Editorial Note

Welcome to the October/December 2026 edition of ***Ukraine Decolonial Studies Network*** newsletter. As the new academic year gains momentum, we look forward to filling it with engaging events, discussions, and opportunities for exchange. In this issue, we share upcoming events and activities, recent publications, and contributions from our members and scholars engaged in Ukraine's decoloniality and decolonization processes. Thank you for being part of this ongoing conversation!

NEW: 2026 Ukraine Decolonial Studies Network Event Series

Breaking Academic Silences: Ukraine and Decolonization of Knowledge

October 27, 2026 | 12:00 EDT | Online



Ukraine Decolonial Studies Network invites you to the fourth panel in its 2026 event series: a conversation on Ukraine, decolonization, epistemic silences, and the global politics of whose knowledge becomes heard. What kinds of knowledge remain peripheral in society and academia, and who decides what becomes visible, audible, and authoritative? What is omitted by dominant languages and interpretive frameworks? This panel discussion explores

epistemic silence as a phenomenon shaped by unequal structures of knowledge that privilege certain languages, regions, archives, and intellectual traditions while marginalizing others. Taking Ukraine's decolonization processes as a point of departure, the discussion places the ongoing rethinking of Ukrainian and Eastern European Studies in conversation with other global contexts and postcolonial and decolonial scholarship.

The panel focuses on how silences are produced and reproduced in academia in relation to testimonial and hermeneutical injustices (Fricker) and questions of agency, examining how institutional and disciplinary hierarchies shape what is circulated and recognized as legitimate knowledge. It addresses translation, non-translation, and post-imperial frameworks that influence which voices and intellectual traditions gain recognition. The distinction between silence and silencing raises questions about the politics and ethics of making voices heard. The central question of the panel is: Can decolonization also create new silences? We will discuss how, in challenging inherited frameworks and recovering previously marginalized voices, scholars can avoid replacing one hierarchy of knowledge with another, and what experiences across different global contexts reveal about knowledge politics and decoloniality.

Speakers: Myroslav Shkandrij, Iryna Odrekhivska, Jelena Subotic, Gerlov van Engelenhoven

Moderators: Svitlana Biedarieva and Kateryna Yeremieieva

Register via Eventbrite

Ukraine Decolonial Studies Network Recommends: Upcoming Events

Szczerbaniuk Lecture Series: Ukraine's History, Faith, and Culture

Ave Maria University, Florida, USA | Ongoing lecture series

Supported by Dr George and Catherine Szczerbaniuk, this new lecture series brings scholars, religious figures, and cultural experts to Ave Maria University to explore Ukraine's political history, religious heritage, society, and culture. Each visiting scholar participates in a two-day residency featuring public lectures, academic discussions, and cultural activities. The inaugural lecture, delivered by Fr. Mark Morozowich on February 26, 2026, explored the history of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, its struggles, and its perseverance. A recording is available online. More information and recording

New Ukrainian Studies Initiative at New York University

New York University, USA | Launched August 2026

New York University has established a new interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies initiative, placing particular emphasis on political science, international relations, and governance alongside Ukrainian history, language, literature, and culture. The initiative includes a Ukrainian Studies certificate and undergraduate track, as well as *Ukraine in Focus*, a twelve-part public webinar series (September 2026 – May 2027) co-sponsored with Columbia University's Harriman Institute. NYU has also joined the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies, launched under the patronage of Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska, to strengthen international academic cooperation and advance Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar studies. More information

War Crimes and Accountability: The Pursuit of Justice for Ukraine

October 22, 2026 | 12:00 EDT | Online

The Harriman Institute at Columbia University and New York University's Ukrainian Studies Program host a webinar featuring Kateryna Busol, focusing on war crimes and accountability in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. Moderated by Anastasiia Vlasenko, the discussion is part of the Ukraine in Focus webinar series, which explores contemporary Ukrainian politics, society, and the consequences of the ongoing war. More information and registration

