



**Regionalism: Educational and
Research Perspectives in the BSR**

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Questions to address

- **What is peculiar in Baltic studies?**
- **What are educational and academic components of region-building / making**
- **How BSR is understood / perceived by the EU and Russia**
- **Russia's troubles with international socialization via University-based cooperation**



A repertoire of regional studies

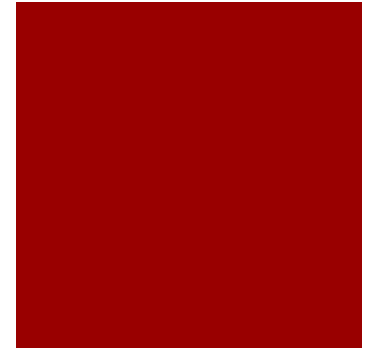


- **Baltic Sea region**
- **Black Sea region**
- **Nordic region**
- **Central Europe**
- **Eastern Europe**
- **Caspian Sea region**
- **South Caucasus**
- **Central Asia**

What defines interest to regional studies?

- **Political actuality**
- **Academic relevance**
- **Educational practices**





Political importance of BSR for the EU

- Spill-over effects, policy transfer practices, social learning, „cognitive region“ etc.
- Environmental protection
- The **German** – Polish – Russian „trialogues“
- A playground for EU - Russia interactions as regional insiders

Key academic concepts

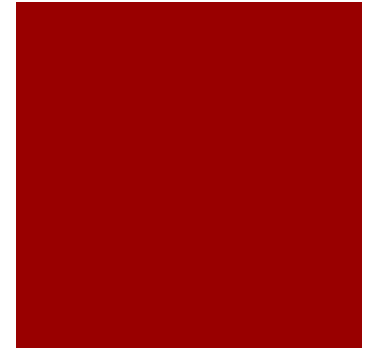


- **Institutionalization / institution-building**
- **Socialization**
- **Neighborhood**
- **De-securitization**
- **De-bordering**
- **Normative / Soft power**

BSR for Russia



- **A major energy project (Nord Stream)**
- **Kaliningrad**
- **Hard security matters**



Russia's CBSS Presidency, 2013

- Modernization, innovation and clusters of growth;
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a platform for sustainable growth;
- Promotion of tolerance as a means of combating radicalism and extremism;
- Enhancing people-to-people contacts, facilitating the visa regime

Key problems from the Russian side in University-based cooperation



- **Deteriorating quality of education**
- **Underpayment as a result of decreasing state's funding of education (up to 40%), against the backdrop of exorbitant salaries for University top hierarchy**
- **Brain drain**
- **Plagiarism and loweing quality standards**
- **Inefficiencie of managerial practices in higher education, including corruption**

Continued



- Chaotic mergers of Universities (largely natural-science based)
- Rising amount of paperwork and red-tape formalism
- New criteria of assessment
- Debate on new educational standards (especially acute for humanities and social sciences)
- Politicization („patriotic education“, the role of ROC, „unwelcome themes“)

Issues to explore as competitive advantages of Baltic studies

- Energy inter-dependence
- Multilateralism
- Regional security

