

CEBAST News

A Newsletter from the Centre for Baltic Studies at the Øresund University

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Baltic Agenda:

November

Call for Papers: Baltic Studies Yearbook

Young Researchers (less than 30 years old) are invited to submit a contribution to the third issue of the *Baltic Studies Yearbook*, which is being prepared by the *East Europe Research Club* (Kaliningrad, Russia). The topic of the third issue is *Transformation of Political and Social Institutions*, which includes, as stated in the Call for papers: “parties and party systems;

parliamentarism; institutionalization of the society – NGOs, funds, professional organizations, trade unions, etc.”. Deadline for submitting articles and proposals is 1, November, 2004.

For further information: Mr. Igor Joukovskii, Editor. Kaliningrad, Russia. E-mail to: Joukovski_igor@mail.ru GSM + 7 902 214 92 72, fax + 7 0112 53 82 81.

Symposium: Øresund University and the Baltic Sea Region

On November 4th the Øresund University will organize the above-stated symposium in Copenhagen. Among other issues, the symposium will deal with the role of universities in the regional development, and with the possibilities of project-financing in the Baltic Sea Region. The symposium will be held in Danish. More info at: <http://www.uni.oresund.org/graphics/Oeresundsuniversitet/Dokumenter/konferenspdf/Oresundssymposium2004.pdf>

Conference: Democracy in Russia and the CIS – Concepts, Challenges and Visions

On November 10th -11th the Aleksanteri Institute in Helsinki will hold its 4th Annual Conference. As stated in the call for papers: “The conference addresses a wide array of questions related to democracy in Russia and other CIS countries. Examples of topics include [...] characteristic features of political participation and representation; challenges and prospects of democratic development; political culture and historical contexts of democratic rule; the role of the civil society and the media.” Key note speakers include: Andrey Ryabov (Carnegie Moscow Center); Oleg Kharkhordin (European University at St. Petersburg); Marina Malysheva (Moscow Center for Gender Studies and Institute on Socio-Economic Studies of Population, Russian Academy of Science). More info at: http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksanteri/conference2004/draft_programme.htm

International Conference: Negotiating Futures: States, Societies and the World

The Department of Social Sciences, University of Latvia will organise an international conference carrying the above stated title in Riga on November 11th - 14th. The event will include sessions such as: “Who holds the Future? Discussions on the future and the role of social science”; “Democratization: sharing experiences and approaching the future”; “Europeanization of external and internal policies”. “Communication and information environment in the Baltics”.

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Baltic Sea Region Lectures Series: Lars Grønbjerg

On November 17th Mr. Lars Grønbjerg will be the fourth lecturer within the framework of the Baltic Sea Region Lectures Series. Mr. Grønbjerg is Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the office of Russian and Balkan issues, and External Lecturer at Department of East European Studies, University of Copenhagen. The titles of Mr. Grønbjerg’s lecture will be: *The Kaliningrad Enclave within the Baltic Sea Region and the Russian-EU Relations*. As stated in the official announcement “The lecture will present an outline of the past, present and future situation of Kaliningrad in the context of the Eastern Enlargement. It will discuss the perspectives for EU-Russia relations with special reference to the Baltic Sea Region. Does the Baltic Sea Region have a special significance for EU-Russia relations? What are the prospects for co-operation with Russia in the region? How can the Kaliningrad issue be handled in the future” (see www.balticstudies.org/calendar).

The lecture will take place at the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, Rosenborggade 15, 1130 Copenhagen K, Auditorium RO 8 from 16.15 to 18.00.

Conference: After EU Enlargement: Changes and Challenges in the Baltic Sea Region

On November 19 and 20, The Centre for German Studies, Södertörns Högskola, Sweden will organise a conference carrying the above stated title. As specified in the call for papers: “The theme

of the conference reflects the current East expansion of the EU in the Baltic Sea Region. The conference is intended for researchers in the fields of humanities and social science”

Conference languages are English, German and Swedish.

More info at <http://www2.hu-berlin.de/BaltSeaNet/updates.html>

Seminar: New Frontiers or New Borders?: Northern Dimension in the Enlarged European Union

This seminar will take place on November 22-23 at the Estonian School of Diplomacy in Tallinn, and is organised by the Manchester Metropolitan University in cooperation with the Estonian School of Diplomacy. The seminar is organised within the framework of the Northern Dimension Network, directed by Prof. Clive Archer of the Manchester Metropolitan University. The Network is financed by the European Commission and functions as a Regional and Transitional Research Group of ECSA National Associations and Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence in Northern Europe. This Research Group will act as a Network on Enlargement and the Northern Dimension. Representatives come from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. More info at <http://les1.man.ac.uk/ses/jm/northerndimension/about.htm>

Conference: Baltic Sea Region - Perspective 2010

This event will be held in Brussels on November 23. The organiser is a working group including the City of Copenhagen, Hanse-Office, Tallinn EU Office, Stockholm Region, South Denmark House, Oslo Region European Office, City of Malmö, Helsinki, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern EU-office. The goal is to contribute “to a clear perspective of the region in the next six years and help identify priority activities at the European level as well as in the region” as stated in the presentation.

More info at: <http://www.kk.dk/baltic-conference/>

Baltic News:

September

Baltic Development Forum Summit

On September 12th- 14th, the city of Hamburg hosted the Sixth Annual Baltic Development Forum Summit. This year’s Summit, attended by over 400 participants from all over the region, covered a broad variety of topics spanning from ‘innovation and competition’ to ‘the role of Russia and the Baltic Sea Region’. The main conclusion of the Summit, drawn by Baltic Development Forum’s Chairman Uffe Ellemann-Jensen is that: “innovation and competitiveness must be main priorities for the Baltic Sea region. Innovation is created by business. This is where the economic growth is achieved. Russia is as important as ever. Foreign Investors Council in Kaliningrad is coming along nicely” (source www.bdforum.org).

