

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Lunch break

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

PANEL III: THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES – THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

External Actors in the Ukrainian Crisis and the Defeats of the Ukrainian Army in 2014

August Pradetto (Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg)

The Role of the OSCE in Ukraine – Ongoing Challenges

Rasa Ostrauskaite (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)

At the Frontline of Information. Fact-finding, Propaganda and Media Coverage of the Conflict in Eastern Ukraine

Jutta Sommerbauer (Die Presse)

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Coffee break

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Informal discussion session for conference presenters

Dachgeschoss der Rechtswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Wien,
Schottenbastei 10–16, 1010 Wien



Forschungsplattform
Wiener Osteuropaforum

Forschungsstelle für
Eurasische Studien (EURAS)

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CRISES IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE: THE CASE OF THE UKRAINE

International Conference
April 24th–25th, 2015



Photo: signpost at a main road in Donbass, August 2014 © Wikimedia Commons/Butko

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Explanations for the current crisis in Ukraine have mostly disregarded contemporary history. Similar to other former members of the Soviet Union, the country has been faced with profound challenges since 1991; the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's independence formed the initial framework for an extensive political and economic transition, accompanied by a contested nation-building process, the establishment of democratic institutions and the implementation of a capitalist system.

The conference seeks to examine the ongoing crisis in the context of these developments. It intends to provide a more substantial understanding of recent events and to consider the severe repercussions on a European and global scale. Over the course of the protests in the heart of Kiev between November 2013 and February 2014, the crisis not only gained in significance on the national level, leading to the overthrow of the government and domestic political unrest, but eventually evolved into a geopolitical conflict that has reintroduced, on an international level, patterns of thinking long believed to have been overcome.

The conference will open with a keynote speech mapping the terrain of the three sessions on Saturday. The first panel will take a historical perspective, scrutinizing the effects of the dissolution of the Soviet Union as well as of Ukraine's independence. A subsequent second panel focuses on the country's economic transition since 1991 – examining its path from a planned economy towards capitalism – and will look at respective socio-economic changes. In a final panel, participants will turn to the present and the international dimension. In order to grasp the complexity, the current events in Ukraine will be discussed from a variety of perspectives by observers from both within and beyond the academic community.

The conference brings together an international and interdisciplinary group of researchers from political science, history, and economy, as well as practitioners from international organizations and the media. It is organised by the Department for Political Science at the University of Vienna in cooperation with the Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Eurasian Studies (EURAS) at the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24th, 2015

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Keynote Speech: The Current Crisis in Ukraine as a Result of the Post-Soviet Transformation Processes

Dieter Segert (University of Vienna)

8:00 pm

Dinner

Saturday, April 25th, 2015

9:00 am – 10:30 am

PANEL I: THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION – THE HISTORICAL DIMENSION

Empireship after the Empire: The Collapse of the USSR and Russian-Ukrainian National Issues

Victor Apyrshchenko (Southern Federal University, Rostov-on-Don)

The Crimea as a Russian lieu de mémoire

Kerstin Jobst (University of Vienna)

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Coffee break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

PANEL II: 25 YEARS OF POST-SOVIET TRANSITION – THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Development Models and Crises in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

Joachim Becker (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

Social Forces in the Making of Contemporary Ukraine: Capitalist Rivalries and the Dispossessed

Yulia Yurchenko (University of Greenwich)