The War and Beyond: Perspectives on Ukrainian Culture and Society

University of Bergen, 14–15 October 2025

Registration and digital participation

See the conference webpage for updates to the programme.
All sessions will be available for digital participation, but you must sign up for the conference to receive links for the sessions.

Links to the streaming of the keynotes will be available directly from the webpage.

Welcome

A heartly welcome to this international two-day conference on Ukraine "The War and Beyond: Perspectives on Ukrainian culture and society" hosted by the University of Bergen.

This conference is organised by a network of Norwegian and Ukrainian researchers, Ukrainett+, who have a common goal of enhancing Ukrainian-Norwegian research collaboration and advancing Ukrainian studies in Norway, Ukraine, and internationally. The network was established on the initiative of Ukrainian researchers in Norway in 2022 based on the realisation that Russia's unlawful fullscale attack on Ukraine called for an immediate and coordinated effort by the Norwegian, Ukrainian and international research community to generate and promote research-based knowledge about Ukraine.

The network brings together more than 100 researchers in Norway, Ukraine and beyond. It is financed by a grant from the Norwegian Research Council. This is the third annual conference organised by Ukrainett. For this conference we are happy to have secured additional funding from the University of Bergen, the Valref research project at the University of Oslo.

We look forward to two days of insightful presentations and inspiring discussions, and hope that you will all end up having increased your network of colleagues.

Ingunn Lunde, Martin Paulsen, Liliia Oprysk and Margrethe Søvik

Organising committee for
The War and Beyond: Perspectives on Ukrainian culture and society

Overview programme

Tuesday, 14 October

10.00: Opening. Rector Margareth Hagen, H.E. Oleksiy Gavrysh, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Kingdom of Norway, Dean Sigrid Eskeland Schütz, Dean Camilla Brautaset (chair: Martin Paulsen)

10.20–11.20: Keynote lecture: Bohdana Neborak: *Culture Bridges in Europe and Ukrainian Literature During Wartime: Identity, Resistance, and Cultural Dialogue* (chair: Martin Paulsen)

11.20–11.40: Coffee break

11.40–13.10: Parallel session 1

13.10–14.00: Lunch

14.00–15.00: Keynote lecture: Uilleam Blacker: *Living on the Edge: Ukraine, Overcoming Empire and Cultural Entanglements* (chair: Ingunn Lunde)

15.00–15.15: Coffee break

15.15–16.45: Parallel session 2

19.00: Conference dinner (for conference delegates only)

Wednesday, 15 October

09.00–11.00: Parallel session 3

11.00–11.15: Coffee break

11.15–12.45: Parallel session 4

12.45–13.30: Lunch

13.30–15.00: Parallel session 5

15.00–15.15: Coffee break

15.15–16.00: Open slot (announcement of next conference ++)

19.00: Bergen House of Literature. *Ukraine's Cultural Diversity Through the Lens of Literature*. Bohdana Neborak and Uilleam Blacker in conversation with Ingunn Lunde

	Parallel session 1 Tuesday 11.40–13.10	Parallel session 2 Tuesday 15.15–16.45/17.15	Parallel session 3 Wednesday 9.00–11.00	Parallel session 4 Wednesday 11.15–12.45	Parallel session 5 Wednesday 13.30–15.00
Storsalen	1S PANEL: Language policy, social capital and perceptions among Ukrainian young leaders in a Ukraine at war	2S Shifting political landscapes			
Søndre Allm. 1	1A Imperial legacies in literature and language culture	2A Literature, dissent and cultural belonging	3A Shaping Ukrainian identities in literature and education	4A Wartime literature: forms and functions	5A PANEL: Resilience of Ukrainian culture and science during Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine
Nordre Allm. 3	1B Forced migration: integration and aspirations of return	2B PANEL: War and society	3B Education, trust, and governance in wartime Ukraine	4B Forced migration: pathways of integration, identity formation, and prospects of return	5B PANEL: The history and future of international scientific collaboration
Søndre Allm. 2	1C Upholding justice and trust in institutions	2C Education, social capital, and recovery: Ukrainian responses to war	3C Ukraine's EU accession	4C Wartime communities	5C Mediation and post-war recovery
Nordre Allm. 5	1D Cultural, historical and religious diversity	2D Literature and memory	3D Multilingualism in motion	4D Riverscapes and minoritarian geography	5D PANEL: Russian/Soviet imperial continuity and the politics of annihilation: from the Holodomor to Russia-Ukraine war and the battle of memory

A= Literature/Culture
B= Refugees/Society/Politics
C= Institutions/Community/EU
D= History/Memory/Diversity

1S Language Policy, Social Capital and Perceptions among Ukrainian Young Leaders in a Ukraine at War (chair: Geir Flikke)	
Olena Bogdan, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), Berlin / NASU Institute of Sociology, Kyiv	State Policy Conundrums at Times of War: Social Cohesion in a Linguistically Pluralistic Context
Tetiana Kostiuchenko, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMa) / Osteuropa-Institut – Freie Universität Berlin	Social Capital in Ukraine During War: The Effect of Displacement and Income

1A Imperial Legacies in Literature and Language Culture (chair: Iryna Odrekhivska)	
Schamma Schahadat, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen	Imperial Traces in Ukrainian Literature
Myroslav Shkandrij, University of Manitoba	Teaching Russian Literature Through an Awareness of Ukrainian History
Ingunn Lunde, University of Bergen	«не було, немає й бути не може» – Russia's Language Policies in Temporarily Occupied Ukrainian Territories in Historical Perspective

1B Forced Migration: Integration and Aspirations of Return (chair: Olga Filippova)	
Anna Yunatska, Faculty of Foreign Philology, Zaporizhzhia National University	Integration and Social Inclusion of Displaced Ukrainians in the UK: Language, Community, and Intercultural Awareness
Marthe Handå Myhre, NIBR, OsloMet Oleksandra Deineko, NIBR, OsloMet / V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University Olga Filippova, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland / V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University	Integration, Residence Status, and Aspirations of Return – The Perspective of Ukrainian Refugees in the Nordic Countries
Aadne Aasland, NIBR – OsloMet Vilde Hernes, NIBR – OsloMet	Individual, Host- and Home Country Determinants for Return Aspirations Among Ukrainian Refugees in the Nordic Countries

1C Upholding Justice and Trust in Institutions (chair: Anna Novosad)	
Kateryna Shunevych, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv	Justice for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence as a War Crime: Ukraine's Experience Through the Prism of International Standards
Marta Mazur, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv	Rebuilding Justice: The Role of Victim-Oriented Approaches in Shaping Post-War Legal Culture in Ukraine
Solvita Harbaceviča, Supreme Court, Latvia (online)	Trust in Institutions, Trust in State – Case of Independent Judiciary

1D Cultural, Historical, and Religious Diversity (chair: Olga Riabchenko)	
Svitlana Arabadzhy, Mariupol State University / University of Oslo	Uprooted by Empire: The Forced Migration of Greeks and the Rise of the Port of Mariupol (1780–1859)
Mykhailo Tupytsia, Ukrainian Catholic University	Book Collections and Religious Disciplining: The Mukachevo Eparchy in the 18th Century

2S Shifting Political Landscapes (chair: Anne Pintsch)	
Oleksandra Iwaniuk, University of Warsaw	War as Cultural Watershed: Cultural Transformations of Political Elites in Ukraine
Andrew Wilson, University College London	Ukraine: Declining Domestic Political Technology, Russian Political Warfare

Geir Flikke, University of Oslo Erik Herron, Professor West Virginia University Kryshtina Pelchar, West Virginia University Herschel Thomas, University of Texas, Austin	**Voting Cohesion in the Servants of the People**

2A Literature, Dissent, and Cultural Belonging (chair: Natalia Volvach)	
Yuliia Kulish, Independent Researcher	**Life Writing and Dissent: Anti-Authoritarian Strategies in Ukrainian Literary Culture of the 1960s**
Anna Sverediuk, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine	**Translating Shakespeare in Soviet Ukraine: Resistance Through Translation**
Olena Haleta, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv / Humboldt University of Berlin	**Conceptualization and Collecting as Strategies of Cultural Belonging: The Case of Yur Mezhenko**

2B War and Society (chair: Madeleine Dungy, NTNU)	
Volodymyr Kulikov, University College London (online)	**Extractivism in Ukraine Under Imperial Rule**
Tetiana Zabolotna, Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine	**Ukrainian Archival Sources in Studying the Fate of Ukrainian in Norway During World War II**
Hans Otto Frøland, NTNU	**Forced Labour Displacement during WWII: Ukrainians in Norway and their postwar memorialization**

2C Education, Social Capital, and Recovery: Ukrainian Responses to War (chair: Kateryna Shunevych)	
Iryna Soldatenko, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University Anna Markovska, Anglia Ruskin University Alessia Mevoli, Anglia Ruskin University Oleksii Serdiuk, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs	**Resilience in Ukrainian Higher Education: Responding to the Challenges of War**
Anna Novosad, Charitable Organization "International Charitable Fund 'savED'" Olga Zhmurko, independent scholar	**Three Years of Full-Scale War: Education and Social Capital**
Valentyna Zasadko, Ukrainian Catholic University	**Community Recovery During War and Post-War Reconstruction: Lessons from Ukraine**
Iryna Fyschuk, University of Stavanger Thomas Michael Sattich, University of Stavanger	**Sustainability and Digital Transformation: Building a Skilled Workforce for Post-War Green Reconstruction of Ukraine**

2D Literature and Memory (chair: Halyna Lystvak)	
Olena Saikovska, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen	**Memory Through Media: The Function of Photographs in Sofia Andrukhovych's Novel *Amadoka***
Olena Koliasa, Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University, Odesa National Maritime University, Mariupol State University (Ukraine), Sydney University (Australia) (online)	**Narrating Catastrophe: Ukrainian Disaster Fiction as Memory Culture and Identity Formation in Wartime**
Sebastian Graf, Lund University	**Affective Encounters and Mnemonic Practices: Visiting Ukrainian Virtual Museums of War**
Serhii Pakhomenko, Mariupol State University / University of Latvia (online)	**Decolonising Historical Memory in Ukraine: Challenges and Traps**

3A Shaping Ukrainian Identities in Literature and Education (chair: Olena Haleta)	
Snizhana Zhygun, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University / T. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences	**Soviet vs National: Ukrainian Children's Literature of the 1920s and '30s**
Maryana Hirnyak, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv	**Writing From Exile: The Intellectual's Identity in Post-WWII Ukrainian Émigré Novels**
Oleksandr Starosta, Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University	**The Poet Against the Empire: Ukrainian-Russian Relations at the Turn of the 20th Century Through the Artistic Lens of Volodymyr Samiilenko**

3B Education, Trust, and Governance in Wartime Ukraine (chair: Aadne Aasland)	
Veronika Vakulenko, Nord University Business School *Anatoli Bourmistrov, Nord University Business School*	**Education Against a Black Economy**
Viktor Koziuk, West Ukrainian National University	**Rising Army Donation Culture in Ukraine: Can the Structure of Social Trust Explain It?**
Tetiana Lukeria, Kyiv School of Economics *Oleksandra Keudel, Kyiv School of Economics*	**Decentralization and Diversity: Lessons from Ukrainian Communities**
Olga Iermolenko, Nord University Business School *Valeriia Melnyk, Nord University Business School*	**Control and Resilience in the Face of Aggression: Businesses' Responses to Russia's War in Ukraine**

3C Ukraine's EU Accession (chair: Geir Flikke)	
Alina Nychyk, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (online)	**The New Era of Ukraine's Foreign Policy Towards the EU**
Anne Pintsch, University of Agder	**Ukraine's Accession to the European Union and International Socialisation**
Maryna Rabinovych, UiT Arctic University of Norway	**(De)Europeanization Under War? The Case of Free Movement of Persons in EU-Ukraine Relations**
Oleksandr Dluhopolskyi, West Ukrainian National University	**Ukraine's EU Accession Process in the Context of Higher Education Reforms: Accreditation of Study Programs by NAQA During the War**

3D Multilingualism in Motion (chair: Lyudmyla Pidkuimukha)	
Natalia Volvach, Stockholm University	**Multilingualism, Vulnerability, and Trauma: Researching the Lived Experience of Language Among Ukrainians in Sweden in Times of the Unfolding Russian War**
Nataliya Tsisar, Humboldt University of Berlin	**Ukrainian-Russian Bilingualism in a Multilingual Context: Language Ideologies Dynamics in Poland and Germany**
Sofiia Azovtseva, Ukrainian Catholic University	**From Russian to Ukrainian: Overcoming Linguistic Interference in the Classroom**
Yuliya Dzyabko, Ibaraki Christian University	**Lost in Translation: Multilingual Practices and Identity Construction Among Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Japan**

4A Wartime Literature: Forms and Functions (chair: Myroslav Shkandrij)	
Iryna Odrekhivska, University College London / Ivan Franko University of Lviv	**Wounded Landscapes, Wounded Words: Contemporary Ukrainian Wartime Poetry as a Force for Environmental and Epistemic Justice**
Halyna Lystvak, Lviv Polytechnic National University	**Depicting the Russo-Ukrainian War: Visual Storytelling in Ukrainian Books**
Yuliia Kravchenko, National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy	**The Diary as an Artifact of Language and Culture During War (Contemporary Ukraine)**

4B Forced Migration: Pathways of Integration, Identity Formation, and Prospects of Return (chair: Marthe Handå Myhre)	
Olga Filippova, Karelian Institute, UEF/ V.N. Karazin Kharkiv Unoversity Olga Davydova-Minguet, Karelian Institute, UEF	**Ukrainian Forced Migrants and Finnish Memoryscapes: Revising the Past and Redefining Self-Identity**
Kristina Šliavaitė, Vilnius University	**'Ukrainness' and 'Europeanness' in the Narratives of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Lithuania After the Full-Scale Russia's Invasion of Ukraine**
Jørn Holm-Hansen, Oslo Metropolitan University	**Factors in Ukraine That Can Motivate Refugees to Return and Reintegrate**

4C Wartime Communities (chair: Olga Iermolenko)	
Svitlana Romaniuk, University of Warsaw Magdalena Olpińska-Szkiełko, University of Warsaw Regina Pilipavičiūtė-Gugała, University of Warsaw	**My Multilingual World – Drawings of Ukrainian War Refugee Children in Poland**
Dariia Orobchuk, University of Hildesheim	**Double Burden or Double Chance? Refugee Children in Ukrainian Distance Education**
Maryna Nading, Luther College, USA	**Weaving Peace, Weaving Victory: Camouflage Nets in Wartime Ukraine**

4D Riverscapes and Minoritarian Geography (chair: Svitlana Arabadzhy)	
Alla Kurzenkova, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow (UK)	**What Early Medieval Hillforts Along the Dnipro and Desna Rivers Tell Us About the Nature and Scale of the Scandinavian Presence**
Vera Skvirskaja, University of Copenhagen (online)	**Minoritarian Geography: Jewish-Ukrainian Relations in the Context of the Russian War in Ukraine**

5A Resilience of Ukrainian Culture and Science During Russia's Ongoing War against Ukraine (chair: Olha Voznyuk)	
Liudmyla Pidkuimukha, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy	**Breaking with the Soviet Past: Expert Attitudes Towards Language Ideologies in Wartime Ukraine**
Nadiya Kiss, University of Erfurt (online)	**Ukrainian Professors in Trenches: When Scholar at Risk is not a Metaphor**
Olha Voznyuk, Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences	**Narrating War Trauma in Contemporary Ukrainian Literature**

5B The History and Future of International Scientific Collaboration (chair: Graham Clure)	
Béla Kapossy, University of Lausanne (online) *Anastasiia Shevchenko, University of Lausanne* (online)	**Mykhailo Drahomanov and Ukraine's Intellectual Map of Europe**
Ostap Sereda, Ukrainian Catholic University, L'viv / Bard College Berlin	**The Invisible University for Ukraine**
Viktoriya Sereda, VUIAS, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin / Kyiv School of Economics	**The Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Studies**

5C Mediation and Post-War Recovery (chair: Valentyna Zasadko)	
Nataliia Mazaraki, State University of Trade and Economics	**A Shift in Justice: Changing Attitudes Toward Mediation in Wartime and Post-War Ukraine**
Tetiana Tsuvina, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University	**Business, Rights, and Resolution: Advancing Mediation for Business and Human Rights Disputes in Ukraine**
Liudmyla Petrenko, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman (KNEU)	**(Re)constructing Pharma Futures: Industrial Memory and EU Integration in Ukraine's Post-War Recovery**

5D Russian/Soviet Imperial Continuity and the Politics of Annihilation: From the Holodomor to Russia-Ukraine War and the Battle of Memory (chair: Maryana Hirnyak)	
Olga Riabchenko, University of Cambridge	**The Weaponization of Art: How the Soviet Regime Used Artists to Cover Holodomor**
Tetiana Perga, Technical University of Berlin	**The Kakhovka Dam in Soviet and Post-2023 Collective Memory of Ukrain**
Natalia Kuzovova, Kherson State University	**Memory of the Holodomor and the Russian-Ukrainian War**
Tetiana Boriak, Vilnius University	**Contemporary Cultural and Memory Politics in Russia: to Recall Victims, to Glorify the State or to Weaponize?**

Keynote speakers

Bohdana Neborak, Culture Bridges in European and Ukrainian Literature During Wartime: Identity, Resistance, and Cultural Dialogue

About the lecture: Ukrainian literature during the ongoing war has become a crucial medium for understanding and examining Ukrainian identity and the phenomenon of resistance to Russian aggression. Both within the country and abroad, literature creates a space for discussing and reflecting on contemporary realities. Literature and culture offer tools to comprehend the lives and experiences of individuals and communities we have never encountered, to interpret the past, and to envision the future.
In the 20th century, there were several surges of international interest in Ukrainian culture, closely tied to major geopolitical upheavals. Following the Revolution of Dignity and the onset of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014, Ukrainian culture gained greater visibility on the international stage, partly due to shifts in national cultural policy and Ukraine's course toward European integration. After the full-scale invasion in 2022, new cultural connections between Ukraine and other European countries emerged, consolidating the collaborations of previous decades and opening space for new conversations.
The keynote lecture will explore these cultural connections and the grand narratives they have brought to light.

