

**MKGD Online Research Colloquium in the Summer Term 2025**

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**Military, War and Gender/Diversity: Current Research**

**The Fate of Female Soviet Prisoners  
of War in Occupied Soviet Union,  
1941-44**

**Dr. ALEXANDRA PULVERMACHER**

(University of Klagenfurt)

**Monday, April 28, 2025, 4:00–6:00 pm (CET)**

The Wehrmacht's style of warfare in Western Europe was very different from its conduct in the Soviet Union, where it openly flouted international law. This disregard led to extreme violence, much of it directed at captured Red Army soldiers. During the Second World War, more than 800,000 women served in the Red Army in roles such as medics, interpreters, couriers, secretaries, machinists, logisticians and snipers. Alongside the prevailing enemy stereotype of Judeo-Bolshevism, the German occupiers also promoted the image of the 'Russian gunwoman' to characterise female soldiers. This presentation examines the experiences of Soviet female prisoners of war and offers a comparative analysis with those of their male counterparts.

**Alexandra Pulvermacher** is a researcher at the University of Klagenfurt, working on the project "Life and Death of Soviet Prisoners of War in Occupied Ukraine, 1941–44". She completed her PhD in March 2023, focusing on a comparative study of Soviet and German repression of the Polish resistance in occupied Poland.

**Moderation: Prof. Dr. Christa Hämmerle** (University of Vienna)

**(Presentation in English)**

**Organizers: PD Dr. Anne-Laure Briatte** (Université Paris 4 La Sorbonne); **Prof. Dr. Tanja Bühner** (Paris Lodron University Salzburg); **Prof. Dr. Isabelle Deflers** and **PD Dr. Anke Fischer-Kattner** (University of the Bundeswehr Munich); **Prof. Dr. Karen Hagemann** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); **Prof. Dr. Isabel Heinemann** (University of Bayreuth); **Dr. Jasper Heinzen** (University of York).

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