Our conference strives to re-think and enlarge the scope of ‘memory studies’, and to propose new insights into trans-regional research on Eastern Europe and its post-communist transformations. We would like to look at the various spheres of official history – school textbooks, museums, state institutions of historical policies, memorials – from both comparative and historical perspectives. Our conference will not just focus on the description of the current situation, but will tend to trace recent tendencies back into Soviet and partly pre-Soviet experiences and to analyze closely the dynamics of post-Soviet commemorative practices and perceptions.
Wednesday, 13 June

Arrival of the participants

1.30 pm

Introduction and welcoming remarks

Miloš Řezník (Warsaw)
Andrii Portnov (Frankfurt/Oder)
Korine Amacher (Geneva)
Yaroslav Hrytsak (Lviv)

2 pm

Panel 1: State Institutions of Memory Politics
Chair: Paul Gradwohl (Nancy)

Estelle Bunout (Nancy)
Hidden Revisions: The Discussion on Polish Past Relations to Eastern Europe in the Shadow of the Criticism of the German “Drang nach Osten” in the Section for International History of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), 1947–1972

Eric Aunoble (Geneva)
“To Reflect the History of the Party as it Was”: the Kyiv Branch of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute in Critical Times (1945–1949)

ca. 3.30 pm – Coffee break

Viktoriia Serhiienko (Kiev)
The Battle of Poltava 1709 as an Imperial, Soviet and Post-Soviet Realm of Memory

Natalya Borys (Geneva)
Writing Official History at the Institute of History in Soviet Ukraine

5.30 pm – Coffee break

6 pm

Open evening discussion
Chair: Ewa Dąbrowska (Berlin)

Museums as (Un)official Sites of Memory Politics in Post-Socialist Europe

With Krzysztof Ruchniewicz (Wroclaw), Denys Shatalov (Dnipro) and Alvydas Nikžentaitis (Vilnius)

To be held in Ukrainian and Polish with translation into English.

8 pm

Dinner

Thursday, 14 June

10 am

Panel 2: School Textbooks on History
Chair: Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (Lund)

Korine Amacher (Geneva)
Representations of the Empire in Russian History Textbooks (1993–2018)

Andrii Portnov (Frankfurt/Oder)
Poland and the Poles in Ukrainian History Textbooks

Wilfried Jilge (Berlin)
Little Russia, Novorossiya or Ukraine? The Perception of Ukraine and Ukrainians in Russian Textbooks in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

12.30 pm

Lunch

2 pm

Panel 3: Memorial Sites and Their Usages
Chair: Felix Ackermann (Warsaw)

Tatiana Zhurzhenko (Vienna)
St. Vladimir Monuments in Ukraine, Russia and Beyond

Ilya Kalinin (St. Petersburg)
1917 as the Loss of Imperial Unity: Representation of the Russian Revolution in the Year of Its Centenary

ca. 3.30 pm – Coffee break

Iryna Sklokina (Lviv)
Soviet Monuments to WWII Fallen Soldiers: Official and Unofficial Practices of Use

Olesya Khromeychuk (London)
Instrumentalisation of War History in Contemporary Memory Politics in Ukraine. A Gender Perspective

5.20 pm – Coffee break

6–8 pm

Open evening lecture

Marcin Napiórkowski (Warsaw)
Czy historia potrzebuje mitów? Jak radzić sobie w świecie pop-pamięci, pseudonauki i fake newsów (Does History Need Myths? How to Survive in a World of Pop-Memory, Pseudoscience and Fake News)