



Vienna  
Scientific Center  
Polish Academy of Sciences

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Polish Academy of Sciences – Scientific Centre in Vienna invites academics to submit abstracts for the conference

## POLITICS OF MEMORY AND THE IDENTITY OF THE NATIONS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AFTER 1989

### SUB-THEMES

- ✓ Role of history in politics
- ✓ Influence of memory politics on history
- ✓ State control over memory and history
- ✓ societal perception of history/memory and its instrumentalization/politicization
- ✓ History as a tool in building a democratic community
- ✓ History as a tool in the hands of the opponents of democracy

### IMPORTANT DATE

31ST MARCH 2023	14TH APRIL 2023	21ST APRIL 2023	23 - 24TH MAY 2023
Abstract submission deadline	Acceptance notification	Confirmation of participation	Conference date

In collaboration with:



SUBMISSIONS AT



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## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

History, apart from being a field of science, is also a useful tool for making politics and influencing communal consciousness. After the fall of communism and the Iron Curtain in 1989, it became an important instrument in shaping new, democratic societies, as well as a weapon in international disputes. In addition, it is the subject of heated political debates.

Since the 19th century, History has played a special role in the instituting of Central and Southeastern Europe's nations. The often-rivalling visions of the past, promoted by national activists, helped them build modern nations and legitimized their right to ethnically mixed territories. In the interwar period (1918 - 1939), history was an important element of the ideology of the states that emerged as a result of the collapse of multinational empires in this part of the world.

After the Second World War, in the countries subject to communist rule, it was deeply re-evaluated and even more subordinated to party politics. As illustrated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a different interpretation of the past can even serve as a justification for military aggression against an independent state. While as, in Poland, a lively debate is taking place about the origins of Poland's independence in 1989 and the contribution of various political groups in this process.

Reflection on the role of history in politics seems to be important for maintaining the autonomy of this field of knowledge and identifying methods of used to manipulate the past.

The conference will offer a forum for a broader debate on this topic, taking into account the historical context and experiences of individual countries in the region. In particular, the focus of the conference will be set on finding an answer to the following questions (indicative list of topics):

- Does history serve politics? How different historic periods and events (for example the experience of WWII or Holocaust) are utilized in politics and why?
- What is the role of politics of memory?
- What is the impact of politics on history as a science but also societal experience?
- To what extent does the state and its organs exercise control over the creation of ideas about the past? Can we really talk about "memory governance" or "politics of memory"?
- To what extent do various social groups have their own stories about the past and reflect on instrumental use of history and memory?
- Is history really an effective tool in building a democratic community or can it become a weapon in the hands of the opponents of democracy?

## FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference will be a 2-day event, taking place on-site in Vienna at the residence of the Scientific Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Boerhaavegasse 25, 1030 Vienna, Austria). The organizers hope that it will be possible for all of speakers to meet in Vienna, but some presentations may be delivered on-line, if such a necessity arises. Invited speakers will have their travel expenses reimbursed up to a sum of 200 EUR and accommodation will be provided by the organisers.

## TIMELINE AND SUBMISSIONS

Interested researchers are invited to submit a paper abstract (maximum 1000 words) **by 31st of March 2023**. Selected scholars will be contacted **by 14th of April**. Selected scholars will need to confirm their participation **by 21st of April 2023**.

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail: [office@vienna.pan.pl](mailto:office@vienna.pan.pl). Please include your name and affiliation in the e-mail.