

DANYLIW

RESEARCH SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY UKRAINE



Ukraine At War

**30 International
Participants**

15 FROM UKRAINE

**New Film on Canada
And Ukrainian
Independence**

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The Danyliw Seminar at 20





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The Seminar had three seminal moments: in 2005, when it had a rousing launch; in 2014, when it doubled in size on the year of Maidan, the annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbas; and in 2022, the first of five seminars with several participants travelling from a country under drones and bombs.

[1] The Danyliw family at the inaugural 2005 Seminar: Petro Potichnyj, Foundation adviser; Andrea Danyliw, Andrew Danyliw, Frances Danyliw.

[2] Andrea Danyliw of the Danyliw Foundation giving the inaugural speech in 2005.

[3] Ambassador of Ukraine Mykola Maimeskul, Danyliw 2005.

[4] Oxana Shevel with Alexandra Hrycak (2006, 2012)

[5] Jessica Pisano, then at the University of Ottawa, now at New School University.

[6] Catherine Wanner, who attended several of the early seminars and was back in 2022.

[7] John-Paul Himka, a fixture of our Danyliw seminars devoted to historical memory, 2007-2013 - he was back in 2018 and 2025.

[8] Sofiya Dyak, Director of the Centre for Urban History in Lviv. She also hosted a Summer School sponsored by the Chair and the Danyliw Foundation in Lviv in 2014.

[9] Omer Bartov, scholar of the Holocaust, who presented three of his books over the years.

[10] Vadym Pristaiko, future Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, and then Great Britain, with an Embassy colleague.

[11] Ihor Ostah, the second Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada during the Danyliw tenure.

[12] Natalia Khanenko-Friesen (Danyliw 2008), who went on to become Director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

[13] Oksana Khromeychuk (Danyliw 2008), who went on to become Director of the Ukrainian Institute in London.

[14] Joshua Tucker (Danyliw 2005, 2006, 2008, 2015), from NYU.

[15] Timothy Colton (Danyliw 2010, 2014, 2022) from Harvard University.



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Danyliw International Academic Team

In standard conferences, discussion generally occurs after all presentations from a panel. From its inception, the Danyliw Seminar has used a more dynamic format, with discussion following from each presentation. In the early years, the Seminar relied largely on invited discussants. By 2010, it began to rely on permanent discussants. This was the beginning of the Danyliw International Academic Team, which evaluated proposals and shared the burden of moderating all Seminar sessions. The team gradually expanded over the years. With the exception of Oxana Shevel, who has been there since the beginning, the other members revealed themselves during a Seminar and were soon after asked to join: Ioulia Shukan (2010), Anna Colin Lebedev (2011), Mayhill Fowler (2013), Daria Mattingly (2018), and Yuliya Yurchuk (2024).

Dominique Arel

Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, Canada



Dominique Arel is a Professor of Political Science and Chair of Ukrainian Studies at University of Ottawa. He is the author of *Ukraine's Unnamed War: Before the Russian Invasion of 2022* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), co-written with Jesse Driscoll. The book presents an analytical narrative of Maidan, the annexation of Crimea, and the war in Donbas prior to the full-scale invasion. He has written extensively on language and regional politics in Ukraine. Besides the annual Danyliw Seminar, he has organized since 1998 the Annual ASN World Convention at Columbia University.

Danyliw International Academic Team

Anna Colin Lebedev

Université Paris Nanterre, France



Anna Colin Lebedev is Associate Professor in Political Science at the University of Paris Nanterre, and scientific director of the newly-created Observatoire de l'Ukraine contemporaine. Since 2014, she has been conducting research on the Russian war against Ukraine, particularly on the role of civilians in the conduct of the war and on the transformation of societies by and for the war. She recently published *Jamais frères? Ukraine et Russie, une tragédie postsoviétique* (2022) and *Ukraine: la force des faibles* (2025), both at the Editions du Seuil.

Oxana Shevel

Tufts University, US



Oxana Shevel is Professor of Political Science at Tufts University, with a focus on the post-Communist region, especially Ukraine and Russia, and topics such as nation-building, identity, citizenship, memory politics, and church-state relations. She is the co-author, with Maria Popova, of *Russia and Ukraine: Entangled Histories, Diverging States* (Polity 2024), on the causes of Russo-Ukrainian war. She currently serves as the president of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and vice president of the Association for the Study of Nationalities.

Danyliw International Academic Team

Ioulia Shukan

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, France



Ioulia Shukan is a sociologist, Professor at EHESS, and researcher at CERCEC. Her research focuses on war and armed violence through the lens of care and the body – particularly the wounded and those who have suffered traumatic limb amputation – as well as on the reinvention of civic solidarities in wartime, with special attention to Ukrainian society in the context of the Russo-Ukrainian War. She is the author of *Citoyennes soignantes. Guerre, femmes et la fabrique du commun en Ukraine* (Éditions de la MSH, 2025).

Mayhill Fowler

Stetson University, US



Mayhill Fowler is Professor of History at Stetson University and affiliated faculty in the Program in Theatre Studies at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. She is the author of *Beau Monde on Empire's Edge: State and Stage in Soviet Ukraine* (Toronto, 2017). She is currently working on three book projects: on women in theatre in Ukraine across the long 20th century, *Theatre Women*, on wartime theater over the 20-21st centuries, *A Theatre of Silence: War and Memory in Ukraine*, with Sofia Dyak, *A Concise History of Ukraine*.

