

Humboldt Kolleg

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Global Challenges of the 21st Century

- 1) *Technological development and human health/ quality of life*
- 2) *Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- 3) *Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

Daily Life on the Romanian-Soviet Frontier: Propaganda, Hostility and Cooperation

My goal in this research is to collect testimonies from people living on both sides of the borderline, to identify identity-related mechanisms and daily practices that functioned in the frontier area throughout the post-war period, and to analyse the means through which individuals and communities reacted towards the often aggressive political discourse and the manner in which they administered their rich common cultural heritage, while utterly being neglected by the authorities. I also try to identify the elements of closeness and separation that have entered the collective mindset after 1945 and endured up to the present day, as well as the local factors specific to the communities living in the proximity of the Prut River, and to establish the mechanisms that build the image of “the other” and fuel the myths about the other territory, which are cultivated and supported by the local discourse. From a geographical perspective, my project focuses on the borderline separating the county of Botoşani in Romania and Briceni, Edineţ, and Rîşcani districts from the Republic of Moldova.

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