

---

Call for papers for the international conference for scholars

## **Violence and Societies in East Central Europe, 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century**

We are seeking papers for an interdisciplinary conference on “Violence and Societies in East Central Europe, 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries” to be presented in Vilnius, on October 14.-16., 2010. The conference is organized by the Herder-Institut (Marburg), the Lithuanian Institute of History (Vilnius), the Nordost-Institut (Lüneburg) in association with the research network “Gewaltgemeinschaften” (Organised Bodies of Violence) at the Justus-Liebig-University (Giessen), which is financed by the German DFG foundation ([www.uni-giessen.de/cms/fbz/fb04/institute/geschichte/forschung/dfg\\_forscher](http://www.uni-giessen.de/cms/fbz/fb04/institute/geschichte/forschung/dfg_forscher)).

### *The theme of the conference:*

Different aspects of violence have long been at the centre of scholarly attention. This phenomenon was and still is widely investigated from historical, sociological, ethnological, cultural and other perspectives. These studies have revealed that across time violence has been one of the key factors in the creation, organisation, restructuring and ultimately destruction of social, political, economic, ethnic, and other groups and orders. Moreover, manifestations of violence are usually driven by a certain inner logic; they neither appear without cause or disappear without consequence, and in this way leave an imprint (traumatic or otherwise) on individuals, cultures and societies.

East Central Europe presents a plethora of such examples. During the last century countries and peoples in this region witnessed some of the most dramatic and violent political, societal, economic and cultural changes. These peoples became victims of violence as well as perpetrators (e.g. the First and Second World Wars, civil wars and wars of independence, revolutions, coups etc.). In relation to this, the forthcoming conference will deal with the genesis, stabilisation and reproduction of violence in societies, and its relation to the social, cultural and political environment in East Central Europe (the Baltic States, Belarus, Finland, Poland and Ukraine) during the first half of the twentieth century. Violence in societies is understood here in the broadest of sense of the concept, and encompasses such topics as:

- 1) *Societal violence* – social protests, political revolts, uprisings, revolutions, civil wars, pogroms, etc.
- 2) *State violence* – wars, invasions, expansions, political rivalry and mobilisation, police raids, massacres, state terror, repressions, forced expulsions, constructed inner and outer threats and enemies, and so on;
- 3) *Violence in everyday life* – violence in literature and its forms in everyday life (including such societal groups as soldiers, various military organisations, terrorists etc.), criminality, xenophobia, and other;

- 4) *Violence in visual representations* – promotion of violence in the mass media, photographs, monuments (including *lieux de mémoire*), posters, films and other visual material etc.
- 5) *Violence in culture* – violence as cultural artefact; violence in literature; violence as emotional gratification (thrill, furor, etc.); rational and calculated violence (wish for power, glory or material wellbeing);
- 6) *Gender and violence* – violence in families, situation of women, children, marginal groups, etc.

*How to apply:*

The call for papers addresses younger scholars (to the age of 35) in Central Europe, the Baltic countries, and Scandinavia who would like to discuss their project. Any proposal which is of relevance for the topic, however, is highly welcome. Travel costs (only within Europe) as well as accommodation will be paid for by the organizers. The language of the proceedings is English. A series of key note speakers from the region and other European countries will give an introductory view into the topic.

Please send short descriptions of your project (1-2 pages) together with your CV to: Dr. Vytautas Petronis, Herder-Institut Marburg, [vytautas.petronis@herder-institut.de](mailto:vytautas.petronis@herder-institut.de). The deadline is on **April 30, 2010**.

Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
**DFG**