Danyliw International Academic Team

Daria Mattingly

University of Chichester, UK



Daria Mattingly is a lecturer in European history at the University of Chichester. Her research focuses on the social and political history of the Soviet Union and Ukraine, with particular expertise in collectivisation and the 1932-33 famine in Ukraine, known as the Holodomor. She is the author of the forthcoming monograph *Stalin's Activists: The Rank-and-File Perpetrators of the Holodomor*, and co-editor of the volume *The Holodomor in Global Perspective: How the Famine in Ukraine Shaped the World* (Ibidem, 2026).

Yuliya Yurchuk

Södertörn University, Sweden



Yuliya Yurchuk is an Associate Professor in the History of Ideas at Södertörn University, Sweden. She specializes in transnational intellectual history, memory studies, religious history, and environmental humanities, focusing mainly on Ukraine and Eastern and Central Europe. She is the author of *Reordering of Meaningful Worlds: Memory of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in Post-Soviet Ukraine* (Acta 2014) and co-editor of *Memory and Religion from a Postsecular Perspective* (Routledge 2022).

Occupied Territories

Sophie Lambroschini

Risky Commutes: Wartime Mobility to and from Russian-Occupied Territories



The paper examines circular mobilities to and from Ukraine's territories under Russian occupation. It focuses on how danger, uncertainty, at the Russian border crossing but not only, shape Ukrainian travellers' interactions with transport companies, fellow passengers, border guards, and Russian security services. The mobility is both "staged" by (potentially) hostile actors and "performed" from below by passengers themselves. Through this lens, it shows how risk-laden journeys undertaken in an atmosphere of pervasive suspicion produce a distinctive social world among commuters. *Sophie Lambroschini is a historian and social scientist at CERCEC/EHESS in Paris.*

Daria Malchykova

Living the Frontlines: How Prolonged War Shifts Everyday Life in Kherson Oblast

This study analyses how prolonged military conflicts transform everyday life and reshape recovery trajectories in Ukraine's frontline regions. The research draws on data from a case study of the Kherson region (17 Right Bank communities and 225 settlements, which has experienced occupation, de-occupation, continues to exist in close proximity to the front line and has been affected by active hostilities for more than four years. *Daria Malchykova is a Professor at Kherson State University, currently living in Western Ukraine.*



Thursday, September 24, 9.00-11.00 AM

Occupied Territories

Ira Yeroshko

*From Voice to Image:
The Transformation of a Ukrainian
estimony of the War to an Animation
Documentary in Ember*

Ira Yeroshko is a PhD student at the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History at the University of Luxembourg.



How does an animated short film made from an oral history interview become a historical source? This paper examines the full production process of *Ember* (2026), a 12-minute animated documentary that transformed a refugee testimony into a work of visual history. *Ember* is based on an interview with an anonymized elderly Ukrainian woman who fled Russian-occupied territory with her husband in the early weeks of the 2022 full-scale invasion. The film was created without dialogue or subtitles, the narrative is carried entirely through animation and soundscape. It was a deliberate choice to prioritize accessibility and emotional immediacy over documentary convention.

Thursday, September 24, 11.20 AM-12 PM

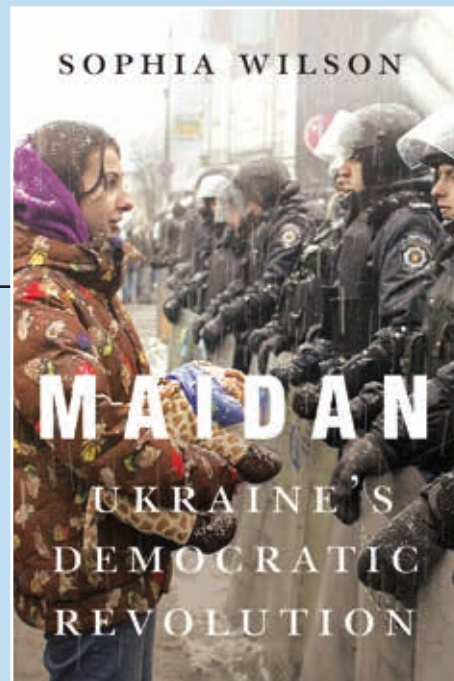
Maidan

BOOK PRESENTATION

Sophia Wilson

Maidan: Ukraine's Democratic Revolution (McGill-Queen's 2026)

Sophia Wilson a Professor of Political Science at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and the President of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies.



The 2013-14 Maidan Revolution, or Revolution of Dignity, was far more than a series of protests: the coalescence of complex social networks formed a powerful grassroots movement that restored democracy to a country slipping into authoritarianism. The book gives a carefully researched account of the underbelly of the resistance process, investigating how participants self-organized to create the resistance, why the peaceful movement eventually turned to violence, and how the revolutionary process changed those who came to change the country. *Maidan* draws on more than one hundred personal interviews, in addition to oral histories, legal documents, and court hearings.

