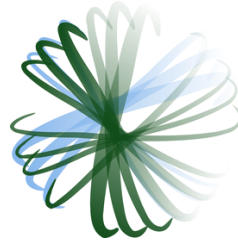

Thursday, 30 March 2023
19:00 - 20:15 CET / 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM EST

TATIANA VAGRAMENKO

University College Cork

Faith and War: Grassroots Ukrainian Protestantism in the Context of the Russian
Invasion



THE WORKING GROUP
ON LIVED RELIGION
IN EASTERN EUROPE
AND EURASIA

With commentary by Catherine Wanner, Penn State University department of History.

This presentation provides an insight into everyday life of Evangelical Christians in war-torn Ukraine and their search for answers to questions posed by destructions, violence, and the increasing militarization of Ukrainian society. The study also discusses how Ukrainian Protestant believers revise their historical legacy and memory in the context of war-time disintegration of old (post)Soviet religious networks. The Russia's aggression against Ukraine since 2014, and particularly its major escalation since February 2022, had an enormous effect on the religious landscape not only in Ukraine, but in what used to be the post-Soviet space. The war ruptured last post-Soviet alliances between churches and congregations, bringing to life new religious identities and triggering new moral challenges.

Most Protestant movements in Ukraine were formed during the Soviet Union, hence, the Soviet legacy shaped the foundation for historical, institutional and identity continuity for many Ukrainian believers and faith communities. Besides, various post-Soviet Eurasian unions within Baptist, Pentecostal or Adventist movements mirrored Soviet – thus Russian-centred – structures. Their war-time disintegration had longstanding consequences as it was Ukraine – “the Bible belt of the Soviet Union” – that traditionally supplied with ministers, pastors, and missionaries the vast (post)Soviet religious networks. Indeed, Ukraine was the heart of Soviet and post-Soviet Evangelical Christianity but, at the same time, never had its distinct ethnically or nationally coloured historical memory. The war urged to often wrenching revision of and search for new historical identities and memory amongst Ukrainian believers.

Meeting Link [Here](#)

No pre registration necessary. All are welcome!
