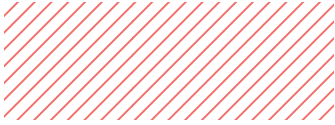




CENTRE  
FOR APPLIED  
ANTHROPOLOGY



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KYIV/JUNE 21- 22, 2018

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IMAGINARY

**BORDERLANDS**

'Othering' and 'Domestic Others' on Post-Soviet Frontiers

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Center for Governance and  
Culture in Europe  
University of St.Gallen

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG  
KYIV

RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES



The Centre for Applied Anthropology

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies

The Working Group on Religion in the Black Sea Region

The Center for Governance and Culture in Europe of  
the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland)

Heinrich Böll Stiftung Ukraine

Second International Interdisciplinary Workshop for Young Scholars

**Imaginary Borderlands:  
'Othering' and 'Domestic Others' on Post-Soviet Frontiers**

KYIV, June 21 – 22, 2018

# THE IDEA

Social anthropology interprets the notion of 'border' and 'borderlands' as some physical space; it suggests something located 'between', in a contact area; a territory where the discontinuity becomes a little out of focus (Herzfeld 2001). Interdisciplinary research of 'border studies' in Eastern Europe reflects the internal complexity and dynamics of social-cultural changes in a region that has constantly faced political, social and economic challenges, including shifting borders and massive in and out migrations. The category of '*borderland*' acquires a new urgency in the current context of social and political change and instability in Eastern Europe, especially in post-Soviet areas. Nowadays we witness how unprotected and flexible state borders are. Political elites use the idea of 'common cultural heritage' or 'common history' to revise the borders of another state.

The western border of Ukraine can be considered a border of post trauma, while the eastern border is one of actual traumatic experience. However, current painful changes on Ukrainian eastern borderlands, including new 'borders' with the unrecognized republics of 'LPR' and 'DPR', the huge dimension of displaced people and migrations abroad evoked conflicts of memory between neighbours on its western borderlands, which include the former boundaries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland and Romania. Thus, the ongoing crisis in Ukraine has already exacerbated existing conflicts among various social groups, reducing the general level of social trust and tolerance. Therefore, we urgently need to enhance understanding among various culture agents and encourage different social groups to look for strategies to understand their neighbours and

*'domestic others'*. For this purpose, we suggest to discuss the multiplicity of imaginary borders that occurs when hidden wounds, traumas and stereotypes dominate the experience of real communication. The discourse of *'imaginary borders'* coincides with the process of 'othering' and divides social groups from each other.

The case of Ukrainian society reflects the problems and challenges of post-socialist and post-Soviet states on its local level. We encourage young scholars, representing various disciplines, to reflect upon the following questions: what does the process of 'othering' mean for Ukrainian society and societies in the post-Soviet space; who are those *'domestic others'* living nearby; how to avoid the stigmatization of 'others' on a social and political level; is 'multicultural tolerance' is a myth created by scholars, journalists and 'opinion makers'; how can post-colonial theories be applied to the processes of 'othering' on post-Soviet frontiers; how should we perceive the notion of 'frontier' given the ongoing political challenges and shifting borders in Eastern Europe, etc.

The workshop will offer debates on the 'border studies' as a scholarly field, on the multi-sited perceptions of 'other'; on the narratives of East and West in Ukraine, and broader – on Post-Soviet space, and on the institutions that conserve the past or construct new horizons of expectations and identities. We focus not on 'real' history, but on images that can be seen through articulations of a local point of view, stressing on the experiences and perceptions of the 'Other'.

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## Expected results of the Workshop:

- pursuing critical reflection on the history and nature of 'border studies' as a scholarly field, and on the narratives of 'borders', 'borderlands' and 'frontiers' in the region;
- enhancing an understanding of the 'othering' problem for the present discourse of the post-Soviet frontiers;
- debating ethical issues of ethnographic fieldwork in stigmatized communities and among 'domestic others';
- developing cooperation among NGO actors, volunteers and researches;
- building a sustainable network by encouraging an epistemic community in the region on the theme of the workshop.

## Organizing Committee:

Iuliia Buyskykh  
Olena Sobolieva  
Oksana Ovsiuk

## Working Language:

English

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## Time Limit:

### Lecture:

Lecture: 60 minutes  
Discussion: 30 minutes

### Panel

Paper presentation: 20 minutes  
Discussant's talk: 20 minutes  
After-panel discussion: 30 minutes