Baltic Sea Lectures: Uffe Østergård

On September 15th, Prof. Uffe Østergård gave the inaugural lecture of the Baltic Sea Region Lectures Series. Prof. Østergård is Jean Monnet Professor of European Civilization and Integration, European Studies, University of Aarhus and head of Department for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the Danish Institute of International Studies, and gave a lecture carrying the title *The Baltic Sea Region in Historical Perspective*. Prof. Østergård provided a longue-durée historical perspective on the political, social and economic dynamics occurring in the Baltic Sea area, underlining its Nordic, European and Russian components.

Seminar: The Baltic Sea Choir – Still in Concert?

The Geneva Centre for Security policy (GCSP) and the Swedish National Defence College organised a high level workshop *Baltic Sea Choir – Still in Concert?*. The event took place on September 26th and 27th in Stockholm. The workshop dealt with the new opportunities and challenges arising from the recent developments in Russia and from the twin enlargement of the EU and NATO. More specifically, it tackled the question of the real value of the Baltic Sea Region in the security policy of the countries concerned. The event was divided into three sections: “Security Identities in the Baltic Sea Region”; “Security Challenges to the Region – New and Old?”; and “Future Cooperation – Through States, Institutions or Civil Society?”. Details on the workshop available at: <http://www.gcsp.ch/e/meetings/Events/Other-Events/Stockholm.htm>

October

Baltic Sea Lectures: Ole Frijs-Madsen

On October 6th, Ole Frijs-Madsen, Director of the *Baltic Development Forum*, gave a guest lecture in the context of the Baltic Sea Region Lectures series. The lecture, *The State of the Region - Integrating the Baltic Sea Region after the EU Enlargement*, was introduced by an overview of the political and economic dynamics occurring in the Baltic Sea area in the aftermath of the Cold War. In the second part of his talk, Mr. Frijs-Madsen outlined the current work being carried out at the Baltic Development forum on the future of the Baltic Sea cooperation. In this context, he presented the report *State of the Region Report 2004: an Assessment of Competitiveness in the Baltic Sea Region*. More info on this report at www.bdforum.org.

First Round of Parliamentary Elections in Lithuania

As was widely expected, the first round of Parliamentary Elections in Lithuania on October 10th turned into an outstanding victory of the newly formed Labour Party and of his leader, the magnate of Russian origins, Viktor Uspaskich. This party run its campaign on what most observers and analysts regarded as a plainly populist platform (See “Labor, Viktor savor their victory”, in *The Baltic Times*, October 13th 2004). Uspaskich’s success, however, reflects the aversion and disaffection of voters for Lithuania’s politics, which over the past year has experienced both the impeachment of former President Rolandas Paksas (see *Cebast News* Vol. 3 N. 2), and corruption scandals in the Parliament. Such instance is confirmed by the worryingly low turnout of these elections, in which less than 37% of eligible voters cast their ballots, 20% less than the previous elections.

The ruling coalition - Social Democrats and Social Liberals - gathered around 21% of the votes. The second round of the elections is due to take place on October 24th.

Conference: One or Two Europes?

On October 21-22 the University of Uppsala organized this conference, which dealt mainly with EU new member states after the EU enlargement. The event included among others presentations by Claes Levinsson on the ten new members; Sverker Gustavsson on the future of the EU; Barbara Törnquist-Plewa on Poland; Stefan Hedlund on EU and Russia.

Details are available at: <http://www.kurssekr.uadm.uu.se/pg/ettellertvaeuropaht04.html#program>

Baltic Sea Region Lectures Series: Ole Kværnø

On October 27th, Ole Kværnø, Director of the Institute for Strategic and Political Science at the Royal Danish Defence Academy, provided the third guest lecture within the Baltic Sea Region Guest Lectures Series. The lecture, *Consequences of the Baltic States' NATO and EU Membership for the Regional Security Complex*, presented a strategic outline of the Region after the dual

enlargement. Mr. Kværnø analysed the effects that the EU and NATO accession process has had on the three Baltic States. Further, he discussed the consequences that the inclusion of the three Baltic States into EU and NATO in combination with the 9-11 attacks has had on the security strategy of the three Baltic States and Russia. Mr. Kværnø depicted the Baltic Sea Region as an expected step stone for further cooperation between NATO and Russia.

Baltic Publications:

Tassinari, Fabrizio: *Mare Europaeum: Baltic Sea Security and Cooperation from post-Wall to post-Enlargement Europe*, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, 2004. For an abstract of the book, click on http://www.balticstudies.org/calendar/Mare_Europaeum_Abstract.pdf

The book can be purchased at the Reception of the Department of Political Science (+45 3532 3366 and polsci@ifs.ku.dk) at a price of 100 DKK.

Announcements:

Transitions Online

Transitions Online (TOL) is an award-winning internet-based magazine covering political, social and cultural changes in 28 post-communist countries. TOL is always interested in establishing closer ties with experts and academics from the regions that we cover, and we would particularly like to encourage more contributions about the Baltic Sea area. TOL is not an academic journal, but rather a news magazine mainly producing in-depth analyses, commentaries, and contextual features that provide educated readers with clear insights into current affairs and underlying trends.

TOL would be glad to hear about ongoing research and to discuss whether this could be turned into an article for a broader, non-academic audience. Submissions guidelines are available at <http://www.tol.cz>. Contact: Lasse Kristensen, Editorial assistant, kristensenl@tol.cz.

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