Neborak's public keynote will be live-streamed from Bergen on the 14th of October 10.20 – 11.20. A link will be available at the conference webpage.

Bohdana Neborak is a journalist, curator of cultural projects and editor at "The Ukrainians Media". With an MA in law, Bohdana has more than ten years of experience in creative industries, working as a journalist, culture manager, and curator in Ukrainian and international projects.
In 2020, Bohdana drafted and launched the first state literary translation grant program at the Ukrainian Book Institute. She co-hosts a podcast about culture and colonialism and is a lecturer of a contemporary Ukrainian literature course at the Projector Institute.

Photo: Julia Weber

Bohdana is a co-curator at the FUNDAMENT literary festival and founder of the Kyiv Book Club reading promotion platform.
Bohdana was recognized by "30 Under 30: Most Prospective Young Journalists" in 2021, by the Heorhii Gongadze Prize and "30 Under 30 Kyiv Post" (award for the most innovative Ukrainians) in 2020. Her podcast about the influence of literature on civil society, "I Read That", was recognized as one of the top 30 Ukrainian podcasts in 2021, and her podcast about colonialism, "Unnamed for Now", won "The Best Ukrainian Podcast about culture" nomination award by "Slushno" (2022).

Uilleam Blacker, [Living on the Edge: Ukraine, Overcoming Empire and Cultural Entanglements](#)

About the lecture: Ukraine has, in its various incarnations over the centuries, always been on the edge and in-between. It has caught been between empires, nationalisms, and totalitarianisms. This position has often meant that Ukrainian culture not only existed in and across multiple political entities, but was also marginalised, denigrated, even violently attacked within them. Given this history of fragmentation and repression, it may seem challenging to create a coherent, linear history of Ukrainian culture. But is such a history necessary, or even desirable? This talk will interrogate Ukraine's complex history not only as a source of difficulty, but as a catalyst for invention, experiment, resilience, and creative and sometimes confrontational engagement not only with the many other cultures that have intersected on the territory of Ukraine, but with global culture more broadly.

The lecture will be live-streamed from Bergen on the 14th of October 14.00 – 15.00. A link will be available at the conference webpage.

Photo: Anastasia Telikova

Dr Uilleam Blacker is Associate Professor of Ukrainian and East European Culture at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European studies and a translator of Ukrainian literature.

He is the author of [Memory, the City and the Legacy of World War II in East Central Europe](#) (2019), co-author of *Remembering Katyn* (2012) and co-editor of *Memory and Theory in Eastern Europe* (2013). He has written on Ukraine for *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic*, *Financial Times*, *Times Literary Supplement* and others, and his translations have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The White Review*, *Words without Borders* and others. He is currently writing a book on Ukraine's rich, multilingual literary landscape in the 19th and 20th centuries. www.uilleamblacker.com

Overview abstracts

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Parallel session 1: Tuesday 11.40–13.10

1S PANEL: Language Policy, Social Capital and Perceptions among Ukrainian Young Leaders in a Ukraine at War (chair: Geir Flikke)
Tuesday 11.40–13.10   Room Storsalen

State Policy Conundrums at Times of War: Social Cohesion in a Linguistically Pluralistic Context

Olena Bogdan, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), Berlin / NASU Institute of Sociology, Kyiv

Drawing on survey data, legislative developments, expert recommendations and assessments from intergovernmental institutions, this paper aims to clarify policy developments regarding the protection of the Ukrainian language as the state language and the protection of minority languages in Ukraine, controversies around them, and possible implications for social cohesion as a policy objective at times of the ongoing hybrid warfare and direct military threat to national sovereignty. It shows that understanding language policies during war times requires, on the one hand, thorough understanding of the challenging linguistic context resulting from several centuries of coercive Russian assimilation, and, on the other hand, acknowledging that, when the Russian Federation started occupying Ukraine's territories in 2014 and furthermore in 2022, the practice of Russian assimilation immediately returned: the Ukrainian language was eliminated from education by occupying authorities as well as from other public spheres. At the same time, in the context of Ukraine's constitutionally affirmed course towards European integration, language policies in Ukraine have become a subject for international expert scrutiny (e.g. the Venice Commission and the HCNM) and might be remaining a recurrent theme for debate in the context of national minority protection policies.

> **Keywords**: language policies, Ukrainian language, minority languages, Russian occupation, social cohesion

Social Capital in Ukraine During War: The Effect of Displacement and Income

Tetiana Kostiuchenko, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMa) / Osteuropa-Institut – Freie Universität Berlin

Social capital research evaluates how individuals preserve social ties and access to diverse material and non-material resources. Material and other resources, and access to these, is embedded in networks and relationships, and these are under considerable strain in times of war. Specific social categories become more vulnerable, with an ever-increasing number of low-income households and internally displaced people. This paper focuses on empirical findings from five nationwide surveys conducted in Ukraine before the full-scale invasion (2019–2021) and after (2024–2025). The data demonstrate significant changes in the structures of social capital in generalized samples, and specific groups. Also, the data evidence a more comprehensive

transformation of the structure of social capital in wartime Ukraine, with emerging and increasing social inequalities in Ukrainian society at large, and along gender, age, and regional divides that are covered by a range of other surveys. By using multi wave data, the paper allows for modelling the further political and economic impact of social capital transformation

Keywords: social capital, war, multi-wave survey research, Ukraine

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1A Imperial Legacies in Literature and Language Culture (chair: Iryna Odrekhivska)
Tuesday 11.40-13.10   Room Søndre Allmenning 1

Imperial Traces in Ukrainian Literature
Schamma Schahadat, Eberhard Karls University Tübingen

Ukrainian literature - similar to other post-imperial literatures - still carries the weight of its imperial past. In my paper I want to find out whether, and if yes, how Ukrainian literature differs from other literatures in this context. While Edward Said in his 1993 book "Culture and Imperialism" set out to show how imperialism shaped the literature of the British Empire, i.e. of the colonizers, I want to take a look at the 'small' literatures of the post-Soviet space deal with their Soviet past, of what Emma Widdis calls "Sovietness".

While traces of Sovietness can be found all over, in different times and regions, authors deal with them differently. Yurii Andrukhovych in Galicia in the 1990s, for example, confronts the Soviet past with the Habsburg past (also imperial) in his novel "Twelve rings". Completely different approaches can be observed in the novels of Oksana Zabushko ("Field Studies in Ukrainian Sex"), Tanya Malyarchuk ("Forgettenness"), Serhii Zhadan ("Depeche mode") or in Sofia Andrukhovych's "Amadoka". The authors include "Sovietness'" in different ways into their novels, either as a kind of background noise or as an aggressive sound that evokes either nostalgia or relief of having overcome it.

The paper will connect these novels to Belarusian literature that is dealing with a very similar situation (Valzhyna Mort's essays or Volha Hapeyeva's novel "Camel Travel") and also take a look back into the Ukrainian dissident literature of the 1960s (see Radomyr Mokryk's "Revolt against the Empire. The Ukrainian Sixtiers") and even earlier back in the 1920s.

Keywords: post-imperial literature - Sovietness - contemporary literature

Teaching Russian Literature Through an Awareness of Ukrainian History
Myroslav Shkandrij, University of Manitoba

The current debate around decolonization has brought an awareness of biases and distortions in the teaching of Russian and Ukrainian history. It has rarely been emphasized in scholarship that the classics of Russian literature have served as conduits for imperialist and colonialist views not only toward Ukraine but toward all non-Russian peoples in the multi-national Russian and Soviet state. An analysis of silences and biases in the works of Derzhavin, Khomiakov, Belinsky and a host of nineteenth-century figures has long been overdue. Ukrainian scholars have drawn attention to these aporia and have produced a discourse that radically alters the perception of Russian culture and literature. Awareness of the Ukrainian inspiration in the art of Repin, Malevich and Tatlin, or in the literature of Gogol and Chekhov, provides a new context for understanding these figures — in the same way as it provides a context for understanding the imperialism and chauvinism in writings by Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Bulgakov and Brodsky. Knowledge of Ukrainian history and identity allows for the teaching of Russian studies in new ways. The presentation will draw on work by Oksana Zabuzhko, Ewa Thompson, Mykhail Zygar, and the current debate around decolonization. It will argue that new approaches to teaching Russian culture are required and that Ukrainian history provides excellent perspectives from which to begin developing these.

Keywords: Decolonization, university teaching, Russian literature, Ukrainian history

«не було, немає й бути не може» – Russia's Language Policies in Temporarily Occupied Ukrainian Territories in Historical Perspective
Ingunn Lunde, University of Bergen

According to linguistic classification, Ukrainian and Russian both belong to the east-Slavic subgroup of the Slavic language family. A common response to the question about how, and to what degree, these two languages differ, is to point out that they share 62 % of their vocabulary. (This is less than the shared vocabulary between Polish and Ukrainian (70 %), or Belarusian and Ukrainian (84 %). Now, a language is more than its vocabulary, and we also find differences in language structure, pronunciation, and alphabets. Where these two languages truly diverge, however, is in their language culture.

'Language culture' encompasses the broader dimensions of language – its history and development, but most importantly, the sociocultural contexts in which it is used. Language policies, ideologies and attitudes are all part of language culture, as are metalinguistic reflections or linguistic debates. Several fundamental differences between Ukrainian and Russian language cultures are rooted in their historical status in their respective linguistic societies, in the conditions under which they developed, and, not least, in their mutual relationship in changing socio-political contexts. In this paper, I analyse the Russian Federation's language policies in temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories against the background of this broader idea of disparate language cultures. Specifically, I examine how key aspects of today's policies resonate with centuries-old Russian conceptions of the Ukrainian language.

Keywords: language policy, language culture

1B Forced Migration: Integration and Aspirations of Return (chair: Olga Filippova)
Tuesday 11.40-13.10   Room Nordre Allmenning 3

Integration and Social Inclusion of Displaced Ukrainians in the UK: Language, Community, and Intercultural Awareness
Anna Yunatska, Faculty of Foreign Philology, Zaporizhzhia National University

The proposed paper addresses the acculturation and adjustment of Ukrainian adult migrants, who have come to the UK since the beginning of the war in February 2022. Many countries launched refugee schemes for Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war and so did the UK Government, setting up the Homes4Ukraine Scheme. While the expectation was that people would use the Scheme to transition into the community in their area in the UK, find paid work and move into their own accommodation, Ukrainian migrant stories are different. They vary depending on circumstances, ranging from the level of English refugees speak, their professional skills and qualifications, age, motivation and willingness to integrate into the UK society. Migration from a place of crisis encompasses a number of acculturation stages, necessary to adjust to life in a new environment.

At the core of the research is the role of language and community, as well as situatedness in the process of adjustment. Apart from being people, we are also cultural beings and our multiple identities are represented in micro-cultures (Neuliep 2021) or small cultures (Holliday 1999) we move through on a regular basis. It is argued that Ukrainian refugee communities tend to develop into identifiable micro-cultures or tribal communities, which have commonalities with the large-scale Ukrainian culture, but also differ from it in a number of ways. In this research micro-cultures are explored based on the three-Ps model of culture (Frank, 2014), which pinpoints its main components–perspectives (key values and beliefs), practices (behavior patterns, language, incorporation of special vocabulary), and products (cuisine, literary creations, clothing, etc.) of a culture. This model is a productive springboard for the exploration of smaller cultures human beings create or join based on their identities.

The special focus is on Ukrainian academics that have joined the University of Cambridge as scholars at risk and are going through additional culture shock at Cambridge colleges' institutional micro-cultures. These College micro-cultures tend to be quite close-knit tribal communities; they are often stronger than large-scale cultures (Neuliep 2020). This means that Ukrainians can find a great sense of connectedness as members of their Ukrainian micro-cultures; however, the acculturation process for newcomers in the Cambridge institutional micro-cultures is normally quite challenging. At the core of this research is the way migrants' acculturation is actualized and verbalized. The author engages in extensive field research through data collection techniques including interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions and observation.

Keywords: integration, micro-culture, language and intercultural awareness

Integration, Residence Status, and Aspirations of Return – The Perspective of Ukrainian Refugees in the Nordic Countries

Marthe Handå Myhre, NIBR, OsloMet
Oleksandra Deineko, NIBR, OsloMet / V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
Olga Filippova, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland / V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

This paper investigates into how different policy approaches to refugees labour market integration in the Nordic countries and the status of collective protection affect Ukrainian refugees thoughts and prospects of integration. Based on more than 60 qualitative interviews with Ukrainian refugees in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark conducted in spring 2024, the paper inquires into:

1: What are the Ukrainian refugees' experiences with and perceptions of national policies for labour market integration and their view of their temporary residence status of collective protection?

2: From the perspective of the refugees, how do their initial labour integration efforts and outcomes in the host country and their status of collective protection affect their aspirations for integration and return?

3: In a comparative perspective, what are the most notable similarities and/or differences in refugees experiences and perceptions across the four countries?

Scholars have identified a temporary turn in European immigration policies, through practices of cessation and restrictions on access to permanent residence (Eggebø & Staver, 2020). The decision to give temporary protection to Ukrainians appears to be pragmatic and aims to ensure rapid protection and support for a large number of Ukrainians, however, earlier studies of temporary collective protection show that combining policies and aspirations for integration and return is difficult (Brekke et al., 2020; Brekke, 2001). Policies of temporariness may affect refugees' sense of inclusion in the host society and refugees may respond to policies of temporariness by altering their orientation to the host country and their aspirations to build a future there.

Although all four countries are extensive welfare states with high employment rates, policies for integration and return in the Nordic countries have historically differed substantially (Borevi et al., 2017; Koikkalainen, 2021). This is the case also with regard to Ukrainian refugees with temporary collective protection or similar nation regulations. The paper uses theoretical lenses on "uncertainty" to study how the temporary status of collective protection and the policies of labour market integration affect Ukrainian refugees aspirations of integration and return.

Keywords: refugees perception, integration, return

Individual, Host- and Home Country Determinants for Return Aspirations Among Ukrainian Refugees in the Nordic Countries

Aadne Aasland, NIBR – OsloMet
Vilde Hernes, NIBR - OsloMet

More than three years have passed since the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which led millions of Ukrainians to flee their homes and country. While some have already returned, the majority of those who fled are still faced with an unsecure and unstable future, as they have been granted collective, temporary protection in European countries, with currently few pathways to permanent residence. But as the war prolongs, what are the return aspirations among the Ukrainian refugees? How do perceptions of conditions in home and host countries affect these aspirations. And, more specifically, how do different reception and integration experiences and policies in the host country affect these aspirations?

Although Europe has met the influx of Ukrainian refugees with a more unified response than earlier influxes of protection seekers, there are still large cross-national differences in the countries' reception, settlement and integration policies for this group (Hernes et al 2023). In this regard, the Nordic countries provide particularly relevant cases for comparative analysis. Although they share many similarities as social-democratic welfare states, they have developed fundamentally different reception and integration policies for Ukrainian refugees. For example, while Sweden has been deemed to have some of the most restrictive policies Ukrainian refugees in Europe, Norway and Denmark have had some of Europe's most extensive rights to integration measures, with Finland placed in-between its Nordic neighbours.

An established finding in the literature on migration return aspirations and decisions is that the longer refugees live in the host country, the less inclined they are to return. However, there is scarce knowledge about how the initial reception and integration process and policies in the host country affect the refugees' aspirations

to return. This study addresses this research gap, by studying a similar group (Ukrainian refugees) in four countries with diverging policies towards this group.

