



**University
of Basel**

Profilbereich
Osteuropa



Study Day

Where Silence Speaks.

(In)audibility as a cultural phenomenon
and scholarly challenge in Eastern and
South-Eastern Europe

Friday, 27 March 2026 | 13.00–20.00

Slavic Seminar, Nadelberg 8, 4051 Basel



Ukrainian Research
in Switzerland

Where Silence Speaks.

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The question “Who speaks?” has been prominent in humanities research for several decades: Addressing the positionalities of speaking subjects and their embeddedness into cultural hierarchies has strongly contributed to discussions of, among others, gender, (post-)coloniality and sexualities in studies of both histories and cultures in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. This study day is set to address this question’s implicitly omnipresent counterpart: Who doesn’t speak and why?

In a series of workshops, we address the production, perpetuation and the challenging of silences in historical constellations and cultural production in Eastern Europe. By which mechanisms have certain groups (women, LGBTQ+, indigenous groups) or forms of cultural and artistic activity been excluded from the production of knowledge and denied entry into the so-called canon? How do members of marginalized groups challenge hegemonic discourses that deny them the capacity to speak? And how can researchers and students engage ethically with such silences and the individuals behind them, especially in times of war? The workshops within this event tackle these questions drawing on case studies from Ukraine, Poland, Russia and Bosnia’s Roma population.

Experts | Discussion Leads

Rebecca Fisch	Erfahrungen von Roma im Bosnienkrieg
Anna Dobrowolska	LGBTQ+ Archives in Eastern Europe
Olena Sobolieva	Anthropology and Silence in Contexts of Violence
T. Maier/ P. Bickhardt	(Un)Hörbarkeit zwischen Kolonialität & Gender
Sandra Imko	Silence and the Limits of Art History
Kateryna Yermieieva	Silence in Wartime Ukraine

Registration required | Deadline: 13 March 2026

Please sign up [via the online form](#) (or QR code) and select your preferred working groups. We will do our best to accommodate your choices.



Program

13:00	Introduction: What Are Silences?
13:15–14:00	Parallel Working Groups Olena Sobolieva (Basel): I Know, I Do Not Write: Anthropology in Contexts of Violence Kateryna Yeremieieva (Basel): Contested Silence in Wartime Ukraine: Digital Vigilance and Communicative Double Binds
14:00–14:20	Coffee & Talks
14.20–15:00	Parallel Working Groups Anna Dobrowolska (Basel): Queering the Past. Alternative LGBTQ+ Archives in Eastern Europe Rebecca Fisch (Heidelberg): Zwischen Unsichtbarkeit und Hypervisibilität: Erfahrungen von Roma im Bosnienkrieg
15:00–15:30	Coffee & Poetry, moderated by Saskia Heyn
15:30–16:10	Parallel Working Groups Thomas Maier/Philine Bickhardt (Basel/Zurich): Weibliche (Un)Hörbarkeit zwischen Kolonialität und Gender in spät- und postsowjetischen Texten Sandra Imko (Lausanne): Addressing the Silence: Material, Method and the Limits of Art History
16:10–16:30	Coffee & Talks
16:30–17.15	Plenary Discussion: Silences Across Disciplines
17:15–18.00	At the Table with Kozak Dinner with Ukrainian Specialties by Our Favourite Chefs, Svitlana & Tetiana
18:00–20.00	Movie Night Film Title TBA