Workshop: Eastern Europe in Comics — Perspectives from Within and Beyond

University of Innsbruck, Austria | October 22–23, 2026 | Hybrid

This interdisciplinary workshop explores how Eastern Europe has been represented in comics and graphic narratives across different historical and cultural contexts, with Ukraine as a central case study. Bringing together scholars from history, literary studies, sociology, art history, and media studies, it examines imperial legacies, socialism and post-socialism, war, displacement, trauma, and cultural memory. Particular attention is given to questions of representation, agency, and symbolic resistance in Ukrainian comics and international depictions of the region. The programme also includes an exhibition and a public discussion on publishing comics during wartime. Registration is free, with online participation available for workshop sessions. Programme and registration

Mapping the Golden Age of Kyivan Rus': Creating an Interactive Digital Atlas

November 18, 2026 5:00PM EST | Hybrid

A talk by Susana Torres Prieto, Associate Professor in the Humanities, School of Humanities, IE University (Madrid) & Research Associate at HURI. Featuring an introduction to the MAPA: Digital Atlas of Ukraine program and a live demonstration of its interactive web mapping capabilities by Kostyantyn Bondarenko, MAPA Project Manager. Details and registration.

Unequal Comrades: Western Ukrainians in the Postwar Communist Party

Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York | December 10, 2026 | 16:15 EST

In this lecture, historian Iaroslav Kovalchuk examines the integration of Western Ukrainians into the Soviet Communist Party following the territorial annexations of the Second World War. The discussion explores hierarchies within Soviet political institutions, the unequal treatment of local communist cadres, and the broader processes of Sovietisation in Western Ukraine. The lecture will be moderated by Mark Andryczyk. More information and registration

International Symposium: Recentring the Humanities — Ukraine and the World
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada | October 28–30, 2026

Marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, this international symposium examines Ukraine’s place in global history, society, and the humanities. The programme considers how Russia’s full-scale invasion and Ukraine’s increased international visibility have prompted changes in scholarly approaches, conceptual frameworks, and knowledge production. Speakers include Vitaly Chernetsky, Oksana Dudko, Gelinada Grinchenko, Yaroslav Hrytsak, Serhii Plokhy, and Serhy Yekelchyk, among others. Registration is open. More information and registration.

Ukraine Decolonial Studies Network Recommends: Recent Events

Publications & Media

New Forum: Ambicoloniality and War — The Ukrainian-Russian Case
International Politics | September 2026

International Politics presents a forum engaging with Svitlana Biedarieva's *Ambicoloniality and War: The Ukrainian-Russian Case* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025). Bringing together perspectives on Russian colonial violence, cultural destruction, and Ukrainian agency, the contributions explore the concept of ambicoloniality and its implications for postcolonial and decolonial scholarship. The discussion considers how Ukraine's experiences challenge established theoretical frameworks and contribute to broader debates on colonialism, resistance, and cultural self-determination.

Published contributions include:

- Madina Tlostanova, "Reimagining decolonial premises in the midst of genocidal neo-imperial aggression: is Ukraine a case of/for decoloniality?"
- Jelena Subotić, "Culturicide in Ukraine as a Russian colonial project."
- Zuleikha Makhmudova, "Beyond archaisation: on the presence of Russian colonial violence in Ukraine."
- Svitlana Biedarieva, "Introduction to the forum on ambicoloniality."

Video Recording: City on the Line — A Memorial Space for Kharkiv's Defenders

Public Presentation and Discussion | August 11, 2026 | YermilovCentre, Kharkiv

The recording presents a public discussion of *City on the Line*, a proposed memorial space honouring the fallen defenders of Kharkiv and the Kharkiv region. Developed by the memory culture platform Past / Future / Art, the project envisions an unfinished metal structure symbolising the ongoing war, with ribbons bearing the names of fallen soldiers. The discussion addresses the challenges of memorialisation during wartime, collective remembrance, community participation, and the role of artists, architects, and civil society in shaping public memory. The proposal remains open to public discussion, with decisions on its implementation to involve the local community and city authorities. Watch the recording

New edited volume: The Routledge History of Communism

Edited by Melissa Feinberg and Lisa A. Kirschenbaum. Routledge, 2026.