Building on data collection from a larger research project (NOR-RETIN), we combine policy analysis of the Nordic countries' reception and integration policies towards Ukrainian refugees with comparative analysis of surveys (more than 3,000 respondents in total) to Ukrainian refugees in Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland conducted in 2024-25. The paper analyses whether and how individual factors (e.g. education level, age, family situation), as well as conditions in home country (e.g. level of destruction in home community, political trust) and host countries (e.g. social and economic integration, reception policies) affect return aspirations among the refugees.

Keywords: Ukrainian refugees; return aspirations, survey

Justice for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence as a War Crime: Ukraine's Experience Through the Prism of International Standards

Kateryna Shunevych, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

The presentation is devoted to a critical analysis of trends in the implementation of criminal proceedings regarding conflict-related sexual violence committed by representatives of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine in connection with the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine (from 2022 to the present). In particular, the issue of the possibility of holding individuals accountable for such crimes under the national legislation of Ukraine, and the existing challenges will be highlighted. Such challenges are related, on the one hand, to the fact that Ukraine is still in a state of war, and, on the other hand, to the ratification of the ICC Statute in 2023, which requires updating the national criminal and criminal procedural legislation.

Another focus of the study is the peculiarities of conducting investigative and other procedural actions during the investigation of conflict-related sexual violence, and the discussion of the admissibility of evidence obtained as a result. In particular, but not only, the issue of introducing new approaches in Ukraine to conducting a pre-trial investigation taking into account the needs of survivors; ensuring the confidentiality of survivors; and witnesses; conducting a pre-trial investigation in absentia; peculiarities of conducting interrogations and using the possibilities of forensic medical, forensic psychological, forensic psychiatric or comprehensive psychological and psychiatric examination and other types of examination when conducting a pre-trial conflict-related sexual violence investigation; as well as the inexpediency of conducting certain investigative actions in order not to traumatize the victims.

The cross-cutting theme of the study is the compliance of the national practice of holding perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence accountable with international standards, in particular the standards of the International Criminal Court, as well as the implementation of approaches aimed at ensuring survivor-centered approaches in the pre-trial investigation and trial of such crimes at the national level.

Keywords: conflict related sexual violence, the Russian-Ukrainian war, ICC, evidence, justice**.**

Rebuilding Justice: The Role of Victim-Oriented Approaches in Shaping Post-War Legal Culture in Ukraine

Marta Mazur, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

This paper explores the transformation of Ukraine`s criminal justice system in the context of post-war recovery, with a special focus on advancing a victim-centered approach. This model places the rights, dignity, and needs of those affected by crime at the core of justice efforts, offering a people-focused foundation for building a more just, inclusive, and socially responsive system. In Ukraine, where punitive and repressive practices have long prevailed, this shift is not only a legal evolution but also a significant cultural and institutional challenge. russia`s full-scale invasion of Ukraine marked a turning point for the national criminal justice system. The war exposed longstanding structural weaknesses and simultaneously led to an unprecedented number of victims - of both international crimes and ordinary offenses, many of which intensified during the conflict.

The paper pays particular attention to the complex and overlapping forms of victimization in this context. While Ukrainians continue to suffer massively from war crimes, ordinary crime has not disappeared. Many

people have become victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, property crimes, and fraud. The war has not stopped criminal activity; on the contrary, it has deepened systemic vulnerabilities, leading to legal uncertainty, social fragmentation, and secondary victimization.

In this broader context, the paper outlines three interrelated pillars essential for a meaningful shift toward a victim-oriented criminal justice system:

1. Effective participation of victims in pre-trial investigations and court proceedings, including guaranteed access to information, legal aid, and procedural safeguards;

2. Robust protection and support mechanisms for vulnerable groups such as children, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, internally displaced persons, and persons with disabilities;

3. Accessible, timely, and comprehensive compensation and reparation schemes at both national and international levels.

The paper also examines the heightened risk of impunity in a post-conflict society, where the scale and gravity of crimes may exceed the capacity of the existing judicial system. It critically assesses the effectiveness of national policies aimed at supporting victims and rebuilding trust in legal institutions. In addition, the role of restorative justice is discussed as a complementary approach that can provide alternative avenues for recognition, healing, and social reintegration.

Ultimately, the paper argues that a victim-centered justice system is not a secondary or purely humanitarian issue. Rather, it is a key element of sustainable peace, institutional resilience, and democratic recovery in Ukraine`s post-war future.

Keywords: Justice, Victim

Trust in Institutions, Trust in State – Case of Independent Judiciary

Solvita Harbaceviča, Supreme Court, Latvia (online)

EU accession process is both a challenge and opportunity for a candidate state, presenting it with a task to reform its institutions in order to establish a robust framework for guaranteeing democracy and the rule of law, as well as to guarantee the ability to take on and implement effectively the obligations of membership. Ensuring the uniform application of EU law across all Member States, creating a predictable environment for people and businesses is also important for a well-functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces in the EU.

Judicial institutions, the ultimate guarantors of rule of law, are the focal point of institutional reform and their strengthening is central for fulfilment of all three Copenhagen/accession criteria. This process has a secondary, but not less important aim - to develop a culture of trust in relations between the state and civil society. Latvian experience proves it is possible, public trust in judiciary continuously growing from negative - 48% in the beginning of 2000s to positive 48% in the latest polls, highest trust level among the state powers. The importance of the rule of law has increased exponentially in the EU legal system, acting as a counterbalance for populist tendencies seen in numerous Member States.

With understanding of systemic importance of judiciary, its reforms need to proceed not in a piecemeal, but in strategically planned manner. Reforms need to be clearly communicated to public, as public trust in judiciary is also a good indicator for other Member States of the EU as to reliability of accession state as a potential partner within the EU. The less problems, actual or perceived, will remain, the less stress will be exercised on the EU absorption capacity. It is also important to consider the urgency of reforms and take into account that EU accession is driven by clear political will that tends to dissipate upon achieving membership, and therefore it will be considerably harder to do fundamental things that were not done motivated by accession.

Keywords: judiciary, independence, trust

Uprooted by Empire: The Forced Migration of Greeks and the Rise of the Port of Mariupol (1780–1859)

Svitlana Arabadzhy, Mariupol State University / University of Oslo

The early nineteenth century was marked by the establishment of port systems along the Sea of Azov, where Mariupol emerged as the second port and played a pivotal role in connecting the region to global markets. The history of Mariupol's development as a port city is closely linked to the forced migration of Christians from the Crimean Khanate to the area of the modern city in 1780, which at that time was part of the Russian Empire. The settlers established twenty-one villages and continued the development of Mariupol on the site of the former Kalmius palanka of the Ukrainian Cossacks.

Mariupol was unique among the eleven ports on the shores of the Sea of Azov and the northern Black Sea in that, for 79 years, official residency was restricted exclusively to the descendants of Christians resettled from the Crimea, along with foreign merchants. It was not until 1859 that people from other parts of the Russian Empire were allowed to obtain official residency in the city. Furthermore, for more than eight decades, the administration of the city and the proceedings of the Mariupol Greek Court were conducted exclusively by members of the Greek community.

This paper examines the development of Mariupol as a port-city during its "closed" period of history, marked by special rights granted to the Greek population, and assesses the impact of these privileges on the city's growth up to 1859. How did legislative changes affect the social status of the Greek population, their economic opportunities, and their involvement in international trade? In what ways did the active colonisation policies of the state influence the economic development of the Greek community? What role did local merchants and foreign traders play in the expansion of international commerce? Which countries were involved in exporting goods from Mariupol, and what were the dynamics of this trade over time? In seeking answers to these questions, the city port is approached as a dynamic entity that responds to shifts in political conditions and developments in international trade.

Keywords: Mariupol Greeks, Azov Sea port, international trade

Book Collections and Religious Disciplining: The Mukachevo Eparchy in the 18th Century

Mykhailo Tupytsia, Ukrainian Catholic University

This paper explores the role of book collections in the Mukachevo eparchy, a peripheral Eastern Rite Catholic (Uniate) community in Central and Eastern Europe, as evidence of the reception and adaptation of the Catholic Reform during the 18th century. Contemporary scholarship on book culture often addresses the dynamics of textual interaction, reading, trade, broadcasting, and the formation of textual communities and public spheres, omitting the disciplining process. This interdisciplinary study focuses on how liturgical and library book collections in parishes and monasteries reflect the confessional changes initiated by the Council of Trent (1545–1563) and later adapted for the Kyivan Uniate Metropolitanate at the Zamość Council of 1720.

The Mukachevo Eparchy, geographically remote and administratively subordinate to the Latin Diocese of Eger from 1716–1771, represents a compelling case of religious and cultural negotiation. The eparchy's marginal status compelled its hierarchs to resist certain Eger initiatives while simultaneously maintaining ties with the Kyivan Metropolitanate. Book collections offer tangible evidence of these negotiations and reflect the eparchy's participation in broader ecclesial reforms.

The study is structured into three key sections:
1. Legal Frameworks – analyzing administrative and epistolary sources to assess how legal norms influenced book collections.
2. Parish Collections – investigating the repertoire of liturgical and preaching books and their alignment with the Zamość Council's adaptations.
3. Monastic Collections – delineates how monastic book collections played a central role in implementing confessional reforms, often earlier and more systematically than in parish contexts.
Preliminary findings indicate that the Mukachevo Eparchy's book collections were fully synchronized with the reforms established at Zamość, despite its formal exclusion from the Kyivan Metropolitanate. Parish collections, comprising liturgical and preaching books, were predominantly sourced from ecclesiastical publishing houses of the Kyivan Metropolitanate, with texts revised to align with Catholic doctrine. In contrast, monastic libraries

were more organized and exhibited confessional adaptations earlier than parish collections. Post-Zamość, these collections also expanded and acquired a distinctly "Latin" character, underscoring the broader cultural and intellectual influences at play.

This paper challenges prevailing narratives about the ecclesial identity of the Mukachevo Eparchy, positioning its book culture within broader Central and Eastern European religious developments. It demonstrates how religious identities were shaped through sustained textual exchange and cultural connection with Kyiv, despite administrative constraints. The project also calls for comparative studies of Eastern Rite book cultures to better understand the interplay between religious reform and material textual culture.

Keywords: Book culture, religious reform, Eastern Rite Catholicism

Parallel session 2: Tuesday 15.15–16.45/17.15

<table>
<tr><td>**2S Shifting Political Landscapes** (chair: Anne Pintsch)
Tuesday 15.15-16.45</td><td>Room Storsalen</td></tr>
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War as Cultural Watershed: Cultural Transformations of Political Elites in Ukraine
Oleksandra Iwaniuk, University of Warsaw

Since 2014, and especially after the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, Ukraine has undergone not only military and institutional transformations but also profound cultural shifts within its political elite. This presentation explores how war has served as a cultural watershed, forcing political actors to renegotiate the symbolic and cultural foundations of their legitimacy. Using Pierre Bourdieu's theory of capital and political field, I argue that the prolonged confrontation with Russia has nationalized the criteria for political recognition and redefined the types of cultural capital necessary for elite survival in Ukraine. In the post-Soviet period, many Ukrainian political elites operated within a hybrid or ambivalent symbolic field. Russian language, Soviet memory, and technocratic competence often outweighed cultural alignment with the Ukrainian national project. Political legitimacy was frequently rooted in economic capital, regional loyalties, or inherited Soviet networks rather than in a deep engagement with Ukrainian historical narratives or language. While cultural nationalists occupied moral high ground, they often remained marginal in the field of power.

The 2014 Revolution of Dignity and subsequent Russian annexation of Crimea and aggression in Donbas began a process of symbolic reordering. The emergence of new actors—veterans, civil society leaders, volunteer battalion representatives—introduced alternative forms of symbolic capital rooted in sacrifice, patriotism, and grassroots legitimacy. However, it was the full-scale invasion in 2022 that decisively transformed the cultural expectations placed on Ukraine's political elites. In a context of existential threat, symbolic alignment with the Ukrainian national narrative—through language, commemorative practices, and historical framing—became not only a marker of legitimacy but a prerequisite for political survival.

The transformation of President Volodymyr Zelensky provides a vivid example of this shift. Initially perceived as a post-Soviet, Russian-speaking entertainer, Zelensky has redefined his political persona by embracing national language, military symbolism, and an assertive anti-colonial discourse. Through wartime leadership and symbolic performance, he has accumulated significant moral and cultural capital, reshaping the archetype of political leadership in Ukraine.

This presentation argues that war has functioned as a mechanism of symbolic purification and re-legitimation, excluding those unable to adapt to the new cultural norms (e.g., pro-Russian elites) and elevating those able to embody national resilience. In doing so, it has catalyzed a cultural transformation of Ukraine's political field, making symbolic and cultural capital central to elite reproduction and political power.

Keywords: Ukrainian political elites, cultural capital; symbolic capital; war with Russia; Bourdieu; cultural transformation; decolonization; Russian aggression

Ukraine: Declining Domestic Political Technology, Russian Political Warfare

Andrew Wilson, University College London

'Political technology' is a ubiquitous and widely understood term throughout the post-Soviet world – if not in the West. It has its origins in 1990s Russia. It has some antecedents in the 'active measures' practiced by the KGB in the Soviet era (political warfare, covert geopolitical operations), and even the artificial police parties or 'Zubatov parties' of the late Tsarist era. But political technology is characteristically post-Soviet: it is the 'managed' part in a 'managed democracy'. Political technology has been a way of keeping local Limited Access Orders (LAO) 'limited' – of policing access to the elite that share economic rents. And of maintaining order within the LAO – making sure that elites are not tempted to defect from the rules of the LAO. This paper explores the decline of political technology under Zelensky, and how Ukraine combats Russian political warfare.

Keywords: Political technology, information warfare, limited access orders, Ukraine, Russia

Voting Cohesion in the Servants of the People

Geir Flikke, University of Oslo
Erik Herron, Professor West Virginia University
Kryshtina Pelchar, West Virginia University
Herschel Thomas, University of Texas, Austin

When Zelensky entered office in May 2019, he announced that Ukraine would embark on a transition towards a more transparent and accountable political system. To this end, a dominant coalition was created in the Rada to provide a break with past practices of defection and party-jockeying. The Servants of the People was designed to end patronage practices and secure a decisive victory in the 2019 elections. With many new faces in politics, and the over-all Ze-effect, assumptions were that the deficiencies of a pluralist-by-default system could be overcome. This paper analyses the organizational sources of the Servants of the People and discusses its internal cohesion from 2019–2024 (June). Cohesion is tested along the lines of former sponsorships, organizational genesis, party responses to questions of MPs accountability, and voting patterns in the Rada.

Keywords: Party cohesion, defectors, organizational power, Ukraine

Life Writing and Dissent: Anti-Authoritarian Strategies in Ukrainian Literary Culture of the 1960s

Yuliia Kulish, Independent Researcher

This project examines the anti-authoritarian strategies employed by Ukrainian writers of the 1960s to resist a range of ideological narratives. Drawing on diaries, notes, and memoirs—forms of life writing—by figures such as Iryna Zhylenko, Nadiya Svitlychna, Vasyl Stus, Vasyl Symonenko, Yevhen Sverstiuk, Svitlana Kyrychenko, and others, it analyzes the broad spectrum of protest activity they engaged in, understood sensu lato. The study considers both direct political opposition to the Soviet state—manifested in leaflet distribution, street protests, and strikes—and aesthetic resistance to the stagnating literary environment, within and beyond official institutions. The latter found expression in workshop meetings, poetry readings, and theater performances that cultivated alternative communal dynamics.

Methodologically, the project combines close textual analysis with cultural-historical inquiry and critical theory to reconstruct the modalities and meanings of resistance. I argue that these two dimensions of protest were deeply interconnected, woven into the broader fabric of 1960s protest culture, and I explore why this particular historical moment proved especially generative for dissent. By shedding new light on Ukrainian countercultural activity, the study contributes to broader discussions of cultural resistance under late socialism. Finally, it situates the Ukrainian case within a comparative framework, reflecting on resonances with contemporaneous countercultural movements worldwide.

Keywords: counterculture, 1960s, Ukrainian literature

Translating Shakespeare in Soviet Ukraine: Resistance Through Translation

Anna Sverediuk, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine

Translated literature starts occupying a more central position in the polysystem when the original literature is under threat. Literary translation in Ukraine has always been the means for resistance, both cultural and political, to the restrictive norms of its colonizer, whether the Russian Empire of the 18th century, the Austrian state of the 19th or the Soviet Union. Preserving function of translation in Ukraine grew even more evident in the 2nd half of the 20th century with the establishment of the oppressive Soviet regime and its decisive course towards russification and unification of the sociocultural sphere. Reproduction of Shakespeare's canon-shaping works in line with the Soviet ideology should have become one of such effective tools for unification.

I attempt to look at the Ukrainian agents in translation field in their effort to resist these tendencies. The underlying concept is multifaceted agent as an individual, active in several adjacent fields (translation, editing, commentaries, publishing activities). While translators are for the most part intermediaries, aiming at the most accurate delivery of a message, agents of translation play a wider sociocultural role, effecting innovations and changes (Milton & Bandia 2009: 2).

