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Russian Nuclear Orthodoxy – Religion, Politics and Strategy in Contemporary Russia

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Workshop I HS 19

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Since the Soviet collapse, the role of the Orthodox faith and the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) has grown immensely in Russian national identity, ideology, domestic politics, and security policy. In the latter regard, the intertwining of the ROC and the Russian state is nowhere more visible than in the armed forces, and more specifically within the nuclear-weapons complex—the most significant wing of one of the world's most powerful military organizations. Since 1991 the nuclear priesthood has penetrated all levels of command and has positioned itself as a guardian of the state's nuclear potential. This is a major, counterintuitive, and totally overlooked phenomenon in contemporary Russian history. This talk, based on the speaker's recent book, *Russian Nuclear Orthodoxy* (Stanford UP), highlights social-political sources and strategic implications of the role of religion in Russian foreign and security policy.

Studierende und Interessierte sind herzlich eingeladen.

Um Anmeldung wird gebeten: cees@hist.uzh.ch