

Call for Papers
International Academic Conference
(In)Visible Russian (Anti-)War Migration
March 13-15, 2024, Warsaw

The full-scale aggression of the Russian state against Ukraine on February 24, 2022 triggered new migration, refugee, humanitarian and political crises in European and Asian countries. Russia's aggression forced Ukrainians to flee from the war, but also pushed Russians to leave their country *en masse*. After the announcement of the beginning of a 'special military operation' in Ukraine on 24 February, 2022, a migration of liberal and middle-class milieus began. Later, after the announcement of the partial mobilisation on 21 September, 2022, a mostly male exodus of the Russian population took place. In the meantime, many Russians moved their businesses out of Russia. Less visible and (in)visible migrations are now happening all the time.

The uniqueness of the Russian (anti-)war migration movement lies, among other things, in the fact that citizens of the aggressor state waging war in Ukraine are fleeing from Russia to various European and Asian countries. This reverses previous migration trends observed in the region, which hitherto consisted of either (economic) migration of citizens of other post-Soviet countries to Russia, or (political and/or humanitarian) migration from countries which were directly challenged by Russia. According to different sources, the number of departures since February 22, 2022 is close to one million, which makes the ongoing migration comparable with the most important exoduses in Russian history, such as those following the 1917 Revolutions or the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

Russian (anti-)war migrants are people of various social, religious and national backgrounds with different views and attitudes towards Putin's regime. Their migration affects not only the migrants themselves and the host societies, but also the broader situation in Russia itself. The conference aims to approach all of these various dimensions of the Russian (anti-)war migration and investigate responses to it on micro-, meso- and macro- levels. We will provide a platform for discussion among researchers from various disciplines and academic backgrounds on the problem of Russian (anti-)war migration. The conference has evolved from the project '[Crossing Borders, Building Walls. Towards an Ethnography of Russian War Mobilisation](#)', which is supported by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (BPN/GIN/2022/1/00082/DEC/1, 2023-2024).

Submissions may be related, but are not restricted to, the following topics:

- What are the particularities of Russian (anti-)war migration? What kinds of additional crises does it provoke and to what extent are these crises a threat to or an opportunity for societies hosting Russian citizens?
- What are the risks associated with such extensive migration of citizens from the aggressor state? And what are the potential benefits that may arise from this migration?
- Who are the Russian (anti-)war migrants, what are their social, national, cultural, and religious backgrounds? How have their lives changed from the time they left the Russian Federation?

- What are the similarities and differences in migration policies towards Russians and migrants from other countries in European and non-European countries?
- What is the impact of the Russian (anti-)war migration on the changing status and role of Russian diasporas?
- What are the dynamics of consolidation and conflicts within Russian-speaking communities in exile, spanning various European and Asian countries? And what is the impact of the Russian (anti-)war migration on Russian diasporas in Europe and around the world?
- What is the impact of the Russian (anti-)war migration on the economies and politics of the host countries? How might this migration affect changes in migration routes?

Special events: plenary sessions

1: *Local reactions to the Russian (anti-)war migration crisis*, involving researchers from local contexts.

2: *Researching and documenting the current migration movements and humanitarian crisis in Europe*, with the participation of experts on the migration of Ukrainians, Belarusians and migration routes from Africa and the Middle East.

Organisational information:

Language of the conference: English

The conference will take place in the Library of Warsaw University on 13-15 March, 2024.

Please send your abstract of no more than 300 words together with a short biographical statement by **1 December, 2023**. Abstracts will be selected by the academic committee. We will notify you about the acceptance of your proposal by **15 December, 2023**.

Conference participation is free of charge. The organisers will provide accommodation for speakers from abroad and catering for all conference speakers.

We plan to publish selected papers as an **edited volume** with an established international publisher. If you would like to participate in this joint publication, please indicate your interest on the registration form. We reserve the right, however, to select articles for publication based on their alignment with the intended scope of the edited volume.

Please send your abstract and a biographical statement, as well as all other inquiries, to email: invisible.migration@gmail.com

Conference Convenors

Zuzanna Bogumił, PhD. (The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, PAS)

Iwona Kaliszewska, PhD. (Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, UW)

Tomasz Rawski, PhD. (Faculty of Sociology University of Warsaw)

Katarzyna Roman Rawska, PhD. (The Institute of Slavic Studies, PAS)

Alexander Makhov, MA (Graduate School for Social Research, PAS)

Academic Council of the conference

Mustafa Berkay Aydın, PhD. (Bursa Uludağ University, Turkey)

Ketevan Gurchiani, Prof. (Ilia State University, Georgia)

Byambabaatar Ichinkhorloo, PhD. (National University of Mongolia)

Jussi Laine, Prof. (University of Eastern Finland)

Sona Nersisyan, PhD. (Institute of Archeology and Ethnography, Armenian Academy of Sciences)

Raili Nugin, PhD. (Tallinn University, Estonia)

Caress Schenk, PhD. (Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan)

Organisers:



Partners:



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