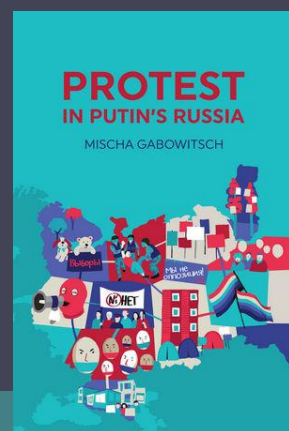


# War, Memory and National Identity in Post-Soviet Russia

## Mischa Gabowitsch, Einstein Forum (Potsdam) *Victory Day: Commemorating the Great Patriotic War in 1955, 2015, and 2055*

Victory Day is the most important national holiday in Russia. Liberal critics often assume that Victory Day is essentially a Brezhnev-era project that was revived by Putin: an orchestrated exercise in patriotism. In this talk, Mischa Gabowitsch questions that narrative by looking in detail at Victory Day before and after Brezhnev. The talk draws on a systematic study, currently in progress, of reports on military commemoration from three Soviet republics for 1945-64, as well as two international projects of multi-sited ethnography that studied Victory Day celebrations in 11 countries in 2013 and 2015. It concludes by discussing several scenarios for the future of Victory Day, based on a comparison with commemorative celebrations across the world.



## Vera Michlin-Shapir,

Tel Aviv University & INSS (Institute for National Security Studies)

## *'Liquid Russia' – Rethinking Russian National Identity in the Post-Soviet Era*

This study offers a new framework for considering Russian national identity. There has been an extensive academic debate on post-Soviet Russian national identity, which has often been described as a lost, confused, and abnormal experience. Instead, this research tests the hypothesis that Russian post-Soviet national identification is a late-modern experience. The collapse of the Soviet Union opened Russia to the temporal context of globalisation – to cross-border flows of capital, goods, and labour, as well as to increased access to travel options, communication technologies and information outlets. These changes impacted the formation of national identity in Russia more profoundly than has been acknowledged.



**Sunday, Oct. 21, 16:00-20:00**  
Tel Aviv University, Gilman Bldg., Rm. 458

*Minerva Institute for German History*  
*The Cummings Center for Russian and East European Studies*



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