

Claudia Eggart

Ph.D. Claudia Eggart



[Area of interest](#)

Anthropology of geopolitics, infrastructure, critical logistics studies, political ecology, markets/bazaars, economic anthropology, human-non-human relations, multi-modal anthropology, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Moldova, Poland

[Biography](#)

(2027, Jan – Mar) Visiting fellowship at the Alexanteri Institute, University of Helsinki

(2025 – 2026) Associated researcher at Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO, Berlin), with a first book grant from the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF)

(2025, Mar-Jun) Visiting fellow at the University of Fribourg

(2024 – 2025) Visiting associate scholar at the New Europe College (NEC, Bucharest),

(2021-2024) Researcher at the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS, Berlin)

(2022, Oct-Dec) Visiting fellowship at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS, Oxford)

(2021 Jan – Mar) Visiting fellowship, Centre for the History of Emotions (University of Tampere)

(2019-2024) Ph.D. at the University of Manchester, Social Anthropology

[Selected publications](#)

Dissertation/Book Manuscript

Eggart, C. Lived Geopolitics. Re-Scaling Market Infrastructures in Odesa and Bishkek from Soviet Collapse to Imperial Backlash [in preparation].

Abstract

This book tells the story of two of the world's largest container markets, the Dordoi Bazaar in Bishkek and the 7th Kilometer Market in Odesa, both of which were born from the collapse of the Soviet Union. As privatization and economic crisis pushed millions into trade, these markets turned into vital nodes linking goods from China, Turkey, and beyond with consumers across Eurasia. While many such markets vanished, Dordoi and the 7th Km endured, evolving into sprawling infrastructures of global commerce. Drawing on 18 months of multi-sited ethnographic research conducted between 2018 and 2026, the book follows traders as they navigate decades of instability, from the turbulent 1990s to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. It offers a rare longitudinal account of post-Soviet marketization, showing how economic life is continuously remade, through the everyday practice of *krutit'sya* - to spin, circulate, and make do. *Krutit'sya* is key to understand how market actors reroute goods, forge partnerships, and build sustainable logistical systems under conditions of crisis, war, and shifting border regulation. These empirical insights lead to the book's main concept lived geopolitics. Lived geopolitics, in a nutshell, conceptualizes the macro-scale of power politics and the micro-scale of everyday life as mutually co-constitutive. It foregrounds traders as knowledgeable agents who actively shape the economic and political landscapes they inhabit. In doing so, the book offers a timely and portable concept to the emerging anthropology of geopolitics. Furthermore, it brings Eastern Europe and Central Asia studies into a rare dialogue, emphasizing patterns of connectivity and dis-connectivity in a (de-)globalizing world. Finally, focusing on Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, the book challenges state-centric and Russia-focused narratives, in area studies, highlighting instead the resourcefulness and agency of people at the margins of the global economy.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Eggart, C. Parvu, S. (accepted). "Transport Geopolitics at the Margins. Embedded Infrastructures in the Lower Danube Borderlands." *Environment and Planning C*.

Eggart, C., (accepted). "From 'Field of Wonders' to 'Container Graveyard.' Crisis and Liminality at the 7Km Market in Odesa." *East European Politics and Societies*.

Eggart, C., (2026). Lived Geopolitics. The Production of Unorthodox Scalar Connections through Trade. *Anthropological Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/4566d66c.4a351a1a> [1]

Eggart, C., (2026). "From Object of Trauma to Subject of History. Women Shuttle Traders in the Wild 1990s." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. ahead-of-print, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1525/cpcs.2026.2712389> [2]

Eggart, C., 2024. "Waiting at Giurgiulesti Customs. Borders, Bureaucracy, and Geopolitics in between Ukraine, Moldova, and the EU." *Geopolitics*. ahead-of-print, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2024.2351083> [3]

Eggart, C., 2024. "Made in Kyrgyzstan is Gold!" The Rise of the Informal Kyrgyzstani Apparel Industry. *Third World Quarterly*. (45), 13-14, p. 2373-2390
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2023.2254242> [4]

Eggart, C., 2023. 'They Called Us *Spekulyanty*': Shame and Pride in the Biographies of Female Shuttle Traders in Post-Soviet Russia. *Europe-Asia Studies*. (75), 10, p.1677–1697. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2023.2186320> [5]

Bartels, I. Burda, T., Eggart, C., Nowak, K., Wiederkehr, S., 2022. 'Can You Hear Me?' Five Reflections on Building Rapport Online During the Coronavirus (COVID-19), *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*. 174

Edited Volumes

Eggart, C. (forthcoming October 2026) "Beyond Neoliberalism and Precarity: Entrepreneurial Subjectivities at the Dordoi Bazaar in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan," in F. Galdini and E. Pesci (eds.) *What's in a Job? Rethinking Labour, Gender, and Precarity in Central Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan UK (International Political Economy Series).

