A huge variety of cases involving the interaction of different ethnic/racial groups (in recent history up to the present day) and resulting in tension, conflict, disillusionment, discrimination, etc., have been the subject of extensive social research worldwide. Thus, thousands of scholarly works have been written about the intricacies of the acceptance and integration of immigrants who are racial, ethnic and/or confessional ‘others’ in relation to host populations. Alongside this, there are many examples of co-ethnics’ interaction which are also, overtly or latently, accompanied by intra-group conflict, tension and misunderstanding. Academic coverage of co-ethnics’ encounters is far less ‘mature’ in terms of conceptualization, and literature devoted to these issues is far less abundant.

The pattern of peoples’ interaction being studied is usually a result of various kinds of population movement provoked by the serious socio-political cataclysms in the 20thand 21stcenturies: 1) post-colonial situations of return to respective "homelands"; 2) collapse of multi-national states, followed by massive reconfiguration of borders and nationalizing policies of successor post-Soviet/post-socialist states; 3) intensification of labor migration, both internal (rural-urban) and international, resulting from post-socialist economic transformation.

The seminar devoted to intra-ethnic conflicts and tensions after the fall of Communism, brings together international scholars with a strong commitment to micro-level qualitative research who will present results of their latest field-work. We expect inspiring additions to a number of enduring aspects related to the overall theme, including contested perceptions of who are "true" representatives of an ethnic group; experiences of exclusion and cultural "otherness"; socio-cultural and socio-economic roots of stereotyping and scapegoating on both sides; impact of home immigration policies and state-imposed parameters of belonging on mutual expectations and relationships between the co-ethnics, and other.

Alongside with this, presentations are expected to bring to the fore some largely unexplored topics and/or previously neglected (in terms of academic attention to "co-ethnic encounters") geographical areas within the post-Soviet/post-socialist world. In terms of "fresh" topics and approaches, these include taking on board confessional identity and religious factors, in general, in the process of co-ethnics' interaction; emphasis on generational differences within co-ethnic populations returning to their motherland and, e.g., analysis of divisions within co-ethnic migrant communities. In terms of new "geographical" case-studies, these include, e.g., Albania, Armenia and various countries of Central Asia.