



## 3rd Summer School

### Borderland Studies in East Central Europe and the Black Sea Region

25 June – 4 July 2023

Labor Institute, Zimbrului str. 10  
Chişinău, Moldova

## ORGANIZERS

Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe, Kharkiv,  
Ukraine

[ethnickh.wordpress.com/](http://ethnickh.wordpress.com/)



Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen,  
Switzerland

[gce.unisg.ch/en](http://gce.unisg.ch/en)



University of St.Gallen

Center for Governance  
and Culture in Europe

The Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine at the Alberta  
University, Canada

[ualberta.ca/index.html](http://ualberta.ca/index.html)



**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

*Contact information:*

+38 (097) 543-53-64

[ethnickh@gmail.com](mailto:ethnickh@gmail.com)

## *Description*

The Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe in Kharkiv is an NGO working with the history and present of interethnic relations in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, research and preservation of historical and cultural heritage. The Centre's purpose is to promote academic, educational and community practices aimed at rethinking the multicultural past of Kharkiv and Ukraine. Since 2011 the Centre has held conferences, seminars, summer schools and public events, as well as participated in exhibitions and educational projects.

In 2018 and 2019, the Centre co-organized and hosted the summer schools on borderland studies in Kharkiv. The third school runs from June 25 to July 4, 2023, in Chisinau, Moldova. This event is a high-quality, intensive, interdisciplinary training aimed at advanced students, early career scholars and practitioners who have a strong interest in the borderlands of Central and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region.

The concept of borderland is regarded as a demarcation and contact space - both physical and imagined. Borderland studies reveal not only the connections of the fragmented world but also divisions and inequalities generated by heterogeneities such as class, gender, ethnicity, legal status, religion, language, narratives, and historical memory.

The school focuses on the impact of state policies, nationalism, population movements and geopolitical changes from the local perspective of "transient borderlands" that have a complicated history of belongings and identity, conflicts and coexistence. This summer school was made possible thanks to the financial support and organizational efforts of the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen and the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine at the Alberta University.

## **SCHEDULE**

**Venue:** Labour Institute, Zimbrului 10 Str.

### **MONDAY, 26 JUNE**

10.00 – 11.00	Welcome & introduction
11.15 – 12.45	Lecture 1. Steven Seegel: Archiving the Future: Introducing Ukraine before and after February 24th in Its Time, Space, and Territory
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Lecture 2. Bohdan Shumylovych: Popular Songs, Socialist Television and Rituals of Resistance: Hot Autumn of 1989
15.45 – 18.45	City walk by Vitalie Sprinceana
19.00	Opening Reception (Location: “Black Rabbit” restaurant, Vlaicu Parcalab 45 Str.)

### **TUESDAY, 27 JUNE**

9.30 – 11.00	Lecture 4. Bohdan Shumylovych: “Chervona Ruta” and Singing Revolutions in the USSR
11.15 – 12.45	Lecture 5. Steven Seegel: Transnational: On Early Modern Ukraine and ‘the Russia Question’ from Europe’s Empires into Nations, Eurasian Borderlands and Regions into Sovereign States
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch
14.00 – 16.00	Participants’ projects presentations

#### **Session 1.**

- Qianrui Hu: A Globalized Borderland: Donbas Identity in Transition?
- Lucien Turczan-Lipets: The Donau-Oder-Elbe Canal: Managing Water and Imagining Europe
- Kateřina Fuksová: European Borderlands through the Lenses of Decolonisation: The Case of Moldova

#### **16.15 – 18.15      Session 2.**

- Yelyzaveta Anedchenko: The Actualization of the Concept of Violence in the Anglophone Media Discourse
- Kris Michałowicz: An Incomplete History of Europe
- Lilit Sefilyan: The Armenia-Azerbaijan Borders

## **WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE**

- 9.30 – 11.00 Lecture 6. Steven Seegel: Geo-Bodies of Map Men at War: On Ethnicity, and the Frames of Modern Ukrainian History and Geography
- 11.15 – 12.45 Film Screening with Bohdan Shumylovych: Discussion with Film Sequences: Interwar Films on Mountains and Popular Culture of the Ussr: Differences and Similarities
- 12.45 – 13.45 Lunch
- 14.00 – 17.00 Study visit: The Institute for European Policies and Reforms ( Bucharest str. 90 )
- 17.30 – 19.30 Roundtable Discussion  
“Contested border zones of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia” (Moldova State University, Alexei Mateevici str. 60)

