

Margit Bussmann / Alexander Drost /
Steffen Fleßa / Sebastian van der Linden (eds.)

CHALLENGES OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Fragmentation and Harmonisation
in Transformation Processes



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baltic sea region

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**ROMBACH WISSENSCHAFT
STUDIES OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION**

Editors

Margit Bussmann, Alexander Drost, Steffen Fleßa
and Sebastian van der Linden

Volume 3

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The production of the book and its publication as open access have been generously funded by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (project “Fragmented Transformations”, funding code 01UC2102).

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Forschung, Technologie
und Raumfahrt

The **Deutsche Nationalbibliothek** lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available on the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>

1st Edition 2026

© The Authors: Margit Bussmann / Alexander Drost / Steffen Fleßa / Sebastian van der Linden (eds.)

Published by

Rombach Wissenschaft Verlag within Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
Waldseestraße 3 – 5 | 76530 Baden-Baden
www.nomos.de

Production of the printed version:

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
Waldseestraße 3 – 5 | 76530 Baden-Baden

ISBN (Print) 978-3-98858-185-3

ISBN (ePDF) 978-3-98858-186-0

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5771/9783988581860>



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Preface

This volume, *Challenges of the Baltic Sea Region: Fragmentation and Harmonisation in Transformation Processes*, presents the findings of a collaborative research project based at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (Interdisziplinäres Forschungszentrum Ostseeraum, IFZO) at the University of Greifswald. The project was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR, 01UC2102) with the purpose of establishing the Centre and creating the structures needed to institutionalise the study of the Baltic Sea region as one of the University's key research areas.

It is the first volume of its kind to emerge from this initiative, bringing together the results of genuinely interdisciplinary research, and we very much hope it will be followed by many more.

The Baltic Sea region is shaped by overlapping processes of fragmentation and harmonisation—political, economic, social, cultural, and ecological. Capturing these dynamics requires perspectives that no single discipline can provide on its own. We are therefore deeply grateful to all researchers involved in the joint project for their willingness to look beyond their disciplinary horizons and to engage in the open, often challenging, and ultimately very fruitful exchange that made this book possible.

We are thankful to those who turned a collection of contributions into a coherent volume. We owe particular thanks to Franziska Sajdak, whose calm, careful eye, and ear for the right phrasing did much to shape the quality of this volume. We are likewise grateful to Bernd van Kampen, Sara Melzer and Yannik Wedemeyer of the IFZO team and to Marion Müller at Nomos for their valuable support throughout the process.

Greifswald, May 2026

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