

## PUBLIC OPINION AND THE US–RUSSIA RELATIONSHIP

On Friday 21 September 2018, at 10:00–11:30  
At the Seminar Hall  
Arkadiankatu 23, entrance H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

Reciprocally negative public perceptions are often considered an important factor in explaining the dynamics in current US–Russia relations and impeding potential normalisation. The question, however, remains whether “anti-Americanism” and “Russophobia” in public attitudes are an established fact or simply a useful rhetorical cliché. This FIIA seminar will try to see what the sentiment on both sides actually is and what stands behind it. To what extent do the American and Russian public consider each other a threat? What are the respective views concerning interference in domestic affairs? The presentations will be based on research conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Levada Analytical Center.

### *Speakers:*



**Dina Smeltz**, Senior Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Dina Smeltz is a Senior Fellow on public opinion and foreign policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs since 2012. With 25 years of experience designing and fielding international social and political surveys, she oversees the Council’s well-known annual survey of American attitudes toward foreign policy and has authored and coauthored many of the analyses based on that work. She also directs the Council’s collaboration with research organizations around the world. In her previous functions in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the US State Department’s Office of Research, With a special emphasis on research in post-conflict situations (informally referred to as a “combat pollster”), Smeltz has worked with research teams in Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus, Israel–Palestinian Territories, and in Iraq.



**Stepan Goncharov**, Senior Research Fellow, Levada Center

Stepan Goncharov is a senior research fellow at the Levada Center. Goncharov’s field of expertise and research interests include public opinion on international relations, use of media and modern social processes in Russia. Goncharov holds a Specialist degree in Political Science from Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and has broad experience in qualitative studies. He is a regular contributor for [ridl.io](http://ridl.io) (Riddle), an online-journal on Russian affairs.

### *Chair:*



**Arkady Moshes**, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Arkady Moshes is the Programme Director of the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme at the FIIA. From 2008 to 2015 he was an Associate Fellow with the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House. He received his PhD from the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. His main areas of expertise include Russia–EU relations and the internal and foreign policy of Ukraine and Belarus. He has written extensively on those issues, as well as on Russia’s policy toward the CIS and Baltic States.