This volume offers a global and comparative history of communism, tracing its intellectual origins, political transformations, and contemporary legacies. Bringing together scholars from diverse national and disciplinary backgrounds, it explores how communist ideas and institutions shaped everyday life in factories, villages, families, and schools, and how ordinary people influenced communist movements and states. Particular attention is given to race, gender, sexuality, and identity, reflecting recent developments in the historiography of communism. More information

New edited volume: Colonialisms and Queer Politics: Sexualities, Genders, and Unsettling Colonialities

Edited by Sonia Corrêa, Gustavo Gomes da Costa, and Matthew Waites. Oxford University Press, 2026.

This volume offers a comparative analysis of how eleven empires, including the Russian, Ottoman, British, and French, regulated sexuality and gender from the fifteenth century to the present. Bringing together historical and contemporary perspectives, it examines the intersections of colonial power, racial hierarchies, religious traditions, and gender norms, as well as the enduring influence of colonial legacies on LGBTIQ+ activism and state policies. The collection contributes to debates in queer, postcolonial, and decolonial studies by highlighting the diversity of imperial approaches to sexuality and gender. More information

New Article: Seeking Decolonising Solidarity — Mnemonic Diplomacy in Ukraine's Decolonisation Project
Oleksandra Terentyeva | *Journal of International Relations and Development* | September 23, 2026 | Open access

This article examines how Ukraine uses historical memory in diplomatic communication to seek international solidarity for its decolonisation project. Drawing on a corpus of 965 official texts issued between February 2021 and September 2024, it explores how Ukrainian diplomatic actors address audiences with different historical experiences and understandings of colonialism. The study contributes to discussions of memory politics, international solidarity, and the challenges of communicating Ukraine's decolonisation internationally. Read the article.

Opportunities / Calls

Conference calls

Ukrainian Art History – Working Through Uncertainties

Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA), Paris, France | March 4–5, 2027

Proposal deadline: November 8, 2026

This international conference invites scholars, artists, curators, and cultural professionals to rethink Ukrainian art history amid the challenges posed by fragmented archives, contested cultural memory, and marginalised artistic practices. Bringing together art history, visual culture, memory studies, and decolonial theory, the event explores how political regimes and academic institutions shape historical knowledge and determine which artistic traditions become visible. Travel, accommodation, and per diem expenses will be covered for selected participants. More information

Multiple Border Changes and Biographical Trajectories – The East Central European Borderlands in the Age of Territorial Revisionism, 1918–1941

University of Bern, Switzerland | June 30 – July 2, 2027

Proposal deadline: November 8, 2026

This conference examines how shifting borders shaped individual lives and communities in East Central Europe between the two world wars. Focusing on post-Habsburg territories and the Carpathian region, including Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, and Czechoslovakia, it explores the relationship between territorial transformations, personal experiences, and political agency. The event welcomes research on how individuals experienced, negotiated, and influenced changes in state boundaries. More information

Call for Papers: RUTA Annual Conference 2027 – Freedom: What It Is(n't)

Bukovyna Region, Ukraine | July 8–11, 2027

Proposal deadline: November 15, 2026

The RUTA Association invites contributions to its 2027 Annual Conference exploring the meanings, limits, and contradictions of freedom across historical and contemporary contexts. Drawing on histories of dissident thought and struggles against oppression, the conference welcomes decolonial, feminist, queer, and interdisciplinary perspectives on liberation, resistance, imperialism, and solidarity. Proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtables, and artistic engagements are encouraged, with particular emphasis on transregional dialogue and collaboration between scholars and practitioners. Limited travel grants are available for participants without full-time employment. More information and submission

Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference – Lessons from Ukraine Across Disciplines

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA | September 30 – October 2, 2027 | Hybrid

Proposal deadline: December 14, 2026

The biennial Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference invites interdisciplinary contributions exploring how Ukraine's historical and contemporary experiences can enrich global scholarship. The programme welcomes perspectives from history, politics, law, education, economics, technology, the humanities, and the arts. Graduate students, early-career researchers, and scholars based in Ukraine and the wider region are particularly encouraged to participate. Presentations may be delivered in English or Ukrainian, with opportunities for both in-person and online participation. More information

