



34 years of Civic Education for Peace and Society

Joint seminar of the School of Civic Education and Media Hub Riga

“Anthropological Catastrophe and Resistance: the Human Condition”

Riga, Wednesday, July 22

Centuries of Russian violence and imperialism precipitated the ongoing invasion of Ukraine, destroying lives, bringing devastation and terror, aiming to annihilate the very ideas of humanism, peaceful coexistence, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and dignity. At home this has created and reinforced a system that normalizes violence in public life, suppresses resistance, crushes the human will, and erodes individuality—producing a collapse of subjectivity and a collective refusal to see oneself as a responsible, self-determining moral agent. Yet we still witness acts of resistance at the limits of individual capacity, under impossible conditions, and against vastly superior resources.

What might it take to break the cycle of violence, impunity, and irresponsibility? What

moral principles can society draw on, and what imperatives should it adopt? What roles do education, media, and cultural institutions play in disrupting cycles of violence and impunity? How can transitional justice mechanisms address both large-scale crimes and the everyday harms that undermine moral agency? How should international actors balance pressure and support to avoid entrenching victimhood or provoking further repression?

Venue: Power-Up Space, Merķeļa iela 21, Rīga, 4.st

13.00 - 13.30

Opening session:

Lena Nemirovskaya, *Founder, School of Civic Education*

13.30 - 15.00

Talk and Discussion:

Marci Shore (USA), *Professor of intellectual history, Chair in European Intellectual History, Supported by the Temerty Endowment for Ukrainian Studies, Munk School, University of Toronto*

Yegor Rubanov (Ukraine), *Summer Fellow, School of Civic Education, Yale University student*

Moderator: Inna Berezkina

15.00 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30

FishBowl Session:

Key notes:

Yuri Senokosov (Russia), *Founder, School of Civic Education*

Elena Lukianova (Russia), *Lawyer, academic, Public figure, co-founder of Free University*

Kirill Martynov (Russia), *Editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta Europe, co-founder of Free University*