

Organizer

Laboratorium Analiz Transformacji Elit i Inteligencji, #Elitylab UW

The Laboratory of the Analysis of the Transformation of Elites and the Intelligentsia, #Elitylab UW, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”. The University of Warsaw.

Topic: Elites of (post)transformation. Cases of Poland, Ukraine, and Russia

Description

We kindly invite you to a debate devoted to elites in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia. The fall of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, and the post-socialist political transformations have put the issue of elites in the center of interest of the public opinion. The transformations have been a complex process in which elites played an important role. In this period, there have been tensions in the field of power between the previous political elites and the new, aspiring ones of the oppositional movements or the republics of the Soviet Union. The replacement of the political elites was accompanied by dynamic proprietary transformations that encouraged the concentration of capital in the private sector. Along with the domination of the neoliberal order, also intellectual elites have undergone reformulation. Even though – as it may seem – after the turbulent 1990's the process of formation of elites in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia has somehow stabilized, the question of divisions and social inequalities remains a key issue of public debate in these countries. In each country, the process of exchange of elites has proceeded differently. The time that has passed allows us to analyze the transitions and their outcomes. We assume that although in every region that interests us this process had its own logic, it is exactly the comparative approach that allows for a better understanding of the various ways of vanishing, enduring, and emerging of elites.

During the debate, along with the guests, we would like to address, among others, the issues that follow:

1. How to define elites in different countries?
2. What is the identity of elites and their social reception?
3. What are the factors that encourage duration, transformation, and replacement of elites?
4. How did the replacement of elites happen in different countries?
5. What types of elites (political, cultural, economic ones) do exercise power in different countries?

Guests:

1. Konstantin Gaaze, Independent Researcher
2. Oleksandra Iwaniuk, University of Warsaw
3. Mykhailo Minakov, Kennan Institute
4. Andreas Umland, Swedish Institute of International Affairs
5. Ivan Peshkov, Adam Mickiewicz University
6. Anastasia Sergeeva, For Free Russia Association
7. Tomasz Zarycki, University of Warsaw

Chair: Kamil Wielecki, University of Warsaw

Date: February 23th

Language: English

Duration: 2 hours (1 hour and 30 minutes for the debate and 30 minutes for the discussion)
Start: 14.00 CET

Place: (Hybrid meeting)

On-site:

Dobra 72, 00-312 Warszawa (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw), room number 1
(Conference Hall)

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81973602723?pwd=Z3BJQnZSSmFTR0J1RXRZS3hFOHVpZz09>