



13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON NORDIC AND BALTIC STUDIES

Hegemons, warlords, and refugees

International Centre for Conferences of
Valahia University of Târgoviște
Ion Alexandrescu St., No. 39



November 10th-11th, 2022| 10 am|
Valahia University of Targovistel
Free admission

<https://balticnordic.hypotheses.org/conference2022>

Hegemons, warlords, and refugees

The 13th international conference on Baltic and Nordic studies

Târgoviște, November 10th-11th, 2022

Acronym: Hegemillions2022

<i>Conference website</i>	https://balticnordic.hypotheses.org/conference2022
<i>Submission platform</i>	https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=hegemillions2022 .
<i>Abstracts for individual papers (approx. 300 words) registration deadline</i>	September 15th, 2022
<i>Proposals for panels and roundtables (approx. 500 words)</i>	September 15th, 2022
<i>Notification of acceptance</i>	September 30th, 2022
<i>Conference</i>	November 10th-11th, 2022
<i>Publication of conference articles</i>	December 30th, 2022

Aims of the conference

The hope that the dystopian Bloodlands of Timothy Snyder (or the “Western Borderlands” to use the term of Epp Annus) may one day become a cradle of peace like Western Europe after the Second World War was dashed in February 2022 when Vladimir Putin initiated the new phase of the war against Ukraine. While President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz were blindsided by the Russian assault, in Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Copenhagen, the hegemonic pursuit of the warlord of Kremlin provoked alarm but not astonishment. This was the last in a lengthy series of warlords vying for control of the vast lands around the Baltic Sea, Nordic Sea, and Black Sea. As Epp Annus has put it:

“Russia’s aggressive geopolitical posture in the 2010’s has however reactivated questions after the Soviet colonial past and has restored some of the imaginary unity of the former Soviet Union through the facts and fears of Soviets new aggression. Much has changed, as a new era of tension has emerged in Eurasia, and yet the end of the Soviet postcolonial is nowhere to be seen”¹

But what is the legacy of the hegemonic pursuits of warlords that were drafted from among the Viking raiders, the German knights, the Scandinavian and Polish kings, and the Russian tsars and leaders on Baltic Sea Region and Scandinavia? In what ways was the region redesigned on the political, ideological, geographical, and cultural levels? What difference did they make on the lives of elites and commoners alike? Whether hegemony is defined in terms of political assertion or influence, especially by one country over other nations, masculinity, international leadership, regional hegemony, ideological hegemony, or hegemonic contestation, the term always connotes control, hierarchy, and dependency. Commonly, hegemony is asserted by a warlord (regardless of his authority designation, chieftain, khan, tsar, king, emperor, first secretary, or president), a leader, particularly an aggressive commander with individual autonomy.

What traces of their attempts have been left in culture, art, and public monuments throughout the course of time, and how are they considered in modern times? How has the perspective on hegemonies and warlords shifted as a direct result of Putin's invasion of Ukraine? How this war of aggression has reawakened the memory of previous foreign aggressions in the region, which culminated in Hitler and Stalin's Pact and conquests during the Second World War?

Hegemonic undertakings and military confrontations have frequently resulted in waves of refugees and displaced individuals, with the apogee of these waves having been reached during the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of people

¹ Epp Annus, *Soviet Postcolonial Studies: A View from the Western Borderlands*, London, New York: Routledge, Taylor et Francis Group, 2019, 242.

who have been forced to flee their homes throughout the world has crossed the significant threshold of 100 million for the very first time in recorded history in 2022.

As Melanie Jacques noted in the introduction of her book ten years ago:

„The tragedy is that the majority of those displaced never really escape conflict. Indeed, people fleeing situations of danger increasingly choose or are forced to remain within their own country and to become internally displaced persons (IDPs).”²

It is impossible to quantify the number of refugees in Eastern Europe and the Baltic Sea Region from the Viking raids to the war in Ukraine, but the region unquestionably ranks at the top of the worldwide refugees list. Even when contrasted to the plunders of Viking warriors, Danish kings, Swedish and Polish invaders, and tsarist Russian hegemony of the Middle Ages and Early Modernity, the Modern Age, culminating in the totalitarian regimes of Fascism and Communism, elevated this figure to unprecedented heights. These momentous events were mirrored not just in historical records but also in the works of literary figures, musicians, artists, scientists, filmmakers, journalists, politicians, and dissenters. Aleksander Sochaczewski's painting „Farewell to Europe” and Tamara de Lempicka's „Escape” are as vivid as Estonian poet Marie Under's volumes “Hääl varjust” (Voice From the Shadows), “Rõõm ühest ilusast päevast” (The Joys of a Beautiful Day) and “Õnnevarjutus” (Eclipse of Happiness). Sofi Oksanen's novels „Stalinin lehmät” (Stalin's Cows) and „Puhdistus” (Purge) is the match the monument of Gunnar Sønsteby by Norwegian sculptor Per Ung, as well as the exhibits at the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia and Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights. Danish director Jonas Poher Rasmussen's recent award-winning film "Flee" is as evocative as Swedish historian Johan Östling's writings on Swedish narratives of the Second World War and Iceland storyteller Lára Garðarsdóttir's book for children „Bear with me”.

