

Call for proposals – International conference

Conference : « The Baltic region in search of its identity »

Friday September, 15th 2017 at INALCO - Paris

The research group « Baltic spaces » has devoted its monthly seminars in 2016-2017 to the question of identity in the Baltic region. With this conference, the aim is to conclude this series/cycle by going in greater depth in some of the themes already touched upon and to invite other researchers to discuss about these topics.

The « Baltic region » raises certain questions regarding its definition and therefore, its identity. The Baltic region is generally perceived in a positive way, which is in part due to the peaceful context and the level of development and cooperation that are attached to it. Nevertheless, the Baltic region turns out to be less homogeneous than it appears. Recent events make this diversity even more striking and shake many certainties that prevail in and on this region.

It is these uncertainties that the research group Baltic Spaces has chosen to question here. The idea is to focus more specifically on the perception of Baltic identity or identities, on the issue of population movements which reshuffle the cards of sometimes ancient identity affirmations, and also, more obviously, on the repositioning of security and defence policies that are at work in the region ever since the emergence of new threats has challenged the myth, seemingly perpetuated since the end of the Cold War 25 years ago, of a *Mare Nostrum*.

This conference proposes to question all these issues related to the question of identity, through multidisciplinary logics.

The co-heads of Baltic Spaces are looking for proposals from researchers working on this region in a transversal way and/or on Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Russia and Germany (through the Baltic dimension for these last two countries).

The communications could be articulated around the following topics:

Topic 1 – “One or several identities”

- Does a Nordic, Scandinavian or Baltic model exist?
- Borders: what remains of this open space?
- The Baltic Sea, a periphery or a centre?
- Affirming identity by transcending territory (the cyber dimension in particular)

Topic 2 – “When the population changes – leaving, returning, welcoming”

- Migrations : countries of traditional movements
- The Nordic “Models” hindered by the refugee crisis
- Migratory impact on the religious identities of the Nordics
- Identities questioned by minorities?

Topic 3 – Political, historical and security identities – between evolutions and continuity

- Representations of memory
- The Baltic space – a coherent political entity?
- Conflicts and peace in the Baltic space
- The perception of “vital threats”, definition of security politics

The communication proposals, together with a summary in French or in English in 200 words and a CV should be sent before March 1st, 2017 to the following address:

espacesbaltiques@hotmail.com

Your proposals will be reviewed by the members of the Baltic Spaces scientific committee. You will receive a response before the end of March 2017. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Members of the scientific committee of the conference "*The Baltic region in search of its identity*":

Jean Radvanyi

Katerina Kesa

Céline Bayou

Arnaud Serry

Nicolas Escach