Thursday, September 24, 1.00-2.30

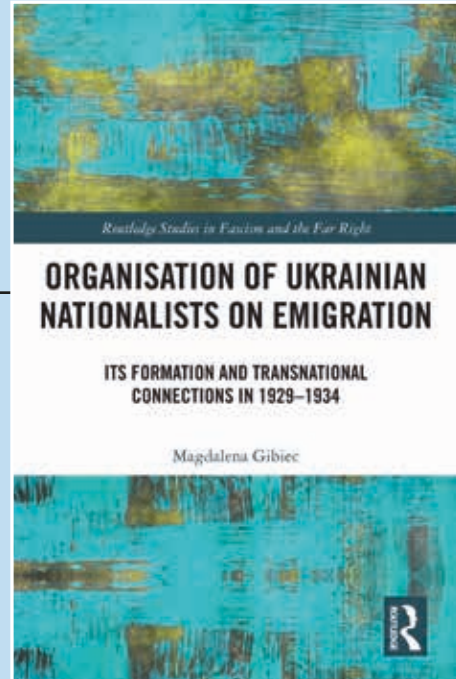
War Legacy

BOOK PRESENTATION

Magdalena Gibiec

*Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists
in Exile: Its Formation and Transnational
Connections, 1929-1934*
(Routledge 2024) [Translation in Polish, 2025]

Magdalena Gibiec is Assistant Professor of History
at the University of Wrocław, Poland.



This book examines the activities of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) in exile during the first five years of its existence, from its founding in 1929 to the assassination of the Polish Minister of the Interior Bronisław Pieracki in 1934, a turning point. Drawing on newly discovered archival materials, the Senyk Archive – a collection of more than 700 letters exchanged among the organization's leading activists – the study offers a comprehensive analysis and new interpretation of the OUN's internal functioning, transnational networks, and its activity on the territory of the Second Polish Republic.



Thursday, September 24, 1.00-2.30 PM

Interwar/ War Legacy

Raisa Ostapenko

Inconvenient Altruism:

Ukrainian Rescuers of Jews and Postwar Purges

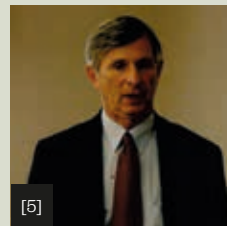


The paper asks why wartime rescue work – an act that might seem to constitute self-evident moral capital – proved insufficient, and at times irrelevant, to protect certain Ukrainian rescuers from Soviet postwar persecution for “poor” wartime conduct despite shielding others whose wartime conduct was far more ambiguous. It aims to clarify the political rationale behind the persecution of these rescuers, and the extent to which Soviet memory politics rendered their wartime heroism irrelevant in the face of broader campaigns against perceived “unreliable” elements. *Raisa Ostapenko is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah in Paris.*

The Danyliw Seminar at 20 **In Memoriam**

The Danyliw Seminar hosted esteemed senior colleagues over the years.

A number of them have since passed away. Rest in Peace, reposez en paix, Вічна пам'ять.



[1] Vsevolod Isajiw, sociologist, University of Toronto [2] Oleh Havrylyshyn, economist at the World Bank [3] Valerii Khmelko, sociologist, Kyiv International Institute of Sociology [4] Petro Potichny, political scientist, McMaster University (very close to the Danyliw family) [5] Orest Subtelny, historian, York University, author of the classic *A History of Ukraine*.

Russian Destruction

Jan Claas Behrends

Post-Soviet War Crimes:

Illegitimate Military Violence by Russian Troops after 1991 Method



In spring of 2022 the world was shocked: during several weeks of Russian occupation of the Ukrainian town of Bucha, north of Kyiv, a massacre was committed. Russian soldiers murdered civil residents, engaged in sexual violence, terrorized the population and randomly destroyed properties. The use of illegitimate military violence by Russian forces has historical roots. The paper aims to trace typical types of such violence in the late Soviet and post-Soviet period and compare them to Russian war crimes in Ukraine. *Jan Claas Behrends is a historian at the Leibniz Centre and European University Viadrina (Oder).*

Martin Laryš

Making Ukrainians Russian Again:

Russia's Paranoid Assimilation in Occupied Ukraine

Why are Ukrainians in the occupied territories pressured to adopt a Russian identity while simultaneously being denied the possibility of becoming fully Russian? Russia officially insists that Ukrainians are the same people while treating them as unreliable outsiders. The paper introduces the concept of paranoid assimilation as a system of domination in which a ruling power compels a subordinate population to adopt the identity of the dominant group while simultaneously suspecting that such assimilation is insincere, incomplete, or strategically performed. *Martin Laryš is Research Deputy Director at the Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia.*



Thursday, September 24, 5.00-7.00 PM

Distance to Independence

(Canada, 2026, 75 min., English subtitles)

FILM SCREENING

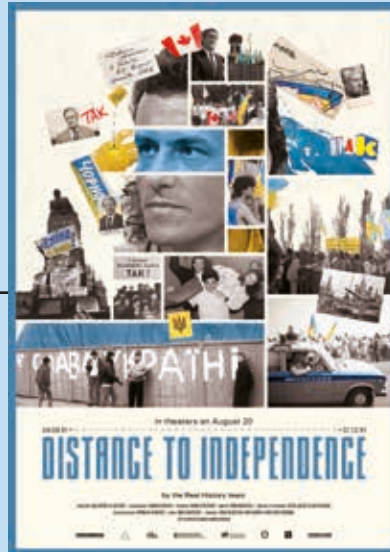
Anna Palenchuk,

based in Toronto, is a Ukrainian film producer, screenwriter, and co-founder of the production company 435 FILMS. She co-produced *In the Rearview* (2023), which screened at TIFF and was shortlisted for the Academy Awards.