² Mélanie Jacques, *Armed Conflict and Displacement: The Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons under International Humanitarian Law*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, 1.

Scholars from the fields of history, military history, cultural studies, international relations, mnemonic studies, literature, arts and visual arts, area studies, political geography, media studies, colonial and postcolonial studies, new media, and interdisciplinary approaches are being called upon to renew the scholarship in fields that are vital to our understanding of hegemonism, warlordism, and the devastating effects on human lives, especially on refugees.

Submission Guidelines

All papers must be original and not simultaneously submitted to another conference or journal. The following paper categories are welcome:

- **Papers** reflecting on hegemonies, warlords and refugees in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region.
- Please submit your paper or panel proposal by September 15th, 2022 on EasyChair platform. The submission platform for Hegemillions2022 is:
<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=hegemillions2022>.
- Alternatively, you can e-mail your submission (title, keywords and abstract) to e-mails [baltoskandia\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:baltoskandia@gmail.com).
- Manuscripts submitted for publication in The Romanian Journal for Baltic and Nordic Studies must adhere to the submission standards outlined at <https://balticnordic.hypotheses.org/submission-guidelines>.

List of Topics

SUGGESTED PANELS

- Hegemons and hegemonies in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region
- Raiders, warlords and invaders in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region
- Refugees and displaced persons in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region
- Liberal, illiberal and authoritarian hegemonies in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region

- Hegemons, warlords, and refugees in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region reflected in media and new media
- Mnemonic endeavors pertaining to hegemons, warlords, and refugees in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region
- Hegemons, warlords, and refugees in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region echoed in literature, art and culture
- Hegemons, warlords, and refugees in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region portrayed in cinematography and visual arts
- Colonial and postcolonial studies in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region

Teams

Organizing committee

Honorary chair: Dr. Violeta Motulaitė, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania in Romania and Bulgaria

Chair: Prof. Dr. Hab. Silviu Miloiu, The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies & Valahia University of Târgoviște

Co-chairs:

Lect. Dr. Crina Leon, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași & The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Researcher Dr. Bogdan Schipor, “A.D. Xenopol” Institute of History of the Romanian Academy & The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian Vitalaru, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași & The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Lect. Dr. Costel Coroban, Ovidius University of Constanta & The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Program Committee

- Prof. Dr. Silviu Miloiu, The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies & Valahia University of Târgoviște

- Lect. Dr. Crina Leon, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași & The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies
- Dr. Andreea Dahlquist, The Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies

Scientific committee:

To be announced.

Invited Speakers

To be announced.

Publication

Hegemillions2022 proceedings will be published in The Romanian Journal for Baltic and Nordic Studies, vol. 14 (2022).

The Romanian Journal for Baltic and Nordic Studies (RJBNS) was founded in 2009 as the official publication of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies (ARSBNS). The journal is a biannual peer-reviewed multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary area studies journal that strives to disseminate information concerning the history, culture, languages, societies, economics, international relations, geography, science of Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea area. It seeks high-quality original papers and reviews of broad scholarly interest that increase understanding of the Scandinavian countries and Baltic Sea region.

Some of the topics covered include the history of Baltic and Nordic Europe, geography of the area, Baltic and Nordic Europe in International Relations, Baltic and Nordic Europe Societies and Politics, Baltic and Nordic Cultures and Civilizations, Baltic and Nordic Economics, ethnic relations in Baltic and Northern Europe, relations between Romania, Black Sea and Baltic and Nordic Europe.

Each issue also serves as a useful bibliographic reference. Some issues have focused on specific topics such as Viking studies, dissent and conformism in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region, multiculturalism, and multilingualism, but

the majority have contained contributions that represent the journal's overall aims. Some contributions are the result of Baltic and Nordic Studies conferences held with the goal of investigating the situation in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea Region, as well as the relationships, encounters, intersections, confluences, mutual influences, and/or parallels with other areas.

Because the journal values ethical behavior, all materials authorized for publication are subjected to an external double-blind peer review procedure.

Additional editions of the journal may be published on the internet with articles in any of the Baltic or Nordic languages or in Romanian, in which case a different numbering system will be used, in order to increase understanding of the Baltic and Nordic languages and cultures in South-Eastern Europe. Except for the English language abstracts, which must be 300 to 400 words, the standard submission rules apply in this case two.