Within the context of the proposed study, I regard the Ukrainian multifaceted agents of the Soviet time as those responsible primarily for implicit safeguarding from the restrictive norms of the communist colonizer. From the historical perspective, their earlier efforts to preserve language and culture paved the way for alternative approaches in Ukrainian translation and Shakespeare studies after the collapse of the Soviet State.

My research focuses on Hryhorii Kochur as a multifaceted agent in translation and literary studies field. The notion of multiple translatorship (in my case – anonymous) (Jansen & Wegener 2013) as a certain norm-bypassing strategy is applied to illustrate the agent's approach. The aim is to demonstrate how Kochur's activities and multiple anonymous translatorship implementation facilitated the Ukrainian language and culture preservation; ensured implicit presence to the fellow-agents banished by censorship; and resulted in creation of the intellectual ground for younger generation of agents in the field of translation. Additionally, I display the ways in which his agency influenced the first Ukrainian female Shakespeare studies scholar Maria Hablevych (b. 1950), advocating for re-evaluation of Shakespeare's legacy and its interpretation freed from the restrictive communist norms in independent Ukraine. Generally, the research is supposed to highlight the continuity of Ukrainian resilience through centuries.

Keywords: ideologym norms, multifaceted agency, language policies, multiple translatorship

Conceptualization and Collecting as Strategies of Cultural Belonging: The Case of Yur Mezhenko

Olena Haleta, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv / Humboldt University of Berlin

In this paper are analyzed critical articles, notes, drafts, diary entries and memoirs of Yur Mezhenko (1892-1969), one of the influential Ukrainian literary critic and bibliographer of the 1920s and the founder of the National Library of Ukraine. His literary publications and archival records testify to the challenges that the Ukrainian modern culture was forced to respond to between the colonialism of the 19th century and the Soviet totalitarianism of the 20th century. If in the 1920s the main goal was the search for a new language to describe a new cultural reality, in the following decades it gave way to the practice of collecting as the embodiment of an endangered tradition (from Shevchenkiana's private collection to the National Library). Mezhenko's publications and archival documents are being considered from the perspective of genetic criticism as a text-forming mechanism of self-narration, aimed at cultural self-identification and associated with a strategy of "return", both symbolic and physical, as a choice of "one's own" place in cultural history.

Keywords: Modernism, self-narration, collection.

Extractivism in Ukraine Under Imperial Rule
Volodymyr Kulikov, University College London (online)

The exploitation of Ukraine's rich natural resources intensified with the advent of industrialisation and the fossil-fuel transport revolution. These resources were strategically important to the technical modernisation of both the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires, which controlled Ukrainian territory. Oil from Galicia made Austria-Hungary the world's third-largest producer, while coal and iron from eastern Ukraine powered Russia's industrial boom during the 1890s. Ukrainian lands also provided a substantial share of the empire's grain exports, which constituted a critical source of state revenue. However, this wealth did not result in lasting prosperity for the local population. Some interpret this as indicative of Ukraine's colonial status, although such a view tends to overlook considerable investment in infrastructure.

This paper adopts a systematic approach to examine the complexity of centre-periphery relations. It investigates how value was extracted and identifies the leading actors involved: the state, local economic elites, and foreign investors. It argues that the imperial focus on exporting raw materials, rather than strategically building value chains and increasing economic complexity, entrenched a pattern of extractivism in Ukraine that persisted well into the twentieth century.

Ukrainian Archival Sources in Studying the Fate of Ukrainian in Norway During World War II
Tetiana Zabolotna, Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Forced Labour Displacement during WWII: Ukrainians in Norway and their postwar memorialization
Hans Otto Frøland, NTNU

Nazi Germany brought around 95,000 Soviet POWs and around 7,500 civilian Soviet 'Ostarbeiter' to Norway as forced laborers between 1941 and 1945, of which, respectively, around 20,000 and 5,000 were Ukrainians. Modeled on a former research project applying the prosopographic method on the much smaller Czech forced labor cohort in Norway, the two talks elaborate how a joint Norwegian-Ukrainian research project could be designed to dig up the collective experience, memory and memorialization of these two Ukrainian groups, and how the project findings might be disseminated to inform the public and enhance citizenship.

The project will trace experiences and memories from drafting and capture through procurement and forced labor performance in Norway, further repatriation to various postwar lives in the USSR and Ukraine, until the compensation agenda occurred in the 1990s and subsequently iin the 2000s. Frøland elaborates the Norwegian part whereas Zabolotna elaborates the Ukrainian part. Both will focus on potentials, challenges and constraints of this project idea.

Resilience in Ukrainian Higher Education: Responding to the Challenges of War
Iryna Soldatenko, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
Anna Markovska, Anglia Ruskin University
Alessia Mevoli, Anglia Ruskin University
Oleksii Serdiuk, Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has catalyzed profound transformations in all spheres of life, including higher education. Despite unprecedented challenges, Ukrainian higher education institutions demonstrated impressive resilience, resuming operations just two weeks after the invasion began. However, beneath this external stability lie numerous problems related to destroyed infrastructure, loss of personnel and students, as well as difficulties in conducting research.

The presentation shares findings from the study "HR policies of universities in Ukraine during the war" on the impact of war on universities in Kharkiv – an educational center located near the combat zone. The methodology included a survey of 442 employees (140 men, 302 women) from 20 Kharkiv higher education institutions, supplemented by focus group interviews. One-third of respondents changed their residence due to the war, 43% of women and 31.4% of men returned to Kharkiv, while 21% of women and 36.4% of men remained in the city since the beginning of the invasion.

The research revealed the dualistic nature of adaptation: on one hand – flexibility in work formats, technical support, and humanitarian aid; on the other – significant reduction of support staff, increased bureaucratic procedures, and maintained high requirements for scientific productivity.

Gender disparities were also identified: although both men and women reported increased workloads (53%), only 15.5% of women received corresponding pay increases, compared to 25% of men. Women were less likely to receive necessary equipment for remote work and showed lower indicators of increased scientific productivity during the war.

An unexpected factor of institutional resilience proved to be interpersonal relationships in academic communities – 62% of respondents identified a comfortable work environment as a key reason for continuing to work. At the same time, more than a third reported work-life balance issues, and nearly 30% consider measures to prevent professional burnout insufficient.

The experience of Ukrainian universities offers important lessons for the global academic community: the need for reliable institutional support systems, the critical role of informal networks, the importance of gender-sensitive policies, and the value of adaptability in crisis situations. This experience suggests that the strength of academic institutions may lie not only in infrastructure or finances but also in the human connections that unite university communities.

Keywords: Resilience, Higher Education, War Impact

Three Years of Full-Scale War: Education and Social Capital

Anna Novosad, Charitable Organization "International Charitable Fund 'savED'"
Olga Zhmurko, independent scholar

"3 years of full-scale war. Education and social capital" is a research conducted by savED, funded by the International Renaissance Fund and UCBI (financed by USAID). This research aims to provide an in-depth analysis of changes in educational processes and impact on social capital in Ukraine during the third year of the full-scale war. The goal of the study is to explore how the war impacts the functioning of educational institutions, the interaction between communities, and the restoration of social connections in regions that have suffered significant destruction.

The data collection process involved surveys and interviews with students, educators, parents, and local authorities. This allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the actual situation in various communities in Ukraine affected by the war and how social and educational practices have evolved in the context of prolonged conflict.

The research particularly focuses on the impact of the war on youth and their outlook on the future in Ukraine. It provides insights into how young people perceive the situation and how this influences their aspirations and motivations. Part of the research examines how changes in the educational process may affect their ability to integrate into post-war society, as well as the role of educational initiatives in the restoration of social capital.

The findings of the research serve as an invaluable resource for Norwegian organizations, as they provide a deeper understanding of the context of the war in Ukraine, the real needs of affected communities, and the challenges they face. These data can serve as the foundation for further developing joint initiatives and projects that will effectively support the restoration of social structures and education on the ground. Participation in the Ukrainett+ conference offers an opportunity to share these results with an international audience, including representatives from Norway. This could become an important step in building effective cooperation between countries. Presenting our research will not only inform the conference participants about the current challenges but also explore opportunities for joint solutions and initiatives aimed at supporting

Ukraine during its recovery period. Through such initiatives, Norwegian organizations will be able to better tailor their support strategies to the real needs of Ukrainian communities, thereby contributing to more efficient resource utilization and the development of long-term partnerships.

We are confident that presenting our results at conference will offer participants fresh insights for collaboration and joint projects to support the recovery and development of Ukrainian communities.

Keywords: Education, Social Capital, Recovery while the war is ongoing

Community Recovery During War and Post-War Reconstruction: Lessons from Ukraine
Valentyna Zasadko, Ukrainian Catholic University

Research Question
How can universities effectively engage with communities to foster sustainable recovery during war and post-war reconstruction, and what lessons from Ukraine can inform global practices in addressing similar challenges?
Methodology
This study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data from two key sources developed within the Alliance of Ukrainian Universities:
1. The "Final Report on Community-University Cooperation Pilot Projects" (2024), which documents practical initiatives between Ukrainian universities and local communities aimed at enhancing resilience and recovery.
2. The "Practical Guide for Community Empowerment" (2024), which provides detailed frameworks and case studies on building sustainable partnerships for community development.
Findings
Preliminary findings underscore the transformative role universities play in community recovery efforts, particularly in contexts of war and post-war reconstruction. Key results include:
1. Education as a Catalyst for Resilience. Ukrainian universities have developed tailored educational programs to address immediate community needs, such as training on crisis management, psychological support, and local governance in times of instability. These initiatives have not only empowered local leaders but also fostered a sense of collective agency among community members.
2. Pilot Projects as Proof of Concept. Pilot projects implemented in Ukrainian communities illustrate the potential of localized interventions supported by academic expertise. Examples include:
   - Establishing digital hubs to maintain communication and access to services during infrastructure breakdowns.
   - Implementing ecological restoration programs to rebuild damaged ecosystems, integrating community participation.
3. Service-Learning as a Driver of Community Engagement. One of the most impactful approaches observed in the Ukrainian case is service learning, where students actively engage in addressing community challenges as part of their academic coursework. This approach not only strengthens ties between universities and communities but also provides students with practical skills and a deep understanding of societal challenges, fostering a generation of socially responsible professionals.
4. Challenges and Barriers. Despite successes, challenges such as limited resources, bureaucratic inertia, and psychological trauma within communities highlight the need for adaptable and scalable solutions.
5. Global Implications. The Ukrainian experience demonstrates that community recovery models, when rooted in academic research and practice, can offer valuable insights for addressing global challenges. By fostering collaboration between universities and local stakeholders, these models can be adapted to conflict-affected regions worldwide.

By presenting these findings at the conference, this research aims to stimulate a broader dialogue among academic institutions on their role in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

Keywords: Community Recovery During War and Post-War Reconstruction: Lessons from Ukraine

Sustainability and Digital Transformation: Building a Skilled Workforce for Post-War Green Reconstruction of Ukraine
Iryna Fyschuk, University of Stavanger
Thomas Michael Sattich, University of Stavanger

The war in Ukraine has been raging for more than 1000 days now. With this study, we want to highlight possibilities for the country's reconstruction after the war. In particular, we want to contribute to a literature discussing the green reconstruction of post-war Ukraine, that is future reconstruction efforts guided by the goal

of sustainability. Our motivation for engaging with this topic is twofold. Firstly, various publications emphasize that Ukraine is suitable for an approach to reconstruction guided by sustainability, yet the information on this topic is scattered. Secondly, green reconstruction appears suited to integrate the country of Ukraine in wider international efforts such as various EU policies (e.g. the European Green Deal) and the UN 2030 Agenda (i.e. the Sustainable Development Goals).

This study will, therefore, first review the available literature on the theme of green reconstruction of Ukraine. Thereby, the study will provide the basis for examining possibilities for the country's reconstruction after the war. Furthermore, our goal is to create a roadmap that connects the existing potential of Ukraine for achieving green reconstruction with international support structures. To reduce complexity, our focus is on the skills needed for achieving sustainability. Humans are the main actors behind development; major efforts such as the reconstruction of Ukraine therefore have to begin with their abilities. The literature on green skills is well established (both academic and policy, e.g. OECD and EU), and hence provides various starting points for analysing the case of Ukraine. For example, following the literature, digital skills offer pathways to achieving sustainability.

At the same time, the war has highlighted Ukraine's potential in the field of digital technologies, particularly the use of drones and other high-tech equipment. What is more, international programs for reconstruction and investments exist and could build on these strengths. However, the impact of the war on Ukrainian society is unprecedented, and presents strong challenges for post-war Ukraine, for example in terms of rebuilding education systems. Developing a skills-based approach for green reconstruction will have to take this into account. Therefore, establishing the haves of Ukraine can only be a first starting point. In addition to that, we aim at highlighting the country's needs in terms of skills and their future development. The underlying assumption is that green reconstruction of Ukraine becomes more likely, effective, and efficient if support from third parties such as the EU is aligned with both the haves and needs of Ukrainian post-war society. The resulting roadmap will, hence, provide information for workforce planning in the reconstruction effort. As such, it connects to other case studies on countries in severe crisis situations.

2D Literature and Memory (chair: Halyna Lystvak) (**NB: 15.15–17.15**)
Tuesday 15.15–17.15   Room Nordre Allmenning 5

Memory Through Media: The Function of Photographs in Sofia Andrukhovych's Novel *Amadoka*

Olena Saikovska, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

In the novel "Amadoka" (2020), Sofia Andrukhovych focuses on how the memory of events and experiences exists within a specific cultural environment. In interviews, the author states that her novel is more about history than about personalities. The novel demonstrates how memory operates on individual, collective, and cultural levels.

Cultural memory and its forms and transformations are analyzed by Aleida Assmann in her work "Cultural Memory and Western Civilization: Functions, Media, Archives" (Original Title: "Erinnerungsräume. Formen und Wandlungen des kulturelle Gedächtnisses"). Assmann's idea of memory as "Ars and Vis" refers to two different modes or dimensions of memory: "ars memoriae" and "vis memoriae." These theoretical conclusions are well applied to Sofia Andrukhovych's novel.

In "Amadoka" the author demonstrates that different media have various capabilities for collecting and storing memories, influencing how memories are constructed, transmitted, and preserved over time. In this paper, I would like to concentrate on photos as bearers of memory. There are two groups of photos in "Amadoka" that are stored differently depending on the time they were captured. The first group of photos is stored in four large suitcases, which are brought to the archive by archaeologist Bohdan Kryvodiak, the son of the Professor, where Romana works. These four suitcases with family photos do not constitute any national treasure, but they are valuable to individual carriers of memory. The second group of photos is preserved through modern media. Romana creates an alternative reality on social media. She creates her own diary of restoring the Man's memory and revitalizing herself on the social network.

This paper will discuss the different functions of photographs as tools for collecting, storing, and transmitting memories.

Keywords: memory, media, contemporary Ukrainian literature

Narrating Catastrophe: Ukrainian Disaster Fiction as Memory Culture and Identity Formation in Wartime

Olena Koliasa, Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University, Odesa National Maritime University, Mariupol State University (Ukraine), Sydney University (Australia)
(online)

This research examines the complex role of disaster fiction in shaping Ukrainian collective memory and national identity during ongoing armed conflict. While Western audiences might consume disaster narratives as a spectacle reinforcing their privileged position, Ukrainian disaster fiction serves more profound cultural functions: documenting catastrophe, preserving memory, and forging resilient identities in response to existential threats. The study interrogates how living with disaster reconfigures cognitive frameworks, either normalizing catastrophe as a quotidian experience or cultivating extraordinary resilience that transcends trauma. Ukrainian writers navigate this precarious balance, developing aesthetic strategies that avoid desensitizing statistical abstractions and paralyzing emotional overload.

Through analysis of contemporary Ukrainian literature responding to Russia's invasion, this research reveals how disaster fiction becomes a site of narrative sovereignty, where writers like Zabuzhko, Zhadan, and Kurkov contest external colonial narratives and internal political mythologies. The "storyness" of disaster fiction — its self-conscious artifice — creates a productive middle ground between documentary fact and emotional paralysis, allowing readers to process collective trauma without being overwhelmed. The investigation further demonstrates how disaster fiction enables uniquely Ukrainian forms of cosmopolitanism, creating transnational solidarity networks while resisting simplistic globalized readings of catastrophe. As Ukrainian literature represents displacement, refuge-seeking, and diaspora formation, it simultaneously reinscribes historical memory — connecting contemporary disasters to the Holodomor, Soviet repression, and post-independence struggles — while envisioning futures beyond catastrophe.

This research challenges both colonialist framings of Ukraine as a passive victim and post-Soviet idealizations that obscure, complex agency. Instead, it reveals how disaster fiction positions Ukraine as simultaneously complicit in and resistant to the management of catastrophe, articulating uncomfortable questions about national identity and collective responsibility. Ukrainian disaster fiction thus performs vital cultural work beyond ideological critique — teaching the negotiation of catastrophe while seeking creative pathways through crisis, even as it acknowledges disaster as the foundation upon which all representation of catastrophe inevitably rests.

