

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

Layout Sebastian Lehnert, Leipzig

Deutsch-Ukrainische
Українсько-німецька
Historische Kommission
історична комісія

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”? Zelenyi svit and 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 (Krakow): 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 Grichenko** (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

Evening Event with the Ambassador

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): Articulating trauma of decollectivization in the 1980s – 1990s in Ukraine: rural perspectives in Ukraine

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): Beyond the Archives: A Diaspora Historian and his Sources

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 Vitalii 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 Grichenko** (Wuppertal)

18.00

Dinner

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2024 9.00 – 11.30

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