Call for Films: Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival 2027

Docudays UA, Ukraine | 2027 Festival

Final submission deadline: December 21, 2026

Docudays UA invites submissions of documentary films for its 2027 International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival. The festival provides a platform for filmmakers addressing human rights, social justice, conflict, and contemporary social transformations. Ukrainian productions and international co-productions involving Ukraine are eligible for free submission. The regular submission deadline is November 30, with a final deadline of December 21, 2026. More information and submission

Midwest Slavic Conference 2027 – Sound and Silence

Ohio State University, Columbus, USA | April 2–4, 2027

Proposal deadline: January 22, 2027

The 2027 Midwest Slavic Conference invites contributions examining the politics, cultural meanings, and historical experiences of sound and silence across Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Topics include censorship, propaganda, memory, identity, resistance, and the ways marginalised voices are represented or suppressed. Scholars from all career stages are welcome to submit individual papers or panel proposals. The programme particularly encourages interdisciplinary approaches to the relationship between silence, power, and historical narratives. More information

Publication calls

Call for Special Issue Proposals: Migration Studies
Oxford University Press | International, interdisciplinary journal
Proposal deadline: November 1, 2026

Migration Studies invites special issue proposals across migration research, including diaspora, gender, transnationalism, integration, and domestic and international politics. The call particularly encourages proposals led by or including scholars from the Global South, Global East, and non-anglophone regions. Collections may contain up to fifteen papers, including an introduction by the guest editors. Proposals should present a coherent research agenda, abstracts, contributor biographies, and a submission and review timetable. The call offers a potential venue for collaborative research on Ukrainian displacement and diaspora within wider comparative debates. More information and submission.

Jobs

Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researcher – Leibniz ScienceCampus

Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS), Regensburg, Germany | 12-month position, starting April 2027

Application deadline: November 30, 2026

The Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies invites applications for a full-time postdoctoral position within the ScienceCampus *Europe and America in the Modern World: Transformations and Frictions of Globality since the 19th Century*. The programme supports early-career scholars developing research on transatlantic relations, sovereignty, knowledge and cultural exchange, global inequalities, and migration. Applicants should have completed their doctoral defence within the past three years, with relevant career breaks taken into account. The position offers remuneration under the German TV-L E13 pay scale and support for developing future research funding applications. More information

Grants

International Research Competition on Communism 2026

Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, Estonia

Submission deadline: November 1, 2026

The Estonian Institute of Historical Memory invites early-career scholars aged 35 or younger to submit completed, unpublished Master's or doctoral theses on the history of communist ideology and regimes. Eligible research includes studies of political repression, human rights violations, imperial expansion, and the social, economic, and environmental consequences of communist rule. Theses must have been defended in 2025 or 2026 and may examine any national or comparative context, including Ukraine. Awards of €1,500 and €3,000 are offered for the best Master's and doctoral theses, respectively. More information and application

ETH Zurich: Innovate Cities and Infrastructure Research Grants

ETH for Development (ETH4D), Switzerland | Collaborative research grants

Application deadline: November 15, 2026

ETH Zurich invites applications for collaborative research projects addressing sustainable urban development, infrastructure, and reconstruction, with expanded thematic opportunities

for Ukraine. The programme supports partnerships between researchers from ETH Domain institutions and local organisations, including public institutions, civil society groups, and private-sector partners. Eligible topics include infrastructure resilience, urban governance, public services, energy, environmental protection, and postwar recovery. Urban Research Grants provide up to CHF 350,000, while smaller pilot grants are also available. More information

Fellowships and Courses

Online Course: Istoria — Lessons for the Present

Ukrainian Institute London | September 8 – October 27, 2026 | Online

Curated by Olesya Khromeychuk, this eight-week course explores key themes in Ukrainian history, including imperialism, genocide, occupation, citizenship, resistance, and statehood. Featuring leading scholars such as Volodymyr Yermolenko, Eugene Finkel, Yaroslav Hrytsak, Serhy Yekelchyk, and others, the programme examines how Ukraine's historical experiences inform contemporary debates on democracy, identity, and civic resilience. Sessions include live lectures and Q&A discussions, with recordings available for on-demand access. Participants also receive curated reading materials and a digital certificate of completion. More information

Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE) 2027

Sofia, Bulgaria | June 2–18, 2027

Application deadline: October 28, 2026

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS) invite applications for a research residency bringing together scholars working on East Central and Southeastern Europe, including Ukraine. Open to postdoctoral and advanced researchers in the humanities and interpretive social sciences, the programme provides opportunities for individual research, writing, archival work, and interdisciplinary exchange. The residency covers travel, accommodation, and per diem expenses. More information and application

Ukrainian Research Fellowship Programme (URFP) – Spring 2027

Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES), Södertörn University, Sweden | Spring 2027

Application deadline: October 30, 2026

Södertörn University invites applications for up to six visiting research fellowships for Ukrainian scholars currently residing and working at academic institutions in Ukraine. The programme supports research stays of one to three months, particularly in the humanities, social sciences, teacher education, and environmental sciences. Open to postdoctoral researchers, lecturers, and professors, the fellowship provides opportunities for independent research and collaboration with Swedish colleagues. Living expenses in Stockholm and travel costs to and from Ukraine are fully covered. More information and application

PhD and Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Aleksander Brückner Centre for Polish Studies

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany | Up to 5 months in 2027

Application deadline: October 31, 2026

The Aleksander Brückner Centre for Polish Studies is inviting applications from doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers from Ukraine and Poland for a research fellowship. This opportunity is part of the project titled *"Entangled State Formations: Polish, Ukrainian, and German Experiences in Times of Transformation 1918 and 1989/91*." The fellowship supports interdisciplinary research on state formation and historical transformations, offering opportunities for archival work, academic exchange, and participation in the Centre's activities. Funding of up to €1,700 per month is available, depending on qualifications. Residence in Halle is required, with research visits to other locations encouraged. More information

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Social Sciences

Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden | Full-time, up to 24 months

Application deadline: October 31, 2026

Södertörn University invites applications for a postdoctoral position within the international research project "(Re)Constructing Modern Ukraine — People, Institutions, and the Environment," conducted in cooperation with the Kyiv School of Economics and partner institutions in Stockholm and Rome. The position focuses on public opinion during wartime, urban resilience, and reconstruction in Ukraine. Responsibilities include data analysis and collaborative research publications. Applicants should hold a PhD in a relevant social science discipline and have experience in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Ukrainian language proficiency is a significant advantage. The position starts in January 2027 or as agreed. More information

Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (VUIAS) Fellowships 2027–2028

VUIAS | October 2027 – July 2028

Application deadline: November 15, 2026

The Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (VUIAS) invites applications for up to 15 ten-month fellowships supporting scholars who reside and work at academic institutions in Ukraine. Open to PhD holders across all disciplines, the programme enables researchers to pursue independent projects while participating in an interdisciplinary academic community and international scholarly exchange. Fellows remain at their home institutions and receive monthly stipends of €500 for postdoctoral researchers or €1,000 for professors. Applications must be submitted in English. More information and application

Wayne Vucinich Fellowship 2027

Stanford University, USA | April–June 2027

Application deadline: November 15, 2026

Stanford University's Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) invites applications for a three-month residential research fellowship. Open to scholars across disciplines who received their PhD within the past five years, the programme supports research on Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Preference is given to scholars residing in these regions, including Ukraine. The fellowship provides a $15,000 stipend, international travel funding, health insurance, visa support, and access to Stanford's libraries and archives. Fellows are expected to present their research and participate in the Center's academic activities. More information and application

Members' News

Congratulations to our members for their new achievements!

Keynote Lecture: Ambicoloniality — Cultural Proximity, Agency, and the Afterlives of Empire
Svitlana Biedarieva | KIU Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies

Svitlana Biedarieva delivered the keynote “Ambicoloniality: Cultural Proximity, Agency, and the Afterlives of Empire” at the Summer School of the KIU Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies. More information.

If you have any information relevant to this newsletter, please send it to ukraine.decolonial@gmail.com.

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Sincerely,

Ukraine Decolonial Studies Network Executive Board