**Speakers:** Anatol Petrencu (Moldova), Andrii Dostliev (Ukraine/Poland), Natia Chankvetadze (Georgia)

**Chair:** Oleksii Chebotarov

## **THURSDAY, 29 JUNE**

- 08.00 – 18.00 Study trip: Bulgarian culture in Moldova, trip to Stoianovca village

## **FRIDAY, 30 JUNE**

- 9.30 – 11.00 Lecture 7. Steven Seegel: Shatterzones: On Coming to Terms (Or Not) With Violence in the Borderlands
- 11.15 – 13.15 Participants’ projects presentations

### **Session 3.**

- Rachel Hanna Bonin: Jewish and German Minorities and Their Responses to the Political Changes in Poland (2015-2022)
- Olha Zabudkova: Revolution and War on the Borderland: Luhansk Region in 1917–1921
- Noela Mahmutaj: The Western Balkans Borderland: From Conflicts to Cooperation

- 13.15 – 14.15      Lunch
- 14.15 – 15.45      Lecture 8. Diana Dumitru: Neighbors in Difficult Times: Jews and Gentiles in the Borderlands of the Soviet Union and Romania during the Holocaust
- 16.00 – 18.00      Participants' projects presentations

*Session 4.*

- Frankee Lyons: Jews and the Second Repatriation from the Soviet Union to Poland, 1956-1960
- Maia Barkaia: Georgia's North-Eastern Borderland Entanglements: Pankisi Gorge Crisis
- Valentina Antoci: The Transnistrian Conundrum and the Moldovan-administered latine-script schools. A case study on the High School «Evrika» in Rybnitsa

***SATURDAY, 01 JULY***

- 9.30 – 11.00      Lecture 9. Oleksii Chebotarov: When State Meets Nature: Border Rivers in Eastern European History
- 11.15 – 12.35      Participants' projects presentations

*Session 5.*

- Antonio Pio Di Cosmo: The Borderland That Is Not There. Eastern Roman Empire's Heritage and the Norman Kingdom. An Heuristic Method to Approach
- Meryl Lavenant: From the Black Sea to the Danube: Tensions in a Borderland Space after the Treaty of Adrianople (1829)

12.40 – 13.40      Lunch

13.40 – 15.40      Participants' projects presentations

- Olha Vovk: Cultural and Artistic Life of the Front-Line Ukrainian City during the Russian-Ukrainian War (the Case of Kharkiv)
- Kateryna Mykhailova: Legal status of the Ukrainian-Russian "line of demarcation" (2014-2022)
- Siranush Grigoryan: Navigating Borderland Realities: Exploring Sanctions and Compliance with International Law

16.00 – 17.30      Lecture 3. Daina Eglitis: Women at the Crossing: Gendered Vulnerabilities of Women on the Move at the End of World War II and Today

## ***SUNDAY, 02 JULY***

08.00 – 20.00 Study trip: Gagauzian culture in Moldova, a trip to Comrat  
Closing reception

## ***MONDAY, 3 JULY***

9.30 – 11.00 Lecture 10. Steven Seegel: Digital Media: On Mobilization, Misinformation, and the ‘past Futures’ of Ukrainian Global Solidarities

11.15 – 12.45 Lecture 11. Diana Dumitru: Memory Wars in Eastern Europe

12.45 – 13.45 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Discussion and summing-up

## LECTURERS



**Diana Dumitru** is Ion Ratiu Professor in Romanian Studies at Georgetown University. Dr. Dumitru has held multiple fellowships that include a Woodrow Wilson Center Fellowship, a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship for research at Georgetown University, a research fellowship at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, a fellowship at Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, and a research fellowship at the Imre Kertesz Kolleg at Jena University in Germany. Her second book, *The State, Antisemitism and Collaboration in the Holocaust: The Borderlands of Romania and the Soviet Union*,

was published by Cambridge University Press in 2016. Dr. Dumitru is an editorial board member of the scholarly journals *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, and *Journal of Genocide Research*.



