

International Graduate Student Symposium in Ukrainian Studies

*New Perspectives in Ukrainian Studies: Transnational,
Transcultural, and Translocal Insights*



January 22-24, 2026
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
1 Devonshire Pl., Toronto, O.N.

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Campbell Conference Facility, 1 Devonshire Pl. (South House)

KEYNOTE LECTURE: “Ukraine Rises: Understanding Democratic Resistance and Resilience in Wartime Ukraine (What Does the Data Actually Say?).”

5:30-7:30

Dr. Olga Onuch – University of Manchester

*keynote lecture will be followed by reception

Friday, January 23, 2026

Rm. 108N, 1 Devonshire Pl. (North House)

8:30 – Coffee & Registration

8:45-9:00 – Welcome from Prof. Edward Schatz, CEES director, and Emyleigh Simoes and Alexander Zamer (Symposium’s Student Organizing Committee)

PANEL I: DECOLONIZATION

9:00-10:30

Rethinking Ukrainian Cuisine: From Soviet Imperial Policy to Postcolonial Solidarity

Mariia Banko – Kyiv School of Economics

Connotations of Decay in (Alternative) Modernisms: Post-Imperial Imaginaries in Ukrainian and Russian Literature

Mariana Myrosh – Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Decolonizing Rus’: Ukraine and the Politics of Knowledge in Early Literary Scholarship

Olha Chaplia – Ivan Franko National U of Lviv

Ukrainian Wildness and Sovereign Imaginaries in Kurbasy’s “Red Guelder Rose” (2019)

Ryan Rowe – U of Wisconsin - Madison

Chair: Edward Schatz – University of Toronto

PANEL II: HISTORY, IDENTITY, AND NATIONALISM

10:45-12:15

Escape from Dibrova Prison: Press Sensationalism and National Mythmaking in Late Habsburg Galicia, 1908–

Sydney Shiller – Princeton University

Sovietization and Nationalization in Former Eastern Galicia: A Case Study of Drohobych
Michal Mlynarz – University of Toronto

“The Toxic Residue of Our Mother Tongue”: Ukraine at War, Linguistic Estrangement, and Challenges to the International Minority Languages Regime
Anastasia Leshchyshyn – McGill University

Ukrainian National Communism in the Context of Contemporary Decolonization
Yuliia Yeremenko – V. N. Karazin National University

Chair: Serhiy Bilenky – Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies

12:15-1:15 – Lunch

PANEL III: CIVIL SOCIETY

1:15-2:45

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Soviet Times: Survival in the Underground
Khrystyna Nyshchei – Western University

Civil Society Institutions in Ukraine’s State-Building Processes (1990–2004): A Historical Perspective
Yehor Zhurkin – Taras Shevchenko National University

The Critical Role of Horizontal Civil Society Networks in Ukraine’s Post-War Reconstruction
Anna Romandash – University of Notre Dame

Chair: Marci Shore – University of Toronto

PANEL IV: FOREIGN RELATIONS

3:00-4:30

EU Integration and Ukraine’s Economic Policymaking
Vladyslav Dobrokhlib – Harvard University

The Impact of International Financial Assistance on Ukraine’s Economy
Anastasiia Zvir – University of Toronto

The Russia–Ukraine War and Its Impact on the EU–Japan Strategic Partnership within the Historical and Political Dynamics of Central Eastern Europe
Svitlana Lebedenko – Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Religious Diplomacy as a Tool for Advocating Ukraine's Interests in the United States since the Full-Scale Invasion (2022-)

Vladyslava Hedz – University of Toronto

Chair: Lucan Way – University of Toronto

4:45-5:45 – WORKSHOP: Conducting Research In Ukrainian Studies During Wartime

Dr. Ksenya Kiebusinski – Petro Jacyk Resource Centre, University of Toronto Libraries

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Rm. 108N, 1 Devonshire Pl. (North House)

PANEL V: Gender & Sexuality

9:00-10:30

Pride amidst the war: examining the impact of the Russian invasion on attitudes towards queer communities in Ukraine

Zachary Matthews – University of Melbourne

Queer Experiences Among Displaced Ukrainians since the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

Mariia Burtseva – University of Alberta

A Network of Defence: Examining the Role of Women in Australia's Ukrainian Diaspora as Protectors of Culture and Memory

Winter Greet – University of Melbourne

Chair: Karolina Koziura – University of Toronto

PANEL VI: MIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND DIASPORA EXPERIENCES

10:45-12:15

Origins of North American Ukrainian Diaspora Memory and Identity through the Harvard Interview Project on the Soviet Social System

Grace Vanderkolk – University of Melbourne

Cultural Determinants of Destination Country Selection: Ukrainian Refugees in Japan

Valeriia Yakushko (co-authored with Yoko Yoshida) – Western University

Migration: Experimental Ethnography and the Sensory Experience of Displacement in Ukrainian Studies

Olena Martynchuk – Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

From Migrants to Civic Actors: Ukrainian Diaspora Initiatives and Local Political Participation in Europe

Anastasiia Pryveda – Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Chair: Marko Stech – Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies

12:15-1:15 – Lunch and informal conversation with former Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine Roman Waschuk

PANEL VII: EDUCATION

1:15-2:45

Transnational Pathways of Resilience: Ukrainian Student Mobility and Education in Canada Amid the Russo-Ukrainian War

Alina Semenets – University of Toronto

Relocate, Merge, or Go Online? Agent-Based Modeling of Ukrainian University Adaptation During War

Artem Serdyuk – Kyiv Mohyla Academy

To Stay or to Leave: Understanding the Causes of the Teacher Shortage in Ukraine

Varvara Novopoltseva – University of Toronto

The Impact of Taxes on Citizen Engagement in Participatory Budgeting in Developing Countries

Daria Kravchenko – University of Toronto

Chair: Marta Dyczok – Western University

PANEL VIII: JUSTICE

3:00-4:30

“Nasha Amerikanka” and “Neighbors Abroad”: How Transnational Belonging and Experiences of Trauma Shape American Grassroots Responses to Russia’s War on Ukraine

Cortney Copeland – Central European University, alumna

The Impact of Armed Conflicts on Public Trust in the International Criminal Court

Daryna Zhabchyk – University of Toronto

From Kharkiv to Nuremberg: Representations of Wartime and Post-World War II Trials in Soviet Ukrainian Non-Fiction

Hanna Potasova – Western University

Chair: Karolina Koziura – University of Toronto

4:30 – Closing Remarks

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Symposium has been organized by the Student Committee:

Arina Dmitrenko – Political Science

Yunze Ji – CEES

Jacqueline Liu – CEES

Madeleine Schmuckler – CEES

Sophie Shields – Centre for Comparative Literature

Emyleigh Simoes – CEES

Connor Slipp – CEES

Alexander Zamer – CEES

OUR SPONSORS

The Symposium is sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine and the Centre for European and Eurasian Studies, University of Toronto and generously co-sponsored by the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies - Michael and Daria Kowalsky Fund; the Department of Political Science; Public History Lab; the Chair in European Intellectual History; the Centre for Comparative Literature; the Holodomor Education and Research Consortium; and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

**PETRO JACYK
PROGRAM FOR THE
STUDY OF UKRAINE**

munk school
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



Centre for Comparative Literature
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Канадська
фондація
українських
студій



Canadian Foundation
for Ukrainian Studies

Fondation canadienne
des études ukrainiennes

munk school
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