Borys

Wrzesnewskyj,

a former Member of Parliament in the Canadian House of Commons, will join Anna Palenchuk for the Q&A after the screening.



The film reconstructs the dramatic months preceding the 1991 referendum, when the future of Ukraine remained uncertain and independence was far from guaranteed. The story follows Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainian Americans who travelled to Soviet Ukraine at a crucial historical moment. Working alongside local democratic activists and members of the People's Movement of Ukraine (Rukh), they helped establish channels of communication beyond state control. Narrated by Ukrainian journalist Akim Halimov, the film combines historical investigation with personal testimony.

Contemporary interviews with key participants are interwoven with archival footage. It demonstrates how solidarity and international networks contributed to independence in 1991 and continue to support Ukraine's sovereignty today.

Followed by a Q&A with
director Anna Palenchuk and
Borys Wrzesnewskyj



Identity in Wartime

Anastasia Leshchyshyn

Ukraine at War and Linguistic Estrangement

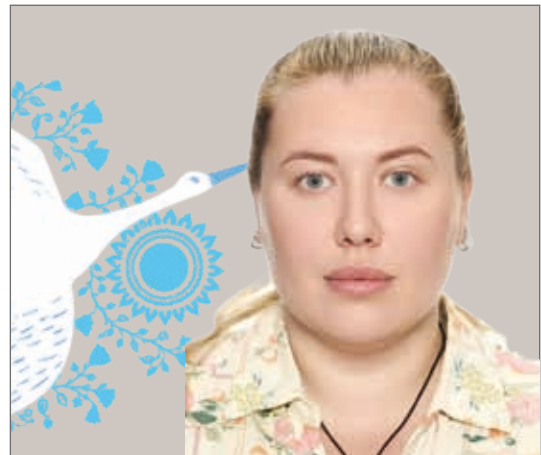


Building on surveys that have identified an increasing preference for the use of Ukrainian over Russian in wartime Ukraine, the paper endeavours to identify empirical manifestations of what is preliminarily referred to as a process of “linguistic estrangement” of the Russian language in the country. Russian has increasingly acquired “foreign” connotations despite its widespread use domestically and has failed to solidify as a cornerstone of Ukrainian citizens’ identity. These changes will inform discourses on the country’s evolving language and minority rights policies. *Anastasia Leshchyshyn is a PhD student at McGill University, Canada.*

Nataliia Naumovska

*Wartime Language Shift as Moral Choice
in the Oral Accounts of Ukrainian Speakers*

Russia’s war against Ukraine has produced waves of language shift across Ukrainian society, most significantly among speakers who had previously considered themselves predominantly “Russian-speaking Ukrainians.” The paper examines how speakers themselves narrate that transformation toward Ukrainian, and how they articulate language choice in relation to memory, belonging, moral agency and survival. It proposes the concept of linguistic moral choice: a rapid, conscious, and ethically motivated shift that requires speakers to undertake deliberate work on their own linguistic practice. *Nataliia Naumovska is a PhD student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.*



Friday, September 25, 9.00-11.00 AM

Identity in Wartime

Grégoire Le Gall

*Ukrainian-Russian Families Across the Ukrainian/
Russian Border since 2014*



This article examines how a decade of war (2014–2024) has transformed the lived experience of Ukrainian families whose close relatives reside in Russia. It asks what the war has done to kin groups whose family practices long relied on cross-border circulation and routinized exchanges. Sharply diverging wartime experiences and information environments fractured the moral and interpretive grounds of kinship, producing selective ruptures, avoidance, or the hollowing out of ties. Where relationships endured, they did so through de-spatialized “niches of intimacy.” *Grégoire Le Gall is a PhD student at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne.*

Observatoire de l'Ukraine contemporaine

The Observatory of Contemporary Ukraine, a new initiative of Anna Colin Lebedev and Bertrand de Franqueville, supported by the Association française de science politique (AFSP), brings together academic research and public action. It connects scholars, maps expertise, and tracks emerging research to strengthen Ukrainian studies across the Francophone world. By examining wartime transformations and post-war challenges, it provides a shared platform for producing and disseminating rigorous knowledge on Ukraine. The Observatoire already held webinars and is planning a first major conference in Spring 2027 in Paris.

<https://observatoireukraine.fr>



Strategic Warfare

Khrystyna Holynska

Denying Nuclear Coercion:

Defiance and the Failure of Russian Nuclear Signaling



This paper argues that Ukraine's defiance has denied the coercive leverage Russia sought to gain from nuclear threats since 2022. The Kremlin's posturing aims to generate fear, undermine societal cohesion, and erode the target population's will to resist. The effectiveness of coercive nuclear signals depends on the public accepting them as genuine and pressuring their government to comply. When a signal fails to alter the target's behavior, it exposes the bluff, raising the political cost of repeating the threat and narrowing future options. *Khrystyna Holynska is a Wilson Center Research Fellow and a policy researcher at RAND.*

Jesse Driscoll

Public Opinion and the Geopolitics of War Termination

The paper explores how shifts in public opinion in Russia and Ukraine may impact a willingness to enter negotiations. It tracks greater societal awareness of the scale of war casualties. Analysis of the gap between battlefield deaths and death reporting shows information about battlefield losses diffuses more gradually in Russia than in Ukraine. It finds that Russia's strategy is to bring no credible enforcement of an agreement and that a militarily more capable Ukraine can actually make peace less attractive to Russia. *Jesse Driscoll is Professor of Political Science at the University of California San Diego. The paper was co-written with Taras Tsymbal.*



