



## Call for papers

### “Media control as source of political power in Central and Eastern Europe”

Workshop at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki

organized by the Russian Media Lab in collaboration with the

Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen

Helsinki, 02 – 03 September 2019

We invite proposals for papers to be discussed at an intensive two-day workshop on “Media control as source of political power in Central and Eastern Europe” at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki on 02 – 03 September 2019. The workshop will involve around 15 scholars, and early-career researchers are especially encouraged to apply. Travel expenses and accommodation costs of invited participants will be covered by the organisers.

The workshop aims to bring together approaches from political science, media studies and other relevant academic disciplines to get a more comprehensive picture of the role of media control in consolidating and expanding political power in authoritarian regimes and in “backsliding” democracies. The focus of the workshop will equally be on the interplay of media and political actors and on the effect of this relationship on regime dynamics.

To examine these issues, our workshop wants to look at a broad range of actors (including journalists, political office-holders, regulating media and entrepreneurs owning media) and at a broad range of interactions (including legislative and organisational issues as well as actual media reporting). The focus of invited papers, however, should always be on the role of media actors, media ownership and media reporting for political power struggles and political regime dynamics.

**Deadline for the submission of paper proposals is 31 March 2019.** In addition to a 300-word abstract, please include a brief biographical statement in your submission. Selected paper-givers will be invited by 30 April 2019. Full papers will be due 31 July 2019.

We plan to publish selected workshop papers in a special issue of the Scopus-listed open access journal *Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media* (<http://www.digitalicons.org/>).

### Paper proposals and any questions should be addressed to the workshop organisers:

Dr Mariëlle Wijermars, Aleksanteri Institute: [marielle.wijermars@helsinki.fi](mailto:marielle.wijermars@helsinki.fi)

Prof Dr Heiko Pleines, Research Centre for East European Studies: [pleines@uni-bremen.de](mailto:pleines@uni-bremen.de)

The workshop is co-organized by the research project „Media control as source of political power: The role of oligarchs in electoral authoritarian regimes“, which is conducted by the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen and receives financial support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – grant No. 391270526.