

Call for Papers
LESSONS FROM RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

Workshop convenors

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The war in Ukraine is likely to constitute a geopolitical watershed for the European continent. The return of inter-state war in Europe, the material destruction and human suffering caused by the Russian invasion and the shift in response in EU and EU member states' policies are likely to profoundly and durably transform the European security order and environment. The outbreak of the war took many governments and analysts by surprise. The conflict is still raging and affects access to field information and data. Yet, it is of utmost important to meaningfully and methodically take stock of the war in Ukraine and its implications. This workshop invites communication investigating the lessons of this war – whether in terms of causes, unfolding or consequences – from various disciplinary, theoretical and methodological angles. These three types of lessons will constitute as many tracks for the workshop, papers and discussions. The themes/questions set out below constitute guidelines for contributions but we encourage other proposals as they relate to one of the tracks.

Analyzing the root causes of this war is a necessary first step or track. It implies unpacking the dynamics of Russia's foreign policymaking and the factors, contexts and actors that affected the decision to invade Ukraine. What were the Kremlin's interpretation, objective and calculus? How was this decision tied to the evolution of the situation in Donbas, in Ukraine, in Russia, in West-Russia relations? What were the respective weights of psychological, historical, cultural, political and geopolitical factors?

A second important set of lessons – and as such a second research track for the workshop – pertains to how this war has been planned, fought, lived, perceived and reported. The failure of Russia's initial strategy, the resistance of the Ukrainian army, the resilience of the Ukrainian people, the occurrence of war crimes, the gender dimension of the conflict, the social media strategy of the Ukrainian leadership, the reaction of public opinions call at the same time for military, political, sociological, legal and communication analysis.

Finally, the many and profound consequences of the war require sustained and rigorous academic attention and will constitute the workshop's third research track. These consequences pertain at the same time to Ukraine's society and polity, to Russia's domestic politics and foreign policy, to EU and EU member states' security priorities and dynamics, and to regional and international geopolitical balances. How is the Ukrainian society reacting to the war and what does it say of its national and political future? How has the war affected Russia's regime dynamics? How has the war impacted EU member states' positions, interactions and influence? How will the EU and NATO adapt their respective postures? How is the rest of the "post-soviet" space reacting to and impacted by the war in Ukraine? Has the war prompted a durable re-commitment of the US to European security? How have global dynamics, from North-South relations to the US-China competition, been affected?