Special Issues

Berisha, R., & Eggart, C. (2026). Introduction: Locating the Geopolitical: Ethnographies of 'Contact Zones.' *Anthropological Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/4566d66c.d294abce> [6]

Eggart, C.; Karrar, H. (forthcoming in November 2026) "Markets as Infrastructures," in *Roadsides*

Other Publications

2026 Short-read article: How Ukraine's strikes on Russian warehouses became a problem in Kyrgyzstan, in *The Conversation*, <https://doi.org/10.64628/AB.waghtk7nx> [7]

Long-read article: Kyrgyzstan's Dordoi Bazaar: a world made from shipping containers and a city within a city, in *The Conversation*, <https://doi.org/10.64628/AB.k4uqphdet> [8]

2025 Blog post: Unpacking Emotions in Post-Soviet Russia: The Role of Shame and Pride in Socioeconomic Transformation, in *Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia*

2023 Spotlight: Gelebte Geopolitik: Getreidelogistik zwischen Krieg und Grenze, *Center for East European and International Studies (ZOIS)*

2022 Spotlight: Das Ende des Postsowjetischen/The End of the Post-Soviet, *Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS)*

Blog post: Grassroot-level Humanitarian Aid and the Paradoxes of Logistics, Regulation, and Geography in Times of War, *Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)*, University of Oxford

2020 Blog post: Mapping the post-Soviet Market in Crisis, In *Boasblog: Fieldwork Meets Crisis*

[Research projects](#)

Claudia Eggart's research examines the lived geopolitics of everyday economies, infrastructures, and emotions, from border and customs regimes to market mobilities and logistical life. Through multi-modal ethnography and discourse analysis her work explores the history and the volumetric social life of spatial metaphors such as containers, hubs, corridors and chokepoints to trace how shifting global orders materialize in everyday life. She received an ISRF grant for her monograph: *Lived Geopolitics: Re-scaling Market Infrastructures in Odesa and Bishkek from Soviet Collapse to Backlash Imperialism*. At the University of Warsaw she holds an OPUS (29)

grant titled: **Corridors, Canals, and Chokepoints: Retrofitting Transborder Connections in Eastern Europe's Shifting Geopolitical Landscape (RETRACE)**.

Abstract:

RETRACE explores the geopolitical, socio-technical, and environmental challenges emerging from the retrofitting of transborder connections in Eastern Europe following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Before February 2022, nearly 90% of Ukraine's grain exports depended on Black Sea ports. As these became strategic targets, emergency rerouting through Poland, Moldova, and Romania became crucial to avert economic collapse and

global food shortages. The EU responded with the Solidarity Lanes, channeling billions of euros into retrofitting and reactivating neglected road, rail, and river routes. What began as an emergency fix quickly evolved into a long-term political and economic investment ground. RETRACE argues that infrastructural retrofitting amid war and EU expansion is not merely technical but deeply political, shaped by contested sovereignty and imperial legacies. Drawing on infrastructure anthropology and political ecology, the project examines three cases: farmers' protests turning the Poland–Ukraine border into a chokepoint; geopolitical disputes over Danube port and canal navigation; and Moldova's fragmented railway integration into EU corridors. Methodologically, the project combines ethnographic fieldwork, discourse analysis, and multimodal mapping to examine how technocratic planning encounters popular resistance and ecological vulnerability. Rather than treating infrastructural formations such as corridors, canals, and chokepoints as neutral connective tissue, it conceptualizes them as contested volumetric spaces in which geopolitical ambitions become entangled with environmental conditions and everyday life. Ultimately, the project aims to show that infrastructure is not only about increasing connectivity. It is about whose visions of the future are materialized, who is left behind, and what kinds of relationships between people, territories, and ecosystems are enabled, or foreclosed along the way.

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Links

- [1] <https://doi.org/10.21428/4566d66c.4a351a1a>
- [2] <https://doi.org/10.1525/cpcs.2026.2712389>
- [3] <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2024.2351083>
- [4] <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2023.2254242>
- [5] <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2023.2186320>
- [6] <https://doi.org/10.21428/4566d66c.d294abce>
- [7] <https://doi.org/10.64628/AB.waghtk7nx>
- [8] <https://doi.org/10.64628/AB.k4uqphdet>