**Venue**     **Freud House Open Space**  
Kostyantynivska street, 21, second floor, *Kimnata Snovydin*

9.30 – 10.00     **Registration of participants**

10.00 – 10.15     **Welcome and Introduction**

**Iuliia Buyskykh, Bogdan Halaiko**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

10.15 – 11.45     **Keynote Lecture**

by **Tomasz Zarycki**  
University of Warsaw, Poland

***The New Borderlands Discourse and Its Ambiguities***

*The lecture will attempt to deconstruct the idealistic assumptions of what will be called the new borderlands discourse, including its normative character and implications, such as implicit orientalism. In the context of Poland, which will be the main point of reference for this paper, the new borderlands discourse is often opposed to what can be called the old borderlands discourse of “Kresy” which can be seen as a conservative “ideology of eastness” and as a traditional Polish orientalist discourse. In the conclusion, it will be suggested that the new borderlands discourse may be seen as playing an important role in naturalization of the privileged role of the intelligentsia.*

Moderator **Iuliia Buyskykh**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

11.45 – 12.00     **Coffee-break**



12.00 - 14.00 **PANEL I**

*Heterotopia and the City: 'Other' Spaces in Post-Soviet Urban Dwellings*

Chair and Moderator **Tina Polek**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

12.00 - 12.20 **Oleksandra Gaidai**

Museum of History of Kyiv, Ukraine

*Inside Ukraine: Politics of Memory and Historical Attitudes in Odesa, Dnipro and Kharkiv*

12.20 - 12.40 **Daria Antsybor**

Jewish Educational Complex *Shchastia*, Ukraine

*The Ripple of Own and Others' Space at Maidan: The Borders of the Revolution of Dignity on the Mental Map of Kyiv*

12.40 - 13.00 **Dagmar Zdražilová**

University of Cambridge, UK

*Imaginary Borders in Berlin: Architecture, Politics and 'the Other'*

13.00 - 13.20 Discussant **Jens Adam**

Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

13.20 - 13.50 **Questions and Discussion**

13.50 - 15.00 **Lunch** at restaurant *Mafia*  
Verkhniy Val street, 24

15.00 – 16.50 **PANEL II**

*Invisible Borders and Imaginary Others in Post-Communist Hierarchies of Knowledge*

Chair and Moderator **Olena Sobolieva**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

15.00 – 15.20 **Matej Butko**

Comenius University of Bratislava, Slovakia

*Representation of Ukrainian Cross-Border Communities at Schengen Borderlands: the Role of Informality in Distinction of 'the Other'*

15.20 – 15.40 **Justyna Szymańska**

University of Warsaw, Poland

*Activism and Civic Engagement as Notions of 'Otherness' in the Frontier Region*

15.40 – 16.00 **Ignacy Józwiak**

University of Warsaw, Poland

*Beyond the Nation State: The West, the Post-Soviet and the Hierarchies of Knowledge*

16.00 – 16.20 Discussant **Yuliia Soroka**

N.V. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine

16.20 – 16.50 **Questions and Discussion**

16.50 – 17.05 **Coffee-break**

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17.05 – 18.35 **Presentation**

by **Dinil Pushpalal**

Tohoku University, Japan

***The Concept of Human Security***

*What is the difference between human and state security and how concept of human security has been grown in Japan.*

Moderator **Oksana Ovsiuk**

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

**Venue** Freud House Open Space  
Kostyantynivska street, 21, second floor, *Kimnata Snovydin*

**10.00 – 11.30** Keynote Lecture

by **Mathijs Pelkmans**  
London School of Economics, UK

***Ambiguity and Clarity in the Georgian-Turkish Borderland***

*This presentation aims to elucidate processes of othering and identification in the borderlands. It draws on long-term research along the Georgian border with Turkey, and revolves around three ethnographic vignettes, pertaining to: (a) Christian ancestors and Muslim enemies on the religious frontier; (b) National borders and the invention of Laz culture; (c) Family and betrayal in cross-boundary interaction. Subsequent contextualization of each vignette will demonstrate why borderland ambiguity was repressed in the period following the opening of the Iron Curtain, and how this relates to the politics of identity in contexts of uncertainty. The presentation will affirm Daphne Berdahl's suggestion that "in the borderlands ambiguity creates clarity," while extending this insight by arguing that in the borderlands, attempts to produce clarity necessarily creates new ambiguities. Faced with these contradicting tendencies, what is needed is an analysis of how the virtual and the real are intertwined in historically unfolding processes of boundary drawing.*

Moderator **Olena Sobolieva**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

**11.30 – 11.50** Coffee-break

12.00 - 14.00 **PANEL I**

*Constructing New Identities, Challenging Soviet Burdens:  
From Central Asia to Eastern Europe*

Chair and Moderator **Iuliia Buyskykh**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

12.00 - 12.20 **Elżbieta Olzacka**

Jagiellonian University, Poland

*The Strategies of 'Othering' During the Tajik Civil War  
(1992-1997) and in Post-War Tajikistan*

12.20 - 12.40 **Julia Andreeva**

Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Russia

*Through the National Borders: Russian Religious Community in  
the South Caucasus*

