

# Výzkumné semináře

Masarykova ústavu a  
Archivu AV ČR, v. v. i.  
&  
Institutu  
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FSV UK

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Smetanovo nábřeží 6  
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Masarykův ústav a Archiv AV ČR a Institut mezinárodních studií  
FSV UK srdečně zvou na přednášku

## **Harnessing fragmentation. The national economies of post-war Poland and the Baltics (1918–1926)**

**Klaus Richter**  
**University of Birmingham**

Despite the optimistic force of the “Wilsonian Moment”, most economic forecasts for the new states that emerged from the collapsed empires were extremely gloomy, predicting an existence in squalor, based on the impossibility to mitigate the effects of infrastructural disruptions that ultimately could only be remedied by reintegration into the territories of their larger neighbours. Nonetheless, as this paper argues on the example of Poland and the Baltic States, the new states were by no means merely products or victims of territories falling apart, but actively sought to harness the dynamics of fragmentation by deploying policies that remodelled their national economies in a way that would transform the new territories into viable economic units, thus shaping sustained international concepts of what modern states can do. Particular attention will be devoted to infrastructural and population policies as well as property redistribution.