His research includes Russian foreign policy discourses, international security, and regionalism in the EU – Russia common neighbourhood. Professor Makarychev is also a blog moderator for PONARS-Eurasia website, columnist and political analyst of several journals.