

Lecture Series

Ukrainian Evenings in Uni Graz: War Blackout - Highlights from Ukrainian Scholars at Risk

March 23 – June 1, 2023
18.00–19.30 Uhr

Resowi, Universitätsstr. 15, Part C,
1st floor, SR 15.15

The lecture series offers a multidisciplinary perspective (Human Geography, Political Science, Pedagogics, Media studies, Gender Studies, Literature) on different fields and aspects of life in Ukraine with a special highlight on the impact of Russian invasion and war in Ukraine. The concept of the lecture series is very similar to Ukrainian traditional social practice called “Vechornitsi” – evening gathering for leisure and communication. In the situation of blackouts (no electricity) in lots of Ukrainian cities these lecture series symbolically bring LIGHT on the continuing military aggression of the Russian Federation and the Ukrainian people’s resistance and struggle. The lecture series are held in the framework of the Field of Excellence “Dimensions of Europeanisation” and open to all interested participants.

March 23rd | Lecture

“Destination Branding in Ukraine: Cases of Rural Territorial Communities and Big Cities”
(by Dr. Mariia Rastvorova)

March 30th | Lecture

“Language Education and Language Use in Ukraine during the War”
(by Dr. Larysa Sanotska)

April 20th | Lecture

“Variety of Women’s Protests: The Mobilizing Effects”
(by Dr. Olena Kharytonova)

May 4th | Lecture

Kriegsmetaphorik in der Propagandasprache (Ukraine-Krieg) (by Dr. Oksana Pavlychko)

May 11th | Lecture

“Ukrainian Literature and Russian Colonization: Colonial, Anticolonial, and Postcolonial Discourses” (by Dr. Nataliia Kovtoniuk)

May 25th | Lecture

“A Value-based Paradigm in the Context of Democratic Transit in Ukraine”
(by Dr. Alina Iovcheva)

June 1st | Lecture

“Digital Transformation – a Way to Keeping System of Education in Ukraine Resilient”
(by Dr. Olena Beskorsa)

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Centre for Southeast European Studies
Zentrum für Südosteuropastudien

Dr. Mariia Rastvorova is a Postdoctoral research fellow of “ComPASS” research group in the Institute of Geography and Regional Sciences of the University of Graz and an Associate Professor of the Tourism Department in the University of Law and Economics “KROK” (Kyiv, Ukraine). Being both a scholar in the field of Human Geography and a tourism development practitioner, Dr. Rastvorova works on the issues of nation and destination branding, tourism recovery and regional development.

Dr. Olena Kharytonova, Fellow at the Center for Southeast European Studies and Institute of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Criminology, University of Graz, and an Associate Professor at the Criminal Law Department, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (Kharkiv, Ukraine). Her academic and research interests are in the areas of criminal law, women’s rights, non-discrimination, gender based violence, human rights, human rights in times of conflict, conflict related sexual violence. Olena is OSCE Legal Expert, Program Expert «JusticeForAll» in USAID. A Member of the Association of Women’s Lawyers of Ukraine “JurFem”. A columnist of the Internet resource “Women are 50% of Ukraine’s success”.

Dr. Oksana Pavlychko currently conducts research on the question of “Modern Propaganda Language and Information Wars”. Associate professor of the department of Germanic Philology, Taras Shevchenko Kyiv national university, Ukraine. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS: teaching practical and theoretical courses on Intercultural Communication: Rhetoric and Argumentation; Contrastive Linguistics.

Dr. Alina Iovcheva Visiting research fellow in the field of excellence „Dimensions of Europeanisation“. Dr. Alina Iovcheva is a PhD in Political Science, an Associate Professor at the History Department of Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (Mykolaiv, Ukraine). Currently, she is researching the issue of „Implementation of European Values as a Basis of Transitions to Democracy in Southeastern European Countries“. An individual research fellowship is based on identification and analysis of the specifics of the process of implementing European values in the democratic transits of Southeast Europe.

Dr. Larysa Sanotska Fellow at the the Department of ELT Research and Methodology at the Institute of English Studies at Karl-Franzens University in Graz, an Associate Professor of the Department of English Philology, Lviv National Ivan Franko University (Lviv, Ukraine). Her academic and research interests include psychology of language learning and teaching, psycholinguistics, language acquisition, methodology of foreign language teaching, English for Academic Purposes. Dr. Sanotska is the Head of the Methodology Council of the Faculty of Foreign Languages (Lviv University), member of International teachers’ organizations: International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, European Association for Language Testing and Assessment, Eurozean Association for The Teaching of Academic Writing.

Dr. Olena Beskorsa, a research fellow in the field of excellence “Dimensions of Europeanisation” in summer semester 2022. Associate Professor of the Department of Primary Education Theory and Practice at State Higher Educational Institution “Donbas State Pedagogical University” (Sloviansk, Ukraine). The field of expertise includes fostering digital transformation of higher education and implementing innovative educational practices in teacher training through digital technology. Dr. Beskorsa has an experience of participation in international project “Enhancing Democracy Education in Ukraine, Norway and Palestine” (2018–2022), Jean Monnet Modules within the Erasmus+ Programme “Ukraine – EU: Intercultural Communication in Education” (2020–2023) and “EU Practices in Media Education” (2022–2025).

Dr. Nataliia Kovtoniuk, Visiting research fellow in the field of excellence “Dimensions of Europeanisation“. Her main research interests include postcolonialism, the colonization of Ukraine by the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, and its effect on Ukrainian literature and Ukrainian national identity. Perceiving literature as a part of the discourse of the society and a powerful tool for creating, transmitting, and spreading ideology and socially relevant narratives Nataliia investigates how literature is used to maintain the power of empire and create an imperialistic, colonial, anti-colonial, and postcolonial picture of the world.