

German Historical Institute Warsaw
Forum Transregionale Studien Berlin, Prisma Ukraina – Research Network
Eastern Europe

together with the
German-Ukrainian Historical Commission

supported by the
German Embassy in Warsaw

**Reading War through History: (Central) European Perspectives on the
“Ukraine Crisis”**

Warsaw, 12–14 June 2017

The dissolution of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the enlargement of the European Union, the “Ukraine Crisis” and the war in Donbas were interpreted and legitimized with historical arguments. The notions of “Central Europe” and the “Russian world” were based on historical claims. Why did and does history still play such an important role as a mobilizing and legitimizing force? Why and how did historical interpretations manage to replace or put into question international law or economic considerations? Why and how exactly is history used outside of the “conflict areas” to explain, interpret and contextualize the conflicts, and what is the role of academic historians?

History constantly appears at the center of public debate and power struggles: via the concepts of newly created museums and school textbooks, via “memorial legislation”, “history codification” and state institutions of “historical memory”, and in political proclamations of certain historical events as “genocides”. Our conference aims at analyzing those phenomena from a transregional perspective using the Ukrainian case as a focus to be studied in a comparative and entangled frame. It also faces the fundamental question of the historian’s professional position in times of political instability, the rise of xenophobic and nationalistic tendencies, and the revival of “national narratives”.

Monday, 12 June 2017

Arrival of the participants

Evening Lecture, 19.00

Andrii Portnov (Berlin), *History as a Reason and as an Explanation of Political Violent Conflict. The Ukrainian Case in Transregional Perspective* (in Polish)

Tuesday, 13 June 2017

10.00 – 10.30 Welcome Address by Miloš Řezník and Andrii Portnov

10.30 – 13.30 Conference Panel *“History as an Explanation of the ‘Ukraine Crisis’: Internal Dimensions”*

Chair: **Carmen Scheide** (St. Gallen)

Oleksandr Zabirko (Münster), From Alternative History to Alternative Reality: The (Geo)Political Visions of Post-Soviet Speculative Fiction in the Light of the “Ukraine Crisis”

Martin Malek (Vienna), The Soviet Donetsk-Kryvyj Rih Republic of 1918 and its Afterlife in the Post-Soviet Era

Oleksandr Osipian (Kramatorsk), Uses of History in Ukrainian Politics: From Identity-Making and Electoral Technologies to the “Project of Novorossiia” and the War in Donbas

Volodymyr Sklokin (L`viv), Ukrainian Historiography in the Face of the Annexation of Crimea and the War in Donbas

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch

15.30 – 17.30 Conference Panel *“History as an Explanation of the ‘Ukraine Crisis’: External Dimensions”*

Chair: **Felix Ackermann** (Warsaw)

Mihai Varga (Berlin), “Drama Nationalists”: Right-Wing Hungarian Intellectuals and the Ukraine Crisis

Kai Struve (Halle), History in the German Debate on the “Ukraine Crisis”

Guido Hausmann (Regensburg), Ukraine and Europe in the German Discussion 2013–2015

18.00 Panel Discussion *“Intellectuals in the Face of the European Crisis”* (open to the public)

Mykola Riabchuk (Kyiv), **Jan C. Behrends** (Potsdam), **Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja** (Vienna)

Chair: **Gerhard Gnauck** (tbc)

20.00 Reception at the German Embassy in Warsaw (for active participants)

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

10.00 – 14.00 Conference Panel *“Historical Controversies at the Time of War: Wołyn 1943 and Other Cases”*.

Chair: **Yaroslav Hrytsak** (L'viv, tbc)

Maciej Górny (Warsaw, Jena), The Moral Panic and the Enemy's Cruelty in National Propaganda in East-Central Europe

Łukasz Adamski (Warsaw), The Ukrainian "Volhynian" Debate in 2016

Adam Balcer (Warsaw), The Polish Debate about the Volhynian Massacre and Wojtek Smarzowski's Movie

Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska (Warsaw), The "Reenactment" of the Volhynian Massacre

Departure of the participants

Working languages: English, Polish