



## PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 30.03.2022

### War, Peace and Pacifism Roundtable

6 Apr. 2022, 17:00 (CET), ZOOM

The current unprovoked **war of aggression** waged by the **Russian regime** against **Ukraine** has upended many assumptions about the conditions of peace and stability in Europe. As thousands of innocent lives are lost and millions of people are displaced and forced into exile, an embattled population in Ukraine displays remarkable resilience and puts up resistance to the assailant, with many convinced that winning the peace requires winning the war. In Russia anti-war demonstrations have been criminalised by the government and pacifist protesters are now treated as dangerous subversives. In **Germany**, Putin's invasion ignited **debates about the antimilitaristic postwar consensus** and a foreign policy striving for a trade-based rapprochement with Russia: **did the pacifist leanings of the Federal Republic not only fail to uphold the peace but inadvertently encourage Russian expansionism?**

The shock over the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war has alerted the intellectual community to how partial its understanding of the political processes in both Ukraine and Russia was. This has cast doubt on the adequacy of the categories and narratives marshalled in previous analyses of **post-Soviet political reality**. Awareness of Russian traditions of imperial thinking remains limited, while it is still common to view Ukraine as a mere object of geopolitics, caught between NATO expansion and Russia's "security concerns". How to do justice to the diversity of Ukrainian culture and society? How do we comprehend Russian imperialism and popular support for it within Russia? How does the war mobilise or imperil different social groups in either country? What are possible repercussions of the invasion for future visions of international order and security?

Rather than pretend to offer conclusive answers to these questions, the **roundtable** will tentatively approach them from different angles, bringing together **academics, activists and representatives of human rights NGOs** from different countries.

#### PRESS CONTACT

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## PANEL 1

Volodymyr Artiukh, University of Oxford

Victoria Smolkin, Wesleyan University

Olga Shparaga, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

**CHAIR:** Danilo Scholz, KWI

## PANEL 2

Nataliia Tomenko, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

Volodymyr Ishchenko, FU Berlin

Tatiana Levina, Academy in Exile@KWI Fellow

**CHAIRS:** Britta Acksel, KWI & Dezső Máté, Academy in Exile@KWI Fellow

## PARTICIPATION

Participants can register via email to Emily Beyer (emily.beyer@kwi-nrw.de) by Tuesday, 5 April 2022. Participants will then receive the Zoom link.

## ORGANISATION

The event is organised by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[Event on the KWI website](#)

**We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.**

### **About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):**

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: "cultural studies of science and science policy making", "sociology of literature and culture", "science communication", and a "teaching lab". Projects in the established research field "culture of communication", as well as individual projects, will be continued.

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**New:** The KWI newsletter provides news about the institute twice a semester. Please click [here](#) to register.

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