12.40 - 13.00 **Yana Volkova**

Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Ukraine

*Constructing 'Domestic Abroad': Russian Diaspora Engagement  
Policy on the Post-Soviet Space*

13.00 - 13.20 Discussant **Catherine Wanner**

Pennsylvania State University, USA

13.20 - 13.50 **Questions and Discussion**

13.50 - 15.00 **Lunch** at restaurant *Mafia*

Verkhniy Val street, 24

15.00 – 16.50 **PANEL II**

***'Domestic Others' in Competing Discourses of Ukrainian Crisis (2014 - 2018)***

Chair and Moderator **Oksana Ovsiiuk**  
Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

15.00 – 15.20 **Darya Tsymbalyuk**

Donbas Odyssey Project, Ukraine

*Oral Histories from Donbas: Resisting Names, Subverting Imposed Narratives, Reclaiming Space*

15.20 – 15.40 **Vsevolod Gerasimov**

University of Manchester, UK/Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, Russia

*The Internat in Z City: Donbas Inhabitants as Imagined Others in the Contemporary Ukrainian War Literature*

15.40 – 16.00 **Masha Beketova**

Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

*Queer Representations? LGBTIQ as 'Domestic Others' in Ukraine*

16.00 – 16.20 Discussant **Simon Schlegel**

Eastern-Ukrainian Centre for Civic Initiatives, Ukraine

16.20 – 16.50 **Questions and Discussion**

June 22, 2018

DAY 2

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16.50 – 17.10 **Final Discussion**

Moderator **Iuliia Buyskykh**

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

18.00 **Dinner** at restaurant *Silvio D'Italia*  
Verkhniy Val street, 23

# PARTICIPANTS

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<b>Jens Adam</b>	Dr., Lecturer in Cultural/Social Anthropology in the Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
<b>Julia Andreeva</b>	Dr., Junior Researcher, Department of Caucasus, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography ( <i>Kunstkamera</i> ) Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia
<b>Daria Antsybor</b>	Dr., Lecturer in Jewish Educational Complex <i>Shchastia</i> (Kyiv), Ukraine
<b>Masha Beketova</b>	Ph.D. student in Slavonic Cultural Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
<b>Matej Butko</b>	Ph.D. student in the Institute of Social Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia
<b>Iuliia Buyskykh</b>	Dr., Researcher in Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Kyiv), NGO 'The Centre for Applied Anthropology', Ukraine
<b>Oleksandra Gaidai</b>	Dr., Senior Research Fellow, Museum of History of Kyiv, Ukraine
<b>Vsevolod Gerasimov</b>	M.A student in Public history, University of Manchester, UK / Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, Russia
<b>Ignacy Józwiak</b>	Researcher in the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw, Poland



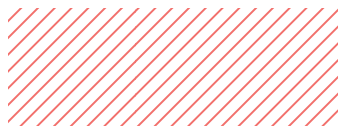
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<b>Elżbieta Olzacka</b>	Assistant Professor in the Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations, Faculty of Philosophy, Jagiellonian University, Poland
<b>Oksana Ovsiiuk</b>	Dr., Researcher in Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Kyiv), NGO 'The Centre for Applied Anthropology', Ukraine
<b>Mathijs Pelkmans</b>	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics, UK
<b>Dinil Pushpalal</b>	Professor of International Resources Policy and Human Security, Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University, Japan
<b>Tina Polek</b>	Dr., Researcher in Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Kyiv), NGO 'The Centre for Applied Anthropology', Ukraine
<b>Simon Schlegel</b>	Dr. phil., NGO 'Eastern-Ukrainian Centre for Civic Initiatives' (Kyiv, Ukraine). Project manager and researcher in project 'Empowering Civil Society for a Transformation of Commemorative Culture' (by German Ministry for International Cooperation and Development)
<b>Olena Sobolieva</b>	Dr., Researcher in Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Kyiv), Head of NGO 'The Centre for Applied Anthropology', Ukraine
<b>Yuliia Soroka</b>	Professor at the Department of Sociology, N.V. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine

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<b>Justyna Szymańska</b>	Ph.D. candidate in the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw, NGO 'Pracownia etnograficzna', Poland
<b>Darya Tsymbalyuk</b>	Coordinator and researcher in Donbas Odyssey Project, Ukraine
<b>Yana Volkova</b>	Dr., Lecturer in Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Philology Department, Ukraine
<b>Catherine Wanner</b>	Professor in Religious Studies, History and Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University, USA
<b>Dagmar Zdražilová</b>	Dr., University of Cambridge, UK
<b>Tomasz Zarycki</b>	Dr. hab., Associate Professor and Director of Robert Zajonc Institute for Social Studies, Head of the Center for Social Change and Mobility Research, University of Warsaw, Poland





DESIGNED BY VERONIKA KOSYCHUK