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**Research project “Discourses on War in Post-Soviet Russia: Strategies for Justification of War and Maintaining its Rationale”**

**Key words:** war, Russia, justification of war, political rhetoric, discourse

**Project summary**

With a particular focus on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the project explores the rhetorical strategies of post-Soviet Russian governments in justifying wars and military operations, as well as tactics for maintaining the sustainability of these justifications. Determining the fundamental components of the official Russian discourse on war and comprehending the reasons behind its effectiveness — or lack thereof — are thus the central aims of this research project.

Throughout the project, I intend to identify the common threads in Russian pro-war narratives from 1991 to 2023 and map the areas where it is disseminated. This will include writings and speeches by key figures in the Russian political landscape, mnemonic artifacts, educational materials (particularly history and social studies school textbooks) and works of popular culture.

As an additional but nonetheless important task I intend to compare politicians’ discourse about war in Russia and the functioning of military discourse in other authoritarian regimes.