

## FROM SOVIET TO INDEPENDENT UKRAINE: A TIME OF CHANGE

The current situation, above all Ukraine facing Russia's full-scale invasion, encourages historians to explore anew the time of the breakup of the Soviet Union and of Soviet Ukraine, the international and national contexts of the birth of the Ukrainian state in 1991 and the deep and long-lasting transformation of Ukrainian society in the late 1980s and 1990s. The German-Ukrainian Historical Commission devotes in 2024 its annual conference to this era by discussing its key features and long-lasting effects. A space of experiences and expectations opened up during this time which deserves a more detailed investigation in order to assess its overall significance for Ukraine today.

The conference organizers invite applicants to present their research on new trends in the field of grassroots activism in Ukraine ('perestroika from below'), trans-regional cultural, social and political entanglements, critical geopolitics or ruptures and continuities in historical narratives, memories and scholarship.

### ORGANIZERS

Gelinada Grinchenko, Guido Hausmann, Tanja Penter and Franziska Schedewie

### CONFERENCE VENUE

Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg,  
Hauptstraße 242, 69117 Heidelberg

### COOPERATION PARTNERS

International Academic Forum Heidelberg  
University of Heidelberg



The conference of the German-Ukrainian Historical Commission is kindly supported by



with the funds of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

Deutsch-Ukrainische  
Українсько-німецька  
Historische Kommission  
історична комісія

NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE GERMAN-UKRAINIAN  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## From Soviet to Independent Ukraine: A Time of Change

23 – 24 September 2024 – Heidelberg

[www.duhk.org](http://www.duhk.org)

Layout Sebastian Lehnert, Leipzig

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Українсько-німецька  
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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

9.00 – 9.30

### Opening Remarks

**Tanja Penter** and **Franziska Schedewie** (Heidelberg)

9.30 – 13.30

### Panel 1 – Democratic Processes and Nation Building

9.30 – 11.00 – First Part

*Chair* **Anja Senz** (Heidelberg)

**Fabian Baumann** (Heidelberg): “Well-Known and Sincerely Loved”: Banal Nationalism, Republican Pride, and Symbolic Ethnicity in Late Soviet Ukraine

**Alexandra Pulvermacher** (Klagenfurt): Chornobyl’ as the “Stimulus of all Democratic Processes in Ukraine?”  
**Iurii Shcherbak**, and the Environmental Movement’s Impact on Ukraine’s Journey to Independence

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break in between the Panel

11.30 – 13.00 – Second Part

**Andriy Kohut** (Kyiv): Following the Unexpected Path: the KGB in Ukraine under Perestroika Challenges

**Anna G. Piotrowska** (Cracow): The Role of Music Festivals in the Transition Period from Soviet to Independent Ukraine

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.45

### Panel 2 – Everyday Life and Rethinking of Soviet Norms

*Chair* **Gelinada Grinchenko** (Wuppertal)

**Francis Kirk** (Potsdam): The Reconstruction of the Late Soviet Criminal in Ukraine: Examining Glasnost and Criminal Discourses in the Ukrainian Regional Press, 1985 – 1992

**Paul Primbs** (Munich): Overcoming Romanticization and the post-Soviet Frame of Reference? Youth and Crime in Ukrainian Feature Films about the 1990s.

**Olena Panych** (Dresden): From “Soviet Baptists” to “Eurasian Brotherhood” to National Church: The Slow Evolution of Evangelicals in Ukraine throughout the Period of Independence

18.00

### Talk with the Ukrainian Ambassador Oleksii Makeiev about Ukraine at War and Ukrainian-German Relations in Historical Perspective

20.00

Dinner

## TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2024

9.00 – 10.30

### Panel 3 – Shifting Perspectives and Narratives in the Ukrainian Village

*Chair* **Guido Hausmann** (Regensburg)

**Oleksandr Pankieiev** (Edmonton): Narratives of Belonging and Otherness among Steppe Ukraine Villagers

**Natalia Khanenko Friesen** (Edmonton): Difficult Memories of Decollectivization in Post-Soviet Ukraine: Rural Perspectives

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 – 13.15

### Panel 4 – Academics and the Challenges of Change

*Chair* **Yuri Shapoval** (Kyiv)

**Tobias Wals** (Munich): Professor turned Defector: A Case Study of Nationally-Motivated Defection from the Soviet Union

**Iurii Zazuliak** (Leipzig/Munich): Entangled Temporalities of National Commemoration and Academic History-Writing in Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Ukraine

**Matthias Kaltenbrunner** (Munich): A Diaspora Historian and the Rebirth of *Krayeznavstvo* in a West Ukrainian Town – *online*

13.15 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.45

### Panel 5 – Entanglements and Repercussions

*Chair* **Anna Veronika Wendland** (Marburg)

**Franziska Davies** (Munich): Perebudova and Polish-Ukrainian Interactions in the 1980s

**Franziska Schedewie** (Heidelberg): Being Ukrainian, Being Soviet in the Media: The Case of Vitaly Korotich

**Olga Gontarska** (Independent Researcher): Ukrainian Film Industry. Structural, Economic and Cultural Entanglements at the Time of Upheaval

16.45 – 17.15

### Concluding Discussion and Closing Remarks

**Guido Hausmann** (Regensburg) and **Gelinada Grinchenko** (Wuppertal)

18.00

Dinner

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2024 9.00 – 11.30

**Meeting of the Commission**  
(only for Members of the Commission)