Keywords: disaster fiction, war narratives, cultural identity

Affective Encounters and Mnemonic Practices: Visiting Ukrainian Virtual Museums of War

Sebastian Graf, Lund University

This talk explores the nexus of memory, war, and digitality in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since 2014, the unfolding Russian war against Ukraine epitomizes how rapid technological developments have profoundly altered the ways warfare is depicted, perceived, and waged. These transformations enabled new and different engagements with war, including shaping immediate war memories in digital spaces. One example of such digital mnemonic practices is the creation of Ukrainian Virtual War Museums. Founded as a direct response to the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, these virtual museums not only memorialize the war but also seek to affect visitors and ultimately make them act.

In my talk, I center on three Ukrainian Virtual War Museums—Meta History: Museum of War, War Fragments Museum, and Virtual Museum of War Memory. Drawing on concepts from (digital) memory studies, cultural studies, and digital ethnography, I examine three visits to the virtual museums conducted with research participants. The study focuses on how the displayed digital war artifacts affect the museum's visitors. Building on my previous research, I investigate how the mediated materials exhibited by the virtual museums impact the visitors, how the visitors engage with the museums, and how they make sense of it.

To this end, I explore how affective encounters (Varutti 2021) unfold within the museum assemblage (Waterton and Dittmer 2014). Consisting of exhibitions, digital technologies, research participants, and researchers, these assemblages shed light on the entanglement of digital spaces, memory, and affect in times of the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine. Deepening our understanding of virtual museums and the processes that shape the becoming and constitution of digital mnemonic practices, the analysis of Ukrainian virtual war museums adds insights to the interplay between the content of mnemonic practices, their texture, as well as their formation and perception by visitors, thus going beyond the discursive representations of the unfolding war.

Keywords: Ukraine, Memory, War

Decolonising Historical Memory in Ukraine: Challenges and Traps

Serhii Pakhomenko, Mariupol State University / University of Latvia (online)

The Russo-Ukrainian war triggered an intensification of the decommunisation and derusification processes of public, symbolic spaces and landscape of historical memory in Ukraine. Taken together, these processes increasingly correspond to decolonising political and media rhetoric and are legitimised in the relevant laws. This article highlights how these processes represent a direct response to long-standing Russian historical propaganda. This «anti-colonial» response involves strengthening the Ukrainian historical narrative and liberating it from the colonial and imperial framework imposed by Russia, but at the same time it is also sometimes characterised by a mirrored counter-propaganda.

This article explores the applicability of postcolonial theory to the decolonial mnemopolitics in Ukraine. I approach the decolonial discourse in Ukraine from the perspective of post-colonial theory and securitization theory. I explore how decolonization, which is often framed within the so-called «defensive nationalism» (E. Thompson) or «anticolonial nationalism» (B. Törnquist-Plewa and Y. Yurchuk), corresponds with the discourse on mnemonic securitization, which implies "making certain historical remembrances secure by delegitimizing…or criminalizing others" (M. Mälksoo).

Through discourse analysis of modern Ukrainian decolonial narratives about the Soviet past and Russian cultural hegemony, I examine what methodological approaches of postcolonial theory are used in intellectual reflection and how they fit into the broader context of postcolonial studies and studies of imperialism. This focus directly addresses how Ukraine challenges the historical dominance and manipulation of memory fostered by Russian state-sponsored narratives.

I also pose a number of questions regarding the political and legal foundations of decolonization. How is this politics legally regulated and what symbols and cultural practices are its subject? Who are the main narrators of postcolonial discourse and key actors of decolonisation practices?

As a case study, I investigate the peculiarities of the complex and contradictory process of decolonisation in the city of Odessa, which has long been a symbolic space of Russian imperial mythology. But on the other hand, some plots of this mythology represent the historical specificity and identity of the city.

Keywords: decolonisation,historical memory,securitization

Parallel session 3: Wednesday 09.00–11.00

3A Shaping Ukrainian Identities in Literature and Education (chair: Olena Haleta)
Wednesday 9.00-11.00   Room Søndre Allmenning 1

Soviet vs National: Ukrainian Children's Literature of the 1920s and '30s

Snizhana Zhygun, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University / T. Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences

Russian colonial policy in Ukraine and its impact on Ukrainian culture have been the subject of research on numerous occasions. However, these studies focus primarily on cultural samples created for adults, despite the general agreement among researchers (F. O'Dell, W. Husband, C. Kelly, and others) that children's culture of the Soviet period was a means of transmitting ideological ideas. Since researchers mostly work with Russian literature, they have not mentioned the tension between the national and the Soviet in the created identity or the mechanisms of denationalization of non-Russians to develop a Soviet man. However, 1923-1932 was a period of intensified national movements caused by the policy of indigenization, with the consequences of which Soviet authority struggled throughout the 1930s. These contradictory influences on Ukrainian Soviet children's literature of the interwar period went unnoticed.

The main question of the presentation is to what extent did Russia's colonial policy influence the formation of children's literature in the national republic (Ukraine), and how did the policy of Ukrainization counteract Russification in the field of children's literature?

To answer this question, I collected the most complete corpus of children's books published in the Ukrainian SSR in 1921-1940. The analysis of this corpus shows that the policy of Ukrainization created the conditions for

powerful cultural development, resulting in a surge of authors writing for young readers (at least 240 local authors) and the development of various literary genres. Ukrainization also influenced 1) the publication of Ukrainian classics for children (authors, choice of texts, design of books); 2) the theme of Ukrainian history in publications for children; 3) the presentation of the idea of an autochthonous proletarian culture in children's literature; 4) the idea of national unity and the right of nations to self-determination in children's works. Instead, the Soviet authorities shaped Ukrainian children's literature following the tasks of colonial policy. This can be seen in 1) the unification of the 'civil war' narrative; 2) stories about the conquest of nature and the Ukrainian countryside that justified colonial exploitation; 3) the formation of an urban worldview for the sake of denationalisation; 4) the image of the Soviet traveller as an agent of influence.

The results show the strategies the Soviet Union used to create "younger brothers" in the national republics, which have consequences in Russia's current non-recognition of Ukrainian identity.

Keywords: Children's literature, Ukrainization, colonization

Writing From Exile: The Intellectual's Identity in Post-WWII Ukrainian Émigré Novels
Maryana Hirnyak, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

The present paper explores the complex, evolving identity of the intellectual in post-WWII Ukrainian émigré literature through a close analysis of Yuriy Kosach's "Aeneas and the Lives of Others" (1947) and Emma Andiievska's "A Novel about a Good Person" (1973). These novels bring to fore the intellectuals that find themselves in exile after World War II and face numerous challenges while experiencing the traumas of past persecutions and present displacement as well as searching for their own life paths henceforth. Such an aspect of the research is relevant due to the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine: the ongoing war forced many Ukrainian intellectuals to flee their homes and immerse themselves in a new milieu. Thus, it is worthwhile to draw attention to the "identity-in-between" of post-WWII Ukrainian émigré writers along with their self-representation in the literary text.

The essential lens for the research is provided by Edward Said's vision of "representations of intellectual" and "intellectual exile". It is also productive to take the theoretical and methodological frameworks developed in the works on personal identity (Julia Kristeva, Paul Ricoeur), national identity (Montserrat Guibernau, Anthony Smith, Olia Hnatiuk), the phenomenon of "displaced persons" (Kateryna Kobchenko) and Ukrainian émigré literature (Danylo Husar Struk, George Shevelov, Marko Robert Stech).

While Kosach refers to the literary heroes that emigrated from Ukraine in the midst of World War II or even earlier, Andiievska addresses the intellectuals as displaced persons in the post-war period. In his novel, Kosach problematizes different ways his intellectual heroes choose in the circumstances of "groundlessness": returning to the homeland and armed resistance; reflections on historiosophical issues and self-identification through research activity; being an observer of others' lives. Andiievska reveals the totalitarian Soviet "hell" that exists for her characters both in the past (accusing of "bourgeois nationalism", denunciatory campaign, long-term imprisonment) and in the present (the fear of repatriation commissions and Soviet spies in the Mittenwald DP camp). Nevertheless, while being uprooted from the native land and pursuing to preserve their own personal and national identity, the intellectuals in Andiievska's novel create artistic masterpieces, deliver lectures, participate in the philosophical discussions, reflect on the divine nature of every human person and their own destiny.

This research will provide insights for future studies on literary interpretations of the intellectual's identity in exile and have significant implications for understanding the challenges faced by contemporary Ukrainian intellectuals.

Keywords: identity, intellectual, exile

The Poet Against the Empire: Ukrainian-Russian Relations at the Turn of the 20th Century Through the Artistic Lens of Volodymyr Samiilenko
Oleksandr Starosta, Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University

The research analyzes the fictional representation of Russian-Ukrainian relations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries through the artistic lens of distinctive and underrated Ukrainian writer Volodymyr Samiilenko (1864–1925). The author highlights the writer's crucial ideas and texts that explain how Russian rule undermined Ukrainian culture and worldview and expose the origins and aims of the so-called "Russian world." As an artist and cultural figure, Volodymyr Samiilenko focused on building mental resistance based on national identity, which, as he believed, demanded a considerable amount of work in social, educational, and cultural fields. His

works aimed both to disclose the nature of Russian imperialism (The Happyland, Russian Serenade, The Pan-Russian Festival (Coronation), etc.) and to evoke and strengthen Ukrainian national self-coincidence and resilience (Iambs, Ukrainian Language (In Memory of Taras Shevchenko), Ukraine, etc.). They also show humanist ideals based on the original "God-Universe" idea (Thoughts of Being, Creed) that tended to form a new worldview based on creative and defensive concepts, apart from destructive and aggressive imperialistic principles (Humanity, To The Torturers, We Had Been Waiting for Her..., etc.).

The most specific work that describes the ultimate encounter between the two mindsets is Volodymyr Samiilenko's Heya (or Gaia), written as a generic symbiosis of anti-utopia, science fiction, and a philosophical and satyric poem. The author explores the writer's artistic efforts in broader literary (works by Borys Hrinchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Olha Kobylanska, etc.) and political and social contexts. As a result, the research provides a wide perspective on Ukrainian existence under Russian rule during the observed period. It highlights the origins and specifics of Ukrainian national and cultural resilience and comprehension of Russian space through fiction.

Keywords: Ukrainian literature, Russian imperialism, Volodymyr Samiilenko

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3B Education, Trust, and Governance in Wartime Ukraine (chair: Aadne Aasland)
Wednesday 9.00–11.00   Room Nordre Allmenning 3

Education Against a Black Economy
Veronika Vakulenko, Nord University Business School
Anatoli Bourmistrov, Nord University Business School

This paper presents a viewpoint on the role of higher education in addressing the challenges posed by the black economy. The black economy tends to thrive during societal crises, as deteriorating economic conditions create incentives for cheating, tax evasion, fraud, and other economic crimes. Notably, white-collar crime, committed by individuals with professional education and high social status (such as managers of companies and public agencies), is a significant aspect of this phenomenon.

The paper critically examines some snapshots of educational practices in Norway and Ukraine. It highlights deficiencies and the changes needed in the current educational systems of Western countries in the learning outcome framework, which need to encompass both positive (white) and negative (black) aspects of the economy. While students should certainly learn about expected legal practices and ethics, they should also be aware of the dangers associated with the shadow economy and corruption. Higher education should play a crucial role in shaping informed and responsible managers who understand the complexities of economic systems and can contribute to their improvement.

Rising Army Donation Culture in Ukraine: Can the Structure of Social Trust Explain It?
Viktor Koziuk, West Ukrainian National University

Starting with the Orange Revolution (2004) and the Revolution of Dignity (2014), Ukrainian society discovered an unfamiliar feature: horizontal self-organization and donation. Donations to support the army turned from their embryonic forms in 2014 into a well-established form of social activity since 2022. In theory, trust is seen as an important prerequisite for donation, and social capital is the basis of horizontal ties. There are three main explanations of trust in others, without which donor activity would hardly be possible: social capital as a precondition for interpersonal trust; trust in institutions designed to guarantee order; culture. Donations to support the army in Ukraine are increasingly becoming an established cultural norm. This is quite unexpected in a country with a low level of tax-paying culture and low level of trust in the authorities. We hypothesize that one of the reasons for the development of donations to support the army is the specific structure of social trust in Ukraine.

The case of Ukraine contrasts with the situation where a high level of trust in others directly correlates with the level of trust in public institutions and law enforcement (Nordic vs Latam, for example). It also contrasts with a situation where a low level of trust in others is combined with a high level of trust in the law enforcement system and government (a number of Middle Eastern countries). It has been empirically confirmed that the level of trust in others in Ukraine, being moderate, significantly exceeds the level of trust in the law enforcement system, political parties, government, and parliament, and is second only to trust in the army. This structure of social trust is almost unique and challenges traditional institutional theories of social capital. We assume this

phenomenon is based on a long-standing social conflict between a socially active entrepreneurial class and official institutions, in which trust is low due to their limited ability to ensure progress in the rule of law. It is also a reflection of limited resource rents, which are insufficient to monopolize power and build a repressive state, thus creating space for a socially active middle class. This political-economic interpretation of the specifics of the social capital structure, with which we associate the development of donations to support the army, does not deny the importance of interpersonal trust as such. Mening that effectiveness and integrity of volunteers is important for maintaining interpersonal trust.

Keywords: donation, social trust, institutions

Decentralization and Diversity: Lessons from Ukrainian Communities

Tetiana Lukeria, Kyiv School of Economics
Oleksandra Keudel, Kyiv School of Economics

Ukraine is a multiethnic, multicultural, and multireligious state, which contributes both to its social complexity and richness. Over the past decade, the country has undergone significant political transformations, particularly the decentralization reform that granted territorial communities greater powers and responsibilities. The full-scale Russian invasion in 2022 became a catalyst for new challenges to social cohesion, intensifying issues related to identity, language, religion, and political views. In this context, it becomes increasingly important to explore how communities adapt to diversity and what tools they employ to prevent conflicts and foster unity.

This research focuses on examining the relationship between political decentralization and social cohesion under wartime conditions, with particular attention to how people interpret and engage with differences in social identities within new political frameworks. Specifically, the study looks at how decentralization initiatives affect the perception of cultural, ethnic, and religious differences, as well as attitudes toward politically sensitive issues—such as the integration of internally displaced persons and veterans.

Special attention is given to the tools used by local authorities and communities to strengthen social capital and prevent fragmentation. These include dialogue platforms, intercultural initiatives, joint volunteer projects, public hearings, educational campaigns, and integration programs for internally displaced persons. Analyzing these strategies helps identify effective practices for preserving unity at the local level amidst existential threats and ongoing political reform.

Keywords: Diversity, decentralization, social cohesion

Control and Resilience in the Face of Aggression: Businesses' Responses to Russia's War in Ukraine

Olga Iermolenko, Nord University Business School
Valeriia Melnyk, Nord University Business School

This paper examines how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) build resilience during an ongoing war crisis and what role management control systems (MCS) play in this. We refer to a broad definition of MCS, emphasizing its role in reducing uncertainties. More knowledge is essential in this topic because we live in a time of continuous crises due to non-human or human-made disasters. Furthermore, SMEs employ over two-thirds of the global workforce and make substantial contributions to the GDP growth of national economies. In the case of Ukraine, SMEs are the foundation of Ukraine's economy, accounting for 99.98% of all businesses, providing 74% of employment, and generating 64% of the country's value added. Only ca. 10% of Ukrainian SMEs have not restarted after the initial war disruption.

To examine the resilience of SMEs, we employed the concept of resilience as *bouncing back* (an organization's ability to return to its pre-crisis state after a disruption, emphasizing recovery and stability) and *bouncing forward* (focusing on learning from and adapting to the crisis; it involves developing new capabilities and gaining a competitive edge). We examine the selected cases from the most essential sectors of the Ukrainian economy (ICT, agriculture, manufacturing, professional services) and analyze how, three years after the war, some SMEs managed to 'bounce back', while others 'bounced forward' or stayed in between and what internal (MCS, HR policies, etc.) and external factors (governmental support, etc.) helped in this. Preliminary findings suggest that the notion of control has changed with the full-scale invasion in 2022, shortening planning horizons drastically and transforming business plans, from numerical and other forms into a simplified form – a desire to continue working and finding ways for that.

Keywords: business resilience, bouncing back, bouncing forward, crises, government assistance, uncertainty, Ukraine.

The New Era of Ukraine's Foreign Policy Towards the EU
Alina Nychyk, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (online)

Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 created existential threat to Ukraine's statehood. Ukrainians made a huge effort to protect the country against Russians and the country's foreign policy sustained international support for Ukraine. The research of Ukraine's foreign policy is still limited due to the tendency to study Ukraine through actions of major powers and to underestimate Ukraine's own actorness. The development of Ukraine's foreign policy post-2022 Russian invasion gives a good chance to contribute to Ukrainian studies. This article explains which key changes in Ukraine's foreign policy were perceived by the EU as core in influencing the EU's decision to support Ukraine so much during its war with Russia, e.g. via providing military and financial assistance, granting EU candidate status and introducing sanctions against Russia.

