# Beyond Post-Truth: Media Landscapes in the "Age of Insecurity"

3.-4. June 2019, Venue: Center for Study of Civil Society and Human Rights, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Smolny College) of St.Petersburg State University, 58-60 Galernaya St., St.Petersburg, 190000, Russia

Organised by Daria Petushkova and Jan Surman in cooperation with Ilya Kalinin, Friedrich Cain, Bernhard Kleeberg and Dietlind Hüchtker.

Sponsored by:
- Poletayev Institute for Theoretical and Historical Studies in the Humanities, National Research University Higher School of Economics
- Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, GWZO, Leipzig
- Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt
- Justus-Liebig-University Gießen (chair for "Allgemeiner Gesellschaftsvergleich", LOEWE Research Centre on "Conflict Regions in Eastern Europe")

## Abstract

Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented rise of a new category of description within the world of media and information. Fake news and fake facts, post-truth and post-politics, have started to govern the medial and social life, unmistakably attracting also academic attention. At the same time they give an illusion as if true news and true facts, truth and politics, were fixed objects before the rise of populism and authoritarian regimes in East and West. This creates a narrative of a current informational insecurity, which follows an (alleged) age of informational clarity. How simplifying this narrative might be, and how diverting the gaze from other, often more crucial changes in local and global media landscapes (like changes of attention economy following the acceleration of information and the multiplication of truth makers), which are often closely interconnected with it, "fakeness" of the "post" era, or the the "post-truth-regime", becomes to be the reality we live by.

Taking "fake", "post or "truth" as categories in current social, cultural, medial, legal, political and philosophical, discourse, our conference intends to look at the construction of these entities and practices connected with their use in the current information regime.

While the focus of our conference will be Russian-language media, it is our intention to place them within the recent alterations of international media and not particularising it, preferably by comparative approaches. We inquire into changes that affected "truth figures" and "truth scenes" after 1989 and after the collapse of the bipolar world order, situating local particularity within the global trends. We are particularly interested in discussing the conceptual frameworks with which the international situation can be analysed beyond the simplifying rhetorical figures like "true", "fake", "propaganda" etc. By engaging into discussion with actors of conventional and new media we also want to have a glance behind the practices of creating information and engage with non-academic discourses.

## Programme

**Monday, 3. June**

9:00–9:30 Registration

9:30–10:00 Friedrich Cain, Daria Petushkova, Jan Surman: *Introductory remarks*

10:00–11:15 Keynote 1: Bernhard Kleeberg (Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt): *"Doing Truth"*

11:15–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00 Session 1 (Chair and Commentator: Dietlind Hüchtker, GWZO Leipzig)

Diego Han (Rovinj/Zagreb): *The Post-Truth Bias: a Historical Perspective*

Andreas Langenohl (University of Giessen): *Post-truth or post-normativity? Remarks on recent critiques of public political communication*

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:30–16:00 Session 2 (Chair and Commentator: Friedrich Cain, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt)

Philipp Kohl (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich): Image stabilization: *The camera and the post-political (Loznitsa, Navalny)*

Armen Aramyan (Moscow): *Between speed and distraction: Advertisement, media and the blurring of (post-)truth*

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break

16:30–18:00 Session 3 (Chair and Commentator: Ilya Kalinin, Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, St.-Petersburg State University)

Greg Yudin (HSE Moscow/Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences): *Against Tyranny of Truth in Politics*

Aleksander Bikbov (EHESS, Paris): How do *French Yellow vests and Russian White stripes rationalize political anomalies*

**Tuesday, 4. June**

10:00–12:15 Session 4: Truth and the social Media (Chair and Commentator: Armen Aramyan)

Olga Savinskaya (HSE Moscow): *Censorship and self-censorship in social networks: search for rationale logics in online storytelling*

Solovyeva Olga (HSE Moscow), Zhigaylov Alexander (HSE Moscow), Smirnov Philipp (HSE Moscow), Boyarshinova Polina (Moscow): *Non-political manifestation of post-truth*

Konstantin Gabov (Moscow Institute for Social and Cultural Programmes): *Experts of the Youtube: what type of knowledge is produced in the (post-) social media era?*

12:15–13:15 Lunch Break

13:15–14:45 Session 5: Post Truth Ukraine (Chair and Commentator: Jan Surman, HSE Moscow)

Zhanna Mylogorodska (European Janusz Korczak Academy e.V., Berlin): *The image of divided Ukraine presented on maps*

Sophie Schmähig (University of Giessen): *Performative aspects of popular sovereignty in the recent Russian-Ukrainian conflict*

14:45–15:00 Coffee Break

15:00–16:30 Session 6: The Soviet Union did not collapse (Chair and Commentator: Daria Petushkova, Moscow)

Darya Khokhlova (Center for the New Philosophy, Moscow)/Nikita Khokhlov (HSE Moscow): *The Soviet Union did not Collapse: Post-Truth Through the Russian Popular Music (2010 - Present)*

Ilya Yablokov (The University of Leeds): *What really happened in 1991? The Soviet collapse and the culture of conspiracy in the post- Soviet space*

16:30–17:00 Coffee Break

17:00–18:30 Keynote: Stef Aupers (The Katholieke Universiteit Leuven): *Conspiracy Theories*