**Daina Eglitis** is an Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. She holds degrees in Political Science, Russian & Eastern European Area Studies, and Sociology (Ph.D., University of Michigan). She is the author of the books *Imagining the Nation: History, Modernity, and Revolution in Latvia* (Pennsylvania State University Press 2002/2004) and *Discover Sociology* (SAGE 2021). Dr. Eglitis has published articles and book chapters on history and collective memory, socioeconomic inequality, and gender and demographic issues in the Baltic region. Among her

recent book chapters are “Demography and Migration” (*Central and East European Politics*, 5-th edition, 2021), “Gender and the Democratic Paradox in Latvia” (*Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia*, 2021), and “Challenges of a Post-Community Presidency: Vaira Viķe-Freiberga and the Leadership of Latvia” (*Women Presidents and Prime Ministers in Post-Transition Democracies*, 2017). She also writes on the link between regional history and contemporary issues, including Russia’s war on Ukraine, for a general audience. She has also been a research fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies in Washington, DC. She is writing a book on women’s experiences of the Holocaust and World War II in Eastern Europe.





**Steven Seegel** is Professor of Slavic and Eurasian Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Map Men: Transnational Lives and Deaths of Geographers in the Making of East Central Europe* (University of Chicago Press, 2018), *Ukraine under Western Eyes* (Harvard University Press, 2013), and *Mapping Europe's Borderlands: Russian Cartography in the Age of Empire* (University of Chicago Press, 2012). He has been a contributor to the fourth and fifth volumes of Chicago's international history of cartography series, and has translated over 300 entries from Russian and Polish for the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's *Encyclopedia of Camps*

and Ghettos, 1933-1945, in multiple volumes, published jointly by USHMM and Indiana University Press. Professor Seegel is a former director at Harvard University of the Ukrainian Research Institute's summer exchange program. You can find him active on Twitter @steven\_seegel and currently as the host of author-feature podcast interviews on the popular New Books Network. He is the founder of The February 24th Archive, an ongoing community-driven digital project (with 1000s of threads, 8 GB of tweets, and 15 million people in terms of audience reach) that focuses on building global solidarities during Russia's war against Ukraine.



**Bohdan Shumylovych** obtained a diploma in art history from the L'viv Academy of Arts (Ukraine, 1993-1999), and a master's degree in modern history from the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary, 2004-2005). He was a fellow of multiple grant programs and worked with the archive of the Faculty of Visual Arts at George Washington University, Washington (USA), and the archive of Open Society Institute in Budapest. In 2020 he received a Ph.D. at the Department of History and Civilization from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He holds the position of Associate

Professor of Cultural Studies at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and teaches visual studies, art, and aesthetics. He also works at the Center for Urban History (L'viv) where he coordinates educational programs, gives lectures, participates in the development of the Centre for Urban History's thematic exhibitions, and carries out research. The main focus of his work is media history in East Central Europe and the Soviet Union, as well as media arts, visual studies, urban spatial practices, and urban creativity.



Vitalie Sprinceana is a sociologist, blogger, journalist and urban activist based in Chisinau, Moldova. He is a co-redactor at PLATZFORMA.MD, a web platform for social, economic and political criticism. Vitalie is interested in and I argue for inclusive democratic public spaces, social justice, open knowledge, plurality of worldviews and practices.

## PARTICIPANTS



**Yelyzaveta Anedchenko** for the past several years, has gained a different working experience, starting with teaching English to teenagers and finishing with being a project manager for an IT project. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Linguistic Studies at the Kherson State University. Yelyzaveta has been working on the thesis called «The Actualization of the Concept of Violence in an Anglophone Media Discourse.» She finished an international eight months internship at Alpen-Adria University, Austria.



**Valentina Antoci** explores the confrontation between the civil society and the separatist regime in Transnistria regarding the status of the Moldovan-administered Latin script schools in this separatist region of the Republic of Moldova. She commenced her research as a BA student at Balti University. Currently, she is continuing my research as a MA student at the Department of History of Moldova State University. Likewise, since September 2021, she has been teaching history at the «Ion Creanga» Pedagogical High School in Balti.



**Maia Barkaia** is an interdisciplinary scholar. She holds a B.A. in Oriental Studies, an M.A. in Modern Indian History, and a Ph.D. in Gender Studies. These academic fields shaped her research and teaching interests, which lie in Imperial Entanglements and Modernity in the Caucasus and Asia, with a particular interest in the History of Craft guilds, women's history, and borderlands histories with the focus on the Pankisi Gorge, and Georgian-Abkhazian historiography. Barkaia is an associate professor at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Together with Alisse Waterston, she is co-editor with of «Gender in Georgia: Feminist Perspectives on Culture, Nation and History in the South Caucasus.»