This research is based on the analysis of original interviews with EU and Ukrainian policy-makers, official documents and media outlets. The core findings show both continuation of certain misperceptions, but also substantial improvements in the country's foreign policy in relations with the EU and involvement of new actors, in particular Ukraine's civil society at home and abroad, into foreign policy-making. This research confirms Ukraine's subjectivity in relations with the EU and hints into ways of further improvements of the country's foreign policy.

Keywords: Ukraine's foreign policy, Russian-Ukrainian war, EU-Ukraine integration

Ukraine's Accession to the European Union and International Socialisation
Anne Pintsch, University of Agder

In the literature on the European Union's 2004/07 Eastern enlargement, EU accession has been associated with the (democratic) socialisation of the candidate countries. This understanding was part of a larger debate in the field of International Relations about the socialisation of states.

The proposed paper offers a critical analysis of whether such a connection still exists with Ukraine's current EU accession. It shows that the existing literature has focused on processes such as reinforcement (by reward or punishment, i.e., conditionality) or persuasion. However, it has not paid enough attention to processes such as self-socialisation, which have been debated in neighbouring disciplines (e.g., sociology) for decades. The paper argues that these concepts can broaden the hitherto rather narrow understanding of the socialisation of candidate countries with EU norms. They can help identify Ukraine's capacity for action rather than understanding the country as a mere norm taker.

Keywords: Ukraine; European Union; EU accession

(De)Europeanization Under War? The Case of Free Movement of Persons in EU-Ukraine Relations
Maryna Rabinovych, UiT Arctic University of Norway

The paper examines contemporary tendencies of (de)Europeanization in Ukraine, focusing on the free movement of persons amidst the Russia-Ukraine war. It begins by stressing the role of pre-war Europeanization dynamics - particularly those achieved through the visa liberalization process - as foundational for understanding how mobility norms and practices have evolved since then. It then shows that, despite restrictions on free movement for combat-aged men imposed by the Ukrainian government, the EU's activation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) has reinforced pre-war mobility trends and contributed to Ukraine's bottom-up Europeanization in two ways. First, it provided a high number of Ukrainians with first-hand experiences of life in EU member states and facilitated both people-to-people and institutional contacts between the Union and Ukraine. Second, the TPD also sparked debate on the post-war status of its beneficiaries, especially in light of Ukraine's EU accession process and the full liberalization of the movement of persons this would entail.

In top-down terms, however, martial law and demographic concerns make the Ukrainian government cautious about rapid advancements related to the free movement of persons. Despite the pre-war achievements of the visa liberalization process and some wartime adaptations, Ukraine's legislation remains limited in harmonization with EU law in this area. Thus, the free movement of persons represents an area characterized

by mixed dynamics, where wartime bottom-up Europeanization has surpassed top-down efforts, resulting in significant progress on the former and substantial challenges for the latter.

Ukraine's EU Accession Process in the Context of Higher Education Reforms: Accreditation of Study Programs by NAQA During the War
Oleksandr Dluhopolskyi, West Ukrainian National University

The reform of the higher education sector in Ukraine began post-2014 to align the system with the European Higher Education and Research Area. The Law on Higher Education, enacted in the summer of 2014, initiated the creation of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA). Under the current legislative framework, NAQA is tasked with establishing requirements for institutional transparency and quality, developing standards, and implementing state policy in the higher education sector. This study aims to evaluate the impact of the ongoing war and the COVID-19 pandemic on the accreditation processes of higher education institutions in Ukraine. The object of this study is the accreditation processes of higher education programs in Ukraine.

If in 2019-2020 the focus of NAQA's activities was on the accreditation of educational programs, then by 2024-2025 the emphasis had changed and the field of activity in the direction of ensuring the quality of education had expanded. Thus, the accreditation procedure continues even in wartime in various formats, but work has been added on considering complaints about violations of academic integrity and violations of the procedure for defending a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the activities of one-time specialized councils, the introduction of post-accreditation monitoring, the involvement of international experts in industry expert councils, etc.

In general, since the beginning of NAQA's active work on accreditation expertise of educational programs, as of January 2025, the number of accreditations in Ukraine is 10,967. Despite the pandemic and the war, accreditations in Ukraine did not stop, thanks to the online procedure, and NAQA accredits 1,800 educational programs per year, which is not typical of any European country. During 1 January – 31 December 202,4 NAQA approved 2591 decisions: 1285 according to the full procedure (49,6%), 1306 decisions under martial law (50,1%). Among accreditation decisions according to the full procedure, 1064 study programs were accredited, 3 were denied, 145 were conditional, 18 were exemplary and 55 – re-examination.

The strategic goals of NAQA for the coming years are: 1) gaining full membership in the ENQA and inclusion in the EQAR; 2) improving the system of external quality assurance of higher education, in particular the creation of a model of institutional accreditation and the functioning of independent quality assessment institutions; 3) encouraging innovative practices in higher education institutions in the interaction of research, education and business.

3D Multilingualism in Motion (chair: Lyudmyla Pidkuimukha)
Wednesday 9.00-11.00   Room Nordre Allmenning 5

Multilingualism, Vulnerability, and Trauma: Researching the Lived Experience of Language Among Ukrainians in Sweden in Times of the Unfolding Russian War
Natalia Volvach, Stockholm University

In this talk, I present the results of an ethnographic research project with ten Ukrainian women residing in Stockholm, conducted over the six months from September 2024 to February 2025 after the participants' relocation to Sweden.

An analysis of audio-recorded interviews and walking tours, language portrait and figure crafting workshops, as well as participants' documentation of their linguistic practices over the course of the project reveals how war and war-induced displacement are experienced and navigated in everyday spaces. While building on traditional and creative research methodologies (Elliott & Culhane, 2016) and foregrounding the participants' lived experiences of language (Busch, 2017, 2020), this talk adds to the discussion on multilingualism, forced migration, and trauma by centering the voices of those rarely heard in dominant discourses of the Russian war against Ukraine. At the same time, the collected materials offer insights into fleeting moments where new relations of care, solidarity, and resistance emerge due to and despite the violence of the war.

Grounded in ethnographic practice where the production of knowledge is problematized as such that unfolds in embodied encounters of the project participants and the researcher (Volvach & Kerfoot, 2025), this paper seeks to join the conversation on methodological, ethical and political implications of conducting research in conditions of unfolding war (Sereda & Mikheieva, 2025) and more-than-human vulnerability (Volvach, 2025).

Keywords: war, vulnerability, trauma, multilingualism, Ukraine, Sweden

Ukrainian-Russian Bilingualism in a Multilingual Context: Language Ideologies Dynamics in Poland and Germany

Nataliya Tsisar, Humboldt University of Berlin

Language choice is profoundly shaped by social context, often in ways speakers may not consciously realize. These contexts, in turn, inform and reinforce language ideologies – belief systems about language that influence individual and collective linguistic behavior. In Ukraine, the dynamics of Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism have undergone a visible transformation in recent years, especially in response to legislative and geopolitical changes. A 2022 survey by the Kyiv National Institute of Sociology, led by Volodymyr Kulyk, revealed a marked shift toward the prioritization of Ukrainian over Russian, with 80% of respondents affirming that Ukrainian should dominate in all spheres of communication. This represents a significant change from the 2017 data and reflects broader social and political developments, including the 2019 language law and the ongoing war initiated by Russia.

While such surveys shed light on domestic trends, they often overlook the complexities of language use among Ukrainians displaced abroad, particularly in multilingual settings such as Poland and Germany. This research addresses that gap by investigating how displaced Ukrainians navigate Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism within the multilingual environments of these host countries. Specifically, the study examines the social factors influencing language selection, the development and transformation of language ideologies in exile, and the impact of the host country's linguistic landscape on individual language practices.

Drawing on semi-structured interviews with Ukrainian bilinguals who have resettled in Poland and Germany following the full-scale Russian invasion, the study explores how these speakers negotiate their linguistic identities. The research pays particular attention to patterns of situational code-switching, as conceptualized by John J. Gumperz, and how interactions with new linguistic communities reshape attitudes toward both Ukrainian and Russian.

By situating Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism within a broader multilingual context, this study contributes to understanding how migration, conflict, and ideology intersect to influence language use and identity. It offers insight into the evolving role of bilingualism not only as a communicative strategy but also as a socio-political expression in times of displacement.

Keywords: Multilingualism, language Ideologies, Situational Code-switching

From Russian to Ukrainian: Overcoming Linguistic Interference in the Classroom

Sofiia Azovtseva, Ukrainian Catholic University

This presentation addresses the challenges and strategies involved in teaching Ukrainian to foreign learners who previously studied Russian, based on practical experience at the School of Ukrainian Language and Culture at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Unlike heritage speakers or Ukrainian citizens transitioning from Russian to Ukrainian, these students approach Ukrainian as a foreign language, but often with deep prior exposure to Russian language structures. This background creates both opportunities and obstacles in the Ukrainian classroom.

Given the typological closeness between Ukrainian and Russian, interference frequently appears in the form of lexical borrowings, calques, and phonological transfer. Consistent with findings by Bilaniuk (2022) and Kulyk (2022) on the growing symbolic role of Ukrainian post-2022, an increasing number of foreign students seek to learn Ukrainian both for professional and cultural reasons. However, prior Russian proficiency often results in overgeneralization, fossilized errors, and challenges in mastering distinct Ukrainian morphological and phonetic features, such as verb aspect nuances, soft consonants, and specific case endings.

Drawing on classroom observations and student feedback, this presentation will outline common areas of interference and offer practical teaching tips. These include the use of contrastive exercises that explicitly highlight differences between Russian and Ukrainian; fostering metalinguistic awareness; designing targeted pronunciation drills; and encouraging authentic exposure to contemporary Ukrainian media to "reset" language intuitions influenced by Russian. The session will also discuss how to maintain learner motivation by framing Ukrainian not simply as "similar to Russian," but as a distinct and vibrant language with its own identity.

By sharing experiences from the School of Ukrainian Language and Culture, this presentation aims to equip language instructors with effective strategies for managing linguistic transfer and supporting successful Ukrainian language acquisition among foreign students with a "Russian background"

Keywords: Interference

Lost in Translation: Multilingual Practices and Identity Construction Among Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Japan

Yuliya Dzyabko, Ibaraki Christian University

The significant changes in the language practices of Ukrainians were observed after the full-scale war of Russia against Ukraine in 2022. Sociological surveys show that, in the context of the war, the role of the Ukrainian language as a factor of national consolidation and solidarity has grown. Currently, the greatest attention of researchers is focused on the study of the language choices of Ukrainians within the country. However, since the Russian invasion caused the largest humanitarian crisis in Ukraine since World War II, leading to the significant flow of Ukrainians immigrants overseas (over 6 million as of December 2024), the language practices of Ukrainian forced migrants around the world should be included in the focus.

Following Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine in 2022, Japan has accepted around 2,800 Ukrainians (as of April 2025) accordance with the newly established Japanese migration procedures. Due to Japan's historically restrictive approach to refugees, the decision to accept Ukrainian forced migrants has started a new era in Japan's migration policy.

The study explores multilingual language practices and the role of the languages in the (re)construction of identities among Ukrainian forced migrants in Japan. The study presents the results of the sociolinguistic research project "Identity and language use of Ukrainian evacuees living in Japan" (JSPS, N23K12169, 2023-2025) that employs mixed methods, including an online-survey and semi-structured in-person interviews. Focusing on data from 30 in-person interviews conducted between July 2023 and April 2025, the study investigates how language practices in various settings among Ukrainians in Japan shape their identities and how the Japanese linguistic and cultural environment affects their perception of themselves.

Keywords: language, identity, forced migration, integration

Parallel session 4: Wednesday 11.15–12.45

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4A Wartime Literature: Forms and Functions (chair: Myroslav Shkandrij)
Wednesday 11.15-12.45   Room Søndre Allmenning 1

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Wounded Landscapes, Wounded Words: Contemporary Ukrainian Wartime Poetry as a Force for Environmental and Epistemic Justice

Iryna Odrekhivska, University College London / Ivan Franko University of Lviv

Examining Ukrainian ecocentric poetry from the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war, this paper argues that the 21st-century Ukrainian wartime literary discourse forces a stark reassessment of the human relationship with nature, where nature is both witness and victim, sharing in the experience of loss and bearing the scars of war alongside human communities. The presented analysis of the earth-centered poetry by many contemporary Ukrainian writers (Iryna Tsilyk, Kateryna Mikhalitsyna, Halyna Kruk, Anna Khromova, Olaf Klemensen, among others) also reveals a layered trauma, linking Timothy Snyder's "bloodlands" conceptualization of Ukraine with the concept of 'devastated land,' thus emphasizing the intertwined human and ecological wounds.

The discussion in the paper revolves around three central research questions:
- Why does the genre of poetry, more than any other form of literary or artistic expression, emerge as the primary and sharp vehicle for eco-testimony?
- How do 20th-century and contemporary Ukrainian poets, through their ecopoetics, articulate the immediate and long-term consequences of war on the natural world?
- In what ways does poetic language capture the transformation of once-familiar landscapes into zones of trauma, reflecting the lived experience of environmental degradation?

Precisely following Russia's full-scale invasion, the September 2022 issue of Green: Géopolitique, réseaux, énergie, environnement, nature definitively established war ecology as a new interdisciplinary paradigm. However, newly released, the 2025 volume, The Ecopoetics of War, a collective work encompassing British, American, and postcolonial perspectives, overlooks the unprecedented lens offered by the writing on the war in Ukraine – the largest since WWII – which warrants an urgent focus. To address this crucial gap and analyze the complex intersections of war, ecology, and trauma, this paper employs a triangulated methodology, combining close reading with comparative ecocritical and trauma studies frameworks. By centering the voices from the war's epicenter and the margins of knowledge production, it offers a critical contribution, proving that environmental justice and epistemic justice are linked.

Keywords: trauma, literature, ecology

Depicting the Russo-Ukrainian War: Visual Storytelling in Ukrainian Books
Halyna Lystvak, Lviv Polytechnic National University

Since the onset of the Russo-Ukrainian war in 2014 — and especially following its full-scale escalation in 2022 — Ukrainian publishers have produced over a thousand fiction and non-fiction titles dedicated to the war. Many of these works rely not only on verbal testimony but also on powerful visual storytelling, allowing authors to "write war" (rather than merely "write about war," as literary critic Hanna Uliura notes), serving as profound explorations of personal and national identity while addressing the complexities of ongoing historical challenges. This paper explores how visual narratives in Ukrainian publications have shaped public memory and cultural expression during the war. From early illustrated works such as "The War That Changed Rondo" and "Letters to the War" to more recent titles like "Quiet Night, My Astronaut", "Yellow Butterfly", and "Letters from the War", visual books have become a vital space for processing conflict — especially for younger audiences. Beyond children's literature, publications like "Another Day of War: A Visual Diary", almanac "Telegraf: Creativity of the Brave", and the comic "Inker" offer distinctive approaches to war representation, balancing fragmented personal impressions with structured narrative forms.

The war has filled the visual information space, influencing illustration, book design, and the artistic language of storytelling. In response to the crisis of representation — when conventional words or images feel inadequate — creators seek new, often experimental, modes of expression. The visual form thus becomes both a language of mourning and resistance.

A notable feature of these publications is their multilingual nature, often aiming to speak not only to domestic readers but also to the international community. As the narrative of the war has grown more nuanced over time, the focus has shifted from generalised depictions of trauma, grief, loss and hope to complex subthemes of bodily vulnerability, emotional numbness, wartime normalcy, losing home, everyday life during conflict or under occupation, experience of forced displacement, finding beauty amid horror, reinventing national identity etc. Testimonial voices, visual metaphors, and lived experiences take precedence over abstract pacifist messages or detached representations.

Ultimately, Ukrainian visual book art offers a unique lens through which to study how a nation narrates itself during the war — through illustrative composition, colours, styles, techniques and visual metaphors — offering a therapeutic effect and providing ways to navigate and endure challenging historical experiences.

Keywords: visual storytelling, Russo-Ukrainian war, book publications

The Diary as an Artifact of Language and Culture During War (Contemporary Ukraine)
Yuliia Kravchenko, National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Diaries are an important way of witnessing and documenting war. They record dramatic events and help people to resume their personal consciousness from the terrors they have endured. With the passage of time diaries become the sources for linguistic and epistemological analysis of a historical period, and also become transformed into cultural artifacts. The war that is taking place on Ukrainian territory as a result of Russia's aggression since 2014 has many such documents written by children and adults of various professions. The presentation will analyze one type of diary that has appeared in print over the ten-year struggle against Russia's incursions.

