



10:30–11:00

Coffee break

11:00–12:30

Panel 4:

Empirical Limitations and Methodological Lifehacks

How to conduct empirical research on Belarus without access to the field?

Gundula Pohl (Hagen):

Qualification theses and a closed field of research.

How does that work?

Aryna Dzmitryeva (Hagen):

Conducting research in authoritarian contexts: self-censorship, ethics, and access constraints.

Comment: Iryna Ramanava (Vilnius)

12:30–13:00

Concluding remarks

13:00

Lunch

18:00

Research Colloquium

Historical Institute, Building 2, Room 6 & via Zoom

Anton Saifullayev (Warsaw):

Decolonizing western imaginations of Belarus and Ukraine.

Eastern Europe in the global knowledge regimes

**Historisches
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Public History

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Belarus Colloquium 2026

**Knowledge production
vis-à-vis authoritarian rule**

Organisation:

Lehrgebiet Public History, FernUniversität in Hagen

Committee:

Prof. Dr. Felix Ackermann, Aliaksei Bratachkin,

Dr. Aryna Dzmitryeva, Gundula Pohl, Dr. Olga Shparaga

Contact:

Dr. Aryna Dzmitryeva, aryna.dzmitryeva@fernuni-hagen.de



5–7 July 2026



FernUniversität in Hagen

Universitätstr. 33, 58097 Hagen

Partners:



The colloquium aims to foster a critical academic discussion on the entanglements of violence and knowledge production in authoritarian contexts, with particular attention to long-term effects of repression, methodological constraints, and the conditions of knowledge production in exile.

5 July

17:00

Check-in

Bildungsherberge, Roggenkamp 10

18:00

Dinner

Forth Place, Holbeinstr. 2

6 July

08:00–09:00

Breakfast

FernUni Mensa

09:00–09:10

Welcome and Introduction

09:10–10:30

Roundtable: Knowledge production vis-à-vis authoritarian rule

How to deal with resource asymmetries, epistemic divides, and the reconfiguration of academic authority in the diaspora?
Anton Saifullayeu (Warsaw), Simon Lewis (Bremen), Tania Arcimovich (Berlin), Olga Shparaga (Hagen), Katja Artsiomenka (Köln) Andrei Zavadski (Dortmund)

Moderation: Felix Ackermann (Hagen)

10:30–11:00

Coffee break

11:00–12:30

Panel 1:

Regimes of violence and epistemic control Censorship, self-censorship, coercion, loyalty, and institutional control as mechanisms of epistemic exclusion, silencing, and marginalization

Hanna Vasilevich (Bolzano):
Structural and institutional challenges faced by
Belarusian researchers in exile

Tatsiana Astrouskaya (Marburg):
The science of silence: how we learn to gag ourselves –
and others.

Comment: Tania Arcimovich (Berlin)

12:30–14:00

Lunch & Walk

14:00–15:30

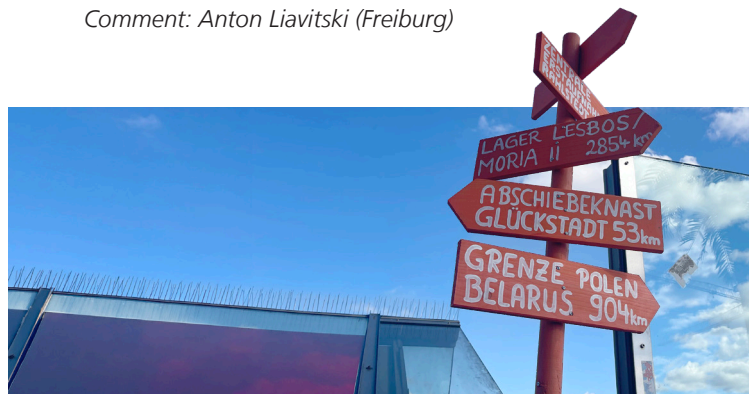
Panel 2:

Public Space(s), Art and History: Earlier 21st history experiences I

Olga Shparaga (Hagen):
Public cultural spaces and contemporary art in Belarus in
the 2010s: Between institutionalization and democratic
transformation.

Andrei Zavadski (Dortmund):
Thread lightly. Re-mapping Belarus through cross-stitched
portraits of political prisoners

Comment: Anton Liavitski (Freiburg)



15:30–16:00

Coffee break

16:00–17:30

Roundtable: Belarusian studies in exile: Challenges for institutionalisation

Yaraslava Ananka (Leipzig), Iryna Ramanava (Vilnius),
Heinrich Kirschbaum (Freiburg), Anton Liavitski (Freiburg)

Moderation: Tatsiana Astrouskaya (Marburg)

17:30–18:30

Brainstorming: Discussing ideas for Belarus Colloquium 2027

18:30

Dinner

Pizzeria Pinocchio, Fleyer Str. 118

7 July

08:00–09:00

Breakfast

FernUni Mensa

09:00–10:30

Panel 3:

Public Space(s), Art and History: Earlier 21st history experiences II

Aliaksei Bratachkin (Hagen):
Public history and authoritarian liberalization in Belarus
(2015–2019)

Tania Arcimovich (Berlin), Iryna Herasimovych (Zürich):
„Zero Point 3.0. The Reassemblage of Belarusian Art
and Cultural Archives in Exile“

Comment: Olga Shparaga (Hagen)