

Wintersemester 2023/2024

GIB Lecture Series

## „Räume des Krieges“/ “Spaces of War”

Dienstag 28.11.2023 | 16.15–17.45 Uhr | H8 (Geo II)

### From OSINT to “digital fieldwork”: how online investigation can “augment” geopolitical analysis and the study of conflicts

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Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) has become a widely used toolbox for many journalists, political activists or hackers. Still, it has not yet reached the Academia - at least as a practical and methodological toolset to be mobilized by researchers for documenting or investigating their object, especially in geography and geopolitics. The purpose of this lesson is to show how open source investigation can help to “augment” researchers’ fieldworks, and the epistemological questions it raises, especially in the fields of political geography and critical geopolitics.

This lesson will focus on several elements:

1. First, the question of what is (and what is not) OSINT will be discussed. The goal is to identify the principles, perspectives, and limitations of open source investigations for the social sciences and to clarify its spatial dimension.
2. A series of OSINT case studies will then be presented to illustrate the use of these approaches for geopolitical purposes. These case studies will focus on Russia and demonstrate how digital investigations can be used to document strategies of territorial appropriation.
3. Finally, a typology of OSINT tools and techniques will be presented that can be easily used by students as part of their research.

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