These are soldiers' diaries: by Oleksandr Mamalui, Petro Potiekhin, Maksym Muzyka and Andrii Palvan. But also diaries of writers, such as Andrii Kurkov's"; the publication "I am transforming … A Diary of occupation: Selected poems" (2023) by Volodymyr Vakulenko, who was killed by soldiers of the Russian Federation in 2022. In Ukraine and internationally these diaries are only gradually entering the scholarly discourse. In a recent article

in a collection on the topic of Modern Military Diaries: Self-expression or the text of memory?" Ya. Kulinska states that part of soldiers' diaries are "primarily truthful chronicles of the Russian-Ukrainian war in Eastern Ukraine without mythologization by the authors, glorification of heroes, false pathos or metaphors," but there are also "creative and propagandistic works". My paper will analyze the mentioned diaries in the context of Kulinska's critical approach.

Keywords: University teaching, diary, documenting war, decolonization

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4B Forced Migration: Pathways of Integration, Identity Formation, and Prospects of Return (chair: Marthe Handå Myhre)
Wednesday 11.15-12:45   Room Nordre Allmenning 3

Ukrainian Forced Migrants and Finnish Memoryscapes: Revising the Past and Redefining Self-Identity

Olga Filippova, Karelian Institute, UEF/ V.N. Karazin Kharkiv Unoversity
Olga Davydova-Minguet, Karelian Institute, UEF

The Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 triggered one of the largest refugee crises in Europe since World War II. Finland, like many other European countries, welcomed a significant number of Ukrainian forced migrants, who arrived not only as individuals seeking safety but also as bearers of personal and collective histories deeply shaped by war and displacement.

Finland has a history of war, displacement, and national survival – particularly through the memories of the Winter War (1939–40) and the Continuation War (1941–44). These conflicts remain central to Finnish national identity, shaping the way people remember war, defeat, and resilience. As Ukrainian forced migrants navigate new realities, their historical contexts and personal war experience inevitably intersect with existing Finland's politics of memory, evoking both historical parallels and points for reconsideration own history.

The study aims to explore several complex issues, among which are: a) the memoryscapes of immigrants from Ukraine, and the memory discourses and narratives that influence them; b) the impact of the ongoing war on their views and understandings of WWII, c) how "immigration to history" sparks reconsideration of the past and self-identity; does it empower immigrants and enhance their agency, initiating multidirectional processes of reflective, dialogic understanding?

Keywords: transnational memory, migration, identity, WWII

'Ukrainness' and 'Europeanness' in the Narratives of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Lithuania After the Full-Scale Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Kristina Šliavaitė, Vilnius University

The paper focuses on the ways in which Ukrainian-ness and European-ness are constructed and seen as interrelated in the narratives of Ukrainian forced migrants in Lithuania. The paper is based on thirty in-depth interviews with Ukrainians who were forced to leave Ukraine after the full-scale Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The interviews reveal the ways in which Ukrainian identity is negotiated and related to regional (eastern-western parts of Ukraine) and rural-urban divides as well as historical narratives. The construction of 'us' and 'them' (Ukraine vs Russia) is closely related to the ways in which European-ness is constructed and related to Ukrainian identity.

The paper shows the ways in which national identity is linked to language, history and culture and is connected to European culture and identity. The paper is based on theoretical approaches to identity and identity politics in anthropology and other social sciences. The paper is prepared in the framework of research project which has received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania (LMTLT), agreement No. S-MIP-23-39.

Keywords: Ukraine, identity, European-ness

Factors in Ukraine That Can Motivate Refugees to Return and Reintegrate

Jørn Holm-Hansen, Oslo Metropolitan University

There is substantial research on integration of Ukrainian refugees in Norway. However, less is known about what needs to be done on the Ukrainian side for refugees to choose to return to their homeland when war is ended. The presentation discusses the factors that may influence Ukrainian refugees' decision to return voluntarily. Among these factors are policies and practical measures at national and local level in Ukraine. Efficient coordination internally in Ukraine and with international organisations is crucial and will be addressed. Also, individual factors will be discussed on the basis of interviews with Ukrainian refugees in Norway and refugees who already have returned.

The presentation is based on results from a project commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Field work in Ukraine was made as part of the project.

Keywords: refugees, return, migration

4C Wartime Communities (chair: Olga Iermolenko)
Wednesday 11.15-12.45   Room Søndre Allmenning 2

My Multilingual World – Drawings of Ukrainian War Refugee Children in Poland

Svitlana Romaniuk, University of Warsaw
Magdalena Olpińska-Szkiełko, University of Warsaw
Regina Pilipavičiūtė-Gugała, University of Warsaw

This paper aims to explore and discuss the results of the project "Ukrainian Children in Poland: My Multilingual World." The project involved collecting and analysing several dozen drawings created by Ukrainian children who had to leave their country due to the war and are now living in Poland. The first section of the article presents the theoretical background, focusing on Ukraine's sociolinguistic landscape and the linguistic experiences of Ukrainian migrants in Poland, examined through the lens of heritage language and multilingualism studies. The subsequent analysis highlights patterns in the children's drawings related to Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, and other languages, revealing their perspectives on multilingualism and the relationships they form between different languages. Finally, the paper underscores the significance of studying children's drawings as a valuable research tool for gaining insight into the linguistic diversity of Ukrainian children in Poland and their connections to multiple languages in a multilingual setting.

Keywords: multilingualism, heritage language, identity, children's drawings, multilingual awareness, Ukrainian refugees

Double Burden or Double Chance? Refugee Children in Ukrainian Distance Education

Dariia Orobchuk, University of Hildesheim

Following the large-scale Russian invasion on Ukraine on February 2022, the school integration of forcibly displaced children—who represent approximately 40% of all Ukrainian refugees and whose educational trajectories have been severely disrupted—has become a central concern in many countries (cf. OECD 2023, 23). According to the Council of Europe, "It is estimated that around 60% of children of Ukraine enrolled in the regular education process in host countries participate additionally in online classes broadcast from Ukraine" (Council of Europe 2024, 25). As of January 2025, 355,747 Ukrainian children abroad were simultaneously enrolled in two educational systems (NUS 2025). Despite this widespread phenomenon, and aside from some statistical reports and brief media coverage, there is a lack of scholarly engagement with the practice of dual schooling.

This paper focuses on the motivations and structures of dual schooling, identifies factors that influence participation in distance education, and highlights the challenges and opportunities that emerge on different systemic and individual levels. It specifically examines the case of displaced children in Germany, where approximately 210,000 Ukrainian minors currently reside. Based on data from two interview-based studies, this contribution integrates the perspectives of parents on their children's school and language integration (N=24, 2022–2023), and the perspectives of teachers in Ukraine on impact of the war on education (N=21, 2023–2025).

The findings show that, from the parents' perspective, in addition to return considerations, their decision to continue Ukrainian schooling abroad is shaped by family educational orientations, perceived progress in various

school subjects, familiarity with legal frameworks and educational processes, Ukrainian language learning and important social factors. Teachers, in turn, emphasize motivations such as the pursuit of certification, familiarity, and social connections with peers. These findings provide relevant insights for both research and educational practice concerning the situation of displaced children and their socio-educational needs. Furthermore, they contribute to the broader debate on how to understand and conceptualize dual educational participation within the framework of transnational education (Adick 2018) and how new perspectives on educational continuity across borders can be developed.

Keywords: double schooling, transnational education, displaced children

Weaving Peace, Weaving Victory: Camouflage Nets in Wartime Ukraine
Maryna Nading, Luther College (Decorah, IA, USA)

The weaving of camouflage nets is a phenomenon that has swept Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Towns big and small have groups who procure the materials, gather daily to weave on site, or coordinate weaving by dispersed volunteer hands. Even communities outside Ukraine are engaged in this work (Poland, Lithuania, Germany) and rush the nets along with other supplies to the frontlines. The nets vary by color, material, density, and design – all to ensure an effective seasonal camouflage effect. Weavers create them by hand, often shredding their own old clothes to use as a material for lack of funds. Though their main goal is to conceal civilians-turned-soldiers from enemy, they understand their work as a chain reaction upon which hinges their families' and their culture's survival. Camouflage making is time and material consuming, yet nets are generally a single-use item: they get burnt, torn up, left behind, or ruined by the elements.

I argue that handmade camouflage operates as an ephemeral armor: it cannot guarantee safety to its wearer, but it can connect volunteers and fighters in a web of care that one can touch and even wrap their body in. Along with the net, volunteers are fashioning a vision of a freer Ukraine and simultaneously unravelling its colonial past. They discuss Ukrainian literature and history, sing, pray, invent new wartime vocabulary, and compose social media posts to encourage and educate the public. They also work with youth, teaching high schoolers and undergraduates the workings of the net-making along with the lessons in civic engagement. In so doing, camouflage weavers use fibers to re-fashion Ukraine into a more independent nation despite the military aggression, cyberwar, and terror against the civilians. This research is based on ethnographic fieldwork research in a mid-size town in the western part of Ukraine in summers of 2024 and 2023, as well as my ongoing exploration and collaboration with the weavers via technologically mediated methods.

Keywords: war textile, care, decolonization

4D Riverscapes and Minoritarian Geography (chair: Svitlana Arabadzhy)
Wednesday 11.15-12.45   Room Nordre Allmenning 5

What Early Medieval Hillforts Along the Dnipro and Desna Rivers Tell Us About the Nature and Scale of the Scandinavian Presence
Alla Kurzenkova, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow (UK)

The network of Kyivan Rus' trading posts played a pivotal role in facilitating travel along the eastern trade routes, linking different regions. For Scandinavian groups, river-linked sites served as important entry points into wider trade and migration networks. This paper reassesses Scandinavian activity by focusing on a single settlement type found throughout the region – the 9th-12th-century AD hillforts with evidence of Scandinavian presence – and analyses whether they represent a single phenomenon or share common characteristics. The focus is on artefacts of Scandinavian origin, or their local imitations, as tangible indicators of Norse activity. For clarity of analysis, the hillforts have been divided into three groups: Western, Dnipro, and Desna. The paper looks at what the sites look like, what the artefacts can tell us about those societies, and what the similarities and differences between these sites are. Drawing on published archaeological reports and digital archives, it offers fresh perspectives on the form and scale of this Scandinavian presence within the broader context of Viking Age activity.

Keywords: Early medieval hillforts, the Viking movement, the Western, the Dnipro and the Desna hillfort groups, river trade routes, artefacts of Scandinavian origin, defensive structures.

Minoritarian Geography: Jewish-Ukrainian Relations in the Context of the Russian War in Ukraine
Vera Skvirskaja, University of Copenhagen (online)

The mass early post-Soviet emigration (in the 1990s) of Jews to Israel, the USA, and Europe has depleted Ukrainian Ashkenazi communities. Nonetheless, prior to the Russian war in Ukraine (2014-), cultural-religious revival and transnational links kept Jewish life going in independent Ukraine. Property, commercial relations, and jobs encouraged return migration in cities like Odesa and Kyiv and new Jewish transnationalism, including multiple homes.

Various Jewish organizations targeting c. 70.000 people had been important for social and business networking. Following the Russian invasion (2022 -) religious organizations, Jewish communities and individuals collaborated to help Ukrainian Jews manage wartime conditions in Ukraine and to facilitate migration abroad. Meanwhile, Jewish organizations/communities in Ukraine have aimed to help not only members of the Jewish community, but all Ukrainians.

Existing ethnographic evidence suggests that the Ukrainian Jewish minority, together with the Ukrainian majority, tends to view Russia as a common enemy (Azman 2024, Barbera 2024, Sapritsky 2023). This paper's focus is twofold. On the one hand, it inquires about the role of Jewish organisations in facilitating or organizing Ukrainian Jewish migration out of the country. On the other, it investigates the ways in which the troubling history of Jewish-Ukrainian relations, which is heavily exploited by Russian state propaganda under the label of Ukrainian 'nazis,' is discussed and negotiated*.*

Keywords: Ukrainian minority, migration, Jews, history of violence

Parallel session 5: Wednesday 13.30–15.00

5A PANEL: Resilience of Ukrainian Culture and Science During Russia's Ongoing War against Ukraine (chair: Olha Voznyuk)
Wednesday 13.30-15.00   Room Søndre Allmenning 1

Breaking with the Soviet Past: Expert Attitudes Towards Language Ideologies in Wartime Ukraine
Liudmyla Pidkuimukha, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

The proposed paper is a part of the submitted panel "The War and Beyond: Perspectives on Ukrainian culture and society". This study examines the transformation of language ideologies in extreme situations, focusing on wartime Ukraine. Expert attitudes towards language policy and practices in contemporary Ukraine are contrasted with those of Soviet Ukraine, highlighting the evolution of language concepts and ideologies. We examine how these ideologies have shifted, influencing language roles and practices. Additionally, the role of language in alternative spaces – where unconventional language practices and ideologies emerge, from Ukrainian-speaking groups in the USSR to modern grassroots movements and online communities promoting the Ukrainian language – is analysed.

Insights are drawn from experts in linguistics, literature, theatre, publishing, education, and language activism. The data includes semi-structured interviews conducted in 2023–2024 and digital media content on language issues. Using qualitative methods, the interviews are analysed through a language biography approach, alongside evaluations of language policy. The interviews and multimedia materials are examined using MAXQDA, a computer-assisted discourse analysis programme, to uncover patterns and argumentative structures.

Keywords: language ideologies, language practices, expert attitudes

Ukrainian Professors in Trenches: When Scholar at Risk is not a Metaphor
Nadiya Kiss, University of Erfurt (online)

The presentation highlights the situation with education in wartime Ukraine. Damages to educational infrastructure have already been characterised as scienticide. Due to the economic situation, Ukrainian scholars were a vulnerable social group even before the full-scale invasion. They have experienced displacement since 2014 when not only individuals but also whole institutions were evacuated from Crimea and Donbas. In the full-scale war situation, this vulnerability became even more visible. Around 1,500 academics joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Among famous examples, circulated in media, is Fedir Shandor, an ethnic Hungarian, professor of Uzhhorod University, who continued to teach online, while being on the frontline, named by journalists as a professor in trenches. The initiative In the Thunderstorm of War collects interviews with historians, ethnologists, and anthropologists who joined the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This presentation is based on 10 in-depth interviews with scholars enrolled in the army and highlights how military experience influenced their academic career and what resilience practices they developed while being professors in the trenches.

Narrating War Trauma in Contemporary Ukrainian Literature
Olha Voznyuk, Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian literature has undergone a profound transformation, increasingly centered on documenting war trauma and the lived experiences of Ukrainian society. The narration and documentation of wartime realities reveal not only the depth of collective and individual trauma, but also the resilience and resistance embodied in Ukrainian literature, culture, and society during a time of war. This study examines how the genres and narrative structures of contemporary Ukrainian literature have evolved in response to the ongoing war. It also emphasizes gender dimensions of war narratives, highlighting how male and female voices articulate different aspects of trauma, memory, resistance, and identity. On examples of works of Yaryna Chornohuz, Oleksandr Mykhed, Iuliia Illiukha, Volodymyr Rafeyenko and others this research explores how Ukrainian writers bear witness to the ongoing war, challenge dominant discourses, and contribute to the preservation and assertion of national memory and identity under siege.

5B PANEL: The History and Future of International Scientific Collaboration (chair: Graham Clure)
Wednesday 13.30-15.00   Room Nordre Allmenning 3

Mykhailo Drahomanov and Ukraine's Intellectual Map of Europe
Béla Kapossy, University of Lausanne (online)
Anastasiia Shevchenko, University of Lausanne (online)

Mykhailo Drahomanov (1841-1895) is a major figure in Ukrainian intellectual history and a key contributor to late nineteenth-century debates on the creation of a Ukrainian nation-state. Forced into exile in 1876, Drahomanov found refuge in Geneva (until 1889) where he developed an intense publication activity, becoming the foremost advocate for Ukrainian independence in Western Europe. Although scholars usually acknowledge his Swiss exile as an important stage in his intellectual development and refer to his interest in the social and constitutional arrangements of the Swiss Confederation, comparatively little is known of his Genevan years, his engagement with European debates, and his understanding of Swiss politics. This project aims to fill this gap. Drahomanov wrote several texts on Swiss history, its constitution, cantonal autonomy, Swiss political culture, and the relation between local communities and the Swiss federal state. Recent research has shown that discussions of Switzerland also constitute an important and constant theme in his rich correspondence, suggesting that the discussion about Swiss federalism as a possible model for future Ukrainian statehood was more widespread in Ukrainian reform circles than hitherto assumed. This presentation will also discuss the Swiss scientific establishment's response to the war in the last several years, which has been both timely and energetic. The profiles of the Swiss and Norwegian national scientific foundations bear similar relations to the wider European landscape and therefore it may be particularly fruitful to exchange ideas and compare lessons and experiences.

