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Breakthroughs and Dead-ends:

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Ukraine in Times of Turmoil

Call for contributions for an edited volume/
Beiträge zu einem wissenschaftlichen Sammelband

The recent events on the Maidan Square and in Crimea have (once again) put Ukraine into the spotlight of world's attention. The explosive developments in Eastern Ukraine and the impending East-West confrontation in Europe have raised demand for close and careful analyses of the situation in the country.

Most studies conducted so far have yet often either taken an exclusive empirical or a purely theoretical focus. Many current analyses provide streamlined commentaries of the recent events, without considering these within a broader context. Studies informed by normative approaches (such as democratization research), on the other hand, tend to concentrate on particular aspects and often fail to exhaustively analyze the rapid developments in all their complexity. Ukraine itself and its political, economic, societal and other problems are pushed into the background of analysis due to the primary focus on geopolitical settings and foreign policy aspects. The country with a population of almost 45 Million and the second largest territory on the European continent remains largely unknown to the Western public, politics and academia. The recent conflict and the developments within and around Ukraine have shown the dangers of such negligence, but have at the same time explicated the need for comprehensive studies, which would open the crises in the country to a multidimensional view and put Ukraine itself into the center of analysis.

The objective of this edited volume is to identify the analytical gaps with the help of an interdisciplinary approach and to attain a holistic picture of the manifold crises of Ukraine in turmoil. Making use of interdisciplinarity and theoretical pluralism (e.g., democratization theory, memory studies, oral history, context analysis, etc.), this volume will contribute to the complex understanding of the intricate socio-political linkages and their retroactive effects upon the multiple crisis processes in Ukraine.

Conceptual Framework of the Edited Volume

We welcome contributions from across a wide range of disciplines which would identify and analyze the crisis/crises in Ukraine from their discipline-specific perspectives. Transition studies have long treated Ukraine as a grey-zone case and have assessed the developments of the recent decade as a political deadlock. That is why we invite individual contributions to focus upon the question of whether within the context of the identified crisis/crises and the current turmoil one could speak of a potential **breakthrough or a dead-end**, and which opportunities can potentially arise, or have arisen, from the crisis situation(s). The identification and analysis of the specific crises (current or past) which are to form the object of individual analysis are delegated to the authors. Both theoretical and empirical contributions are of interest. The individual definition of the analyzed object (“crisis”) allows for an investigation – not necessarily bound to the current turmoil (“Ukraine crisis”, “Crimean crisis”, “war in Donbass”) – but looking at the interplay of the problems and crises which originated before, during, or after the events of 2014. The comparison of different (also historical) crisis fields should facilitate a dialogue of perspectives, while the primary focus on Ukraine-specific themes would enable the necessary scientific relativation. This inclusive interdisciplinary approach allows for a holistic view upon a **variety of topics and problem clusters. Submissions should not be limited to the thematic suggestions provided below:**

Society in (times of) crisis

- Medial, discursive and semantic construction of the crisis
- New forms of social protest
- Societal and/or social dividing lines
- Identity crisis and identity in times of crisis
- Perceptions in (times of) crisis: clichés, stereotypes and their instrumental use
- Language and the use of language in (times of) crisis: ambivalent linguistic identification and/or ethnic hybridity
- Health system in (times of) crisis
- Values and value change in (times of) crisis
- Nature and environment in (times of) crisis, ecological crises
- Economy and the crisis/ economic crisis/ economy in times of crisis

Foreign and Domestic politics in (times of) crisis

- Crisis of the multi-vector foreign policy
- European integration perspective in (times of) crisis
- Geopolitics in crisis: orientations, spheres of influence and their legitimation
- Political culture and political system in crisis
- Political parties and the crisis
- Democratization and transition (research) in crisis
- Social state in (times of) crisis
- Minorities in (times of) crisis

Law and rule of law in (times of) crisis

- Rule of law in (times of) crisis: corruption, independence, trust

- International law in (times of) crisis: enforceability, sovereignty and self-determination

History of the crisis and history in (times of) crisis

- Periodization of the crisis
- Politics of memory/ historical memories and the crisis

The edited volume thus intends to uncover *terra incognita* Ukraine and its various and multifaceted crises through a mixture of empirical and normative perspectives and problem-specific analyses.

Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts

Please submit your abstracts (pdf or docx) of not more than 2000 characters via e-mail to Simone Stoehr (Simone.Stoehr@fes.de). Deadline: **September 22, 2014**. Acceptance notifications will be sent out no later than **October 6, 2014**.

The contribution itself should be no longer than 20 pages, Times New Roman, font size 14 (footnotes: font size 13).

With the financial support of the Friedrich-Ebert foundation a workshop for authors will be held from **October 23 to 24, 2013** in Bonn. This workshop will aim at reconciling the individual contributions and will provide a platform for constructive communication and exchange between the authors and the invited guest-speakers. Please note, that the working language of the workshop will be **German**.

The edited volume is expected to appear in the "IMPULSE – Studien zu Geschichte, Politik und Gesellschaft" series of the Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Berlin (wvb) publishing house in 2015.

Should you have any further questions regarding content or formal issues, please do not hesitate to contact our editorial team:

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