Soviet Legacy

Zakhar Popovych

*Ukraine's Technological Miracle:
Drones, Electronic Warfare and Deep-Strike Systems*



Ukraine's wartime surge in military technology – drones, electronic warfare, deep-strike systems – is routinely called a “miracle” and likened to a Ukrainian miracle. This paper asks a sharper question: through what mechanisms, biographical and institutional, did Ukraine's preserved post-1990 scientific-engineering base reconverge with software to produce battlefield effect – and how much of the surge is genuinely new, versus latent capability reactivated by war? Answering it matters because the metaphor we choose shapes policy: magic cannot be reproduced, but mechanisms can. *Zakhar Popovych is a Senior Research Fellow at the Dobrov Institute in Kyiv.*

Yuliia Kishchuk

*Materiality of Clay:
Kosiv Painted Ceramists Community and National Identity*

In 2019, ceramics from the Ukrainian town of Kosiv were inscribed on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage. Today, the distinctive designs and patterns of Kosiv ceramics are widely incorporated by Ukrainian and international clothing brands, and the ceramics themselves have become a recognisable symbol of Ukrainian national identity, both at home and abroad. The paper examines what happened to the local tradition of Kosiv painted ceramics across the turbulent shift from a state-socialist to a market economy. *Yuliia Kishchuk is a PhD student at Södertörn University in Sweden.*



Civilians in War

Isabelle Desisto

*Decentralization and Ukrainian Resistance
Against Russia's Invasion*



When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, many international observers predicted that Ukraine would fall within days. Ukraine defied those expectations and mounted formidable resistance, prompting social scientists and policymakers to draw connections between this resilience and the decentralization reforms launched in 2015 following the Maidan protests. The paper assesses the relationship between decentralization and resistance using nationally representative surveys conducted on the eve of the invasion. *Isabelle DeSisto is a PhD student at Princeton University.*

Gabrielle Joni Verreault

*Don't Forget to Like, Share and Survive:
Civilians and the New Support Ecology of War*

Accessible digital and commercial technologies have widened the range of wartime activities available to civilians. Accounts centred on a visible participant, device, or platform, however, obscure the relationships that make these activities possible. In wartime Ukraine, civilian participation operates through support ecologies that connect needs with resource mobilization. Institutions take on greater responsibilities when they direct civilian work, hold information unavailable to participants, or depend on civilian contributions to maintain essential functions. *Gabrielle Joni Verreault is a PhD student at Université de Montréal.*



Friday, September 25, 3.30-5.00 PM

Strategic Warfare

Halyna Hleba

When Artists Become Soldiers: Cultural Production, and the Changing Character of War



The paper examines how military service reshapes artistic practice, authorship, and the representation of war, focusing on Ukrainian artists who have joined the military since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. In dominant art historical narratives, war art has been understood through models of distance and mediation, where artists function as observers embedded within institutional structures. In the Ukrainian context, this separation collapses. Artists are mobilized as part of society and participate directly in the war. Artistic practices therefore emerge not from observation, but from lived experience. *Halyna Hleba is an art historian, curator of exhibition projects and researcher at the Kyiv School of Economics.*

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>>> See presentation
by Marta Baziuk
on p. 21.

Holodomor

Svitlana Pavlenko

The Japanese Consulate in Odesa and the “Conspiracy of Silence”



This paper focuses on the Japanese consulate in Odesa from the late 1920s to the mid-1930s.

Particular attention is paid to how Japanese diplomats communicated the deepening grain crisis and identified the structural origins of the catastrophe well before the peak of the famine.

The language of official diplomatic reporting remained cautious. Japanese diplomats operated under constant surveillance, while Japanese foreign policy aimed to avoid direct confrontation with the Soviet Union, especially after the intervention in Manchuria in 1931.

Svitlana Pavlenko, from Dnipro, is a Visiting Fellow at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Marta Baziuk

A presentation on the new online course “Famine as Genocide in the 20th Century: The Holodomor in Ukraine,” produced by the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC). The course, built for delivery on the Coursera platform and offered at no cost, balances academic rigor with accessible storytelling and can serve as a model for other large-scale public education initiatives. The project integrates survivor interviews and testimonies, historical records, and period media, carefully selected to illustrate the human impact of the Holodomor.

Marta Baziuk is HREC Executive Director, University of Alberta.



Saturday, September 26, 9.00-11.00 AM

Holodomor

BOOK PRESENTATION

Kristina Hook

*When the Ukrainian Sun Rises:
From the Holodomor to the Frontlines
in Moscow's Century of Violence*
(Georgetown 2026)

Kristina Hook is Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University, US.



The book advances an anthropological approach to the Holodomor that moves beyond primarily historiographical treatments of the famine to theorize about its enduring social and political legacy. It makes three contributions. First, it develops an ethnographic theory of genocide memory as a living political framework, linked to other ongoing conversations of imperial violence. Second, it demonstrates how shifts in Holodomor narratives channeled contemporary sociopolitical transformations and crisis interpretations. Finally, it integrates anthropological theory with more common historiographical approaches to the Holodomor to show how memory and identity are co-produced over time.