**Rachel Hanna Bonin** has studied East- and South-eastern European Studies at the University of Copenhagen and went abroad on Erasmus to Warsaw, where she took courses within the studies of “Language and Cultural Encounters” at the University of Roskilde (DK). These subjects and topics are of great interest to her. During her master’s, she started teaching Polish Propædeutics at the University of Copenhagen. Her master’s thesis dealt with the responses of the German and Jewish minorities responses to the political changes in Poland. She wrote the thesis in cooperation with the European Centre for Minority Issues, and she is currently working on continuing her research with this institution.



**Antonio Pio Di Cosmo** is a researcher associate at The Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization Centre of Excellence of the World Academy of Art & Science in Bucarest and a Ph.D. candidate in DREST, Italian Doctoral School Of Religious Studies and member of ITSER project. He held his first Ph.D. in Archaeology at the University of Cordoba and defended his doctoral thesis in 2017. He obtained a degree in Law at the University of Macerata. Afterward in Literature and Heritage at the University of Foggia, and the Master in Archaeology and Heritage at the University of Cordoba. He is the author of many essays published in international academic journals and participated in various conferences in Europe and in Latin America.



**Kateřina Fuksová** is a Ph.D. student in Cultural Anthropology and History based at Charles University in Prague. Her research focuses on memory, identity and historical narrative-making in Central Eastern Europe, especially in the Republic of Moldova. Her other research interests include urban anthropology, post-socialist urban transformation, and urban social and activist movements in Central Eastern European cities.



**Qianrui Hu** is a Ph.D. candidate at School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. He studies the interaction of ethnic, regional, and national identity and the shifts of identity in the Donbas region since 2014 in the context of the ongoing war. For study this, he is conducting in-depth interviews with people who come from Donbas and came to various countries (Poland, Germany, Czechia, and the UK) as a result of the war, aiming to collect their life stories and trajectories.



**Meryl Lavenant** started her Ph.D. in September 2021 at Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris). Her research deals with the Russian imperial-building process in the Black Sea region from 1774 to the late 1880s. She tries to understand how and why the Russians tried to appropriate these maritime and littoral spaces. Before that, she studied the colonial administration of Novorossiiia at the beginning of the nineteenth century. She holds a Russian language bachelor's from INALCO and studied at the École Normale Supérieure (Paris).



**Frankee Lyons** is a Ph.D. candidate in Modern Eastern European History at the University of Illinois Chicago. Her dissertation «Jewish Belonging and the Polish Road to Socialism, 1956-1960,» examines Polish Jewry in the context of post-Stalinist migration. Lyons has taught for UIC and YIVO and served as a historical consultant for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her research has been funded by Fulbright, Title VIII, JDC Archives, and Kościuszko Foundation grants. Her writing is in *Peripheral Histories* and *Panorama Journal*. Frankee currently resides in Warsaw.



**Noela Mahmutaj** is a lecturer at the Institute of European Studies at the University of Tirana. She finished the Ph.D. program and holds the title of Researcher and Teacher-Researcher in International Relations and World Politics. Noela received a Ph.D. degree in Political Science in 2020 at the International Relations School at Saint-Petersburg State University, where she attended the Ph.D. program. After receiving her BA degree in Political Science at Peoples' Friendship University in Moscow, Russia, Dr. Noela earned an MA in Diplomacy and International Relations in the EU at the Institute of European Studies. Her research interests include Balkan history, the history of East Europe and Russian studies. She has published several research works and articles.



**Kateryna Mykhailova** is a current student of the Political Science Department at the Dnipro University of Technology, Ukraine. She was twice awarded the scholarship of the President of Ukraine in 2017 and 2018 and the mayor's scholarship in 2019 for public activity.

In 2022 she was selected to participate in the Online Summer Research Programme held by Pembroke College of the University of Cambridge. There, she conducted research about the reasons for conflicts on the Indian-Chinese border. Currently, she studies the colonial administration of the British India of the period of 1858-1914, with particular focus on the artistic image of colonial administration in India.



**Kris Michałowicz** is a writer and volunteer. In 2019, his short story 'Maciek the Orphan' won the Creative Future bronze prize for fiction. In 2022, he was a writing resident with the Ukrainian Institute London. His work has been featured in the Mechanics' Institute Review and Ukrainskiy Tyzhden, where it appeared in its Ukrainian translation. In 2023, he will graduate from the Open University in the UK with a degree in international relations. His first long-form work, titled «An Incomplete History of Europe,» is forthcoming.



