New Postdoctoral Researcher to the Russian MediaLab project

PhD Mariëlle Wijermars starts as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Russian MediaLab project. In particular, her research interests include contemporary Russian politics, propaganda and censorship, the politicisation of history and the use of media as a tool of national and foreign politics in Eastern Europe.

Mariëlle, tell us about your latest research interests:

I have recently defended my PhD dissertation (November 2016, University of Groningen) which examined memory politics in contemporary Russia. In addition to analyzing how the Russian government has used cultural memory to support its legitimacy, I looked at the activities of various societal actors and groups, including Russian Orthodox Church, and the role of cinema and state TV in mediating patriotism. In more general terms, my scholarly work focuses on the intersection of politics, media and cultural production. In particular, I study contemporary Russian politics, propaganda and censorship, the politicisation of history and the use of media as a tool of domestic and foreign politics in Eastern Europe.

About Russia MediaLab - project:

As a postdoctoral researcher at the Russia MediaLab I will examine what the impact is of recently adopted legal measures, e.g. the so-called Blogger’s Law and the Yarovaya Law, on the freedom of speech in Russia. Since online communication is particularly affected by these restricting measures, my research will largely concern Internet freedom and aims to also include examples of relative freedom. In addition, I will look at how state efforts to control traditional and new media are affected or restricted by the fact that today’s Russian media are deeply embedded in a transnational media landscape.

About Aleksanteri Institute:

I am excited to come to Helsinki and look forward to becoming part of the research community at the Aleksanteri Institute. And since I like to go hiking in my spare time I hope I will soon get a chance to head out into Finnish nature.

Welcome Mariëlle!