War and Politics

Bertrand de Franqueville

*The Political and Military Fields:
The Realignment of Cleavages in Wartime Ukraine*



To what extent does the Ukrainian political field remain intact in times of war? Through the lens of the opposition between far-right and far-left movements, this paper aims to examine the realignment of cleavages in wartime Ukraine. Some might be inclined to link the absence of electoral competition to a shift toward authoritarianism. Others might suggest that wartime unity precludes any meaningful political debate. Yet Activism remains rooted in the traditional arenas of civilian political life, where persistent cleavages are still apparent. *Bertrand de Franqueville is a Research Associate at CERCEC/EHESS and co-founder of the Observatoire de l'Ukraine contemporaine.*

Margaryta Khvostova

*Contesting Russkiy Mir:
How Ukraine Links Identity, Security and EU Integration*

Since 2014, Russia has framed Ukraine's language, education, minority, religious, and memory policies as threats requiring external protection, using these claims to delegitimise Ukrainian sovereignty. This paper examines how Ukrainian legislation contested narratives associated with Russkiy Mir and how this policy evolved before and after February 2022. The analysis identifies a Russian shift from minority-protection claims towards civilisational denial of Ukrainian statehood. European institutions increasingly rejected Russian framing while continuing to assess Ukrainian measures against legality, proportionality, and minority-rights standards. *Margaryta Khvostova is a PhD student at the University of Surrey, UK.*



The Chair at the ASN World Convention



The ASN World Convention at Columbia University (New York, US) is the largest annual academic gathering on the post-Communist world and nationalism studies. For the past two decades, Chair of Ukrainian Studies Dominique Arel has been ASN Convention Director, overseeing nine different sections, including Ukraine.

Since the 2022 Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, nearly 40 of the more than 130 Convention panels touch on Ukraine, making it, with the Danyliw Seminar, the most sought-after annual event in Ukrainian studies.



The 2026 Convention featured new books on Ukraine by two former PhD students at the Chair of Ukrainian Studies – Anastasia Fomitchova and Nataliia Stepaniuk –, as well as from Sophia Wilson (featured at Danyliw 2026), Greta Uehling, Victoria Khiterer, and Marina Sapritsky-Nahum.

The Convention also showcased five new films on Ukraine, including Facing War (Norway, 2025), winner of the Best Documentary Award at ASN 2026.

In May 2026, the Chair brought six doctoral students to the Convention, with Katerina Sviderska and Lou Raisonniere serving as co-coordinators.

The 2027 ASN Convention will be held on May 27-29 at Columbia University.



asnconvention.com

Summer School on the War in Ukraine



Since 2023, Guillaume Sauvé has organized a Summer School on the War in Ukraine (in French: École d'été sur la guerre en Ukraine) at the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales (CERIUM) of the Université de Montréal. Between twenty and twenty-five graduate students sign up for an intensive six-day program that features several guest lecturers. The Chair of Ukrainian Studies has been a co-sponsor of the School from the beginning, helping to bring external guests. Dominique Arel has been lecturing every year.

In June 2026, the Chair invited Céline Galipeau, long-time anchor of the *Téléjournal* of Radio-Canada, the French-language companion of the CBC, to share her experience with the students. A former correspondent in Moscow - as well as in London and Beijing - she had the privilege of interviewing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv on the fourth anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The Chair also made invited Anastasia Fomitchova, a former doctoral student at the Chair and author recently of *Volia: Engagée volontaire dans la résistance ukrainienne*, on her experience as a combat medic in the Ukrainian army.

In June 2027, with Guillaume Sauvé in Europe on a fellowship, Dominique Arel will be organizing the next Summer School at CERIUM/Université de Montréal. He will be assisted by Katerina Sviderska, a PhD student at the University of Cambridge and associate of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies.

Céline Galipeau



Kule Doctoral Scholarships on Contemporary Ukraine

Application Deadline: 1 February 2027

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa is announcing a new competition for the Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Doctoral Scholarships on Contemporary Ukraine. The Kule Scholarships are open to Canadian and international candidates applying to the doctoral program in political science at the School of Political Studies. All PhD students enrolled in the School must take at least one seminar in French. The Scholarships consist of an annual award of \$30,000, with all tuition waived, for the duration of a doctoral program in political science (4 to 5 years). In recent years, the Chair had four Kule Scholars enrolled in the doctoral program (Bertrand de Franqueville, Alexandra Wishart, Anna Vozna, and Anastasia Fomitchova). With sadness, Peter and Doris Kule have passed away in recent years. Вічна Пам'ять! The Kule Scholarships were made possible by a generous donation by the Kule family, who have endowed several chairs and research centres in Canada.

Students interested in applying for the Kule Scholarships beginning in the academic year 2027-2028 are invited to contact Dominique Arel (darel@uottawa.ca), Chairholder, Chair of Ukrainian Studies.



Drs. Peter and Doris Kule

uOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club



The uOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club (OUSC) is a student-led organization with over 40 years of history, dedicated to preserving and promoting Ukrainian culture, building community, and supporting Ukraine. The Club brings together Canadian Ukrainians, Ukrainian newcomers, and other students interested in learning about Ukraine through cultural, educational, and social initiatives. OUSC actively participates in rallies and commemorative events and collaborates with various community organizations to advocate for Ukraine's victory. Through events such as Zabava and Koliada, the Club raises funds for the Ukrainian Armed Forces and in support of humanitarian efforts. In 2025, OUSC received the University of Ottawa Student Union Advocacy and Community Engagement Award. The Ukrainian Students' Club is providing critical assistance in the organization of Chair of Ukrainian Studies' events.



The uOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club hosted the annual Convention of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) on uOttawa campus in May 2026. The group picture was taken in front of the Chair of Ukrainian office house office on King Edward St. *From left to right, front row:* Yelyzaveta Vasylevych, Kateryna Kuzmenko, Maryna Kazmirschuk. *Back row:* Alvyn-Jeremy Nechytalo, Adrian Antoniwi, Victor Latvinsky, Artem Sudarkin.

Thursday September 24

9.00-11.00 AM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

MODERATORS: **Anna Colin Lebedev** (U Paris Nanterre, France), **Daria Mattingly** (U of Chichester, UK), **Ioulia Shukan** (EHESS, France)

• **SOPHIE LAMBROSCHINI** (CERCEC, EHESS, France)

Risky Commutes: Wartime Mobility to and from Russian-Occupied Territories

• **DARIA MALCHYKOVA** (Kherson State U, Ukraine)

Living the Frontlines: How Prolonged War Shifts Everyday Life in Kherson Oblast

• **IRA YEROSHKO** (Centre for Contemporary and Digital History, U of Luxemburg)

From Voice To Visual: The Transformation of a Ukrainian Testimony of the War to an Animation Documentary in Ember

11.20 AM-12.00 PM MAIDAN

MODERATORS: **Ioulia Shukan** (EHESS, France) & **Yuliya Yurchuk** (Södertörn U, Sweden)

• **SOPHIA WILSON** (Southern Illinois U Edwardsville, US) > **Book Presentation:**

Maidan: Ukraine's Democratic Revolution (McGill-Queen's 2026)

12.00-1.00 PM LUNCH

1.00-2.30 PM WAR LEGACY

MODERATORS: **Dominique Arel** (Chair of Ukrainian Studies, U of Ottawa), **Daria Mattingly** & **Yuliya Yurchuk**

• **MAGDALENA GIBIEC** (U of Wrocław, Poland) > **Book Presentation:** *Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists in Exile: Its Formation and Transnational Connections, 1929-1934* (Routledge 2024) [Translation in Polish, 2025]

• **RAISA OSTAPENKO** (U Sorbonne, France) *Inconvenient Altruism: Ukrainian Rescuers of Jews and Postwar Purges*

2.30-3.00 PM COFFEE BREAK

3.00-4.30 PM RUSSIAN DESTRUCTION

MODERATORS: **Dominique Arel** (Chair of Ukrainian Studies, U of Ottawa) & **Daria Mattingly** (U of Chichester, UK)

• **JAN CLAAS BEHREND**s (Leibniz Centre/European U Viadrina, Germany)

Post-Soviet War Crimes: Illegitimate Military Violence by Russian Troops after 1991

• **MARTIN LARYŠ** (Institute of International Relations Prague, Czechia)

Making Ukrainians Russian Again: Russia's Paranoid Assimilation in Occupied Ukraine

4.30-5.00 PM COFFEE BREAK

5.00-7.00 PM FILM SCREENING AND Q&A

MODERATORS: **Dominique Arel**, **Anna Colin Lebedev** & **Daria Mattingly**

• **JAN CLAAS BEHREND**s (Leibniz Centre/European U Viadrina, Germany)

Distance to Independence (Canada, 2026, 75 min., English subtitles) Followed by a Q&A with director *Anna Palenchuk* (Toronto, Canada) and *Borys Wrzesnewskyj* (ex-Member of Parliament, House of Commons of Canada)

Followed by a Q&A with co-director *Lisa Vapné* (France)

Friday September 25

9.00-11.00 AM IDENTITY IN WARTIME

MODERATORS: **Dominique Arel** (Chair of Ukrainian Studies, U of Ottawa), **Anna Colin Lebedev** (U Paris Nanterre, France) & **Yuliya Yurchuk** (Södertörn U, Sweden)

• **ANASTASIA LESHCHYSHY** (McGill U, Canada)

Ukraine at War and Linguistic Estrangement

• **NATALIIA NAUMOVSKA** (U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, US)

Wartime Language Shift as Moral Choice in the Oral Accounts of Ukrainian Speakers

• **GRÉGOIRE LE GALL** (EHESS, France)

Ukrainian-Russian Families Across the Ukrainian/Russian Border since 2014

11.00-11.30 AM COFFEE BREAK

11.30 AM-1.00 PM STRATEGIC WARFARE

MODERATORS: **Dominique Arel** (Chair of Ukrainian Studies, U of Ottawa) & **Oxana Shevel** (Tufts U, US)

• **KHRYSTYNA HOLYNSKA** (RAND, Santa Monica, US)

Denying Nuclear Coercion: Defiance and the Failure of Russian Nuclear Signaling

• **JESSE DRISCOLL** (UC San Diego, US)

Public Opinion and the Geopolitics of War Termination

1.00-2.00 PM LUNCH

2.00-3.30 SOVIET LEGACY

MODERATORS: **Daria Mattingly** (U of Chichester, UK) and **Ioulia Shukan** (EHESS, France)

• **ZAKHAR POPOVYCH** (Dobrov Institute, Kyiv, Ukraine)

