

International Conference

Empire and Beyond. The Making and Breaking of Great Powers

15-17th May 2025, Toruń

Day 1: Thursday, 15th May 2025

11.00 Conference Opening

11.30–11.50 Inaugural Lecture

- **Prof. Michael Gehler** (University of Hildesheim)

Empires and the imperial turn: Previous findings and challenges for future research

11.50–12.10 Discussion

Session 1

12.10–12.30

- **Prof. Maciej Górny** (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw)

"Nature itself demands Austria's existence": Geography's contribution to late imperial propaganda

12.30–12.50

- **Dr. Alicja Bartnicka** (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń)

The dream of a perfect nation? The SS as a racial empire

12.50–13.10 Discussion

13.10–13.30 Coffee break

13.30–13.50

- **Prof. dr. Aurimas Švedas** (Lithuanian Institute of History)

Nikita Michalkov's film 12 (2007) as a handbook on putinism

13.50–14.10

- **Prof. Malte Rolf** (University of Oldenburg)

Provincializing the Center: Radical Russian Nationalists in the okrainy and the "National Turn" of Political Discourse in the Late Romanov-Empire

14.10–14.30

- **Mgr. Piotr Oliński** (University of Gdańsk)

The reception of German imperial economic policy in the writings of the ordoliberalists

14.30–15.00 Discussion

15.00 Dinner

18.00 Supper

Day 2: Friday, 16th May 2025

Session 2

10.00–10.20

- **Prof. Michael Sommer** (University of Oldenburg)
A dream of Rome. How to make – and maintain – an empire

10.20–10.40

- **Dr. Antonietta Castiello** (University of Oldenburg)
Filling the Cracks Between Fighting Empires: Tadmor and the Tadmoreans

10.40–11.00

- **Prof. Szymon Olszaniec** (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń)
Provinces in the structure of the Empire (IV–VI A.D.) – discussions and problems

11.00–11.20

- **Prof. Teresa Wolińska** (University of Łódź)
The Arabs as a tool in the hands of empires? Ghassanids and Lachmids in the relations between Byzantium and Persia

11.20–11.40 Discussion

11.40–12.00 Coffee break

Session 3

12.00–12.20

- **Prof. Thomas Bohn** (University of Giessen)
Who owns Western Polesia? A mystery in the cartography and ethnography of the Tsarist Empire

12.20–12.40

- **Prof. Paweł Hanczewski** (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń)
Colonial empires as composite states

12.40–13.00

- **Prof. Matthias Weber** (University of Oldenburg / Federal Institute for Culture and History of Eastern Europe)
The Piasts. A symbol of the Polish Kingdom in Europe in the 19th and 20th century

13.00–13.20 Discussion

13.20–14.00 Summary and conclusion

14.00 Dinner

Day 3: Saturday, 17th May 2025

10.00–14.00

Guided science tour: *Toruń – a border town on the edge of the empire*