

CfP**Between Religious Tolerance, Sarmatism and Multi-Ethnicity**
The Legacy of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth in Culture and Media

13-14 November 2025, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

Between 1569 and 1795, the Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów, or the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, was one of the most significant and territorially extensive powers in Eastern and Central Europe. Its internal heterogeneity was especially evident in regional socio-cultural perceptions. Conflicts and interactions along the border regions with the Tsardom of Russia (later the Russian Empire), the Crimean Khanate, the Ottoman Empire, and Cossack groups demonstrate, first, how confessional or proto-national perceptions—both external and self-attributed—were formed. Second, the Commonwealth acted as a transcultural hub connecting the Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg empires and, according to Claudia Kraft, existed as an “in-between peripherality,” comprising numerous semi-peripheries with diverse (post-)colonial experiences.

After the partitions, the Commonwealth became a point of reference for various social groups and political movements. This workshop will explore these modes of reception, perception, and stratification. The primary focus is on the legacy of the Rzeczpospolita and the post-Rzeczpospolita discourses that were transmitted through different historical periods. Panels will cover the following topics, among others:

- Discourses on outside perceptions and self-attributions from a diachronic and transcultural perspective (e.g., Sarmatism as a spatial container, adaptations in video games such as *Cossacks* and *Civilization*)
- Media-specific receptions of the Commonwealth’s legacy, including cinematic or literary adaptations, such as Henryk Sienkiewicz’s “Ogniem i mieczem” and “Potop”, as well as the Netflix series “1670”.

The workshop will take place from **13 to 14 November 2025** at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). It is the result of a collaboration between the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History of Eastern Europe and its Cultures at the University of Passau, the Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk and the Viadrina Centre for Polish and Ukrainian Studies (VCPU). It will consolidate a German-Polish research network in this thematic field.

We invite scholars on all career stages interested in this topic to send their proposal of 250 to 300 words and their short academic CV of 100 words as well as their contact information in one PDF file to kristina.wittkamp@uni-passau.de by **19 September 2025** at the latest. Early-career scholars are particularly encouraged to apply. All applicants will be informed about the decision no later than 26 September 2025.

The workshop is funded by the German-Polish Science Foundation (DPWS/PNFN) and the VCPU. These funds will cover travel expenses up to 200 Euro as well as accommodation up to two nights in Frankfurt (Oder) for each participant.