MEDIA, WAR AND (NATIONAL) IDENTITY
THE CHANGING MEDIA LANDSCAPES AND NOTIONS OF THE NATIONAL SELF IN RUSSIA, UKRAINE, BELARUS, CAUCASUS, AND EURASIA

APRIL 11 - 09:00-18:00
IRES LIBRARY GAMLA TORGET 3, 3RD FLOOR & ONLINE VIA ZOOM HTTPS://UU-SE.ZOOM.US/J/66630629727

The workshop investigates the intersection between war, media, and (national) identity construction in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Caucasus, and Central Asia. It further explores the structural issues impacting war mediatization (such as legal frameworks, media systems, digital media platforms and infrastructures, or algorithms). The workshop is not only limited to national identity construction and clashes of memory and nation-building projects. It further explores the impact of wartime legislation on media landscapes and actors’ precarious positions. It assumes that identities are socially constructed on a variety of levels such as macro (state institutions and international organisations), mid-level (media outlets, nationalist movements; communities, think tanks, digital cultures), and micro actors (individuals, intellectuals, etc.). Digital technology and media communication are crucial when forming imaginaries, amplifying narratives, representing the nation or other identities (individual, professional, organisational), and shaping general informational environments.

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The workshop is open to members of the public and students. Attendees can choose to attend the whole day programme and listen to all panels OR select a country-specific panels in the following way:

• 9:15–12:00 Panels about Ukraine and Belarus
• 12:45–16:00 Panels about the Russian Federation
• 16:00–17:15 A panel with cases from Caucasus, Central Asia, and Europe

The zoom link will be active only within these timeframes.

Organised by: Alexandra Brankova
Any questions? Email: alexandra.brankova@im.uu.se
Media, War and (National) Identity: The Changing Media Landscapes and Notions of the National Self in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Caucasus, and Eurasia

Date: 11 April

Location: IRES Library & Zoom (Hybrid)

https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/66630629727

Time: 9:00 – 18:00

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The workshop has a regional focus trying to capture how the Russo-Ukrainian war has affected media landscapes and media representations of the nation. Thus, the workshop is multi-disciplinary and panels will host both experienced scholars and early-stage researchers (PhD Candidates & Post-Docs). The workshop has a hybrid format (IRES Library and Zoom) and is open to the public and students.

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PROGRAMME:

9:00 – 9:15: Welcome and workshop introduction from the organisers

9:30 – 10:20: Panel 1: Ukrainian media and its infrastructures in times of war

- Roman Horbyk (Senior Lecturer, Örebro University and University of Basel): Communication infrastructures and algorithmic solidarity
- Kateryna Boyko (PhD Candidate, Uppsala University): "Unexpected battlefield: Identity contestations of online pirates during the Russia-Ukraine War"
- Q&A and Discussion

10:20 – 10:40: Coffee break

10:40 – 12:00: Panel 2: Representing and Negotiating Belarusian identity and the nation

- Alesia Rudnik (PhD Candidate, Karlstad University): Representing the nation: narratives’ formation by the Belarusian pro-democratic movement and the Belarusian regime speakers on TikTok
- Roman Urbanowicz (PhD Candidate, Helsinki University): ‘Identity’ and its representation in survey-based research and mass-media: an exercise of anthropological critique of the Belarusian case
- Aliaksandra Shrubok (PhD Candidate, Uppsala University): Solidarity without the “nation: alternative ways of negotiating Belarusian identity
- Q&A and Discussion

12:00 – 12:45: Lunch Break

12:45 – 14:20: Panel 3: Russian propaganda: content moderation and amplification, bottom-up and top-down actors
• Serge Poliakof (Research Associate and PhD student, University of Passau, Chair of Political Communication with a Focus on Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Region): Decline of the Private Propaganda Factory: Yevgeny Prigozhin’s Patriot Media Group as an Example of the Decay of the Journalistic Profession in Russia

• Julia Kling (Research Associate and PhD student, University of Passau, Chair of Political Communication with a Focus on Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Region): How Content Moderation Practices Influenced Russia’s News Ecosystem on Facebook since Russia’s Full-scale Invasion of Ukraine

• John David Vandevert (PhD Student, Uppsala University) Socialist/Post-Socialist Realism: Russia’s Love-Hate Relationship With Rap And The Project of Cultivating A ‘Healthy’ Russian Rapper

• Teemu Oivo (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Eastern Finland and University of Helsinki) & Niko Väistö (director/ entrepreneur): Propagandistic utilization of death on Russian television (both zoom & IRES)

• Q&A and Discussion

14:20 – 14:45: Coffee Break

14:45 – 16:00: Panel 4: Russian nationalism – perspectives from traditional and new media

• Paul Goode (Associate Professor, Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (EURUS), Carleton University, Canada): Everyday nationalism and war in Russia’s media (zoom)

• Alexandra Brankova (PhD Candidate, Uppsala University): Tsargrad Television and Society: Nationalist Media ecology and the Mediatisation of War through VK

• Santeri Kytöneva (PhD Candidate, University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute): Russia’s “special military operation” and civilizational (mis)interpretations of Russia as the Katechon

• Q&A and Discussion
16:00 – 16:10: Break

16:10 – 17:30: Panel 5: Media landscapes, migration and reimagining otherness in Kazakhstan, Norway, and Georgia

- Yerkebulan Sairambay (Senior Research Fellow, Assistant Professor, SDU University) Online Media Landscape in Kazakhstan since the Russian Invasion (zoom)

- Natalia Moen-Larsen (Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs): Reimagining “the other”: changes in representations of Russians in Norwegian print media 1992–2023. (zoom)

- Lasha Kavtaradze (PhD Candidate, Graduated, University of Bergen and Kristiania University College): Russian migration “waves” through Georgian media lens amidst 2022 Russian invasion in Ukraine

- Q&A and Discussion

17:30 – End of Conference for public attendees

The workshop is funded by Uppsala Forum: https://www.uppsalaforum.uu.se/about-uppsala-forum-

Organizer and Main Applicant: Alexandra Brankova (Any questions, email: alexandra.brankova@im.uu.se)

Co-Organizers: Mark Bassin and Kateryna Boyko

Participating Departments: Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRES) and Department of Informatics and Media (IM)