CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMITE INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES HISTORIQUES

The Three Seas: Borderlands and Gateways

Programme Event

International Committee of Historical Sciences | 26–30 August 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

DATE	LOCATION
26 Aug 2026, 14:00 - 15:30	House 1 T-1004
THEME	CONFERENCE
J - Connections, Entanglements, and Universal Perspectives on History	International Committee of Historical Sciences

Overview

The Three Seas (the Adriatic Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea) appears to be a very modern concept. The borderline inclusive concept is not however. Its roots can be traced backed to Louis I of Anjou, king of Hungary and Poland (1370-1382), or to Venice's Hungaria, Polonia, Dacia et Crouatia (1490s-1530s), and, in more recent times, to Poland's interwar Intermarium (1930s).

The diversity encompassed between the said three seas placed/ places a rather significant question mark over the sustainability of the – otherwise resilient – concept(s). The Three Seas seems less of an actionable idea and more of a (generous) frame for thought. Plus, the seas in question were/ are used apparently more as borders than as gates for (arch) nation(s) of sailors.

The session aims to investigate both real humans (and their actions) and means (and their abstract cartography). Such an inquiry must naturally include also "those" on the other side(s), i.e. shore(s), of the seas. The Three Seas were at least equally determined from "the outside" as they were from "the inside". After all, the seas and lands under scrutiny were (also) a cross-road between the Ottonian realm, the Byzantine Empire and Kievan Rus'.

The panel was conceived in partnership by the Comitetul Na?ional al Istoricilor din România (Academia Român?) [CNIR]/ National Committee of Historians from Romania of the Romanian Academy, the Komitet Nauk Historycznych (Polska Akademia Nauk) [KNH]/ Committee for Historical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Hrvatski acionalni odbor za povijesne znanosti [HNOPZ]/ Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences.

Participants

Convenor

- Suzana Simon (Institute of Historical and Social Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb)

Panelists

- Ágnes Maléth (University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Beata Mo?ejko (University of Gda?sk)
- Ioan-Aurel Pop (Babe?-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca / Romanian Academy Bucharest)
- Nikolina Šimetin Šegvi? (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies)
- Alexandru Simon (Romanian Academy, Centre for Transylvanian Studies, Cluj-Napoca)
- Suzana Simon (Institute of Historical and Social Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb)
- Adam Zapa?a (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow)

Papers

The Papacy and the Three Seas

Ágnes Maléth (University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Commerce between the Three Seas

Beata Mo?ejko (University of Gda?sk)

The Eastern Churches and the Three Seas

Ioan-Aurel Pop (Babe?-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca / Romanian Academy Bucharest)

Urbanism(s) between the Three Seas

Nikolina Šimetin Šegvi? (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies)

Borders between the Three Seas

Alexandru Simon (Romanian Academy, Centre for Transylvanian Studies, Cluj-Napoca)

Nobility and Aristocracy between the Three Seas

Suzana Simon (Institute of Historical and Social Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb)

Propaganda(s) and Perception(s) between the Three Seas

Adam Zapa?a (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow)

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