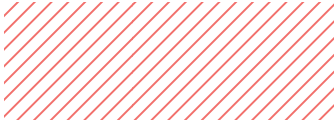




CENTRE
FOR APPLIED
ANTHROPOLOGY



KYIV/JUNE 21- 22, 2018

IMAGINARY

BORDERLANDS

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



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



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
KYIV

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'.

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

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**

17.05 – 18.35 **Presentation**

by **Dinil Pushpalal**

Tohoku University, Japan

The Concept of Human Security

A special presentation about the concept of human security, which shifts the focus from state/territorial security towards the security of the societies, groups or individuals. The concept of human security is being promoted by different governments and NGO and is used in UN Development Reports since 1994.

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

16.50 – 17.10 **Final Discussion**

Moderator **Iuliia Buyskykh**

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Ukraine

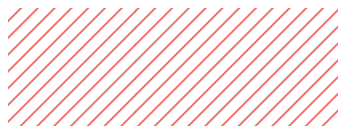
18.00 **Dinner** at restaurant *Silvio D'Italia*
Verkhniy Val street, 23

PARTICIPANTS

Jens Adam	Dr., Lecturer in Cultural/Social Anthropology in the Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany
Julia Andreeva	Dr., Junior Researcher, Department of Caucasus, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (<i>Kunstkamera</i>) Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia
Daria Antsybor	Dr., Lecturer in Jewish Educational Complex <i>Shchastia</i> (Kyiv), Ukraine
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Matej Butko	Ph.D. student in the Institute of Social Anthropology, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia
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Ignacy Józwiak	Researcher in the Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw, Poland

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Dinil Pushpalal	Professor of International Resources Policy and Human Security, Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University, Japan
Tina Polek	Dr., Researcher in Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies (Kyiv), NGO 'The Centre for Applied Anthropology', Ukraine
Simon Schlegel	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)
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Darya Tsymbalyuk	Coordinator and researcher in Donbas Odyssey Project, Ukraine
Yana Volkova	Dr., Lecturer in Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Philology Department, Ukraine
Catherine Wanner	Professor in Religious Studies, History and Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University, USA
Dagmar Zadražilová	Dr., University of Cambridge, UK
Tomasz Zarycki	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



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