

Military censorship and self-censorship in Russia, Ukraine, Europe and the USA in the context of the axiology of war

Online seminar

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Russian Anti-War Activism, Civil Society and (Self-)Censorship in Times of Russia's War in Ukraine

Since the re-start of Russia's war in Ukraine on February 24th, 2022, the political repressions against Russian civil society, activists, and independent media have increased. The invasion has brought more censorship and self-censorship into the activists' lives and forced them to find new strategies and tactics for activism or even to flee the country due to changing political realms. The upcoming discussion will focus on how these new restrictive measures and laws had impacted and transformed activism in Russia, based on the illustration of some cases, such as feminist and human rights activism, and how the repressions before the war had created a ground for new prosecutions. In addition, we will discuss how the new censorial measures have influenced activists' biographies and identities while they try to continue to be activists both inside and outside of Russia, use new creative tactics of protest to overcome censorship and avoid repressions, and activists' dilemmas arising from these balancing between the censorship and the right for freedom of speech. Finally, we will reflect on the potential implications of these developments on Russian civil society and activism in general, as well as their future trajectories and challenges that the current situation might bring.

***Bio**

Natalia Kovyliueva is a Ph.D. candidate and Junior Fellow Researcher in Political Science at Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu (Estonia). Her current dissertation project, titled "Gaining Voice: Feminist Grassroots Mobilizations in Putin's Russia," explores the emergence and development of the feminist grassroots movements and their tactics and strategies in Russia starting from the early 2000s. Natalia holds an MA in Political Science from Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) and an MA in International Relations from the Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia). Natalia has been a volunteer and intern for such organizations as Sakharov Centre, Memorial, EU-Russia Civil Society Forum, German-Russian Exchange, and Transparency International - Russia.