**Lilit Sefilyan** has over 8 years of work experience in the fields of human rights protection, international affairs, communication and education. Currently, she works as an Assistant to the Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia. She holds BA in Linguistics and Political Science and MA in Public Administration from the Yerevan State Linguistic University. At her projects, she focused on border communities and changing political and economic landscape in the context of the ongoing conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.



**Lucien Turczan-Lipets** completed his Bachelor's in 2021 in Comparative Literature and Slavic Studies at Brown University and is now pursuing a Master's in Global History at both the Freie Universität Berlin and the Humboldt Universität. His interests include global environmental history, the intersection of intellectual and environmental history, in particular in Eastern and Central Europe, as well as literary studies. He is now working on a Master's thesis about engineering projects on the Danube River and their intellectual and political legacies in the late 19th and early 20th century.



**Olha Vovk** lives and works in Kharkiv. She received MA in management of organizations; in 2012 – MA in history and archival studies; and in 2016 – a doctoral degree in history. Since 2012, she has been working at Tronko Centre of Ukrainian Studies and Local History of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. For her academic career, she participated in conferences and summer schools not only in Ukraine but also in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, and Spain. At the same time, she had received scholarships and awards from state and non-state organizations in Ukraine and USA.



**Olha Zabudkova** is a Ph.D. in History, Associate Professor at the Department of History of Ukraine, Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University. Was born, studied and lived in the Luhansk region before the Russian invasion, but now - in Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine. The sphere of scientific interests is focused on the study of Eastern Ukraine, particularly in the Luhansk region at the end of XIX - beginning of the XX century.



**Siranush Grigoryan**, a PhD student in International Law at Yerevan State University, is a highly accomplished scholar with a strong academic background. Holding an MA degree in European Studies from Tbilisi State University and an Executive Degree from the European Academy of Diplomacy, she is currently participating in a one-year capacity building program at Lund University in Sweden, focusing on Governance for Nature-Based Solutions. Siranush's research interests encompass peace, human rights, and international cooperation for a more democratic world. Her dedication and expertise make her an outstanding contributor to academia and global challenges.



## ORGANIZING TEAM



**Oleksii Chebotarov** is an SNSF Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Eastern European History, University of Vienna and a Research Associate at the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe, University of St. Gallen. Oleksii works on digital history projects for the Center for Urban History in Lviv and acts as a steering committee member of the Digital Forum at the European Association of Jewish Studies. Oleksii is currently finalizing a book based on his doctoral thesis, «Jews from the East, Global Migration, and Habsburg Galicia in the Early 1880s,» and works on the postdoctoral project «The Border River Zbruch: A Socio-Cultural and Environmental History, 1900-1939.» His field of expertise includes Jewish, digital and environmental history, as well as migration, borderland, and Ukrainian studies.



**Svitlana Telukha** is an associate professor at the National Technical University «Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute.» Her research interests include social history, trauma studies, history of everyday life and gender studies. She works primarily with oral history research methods. She is a participant in several oral history projects: «Prisoners of Neuengamme,» «Don't forget! Kharkiv,» and «War Childhood Museum.» Interviewed more than 200 witnesses and participants of World War II and Holocaust survivors in Ukraine. Her publications cover the topics of the culture of remembrance, traumatic memories, and the politics of memory: Traumatic memory: following by biographical narratives (examples of the Holocaust, Chornobyl, Fukushima) (Kyiv, 2022), Holocaust Memorials in Kharkiv. Memorialization in Urban Space (Berlin, 2022).



**Artem Kharchenko** is an associate professor of history at the Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts in Kharkiv. He is a lecturer on the history of the Holocaust for the University partnership program “Claims Conference.” He participated in educational and academic exchange programs in the USA, and several European countries.. Artem was a guest researcher at the Simon Dubnov Institut in Leipzig, New European College in Bucharest, and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Artem is currently finishing his book “Jewish Community Within the Space of an Imperial City, 1859–1923” and works on the research project «System of Orphanages in Soviet Ukraine in the Holodomor period, 1928-1935».



**Catalina Plinschi** is the Advisor to the Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization in the Republic of Moldova, where she is responsible for coordinating IT projects aimed at raising the level of digitization of public services, strengthening and developing the Moldovan tech community and fostering innovations and digitalization in the country.