

# PROTEST! Expression, Organization and Impact in a Central and Eastern European Perspective

22.06. – 24.06.2026

Gdańsk, Poland (European Solidarity Centre // NOMUS)

Contact: [protest2026@isgv.de](mailto:protest2026@isgv.de)

## Programme

Monday, 22nd

**European Solidarity Centre**

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### 1:00 pm

Opening remarks

Magdalena Mistat – Ira Spieker – Grzegorz

Piotrowski

European Solidarity Centre

Herder Research Council

### 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Instrumentalizing Protest through Far-Right Movements

Bastian Stock: Hijacking the Street: How a Far-Right Micro-Party Appropriated a Leftist Protest through Cultural Threat Scenarios

Daniel Platek, Paulina Pospieszna, Artur Lipiński: Explaining Strategic Adaptation of the Far Right in Poland. Political Opportunity Structures, Networks, and Narratives

Grzegorz Piotrowski, Ali Jones: Can there ever be a State Antifa? State intervention in contesting Polish and East German far-right communities

### 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Break

### 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Adapting Protest Practices

Magdalena Muszel, Alicja Pałęcka & Piotr Kocyba: Protest under Political Change: Meanings, Repertoires, and Ideological Divides in Poland

### 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Resistance and Temporality

Joshua Dubrow, Anna Radiukiewicz, Alan Żukowski, Michał Nawrocki: Every protest is an imagined future

Katharina Schuchardt: Contesting Time: Protest and the Reconfiguration of Temporal Orders at the Turów Open-Pit Mine in Poland

Christopher N. Pavenstädt: How to Reimagine Climate Futures - The Role of Discursive Agency in Climate Movements

### 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Long term impacts

Henry P. Rammelt: From Connective Action to Affective Capture: Digital Protest and Democratic Ambivalence in Eastern Europe

Tomasz Gola: From the Street to the Ballot Box – Civic Activism and Electoral Participation in Poland

Nina Krienke, Georgiana Bounegru: The Empire Strikes Back. Practices of Protest Instrumentalization by Institutional Actors in Romania

Maciej Kowalewski: How Social Movement Archives Contribute to Protest Literacy?

Simon Niemann: The public space between art and political activism

**5:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

Break

**5:30 pm**

KEYNOTE: Elżbieta Korolczuk:  
Sowing violence and epistemic chaos. How social movements can damage democracy

Tuesday, 23rd

**NOMUS**

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**9:30 am – 11:00 am**

Music as a Form of Protest

Piotr Kowzan, Aleksandra Hołubowicz:  
Pedagogies of Radical Mourning Protest Songs

Azniv Tadevosyan: Dispersed Resistance Practices in Wartime Russian Popular Music

Stanislav Vysotsky: “This Isn’t a Fashion. It’s a War!” The Role of Music in Antifascist and Anti-Authoritarian Protest in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine

**11:00 am – 11:30 am**

Break

**11.30 am – 1:00 pm**

Cultural Forms of Protest

Noémi Katona, Beáta Nagy, Attila Melegh:  
Competing Narratives of Oppression in an Authoritarian Context: A Hungarian Case Study

**09:30 am – 11:00 am**

Societies in Transformation

Nicoleta Serban: Mobilization of the European population in favor of a country beyond the Iron Curtain (1989)

Richard Rohmoser: Social Movements Between Social Integration and Radicalization. The 1980s as a Defining Era for the Development of Protest in Europe

Ondřej Daniel: Contesting Postsocialist Census: Protest Practices of Trade Unionists and Anarchists in 1990s Czechia

**11.30 am – 1:00 pm**

Social Movements and Practices

Anna Radiukiewicz: Protest as an Arena of Civic Recognition: Pandemic Mobilizations in Poland

Barát Erzsébet: Artistic forms at subcultural political protests against the various articulations of parliamentary autocracy in Hungary

Anne Hultsch: Pozor, padá kultúra! Attention, culture falls! On the protests against radical encroachments on cultural freedom in Slovakia

Daniel Opreș: Between Visibility and Silence: Petitioning as Protest in the Romanian Kingdom, 1878-1916

Rief Bartosz: Urban activism strategies in response to social, spatial, and economic changes in the former Gdańsk Shipyard area

### **1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

Break

### **2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

Fighting for Self-determination

Agnieszka Balcerzak: Framing Resistance: Grotesque, Absurdity, and Cuteness in Polish Abortion Debate

Aleksandra Drobnica: When the Protest Performs: Bodies, Symbols and Music in the Polish Women's Strike

Lea Bellmann: Bridging the Void in Protection: Between State Security and Collective Safety in Times of Far-Right Mobilization against Saxon Pride Parades

Michał Wenzel, Ewelina Nowakowska, Kacper Leśniewicz: Revival of Agrarism. Rural protests in 2024 as anti-globalism and counterhegemony

### **4:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

Break

### **4:30 pm**

KEYNOTE: Padraic J. Kenney:  
Where have all the flowers gone?  
Contemporary global protest in historical perspective

### **2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

Student Panel

Kamila Grudniewska: Mobilizing in the Networked Public Sphere: Digital Activism and Protest Dynamics in Central and Eastern Europe

Students' presentations

Wednesday, 24th

## **NOMUS**

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### **9:30 am – 11:00 am**

#### Protest against Oppression

Vlad Bujdei-Tebeica: The Moral Economy of Protest: Dignity, Survival, and Contested Legitimacy in Contemporary Moldova

Mykhailo Honchar: Practices of Teachers' Resistance under the Russian Occupation of Ukrainian Territories (2022-2025)

Claudiu Crăciun: Militant democracy and electoral protest. The case of Romanian presidential elections

### **11:00 am – 11:30 am**

Break

### **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

#### Generational Formats of Protest

Franziska Andrea Bartl: "Don't Be Afraid – There Are Still Students Here." Student Protest Potential in de GDR and Czechoslovakia in Comparison

Katarzyna Walecka, Kinga Wojtas: Claiming the Nation in the Streets: Youth Perceptions and Protest Legitimacy at Poland's Independence March (2018-2024)

### **9:30 am – 11:00 am**

#### Symbols and Contradiction

Anna Barbara Ratuska: Solidarity: A Visual Narrative of Protest and Collective Identity

Fatos Hoxha: From Labour Protest to National Symbol: The 1989 Trepça Miners' Strike as Political Mobilization in Late Socialist Yugoslavia

David Groß: Economic Protest and Cultural Resistance: The Bitterfeld Protests and Economic Resistance in the GDR

### **11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

#### Marginalized Perspectives

Nina Sophie Grabowski: Gender and dissent in socialist dictatorship – actions and experiences of women in opposition groups in Warsaw and East Berlin in the 1980s Abstract

Elizabeth Adetola Umoh, Samuel Umoh Uwem: African Foreign Students Protest or 'Hooliganism' In 1960s Czechoslovakia

Deborah Ifeoluwa Ita, Ituen Alfred Ita: Third World Student in Soviet Union Moscow and 1963 Moscow Protest

## **Conclusion**