University of Białystok

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Research seminar

**Belarusian military collaborators with the Nazis in the Cold War Western Exiles. The strategies of survival and memory work**

**Abstract**

Most Belarusians who collaborated militarily in 1939-1945 with the Nazis were forced into exile after 1945. This group of Eastern Europeans and former citizens of Poland has been especially successful in creating and passing on its symbolic capital during the Cold War. They constructed the counter-narratives of World War II and sites of memory and kept them alive in American, British, German, Canadian, and Australian exiles. The presentation examines the relationship between the memory work and strategies of survival of the former veterans of auxiliary police, Belarusian Home Guard, Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS formations.

**BIO**

Andrej Kotljarchuk is Associate Professor at the Department of History, Uppsala University. He is a project leader of the ongoing research project “Memory Politics in Far-Right Europe: Celebrating Nazi Collaborationists in Post-1989 Belarus, Romania, Flanders and Denmark” (Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies, 2018-).

His research focuses on the memory of World War II in Belarus and the Nazi genocide of Roma. His most recent publications include the chapter ”Belarus. The Counter-Narrative of WWII and the Far Right-Identity” in: *The Many Faces of the Far Right in the Post-Communist Space: A Comparative Study of Far-Right Movements and Identity in the Region* (ed. by Ninna Mörner, Södertörn University Press, 2022) and the article ”Babi Yar and the Nazi Genocide of Roma: Memory Narratives and Memory Practices in Ukraine” (*Nationalities Papers,* 2022)