

LECTURE SERIES

# EMPIRE AND VIOLENCE

at LMU Munich & University of Innsbruck

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has recently been related to "the curse of the empire" (Martin Schulze Wessel, *Der Fluch des Imperiums: Die Ukraine, Polen und der Irrweg in der russischen Geschichte*, München 2023). Imperial thinking, as it developed in Russia since Peter I, prepared, as Schulze Wessel suggests, the path towards imperialist ambitions that still guide Putin's Russia, which has taken many observers in the West by surprise.

Claims to imperial domination seem to have been the motor of countless wars of aggression and acts of mass violence in the longue durée of human history, as seen, for example, in the expansions of the Neo-Assyrian, Roman and European colonial empires. Empires seem to turn violent again in periods of decline when their domination is challenged by geo-political transformations.

While such general tendencies may seem obvious, the contemporary imperial claims of Russia require an in-depth analysis of the relationship between imperial ideologies and acts of mass violence. This challenge is addressed in a transdisciplinary lecture series held at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and University of Innsbruck, organised in the framework of the research project Discourses of Mass Violence in Comparative Perspective.

▶ Recordings of all lectures at



LUDWIG-  
MAXIMILIANS-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
MÜNCHEN

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
DEPARTMENT I  
DISCOURSES OF MASS VIOLENCE  
IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE



LECTURE SERIES

# EMPIRE AND VIOLENCE

Organized by:  
JULIANE PRADE-WEISS (LMU Munich)  
DOMINIK MARKL (Innsbruck U)  
On behalf of "Discourses of Mass Violence in Comparative Perspective"

In collaboration with:  
Project House Europe (LMU Munich)  
Research Area Cultural Encounters – Cultural Conflicts (Innsbruck U)



Streaming link  
uibk

## University of Innsbruck

**12 October 2023** 19:00–20:30 CET, Sowi HS1  
PIETER JUDSON (Contemporary History, EUI Florence)  
*Austria-Hungary: Violence and the Liberal Empire*  
Response: TAMARA SCHEER (Eastern European History, Vienna U)

**07 November 2023** 19:00–20:30 CET, Sowi HS 1  
ROBERT ROLLINGER (Ancient Near East, Innsbruck U)  
*Empire and Violence from the Achaemenid-Persian Perspective*  
Response: SILVIA BALATTI (Classical Studies, Kiel U)

**08 November 2023** 19:00–20:30 CET, Sowi HS 1  
GERHARD MANGOTT (Political Science, Innsbruck U)  
*Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine: Motives, Interests and Geopolitical Implications*  
Response: FRANZISKA DAVIES (Eastern European History, LMU Munich)

**14 November 2023** 19:00–20:30 CET, Theologie HS 1  
KATELL BERTHELOT (History of Judaism, CNRS Aix-en-Provence)  
*Jewish Responses to Roman Imperial Violence*  
Response: JOHANNES HEIL (History of Judaism, Heidelberg)

**28 November 2023** 19:00–20:30 CET, Geiwi HS 7  
DIRK RUPNOW (Contemporary History, Innsbruck U)  
*Post-Nazism – Postcolonialism – Post-Migration: The Current Debate of Memory Culture, Politics of History and Holocaust Memory*  
Response: HELGA EMBACHER (Contemporary History, Salzburg U)



Streaming link  
LMU

## Ludwig Maximilian University Munich

**02 June 2023** 16:15–19:45 CET, Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 A 120  
JOSÉ CASANOVA (Religious Studies, Georgetown U)  
*The Sacralization of Canonicity and the Legitimization of Violence*  
Response: WOLFGANG PALAVER (Theology, Innsbruck U)

ALEXANDER ETKIND (International Relations, CEU Vienna)  
*The Letter Z and the Problem of Genocide*  
Response: RICCARDO NICOLOSI (Slavic Literatures, LMU Munich)

**24 October 2023** 18:15–19:45 CET, Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 A 120  
HERFRIED MÜNKLER (Political Science, HU Berlin)  
*Die Wiederkehr der Imperien? Großräume und Einflusszonen in der Weltordnung des 21. Jahrhunderts*  
Response: EVA HAUSTEINER (Political Theory, FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg)

**10 January 2024** 16:15–17:45 CET, Historicum Altbau 2. OG K201  
KAREN RADNER (Ancient History of the Near and Middle East, LMU Munich)  
*Lessons from the Pathfinder Empire: Framing Conquest as Salvation in 9th-century-BC Assyria*  
Response: ECKART FRAHM (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale U)

**15 February 2024** 18:15–19:45 CET, Philologicum Veranstaltungsraum EG  
ALISON FRANK JOHNSON (Central and Eastern European History, Harvard U)  
*Capital Punishment in Galicia: From Imperial Mercy to Mass Violence*  
Response: JANA OSTERKAMP (History, Augsburg U)

**19 February 2024** 15:15–17:45 CET, Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 A 017  
Roundtable with MARTIN SCHULZE WESSEL (East and Southeast European History, LMU) & respondents  
*The Curse of Empire: Two Years after Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*