

Die Arbeitsbereiche Osteuropäische Geschichte, das Studium generale sowie die Zweigstelle Mainz der Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft laden zu folgendem Vortrag ein:

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### Loyalties in East European Borderlands: Bessarabian public servants during World War Two (1939-1945)

**Dienstag, 27. Juni 2017, 18.15 Uhr, Hörsaal P 103 (Philosophicum, Jakob-Welder-Weg 18, 55128 Mainz)**

The talk is focused on the issue of loyalty in the Southeast European region of Bessarabia (today Republic of Moldova), which during World War II switched its political status from Romania to USSR, and back, several times (1940, 1941, and 1944). Both regimes, whereas acknowledging that local public employees were bearers of vernacular knowledge about the society, entrusted them daily administrative issues; nevertheless, these were constantly treated with mistrust and suspected of “betrayal”. No standard criteria of loyalty assessment were applied; loyalty being questioned first with regard to previous regime, it was fragile and had a situational character. The employees who stayed in the region (mostly in low-rank positions) pragmatically adjusted to new political requirements, in order to ensure personal and career benefits. With this aim, different survival strategies, such as inventing new autobiographies, were developed. The findings show that, despite the claimed “rupture” between two mutually exclusive Romanian and Soviet regimes, there was “continuity” at the local level. In this way, the dominant version of the wartime history of the region, written through “occupation vs liberation” lens, is questioned, an *entangled* version of wartime history of the contested borderland being suggested instead.