Mag. Dr. phil. MA

Anna Graf-Steiner

Senior Researcher

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Personal details

born on Nov. 7th, 1991 in Bruck/Mur (Austria)

Current Position

from 02/2023	Senior Researcher (Post-Doc) at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War

Scientific Background

03/2019–02/2023	Doctorate at the Institute for History at the University of Graz. Dissertation: „Die Rolle des neutralen Österreich in der sowjetischen außenpolitischen Strategie, 1969-1975“ [The Role of Neutral Austria in Soviet foreign policy strategy, 1969-1975].
03/2022–01/2023	Pre-Doc at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War
03/2019–02/2022	Project staff at the Institute for History at the University of Graz
09/2018–03/2019	Internship and freelance work (translations and editing of Soviet archival documents) at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War
2016–2018	Master’s programme „European Studies – Management of EU Projects“ at the University of Applied Sciences, Burgenland.
2011–2016	Teaching degree „Russian language; History, Social Studies and Political Education“ at the University of Graz and RSUH Moscow.

Research Focus

Cold War Studies, Soviet Foreign Policy and diplomatic history, Soviet-Austrian relations, Neutrality in the Cold War

Research Projects

Since 04/2022	Key Researcher in the research project "Soviet-Austrian Economic and Trade Relations, 1955-1964". Cooperation project between BIK and University of Graz. Funding: Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
03/2019–03/2022	Prae-Doc researcher in the research project "The Role of Neutral States in the Foreign Policy Strategy of the Soviet Union, 1969-1975": cooperation project between BIK and University of Graz. Funding: Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

Memberships/Functions

Since 2025	Member of the expert commission of the Stiftung Brandenburgische Gedenkstätten
Since 2025	Member of the Peer Review Board of the “Historisches Jahrbuch der Stadt Graz

Prizes/Awards

7.12.2023	Award of Excellence 2023 (State Prize for best dissertations), awarded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

Presentations (selected)

11.4.2024	Round Table Discussion “Neutrality in Europe. Media Focus and Historical Perspective” at the 15. Österreichischer Zeitgeschichtetag, University of Graz

3.12.2023	Round Table discussion “Impact of Secret Police and Intelligence” at the Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Euroasian Studies (ASEEES), Philadelphia/PA
2.12.2023	Round Table discussion “The Death and Legacy of Stalin” at ASEEES Annual Convention, Phildadelphia
21.9.2023	Presentation “Austrian diplomacy and the Helsinki ‘Third Basket’. Lund University.
19.4.2023	Presentation ““Kreisky, the Soviet Union, and the Road to Helsinki” at the Conference “Bruno Kreisky – A Reassessment”, University of Minneapolis/MN
17.11.2022	Presentation “Österreich und Moskau auf dem Weg nach Helsinki“ at the conference „Freiheit und Sicherheit. Die KSZE und das Ende des Kalten Krieges“, University of Innsbruck (online).
13.11.2022	Participation in the Roundtable “The Soviet Bloc and Neutral European Countries in the CSCE: 1973-1989” at the ASEEES Convention 2022 in Chicago.
24.10.2022	Presentation “Austrian-Soviet Diplomatic Relations and their Economic repercussions, 1955-1964” at the Workshops “Soviet-Austrian and Soviet-Finnish Economic and Trade Relations, 1955-1964” am Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki.
28.9.2022	Presentation „The Warsaw Pact and Neutral Austria on the Road to Helsinki” at the conference “Communist Parties in the Soviet Block, 1968-1980”, Institut Ústav pamäti národa (UPN) in Bratislava.
31.8.2022	Seminar „Neutrality, the USSR and Détente in the Cold War” in der seminar “Hanz-Blix Center seminars in History of International Relations”, University of Stockholm.
23.4.2022	Presentation „Die Rolle des neutralen Österreich in der außenpolitischen Strategie der Sowjetunion, 1969-1975“, 14. Österreichischer Zeitgeschichtetag, Salzburg.
28.3.2022	Virtual Round Table “Engaged Neutrality in the International System”, International Studies Association Conference 2022, Nashville (Online).
19.11.2021	Book Talk „The Soviet Union and Cold War Neutrality and Nonalignment in Europe“, Cold War Studies Seminar, Harvard Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasien Studies (ASEEES), New Orleans.
29.10.2020	Presentation “From ‘Soviet Victims’ to ‘Our Grandfathers’. Collective memory of Victory Day” at the conference „Vojny v Istorii – Wars in History. X. International Conference of Young Scientists and Specialists – Clio 2020“ in Moscow (Online).
27.9.2019	Presentation „Die Rolle des neutralen Österreich am Weg zur Helsinki-Schlussakte“ at the conference „Die Ostpolitik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in der Brežnev-Ära“, Vienna

Languages

German, English, Russian, Bulgarian (basic/reading)

Publications

Independent Publications

Anna Graf-Steiner, Brückenbauer im Kalten Krieg. Österreich und der lange Weg zur KSZE-Schlussakte. Graz – Vienna – Berlin: Leykam 2024.

Anna Steiner, Enhanced Relations – Protracted Conflicts? The EU’s Non-Recognition and Engagement Policy (NREP) towards Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia. Baden-Baden: Tectum 2019.

Essays

Anna Graf-Steiner, Moscow and Vienna on the road to Helsinki, in: Andrea Brait – Michael Gehler – Jussi Hanhimäki – Hermann Wentker, eds., Freedom and Security. (forthcoming)

Anna Graf-Steiner, Kreisky, the Soviet Union, and the Road to Helsinki, in: Günter Bischof/Michael Burri, eds., Bruno Kreisky: A Reassessment (New York: Berghahn, forthcoming).

Anna Graf-Steiner – Peter Ruggenthaler, Österreich als Vermittler im Kalten Krieg?, in: ÖZP – Austrian Journal of Political Science, vol. 53 (2024).

Anna Graf-Steiner – Herbert Reginbogin, Austria: The NPT, Diplomacy, and National Identity, in: Pascal Lottaz – Yoko Iwama (ed.), Neutral Europe and the Creation of the Nonproliferation Regime, 1958-1968 (London – New York: Routledge 2024), pp. 169-184.

Anna Steiner, From ‚Soviet Victims' to ‚Our Grandfathers'. Collective memory of Victory Day, in: A. K. Sorokin et. al. (Eds.), Vojny v istorii. Istoričeskie dokumenty i aktual'nye problemy archeografii, archivovedenija i istočnikovedenija, rossijskoj i vseobščej istorii novogo i novejšego vremeni: Sbornik materialov Desjatoj meždunarodnoj konferencii molodych učenych i specialistov „Clio-2020". Moscow 2020, pp. 383-385.

Peter Ruggenthaler – Anna Steiner, Der Weg nach Helsinki. Entspannung mit Bonn als letzte Etappe auf dem Weg zur Einberufung der Konferenz über Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in Europa, in: Michael Borchard – Stefan Karner – Hanns Jürgen Küsters – Peter Ruggenthaler (Eds.), Entspannung im Kalten Krieg. Der Weg zum Moskauer Vertrag und zur KSZE (Graz – Vienna: Leykam 2020), pp. 677-701.