

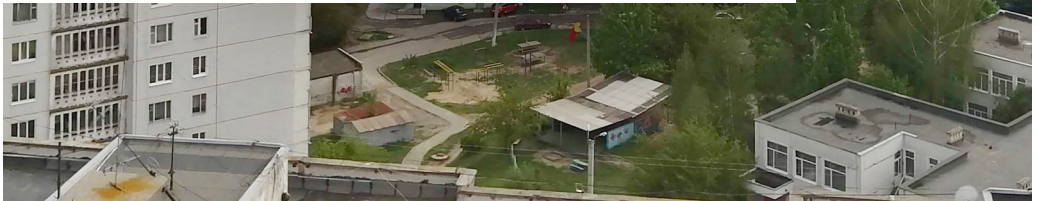


Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

Institute of Slavic and Eastern  
European Studies (ISOS)

# Eastern Europe's Invisibilities: Politics, Epistemics, Arts

Conference Program



# Eastern Europe's Invisibilities: Epistemics, Politics, Arts

## Conference Program

Invisibility is a political condition of public non-presence. It can be both a product of power and a situation of powerlessness. What is visible to one may be invisible to another—and vice versa. Overlooking, just as much as seeing, is a capacity of power and an ethical practice. Noticing abuse and other forms of violence is both a cultural and individual act, shaped by social and political forces. Historically, the humanities have striven to bring to light the techniques of power, thus enabling ethical reconsideration and societal self-reflection.

<b>May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b>	<b>Aula, KOL-G-201</b> University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich
<b>15:00</b>	Welcome Address: Prof. Dr. Katharina Michaelowa (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities)
<b>15:15</b>	Introductory Remarks: Botakoz Kassymbekova, Jeronim Perović, Sylvia Sasse
<b>15:30-17:30</b>	<b>Panel I: Colonial Invisibilities in Eastern Europe</b>  With Manuela Boatcă (Freiburg), Mart Kuldkepp (London), Jasmin Mujanović (Los Angeles), and Botakoz Kassymbekova (Zurich, chair).
<b>from 18:15</b>	<b>Keynote &amp; Evening Reception</b>
18:15	Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Michael Schaeppman (President of the University of Zurich)
18:30	Keynote: Svetlana Alexievich
<b>19:30</b>	Apéro: Lichthof

<b>May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026</b>	<b>KO2-F-152</b> University of Zurich, Karl-Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zurich
<b>10:00-11:30</b>	<b>Panel II: Invisible Languages and Speakers</b>  With Katrin Karl (Bern), Katharina Tyran (Helsinki), Cristiana Lucchetti & Aleksej Tikhonov (Zurich, chairs).
<b>12:00-13:15</b>	<b>Panel III: Invisible Academia: Of Pseudo-Science, Extinguished Research and Invisible Universities</b>  With Andrea Pető (Vienna), Balázs Trencsényi (Vienna), Moderation: Katharina Gerund (Zurich) & Julia Richers (Bern).
<b>15:00-17:00</b>	<b>PANEL IV: Civil Society, Social Movements, and (Invisible) Resistance</b>  With Mariam Bibliashvili (Brno), Jan Matti Dollbaum (Fribourg), Valentina Petrović (Vienna), and Jeronim Perović (Zurich, chair).
<b>Evening Program</b>	<b>Kirche St. Peter</b> St. Peterhofstatt 1, 8001 Zürich
18:30	Tschornobyl – Archiv der unsichtbaren Katastrophe. Svetlana Alexijewitsch im Gespräch mit Sylvia Sasse & Philine Bickhardt (Zürich).
<b>May 8<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>	<b>KO2-F-152</b> University of Zurich, Karl-Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zurich

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**10:00-13:15**     **PANEL V:**  
**Negotiating (In)Visibility**

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With Éva Forgács (Pasadena), Emese Kürti (Budapest),  
Ewa Majewska (Warsaw/Berlin), Dorota Sajewska (Bochum),  
Tomáš Glanc & Matthias Meindl (Zurich, chairs).

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**14:45-17:00**     **PANEL VI:**  
**Secret Services and the Production of Invisibility**

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With Andriy Kohut (Kiyv), Evgenija Lezina (Potsdam),  
Ilija Trojanow (Vienna), Roman Horbyk & Sylvia Sasse  
(Zurich, chairs).

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Organizers: Prof. Dr. Tomáš Glanc, Prof. Dr. Botakoz Kassymbekova,  
Dr. Cristiana Lucchetti, Dr. Matthias Meindl, Prof. Dr. Jeronim Perović,  
Prof. Dr. Sylvia Sasse, Dr. Aleksej Tikhonov

The international conference will celebrate the opening of the Institute of Slavic and Eastern European Studies (ISOS), established to strengthen interdisciplinary research on Eastern, East-Central and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia at the University of Zurich.

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**Kontakt**  
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[www.isos.uzh.ch](http://www.isos.uzh.ch)