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## **More-than-state ontologies of territory from Russian political geographic perspectives**

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### *Abstract:*

Research on territory has traditionally focused on the bordering of state national limits – one of the most comprehensive analyses of territorial manifestations often stemmed from the modern Eurocentric context. This approach fails to recognize alternative modes of decentralized territorial governance outside the experiences of the European nation-state and has been an important focus of scholarly critique. This talk will problematize traditional political geographic perspectives by rereading the concept of territory from a Russian standpoint. The history of Russian political and geographic thought borrowed from the modern Western paradigms yet offered new political technologies of controlling the land and the people and developed new categories of geographic analysis. In the Russian context, territory as a spatial practice of power-making takes on complex political forms, operates on multiple spatial scales, and presupposes different political projects, which diverge from the dominant Eurocentric interpretations. This talk will chart the more-than-state ontologies of territory from a Russian standpoint and delineate connections of theoretical trends with current events in post-Soviet urban, rural, and geopolitical realm.