

Call for papers

Past Legacies, Present Tensions, Future Visions: Anthropology and Ethnology in and of the Baltic Sea Region

30 March – 1 April 2026, Södertörn University, Stockholm (Sweden)

Abstract deadline: 17 November 2025

The Baltic region is experiencing intensified militarisation and the fortification of borders, developments that intersect with a host of other pressing challenges: the rise of populist and anti-immigration sentiments, the escalating impacts of climate change and ecological degradation, the politicisation and misuse of history, the reconfiguration of migration landscapes due to Russia's full-scale aggression in Ukraine, and growing social polarisation and economic inequality. In the face of these transformations, the perspectives of ethnologists and anthropologists are more vital than ever. With their capacity to trace bottom-up processes, connect diverse local experiences, and amplify the voices of excluded and marginalised groups, the ethnographic disciplines are uniquely positioned to illuminate how these shifts are lived and contested on the ground.

This conference aims to bring together scholars to critically examine these urgent transformations, to strengthen the community of anthropologists and ethnologists in the region, and to explore new avenues for future collaboration.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to, issues concerning:

- **Borders and bordering practices:** How do shifting borders and bordering regimes shape our understanding of current challenges? How has the Baltic Sea been studied, and what new issues are emerging?
- **Disciplinary trajectories:** National developments, convergences, and problematic legacies of anthropology and ethnology in the region.
- **Post-Soviet legacies:** How the collapse and legacy of the Soviet Union continue to influence academic positionalities and methodological orientations.
- **Current orientations:** The impact of disciplinary legacies on the present focus and standing of anthropology and ethnology in national contexts.
- **Theoretical perspectives:** Integration of postcolonial, postsocialist, and decolonial approaches, and their role in reshaping imaginaries of the Baltic Sea region.

Confirmed keynote: Zuzanna Bogumił, assistant professor at the Department for Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Warsaw University.

Please submit your abstract of maximum 300 words here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/qGP0BdRaRX>

All applicants will be notified on 1 December.

We have some funding available for travel and accommodation. Please indicate in the form whether you would like to apply for this, including a brief motivation. In case of limited funds, we take the liberty of making a selection based on financial needs and/or relevance for the conference.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dzmitry Sialitski, dzmitry.sialitski@sh.se