The Invisible University for Ukraine
Ostap Sereda, Ukrainian Catholic University, L'viv / Bard College Berlin

The Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Studies
Viktoriya Sereda, VUIAS, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin / Kyiv School of Economics

These presentations address the current challenges facing Ukrainian academia and introduces two innovative academic initiatives — the Invisible University for Ukraine and the Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Studies — both established as emergency responses to the ongoing war. These initiatives maintain their autonomy through an extra-institutional and cross-border structure. Their primary goal is to support research and teaching amid conditions of war and displacement, while also contributing to the long-term rebuilding of Ukrainian academia after the conflict. Core activities focus on connecting Ukrainian scholars and students, both within Ukraine and abroad, with their international peers, aiming to integrate Ukrainian scholarship into the global academic community and to expand global knowledge about Ukraine. Additionally, both projects serve as frameworks for resisting autocracy and sustaining democratic values in the region.

Discussant: Tetiana Zemliakova (EUI and CEU)

5C Mediation and Post-War Recovery (chair: Valentyna Zasadko)
Wednesday 13.30-15.00   Room Søndre Allmenning 2

A Shift in Justice: Changing Attitudes Toward Mediation in Wartime and Post-War Ukraine
Nataliia Mazaraki, State University of Trade and Economics

The war in Ukraine has profoundly impacted not only institutions and infrastructure but also collective mindsets—reshaping how society approaches justice and conflict resolution. This paper explores the evolving attitudes of Ukrainians toward amicable dispute resolution (ADR), with a focus on mediation and in-court settlement mechanisms, tracing the shift from pre-war skepticism to a growing post-2022 openness to dialogue-based approaches.

Before the full-scale invasion, mediation in Ukraine remained marginal in both public consciousness and legal practice. Despite legislative developments and advocacy efforts, ADR faced persistent obstacles: limited institutional support, lack of public trust, and a legal culture rooted in adversarial proceedings. The war has disrupted many of these patterns. Under extreme pressure, Ukrainian society has increasingly come to value resolution mechanisms that are faster, more humane, and better suited to rebuilding relationships fractured by war.

Drawing on empirical data—including a recent national survey of legal professionals and mediators, and analysis of wartime and post-war case law—this paper examines emerging trends that suggest a societal shift in how justice is perceived and pursued. It highlights the resilience and innovation of Ukraine's mediation community during wartime, including the expansion of online mediation and trauma-sensitive approaches. More importantly, it identifies signs that mediation is no longer seen as a "foreign" or secondary option, but as a meaningful, culturally relevant response to the complex disputes of war-affected individuals and communities. The paper argues that this shift in attitude presents a critical window of opportunity. Legal frameworks must now respond proactively to support a transition from predominantly adversarial dispute resolution to one that embraces amicable, dialogue-driven approaches. Policy recommendations include reinforcing legal incentives for mediation, integrating ADR into judicial and legal education, and embedding mediation within broader recovery and reconciliation strategies.

By focusing on societal attitudes rather than just institutional reform, this paper contributes to a deeper understanding of how war catalyzes cultural and legal transformation. It situates mediation not only as a legal tool but as a reflection of a society's evolving vision of justice, trust, and coexistence in the face of trauma and reconstruction.

Keywords: access to justice, mediation, settlement

Business, Rights, and Resolution: Advancing Mediation for Business and Human Rights Disciplines in Ukraine

Tetiana Tsuvina, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University

As Ukraine deepens its international economic ties—most recently through the 2024 U.S.–Ukraine agreement on critical raw materials—the risk of business-related human rights (BHR) disputes is growing. Yet Ukraine's current mechanisms for resolving such disputes, particularly outside of courts, remain underdeveloped. This paper explores how mediation could serve as a viable, rights-compatible, and societally trusted mechanism for resolving corporate human rights abuses in Ukraine, particularly when embedded within state-based non-judicial structures.

Drawing on recent research and practice, the paper situates Ukraine's underutilized "bouquet" of non-judicial remedies within the broader framework of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). While mature jurisdictions treat mediation as a complementary and effective tool for delivering access to justice in BHR contexts, Ukraine's national framework lags behind—despite growing momentum within the mediation community. The paper argues that institutionalizing BHR mediation under the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) would offer a path forward, aligning Ukraine's domestic remedies with international standards of effectiveness, accessibility, and accountability. The paper evaluates how mediation can meet all eight UNGP effectiveness criteria, with particular attention to the structural challenges in Ukraine, such as power imbalances between corporate and community actors, confidentiality concerns, and the need for public legitimacy. It proposes a rights-based design for a state-based mediation scheme centered around three pillars: accessibility, availability, and awareness—anchored by independent quality assurance.

Importantly, the paper also considers the forward-looking need to prepare for BHR disputes arising from Ukraine's post-war reconstruction and foreign investment surge. Using the U.S.–Ukraine raw materials agreement as a case study, it highlights potential dispute scenarios—ranging from land use and community consent to labor rights and environmental harm—and underscores the urgency of embedding non-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms that both respect human rights and foster public trust.

By combining normative analysis with strategic policy proposals, this paper calls for a cultural and institutional shift in Ukraine's approach to business-related human rights harms. It emphasizes that effective dispute resolution is not only a legal necessity but also a cornerstone for rebuilding society based on justice, participation, and long-term resilience.

Keywords: access to justice, business and human rights, mediation

(Re)constructing Pharma Futures: Industrial Memory and EU Integration in Ukraine's Post-War Recovery

Liudmyla Petrenko, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman (KNEU)

Ukraine's pharmaceutical sector hosted about 70% of the USSR's production capacity. This study assessed how leveraging that legacy could aid post-war reconstruction. We analyzed historical production, wartime output, firm performance, and recent legal reforms (notably 2024–25 amendments to Ukraine's medicines law on labelling and parallel imports). Interviews with industry and policymakers and market data complemented the analysis. Our aim was to determine how industrial memory and EU regulatory convergence could rebuild domestic pharma capacity and bolster EU supply resilience.

Historical analysis showed Ukraine imported ~80% of its APIs but produced mainly generics (≈70–78% of sales). Wartime output dipped only briefly; by mid-2023 domestic production had largely recovered. Resilience was due to intact legacy facilities (most of 113 plants are in safer western/Kyiv regions), a retained skilled workforce, and steady demand for affordable generics amid displacement. Leading companies (Farmak, Darnitsa, Biopharma) maintained exports to neighboring markets.

Regulatory convergence was a key finding. In 2024–25, Ukraine overhauled its medicines law and agencies to match EU standards. A national regulator was revamped (with EU twinning support) to use EMA-style electronic submissions and GMP approvals. New amendments imposed strict labelling rules and allowed parallel import of EU/EEA drugs. Stakeholders noted that clearer EU-aligned rules reduced investment risk and enabled cost-effective modernization of production.

Emphasis on generics and biotech produces additional gains. Affordable local generics largely met Ukrainian needs and began filling gaps in EU markets; exports to neighboring countries grew. Limited domestic API capacity remained a bottleneck, suggesting a need to diversify API sources or build local API plants. Biotechnology and

clinical trial collaboration expanded: Ukraine resumed international trials and partnered with EU firms on biologics and vaccine R&D, aided by streamlined regulatory procedures.

Our core conclusion is that Ukraine's preserved industrial memory – intact plants, experienced workforce, and R&D networks – combined with full EU regulatory alignment enabled a robust recovery. Existing infrastructure was retrofitted (not rebuilt) to EU standards, positioning Ukraine as a resilient producer of medicines. Key policy implications include: (1) Procurement guarantees: long-term government contracts for Ukrainian-made medicines to anchor demand; (2) Regulatory partnerships: continued collaboration with EU agencies (joint inspections, technical assistance) to cement harmonization; (3) Innovation and tech transfer: support for R&D linkages and plant upgrades (e.g. EU funding, tech-sharing) to modernize production; (4) EU integration support: targeted aid and incentives (grants for GMP certification) tied to EU-alignment.

Keywords: Reconstruction, Pharmaceutical Industry, Industrial Memory, Ukraine, EU Integration, Supply Chain Resilience, Regulatory Harmonization

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5D PANEL: Russian/Soviet Imperial Continuity and the Politics of Annihilation: From the Holodomor to Russia-Ukraine War and the Battle of Memory (chair: Maryana Hirnyak)

Wednesday, 13.30-15.00   Room Nordre Allmenning 5

The Weaponization of Art: How the Soviet Regime Used Artists to Cover Holodomor
Olga Riabchenko, University of Cambridge

The presentation suggests an analysis of the Soviet information warfare against the famine through the prism of artists' experience. The Bolsheviks utilized artistic expression as a pivotal instrument in eradicating the Ukrainian identity of the rural population, thereby imposing their ideological framework and attaining widespread popularity. Concurrent with the collectivization, dekulakisation and suppression of peasant resistance, artists of various genres, including painters, writers and employees of various cultural institutions, were forcibly relocated to rural areas.

Due to their inexperience, they were conscripted into special brigades, where they became both hostages and effective mouthpieces for the Soviet regime. The paper analyses the tasks assigned to the artists by the state, their interaction with the peasants, and the forms of resistance they exhibited in response to the mobilizations. The emphasis placed on the role of artists in this regard is particularly noteworthy. The party made these artists responsible for 'reforming' the peasantry. This process entailed the influence on their traditional cultural and religious preferences and the symbolic space surrounding them. As the study highlights, this endeavor ultimately led to the erosion of the identity of Holodomor survivors and the subsequent distortion of the memory of these events in the future.

The Kakhovka Dam in Soviet and Post-2023 Collective Memory of Ukraine
Tetiana Perga, Technical University of Berlin

The presentation looks at one of the key projects of Soviet industrialization – the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station and dam. The latter symbolized progress, collectivism, and man's triumph over nature. This official narrative was celebrated in various forms of cultural production, including literature, visual art, film, and educational materials. But beneath this celebrated image lay deeper layers of violence: the forced displacement of communities whose ancestral lands were flooded to create the reservoir and the erasure of regional cultural landscapes. For those displaced by the reservoir, the dam became associated with the trauma of lost land and disrupted ways of life. Through the lens of environmental and cultural violence, this paper examines the impact of the man-made disaster – the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant by Russian troops – on the transformation of Ukraine's collective memory about it into a symbol of tragedy, ecocide, and culturocide.

Memory of the Holodomor and the Russian-Ukrainian War
Natalia Kuzovova, Kherson State University

The third presentation by Natalia Kuzovova, "Memory of the Holodomor and the Russian-Ukrainian War," shows how the information campaign waged by Russia to deny the Holodomor took on material features during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. The murders of the keepers of the memory of the genocide of the Ukrainian people and the destruction of monuments to the victims of the Holodomor in Mariupol and the Kherson region opened a new page in the erasure of the memory of the crimes of the totalitarian regimes of Stalin and Moscow.

Similarly, in 1933, the USSR government went to great lengths to deny the famine in Ukraine by banning independent journalists from visiting Ukraine, propaganda, and bribing unscrupulous politicians and reporters who assured that Ukraine was a land of plenty and denied the crimes of the Stalinist regime. At the same time, the Soviet government was establishing diplomatic relations with its neighbors and seeking international recognition. Despite the efforts of Ukrainians abroad, the support of religious and public figures in various countries of the world, the courage of journalists who were persecuted for publishing 'inconvenient' information about the famine in Ukraine, commercial interests, and fear of war prevailed in the world. Admission of the Soviet Union to the League of Nations had become Kremlin's symbolic victory in the information war against the famine.

Contemporary Cultural and Memory Politics in Russia: to Recall Victims, to Glorify the State or to Weaponize?
Tetiana Boriak, Vilnius University

The presentation looks at the current Russian humanitarian politics through the lenses of perpetrator/victim glorification, comprehension of the Soviet past, narratives spread by the museums and art as well as by culture and humanitarian sphere in general. Contemporary Russian ideology is a specific mental construction defined as Razhyzm.

To the presenters' mind, its most distinctive feature is a modification of information space, especially in humanities, art, and culture, toward militarization, imperialism, and hatred toward the West. Such transformation is often invisible to an outsider because of the utilization of Russian humanities. The views of state leaders, politicians, and cultural activists manifested in various legislative and state strategic programs, comprise theoretical foundations for such social engineering. The author traces the implementation of these theoretical approaches in the spheres of history, museum studies, humanities arts, and culture in general. The combination of theoretical and practical approaches reveals weaponization of humanities and formation of an aggressive, militaristic, chauvinistic, and imperial outlook imposed on Russians. Such societal transformation is linked to dealing with the Russian imperial and Soviet past and influences not only Russia and Russian society but also foreign states, societies, and the world information space, posing a threat to the world development.

Keywords: Russian imperialism, Holodomor, the politics of memory and culture

Practical information

Registration and digital participation

See the conference webpage for updates to the programme.
All sessions will be available for digital participation, but you must sign up for the conference to receive links for the sessions.

Links to the streaming of the keynotes will be available directly from the webpage.

Venue

The Conference will be hosted by the University of Bergen (UiB). Established in 1946, UiB's scientific activities date back to 1825 with the founding of the Bergen Museum. To learn more about UiB, you can check its 2023-2030 strategy here.

Venue address: *Learning Arena, Nygårdsgaten 5.* Find it on Google Maps
The University of Bergen is within walking distance (5 minutes) from city centre of Bergen. For a map of the whole university campus see here.

Coming to Bergen

You can come with bus to Bergen Bus Terminal or train to Bergen Railway Station virtually to the city centre. For bus routes within Norway to Bergen, check Vy and Nor-way.

You can also take a plane to Bergen Flesland Airport (BGO). From the airport to the city centre, you can take the airport express bus, a taxi or the light rail. The light rail to the city (approx. 50 minutes travel time), is the most economical option.
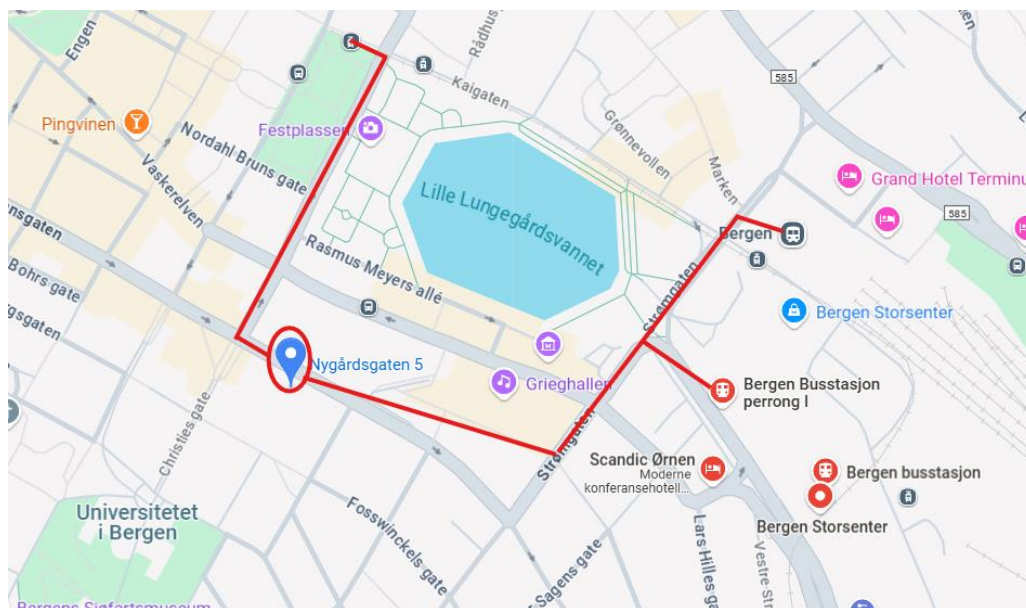
Bergen Light Rail

The Light Rail leaves from the airport terminal and the Airport bus also leaves outside the terminal building. Tickets can be bought at the machines next to where the Light Rail stops.
https://www.skyss.no/en/travel/timetables-and-maps/timetable-for-bergen-light-rail/
For more information of how to get from the airport to the city centre, click here.

How to get around in Bergen

Bergen city centre is small and it is easy to walk around. You may also rent e-scooters (Ryde or Voi).

From the conference venue in Nygårdsgaten 5, it is approximately a 6-min walk to the light rail end stop (upper left), a 9-min walk to the railway station (upper right) and a 7-min walk to the bus station (middle, right). Hotels are located from a 2-3-min walk (Scandic Byparken and Citybox Bergen City) to an 11-min walk (Zander K and Grand Hotel Terminus).

Internet access during the Conference

It is recommended that participants who have a user account on an *Eduroam* institution, and have Eduroam access, use Eduroam. Other guests can use the uib-guest network. Instruction on how to connect here.

If you have some spare time, what to do?

The University Museum at the University of Bergen celebrates its 200th Anniversary and 200 years of knowledge in 2025 and we recommend a visit.

Tourist information https://www.visitbergen.com/
Official Bergen Guide: https://www.visitbergen.com/dbimgs/Bergen-Guide-en-2025.pdf

Bergen map: https://www.visitbergen.com/dbimgs/Bergen-map-2025.pdf