Ukraine's Technological Miracle: Drones, Electronic Warfare and Deep-Strike Systems

• **YULIIA KISHCHUK** (Spilne Commons, Ukraine/Södertörn U, Sweden)

Materiality of Clay: Kosiv Painted Ceramists Community and National Identity

3.00-3.30 PM COFFEE BREAK

3.30-5.00 PM CIVILIANS IN WAR

MODERATORS: **Anna Colin Lebedev** (U Paris Nanterre, France), **Ioulia Shukan** (EHESS, France) & **Oxana Shevel** (Tufts U, US)

• **ISABELLE DESISTO** (Princeton U, US)

Decentralization and Ukrainian Resistance Against Russia's Invasion

• **GABRIELLE JONI VERREAULT** (U de M, Canada),

Don't Forget to Like, Share and Survive: Civilians and the New Support Ecology of War

• **HALYNA HLEBA** (Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine)

When Artists Become Soldiers: Cultural Production, and the Changing Character of War

Saturday September 26

9.00-11.00 AM HOLODOMOR

MODERATORS: **Daria Mattingly** (U of Chichester, UK), **Ioulia Shukan** (EHESS, France) & **Yuliya Yurchuk** (Södertörn U, Sweden)

- **SVITLANA PAVLENKO** (Aleksanteri Institute, U of Helsinki, Finland)

The Japanese Consulate in Odesa and the "Conspiracy of Silence"

- **MARTA BAZIUK** (Holodomor Research and Education Consortium, U of Alberta)

The Holodomor: A Case Study in Connecting History, Memory, and Online Learning

- **KRISTINA HOOK** (Kennesaw State U, US) > **Book Presentation:**

When the Ukrainian Sun Rises: From the Holodomor to the Frontlines in Moscow's Century of Violence (Georgetown 2026)

11.00-11.30 AM COFFEE BREAK

11.30 AM-1.30 PM WAR AND POLITICS

MODERATORS: **Anna Colin Lebedev** (U Paris Nanterre, France) & **Oxana Shevel** (Tufts U, US)

- **BERTRAND DE FRANQUEVILLE** (CERCEC/Observatoire de l'Ukraine contemporaine, France)

The Political and Military Fields: The Realignment of Cleavages in Wartime Ukraine

- **MARGARYTA KHVOSTOVA** (U of Surrey, UK)

Contesting Russkiy Mir: How Ukraine Links Identity, Security and EU Integration

1.00-2.00 PM CLOSING LUNCH

The Chair Graduate Students

Anna Vozna, originally from Kharkiv, is a Kule Scholar. Her doctoral research explores how Ukrainian Russian-speakers have reacted to Ukrainian policies of language revival under war conditions. She was awarded the Best Doctoral Paper on Ukraine at the 2025 ASN World Convention in New York. .



Alexandra Wishart, from Germany, was a Kule Scholar. Her doctoral research deals with cultural expressions and civic resistance in times of war. She was awarded the Best Doctoral Paper on Ukraine at the 2024 ASN World Convention in New York.

Klavdia Tatar (née Levytska), originally from Kyiv, was a Kule Scholar who is currently completing her PhD dissertation on the historical and contemporary role of Canadian Ukrainian diaspora organizations in lobbying the Canadian government.



Katerina Sviderska, born in Kherson, is a PhD candidate in Politics and Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge. She studies European integration and nation-building and has previously completed a master's in political science at Université de Montréal. She is conducting field work in Ukraine in 2026.

Lou Raisonnier, a PhD candidate at the University of Ottawa, researches France's legal handling of women returning from ISIS zones. With degrees from McGill and Sciences Po, her work links gender, radicalization, and state security practices in counterterrorism policy.



Zahra Poonawala is an MA student in Political Science at the University of Ottawa, supervised by Dominique Arel. For my Major Research Paper, she plans to examine international criminal justice, accountability, and narratives of responsibility in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine.

Danyliw Seminar 2026

Organizing Team

Seminar Director

DOMINIQUE AREL

Seminar Funder

ANDREW DANYLIW (Danyliw Foundation)

Seminar International Academic Team

DOMINIQUE AREL (U of Ottawa, Canada)

MAYHILL FOWLER (Stetson U, US)

ANNA COLIN LEBEDEV

(U Paris Nanterre, France)

DARIA MATTINGLY (U of Chichester, UK)

OXANA SHEVEL (Tufts U, US)

IOULIA SHUKAN (EHESS, France)

YULIYA YURCHUK (Södertörn U, Sweden)

Seminar Coordinators

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DASHA AKHOVA

ZAHRA POONAWALA

Seminar Student Team

Chair of Ukrainian Studies

ALEXANDRA WISHART

ANNA VOZNA

LOU RAISONNIER

KATERINA SVIDERSKA

SAJDAH HEMA

Ukrainian Students' Club

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The Danyliw Seminar at 20

In Numbers

Number of Danyliw Seminar Years
20

Number of Years with a Danyliw Pause
2 (Covid)

Number of Presenters over 20 Years
304

Number of Presenters Who Travelled from Wartime Ukraine
11

Number of Films Shown
10

Number of Students who Made Danyliw26 Possible
15

Number of uOttawa Personnel Behind Danyliw26
18

Number of Friends from the International Danyliw Team
without whom this seminar would not exist...
6

Probability (in %) that Russia will break Ukraine
0

Support of the Danyliw Foundation
Priceless