

Book Launch: *CBEES State of the Region Report 2021*

The aim of *CBEES State of the Region Report 2021* is to map out the current rise of the far right in Central and Eastern Europe, with a focus on issues of national identity. To this end, we invited authors to contribute with comments, analyses, and discussions of crucial features of far-right movements in separate countries and in the region at large. The report gathers in-depth analyses of this development in 13 countries. It draws out certain common themes, but also highlights the diversity of far-right politics in the region.

The question that we wanted to address here was in particular the role and nature of politics surrounding national identity in the region. With the fall of Communism, the countries that had previously belonged to the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc embarked upon projects of national identity that went hand in hand with a process of finding their place in the European Union and other supranational organizations. How did the projects of developing national and regional identity after the fall of Communism pave the way for a spread of popular discontent with the so-called liberal elite of Brussels, a discontent that is kindled by populist politics that fairly often plays into the hand of nationalist xenophobic sentiments?

Presenters:

Jogile Ulinskaite and Rosita Garskaite: "In the Name of the Family"

Institute of International Relations and Political Science at Vilnius University.

Manes Weisskircher: "The Importance of Being Eastern German. The Multiple Heartlands of Germany's Far Right"

Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX), University of Oslo

Andrej Kotljartjuk: "The Counter-Narrative of WWII and the Far Right-Identity"

Institute of Contemporary History, Södertörn University

Francesco Zavatti: "Internet and the Far Right: From Manichean Views to Transnational Mobilization"

Institute of Contemporary History, Södertörn University

The discussion is chaired and moderated by **Joakim Ekman** and **Tora Lane**; Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES), Södertörn University.