

FUNDING INITIATIVE

Symposia

Call for Proposals

Thematic Week: War in Ukraine – Scholarly Perspectives

February 22-24, 2023

Profile Area Exploration

Deadline: September 15, 2022, 14.00 CET



1 OBJECTIVES

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, it is currently completely open in what way and under what circumstances the war can or will come to an end. In addition to direct support for those affected, these developments call for a scholarly debate within the various academic disciplines that deal with the post-Soviet space in general and the more recent developments between Ukraine and Russia in particular (such as history, political science, area studies, slavic studies etc.). Such a need for a substantive debate is encountered in a scientific landscape in which, during the Cold War, a strongly Russian-focused and thus rather one-sided view initially prevailed in the various disciplines. At the end of the Cold War, however, there was a slow (partial) decrease of expertise on the post-Soviet space at German research institutions.

With the thematic week "War in Ukraine – Scholarly Perspectives " (February 22-24, 2023), the Volkswagen Foundation intends to react to this situation. It offers an opportunity to reflect on causes and perspectives of the war in Ukraine as well as to discuss consequences for the further development of those scientific disciplines which are engaged with the post-Soviet space. Symposia should have a clear focus within this outline and develop a program in order to deal with this in an interdisciplinary manner and with an international group of participants. At the same time, a great societal need for orientation knowledge on the current developments has become clear in recent months. Applicants should therefore also explain how they plan to disseminate the knowledge gained at the symposia beyond the academic communities to the wider public.

2 SCOPE OF FUNDING

Symposia funded by the Foundation take place at the conference center Xplanatorium Herrenhausen Palace, Hannover, within the framework of the Volkswagen Foundation's "Thematic Weeks". It is planned to fund a total of two to four symposia and to bring them together in a joint thematic week. The venue offers meeting and conference rooms of different sizes, together with a professional organizational as well as technical infrastructure. In addition to the provision of this infrastructure and handling of organizational tasks, symposia are supported with funds covering personnel as well as non-personnel or publication costs. Support can be made available for events with usually up to 50 participants.

Applicants are requested to include the following slots into their program, in order to foster exchange and networking of the participants of all symposia among each other and with representatives of the Foundation:

- 22 February, 11:00 to 12:00 (joint welcome),
- 23 February, from 18:00 (organized by the Volkswagen Foundation),
- 24 February, 14:00 to 15:00 (joint closing)

3 GENERAL CONDITIONS

Eligible for funding are researchers who are employed at a scientific institution in Germany,

- from the humanities and social sciences,
- at all career levels after the PhD,
- from foreign institutions applying as co-applicants.

Funds may be requested to cover the following costs:

- **Personnel costs**
 - funds for student assistants during preparation, running and follow-up of the event in an amount not exceeding 3,500 EUR.
- **Non-personnel costs, e.g.**
 - Expenses for accommodation for all participants (please estimate 120 EUR per night/person).
 - Travel expenses for all participants. The costs are expected to be kept to a minimum, especially with regard to air travel. The Foundation expects a critical examination of the necessity of flights and, as far as possible, the use of alternative means of transport. Please estimate the following sums per participant in the cost plan for travel to and from the event in total (please note that only costs actually incurred can be settled with the Foundation after the event):

▪ Participants from Germany:	250 EUR
▪ Participants from the rest of Europe:	500 EUR
▪ Participants from the east coast of the USA:	1,000 EUR
▪ Participants from the rest of the world:	1,500 EUR
 - Consumables in an amount not exceeding 500 EUR.
 - Expense allowances for freelancers (e.g. journalists), who are actively involved in the event.
 - Funds for child care costs, e.g. travel expenses, accommodation costs or allowances for caregivers. If you apply for funds for child care funds, please briefly explain how it is planned and how the costs are composed.

- **Publication expenses.** The Foundation expects that the results of the meeting will be published online and open access. Typical conference proceedings and pure print publications will not be funded.

As part of the grant, the following services are provided by the Volkswagen Foundation:

- hotel reservations (please do not make any bookings yourself),
- provision of conference equipment at the conference center Herrenhausen Palace,
- catering at the conference center Herrenhausen Palace.

The Foundation shall not be held liable for commitments incurred prior to the receipt of a grant letter.

4 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications can be submitted in German or English. The following attachments (pdf files) should be uploaded:

- **Short proposal** (incl. explanation of planned science communication measures) and **preliminary list of participants** (please use the template provided at the end of section 5)
- Preliminary **program of the event**, please list thematic focal points and chosen event formats.
- **Short CVs of all applicants** (max. 2 pages per applicant, please submit all CVs in one file).
- Please enter a **budget plan** directly in the application portal. In the case of multiple applicants, funding can only be granted to one institution, so please submit only one budget plan.

Please submit your application online via the Volkswagen Foundation's electronic application system. Information on the application system can be found in the document "Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips" (see section 5). For technical questions regarding the use of the portal, please contact support@volkswagenstiftung.de

A decision is usually made within two months of the deadline. In addition to the objectives of the respective thematic week described in section 1, the scientific quality of the event, the use of innovative and interactive event formats, and the conclusiveness of the overall concept are decisive factors in the review process. The Foundation also expects active participation of PhD students and postdocs as well as a significant inclusion of female scientists among both the speakers and the participants.

5 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Further Information

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Additional Information

- [Webpage „War in Ukraine – Scholarly Perspectives“](#)
- [Template Proposal \(download\)](#)
- [Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)
- [Volkswagen Foundation Electronic Application System](#)