The journal grants the author(s) complete ownership of the copyright.

Submission Guidelines

- Articles should be submitted as email attachments in Microsoft Word format to the Editorial secretary at editorial@arsbn.ro or baltoskandia@gmail.com .
- Contributions must be original and should not be under consideration by any other publication at the time of their submission. A cover letter in this sense should accompany the manuscript.
- The maximum length for consideration of an article is 6,000 – 12,000 words (including footnotes), and 700 – 1,000 words for a review.
- Please submit double-spaced papers in 11-point Book Antiqua font with 2 cm margins. Footnotes should be in 9-point.
- All research articles must include a 100-200 word English language abstract (and in Romanian or one of the Nordic and Baltic languages when applicable) and at least five English language key words.

- Submissions should include complete bibliographic references (including page numbers) in footnotes.
- Final bibliography should be inserted at the end of the article.
- For general rules of grammar, form, and style, authors should refer to The Chicago Manual of Style (The University of Chicago Press).
- All manuscripts will be subject to anonymous peer review, and will be evaluated on the basis of their creativity, quality of scholarship, and contribution to advancing the understanding of the regions concerned.

Please note that the the journal **does not** ask for article processing charges.

Programme:

Venue

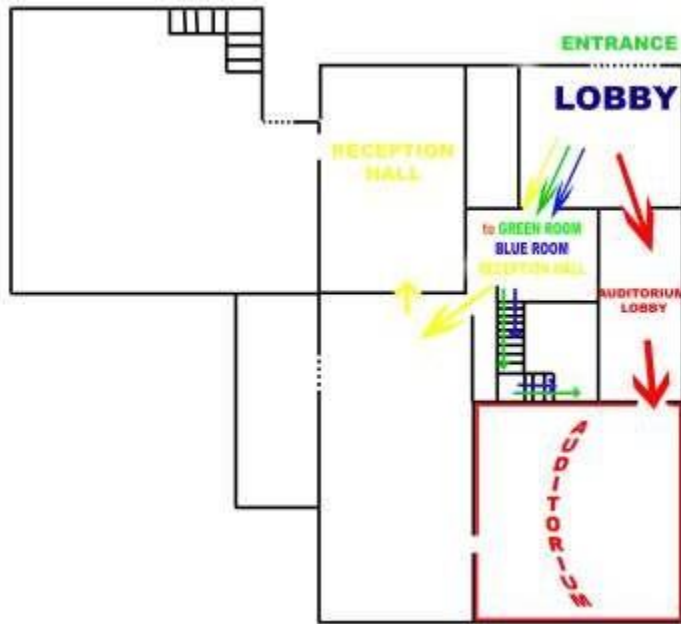
The conference will be held in Targoviste for those participants who can attend physically. All other participants shall be connected online via Zoom.

All connection details in this regard will be offered ahead of time. All sessions take place at the International Centre for Conferences of Valahia University of Târgoviște (Ion Alexandrescu St., No. 39 – see map):

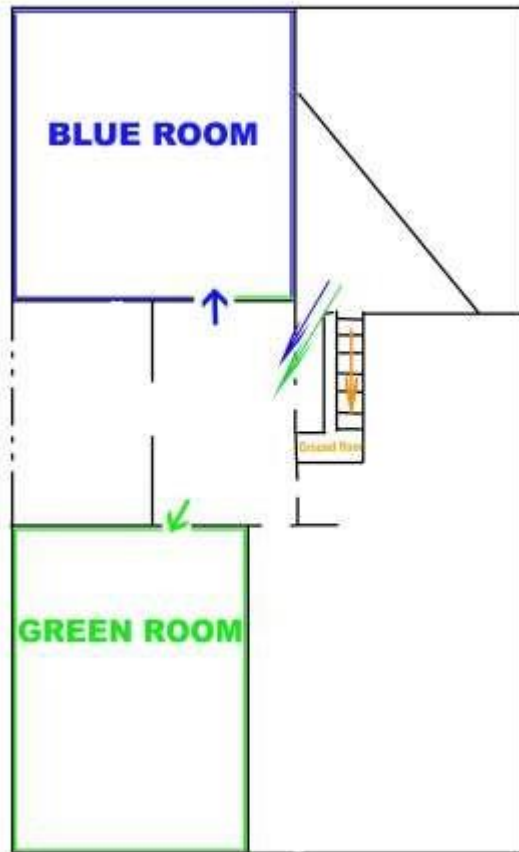
<https://www.valahia.ro/noutati/centrul-international-de-conferinte>



Map, Conference Centre ground floor



Map, Conference Centre first floor



Contact

Address: Aleea Sinaia, no. 13, 130004 Targoviste, Dambovita, Romania.

All questions about submissions should be emailed
to [baltoskandia\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:baltoskandia@gmail.com).