INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

War, Academia, Women:
Ukrainian Female Academics as Knowledge Producers and Community Agents in New Zealand and Australia

11 - 12 December 2024
09:00 - 05:00 PM

University of Canterbury
Elsie Locke Building - Room 611

Foreword

Welcome to the International Symposium "War, Academia, Women: Ukrainian Female Academics as Knowledge Producers and Community Agents in New Zealand and Australia"!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the International Symposium at the University of Canterbury in Ōtautahi Christchurch. This gathering brings together a community of talented and dedicated Ukrainian women academics who are producing and shaping knowledge in international academia and their local communities about ongoing Russia's war against Ukraine. They provide informed reflections on the events in Ukraine and their consequences for the rapidly changing world, including New Zealand and Australia. The Symposium aims not only to stimulate scholarly discussions about knowledge production but also to foster a community of like-minded self-motivated Ukrainian women academics and explore broader interdisciplinary collaborations and knowledge exchange between academics in Australia and New Zealand on issues of colonialism and decolonization.

We are honoured to have two guest speakers at the Symposium. HE Vasyl Myroshnychenko, the Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia and New Zealand, will greet the participants with a welcome address. Dr Darya Tsymbalyuk, an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago, will deliver a keynote speech titled "Knowledge-making as salvaging: epistemic trajectories in a shattered world".

We are grateful to the UC Faculty of Arts, the Ukrainian Studies Foundation in Australia, and the Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand for their generous support in organizing this event.

Once again, welcome to the Symposium.
Daria Kuznetsova, Natalia Chaban, and Olga Boichak

Programme at a Glance

DAY 1 - Wednesday, 11 December 2024
Zoom link: https://canterbury.zoom.us/j/95145095825

09:00 - 09:15
Welcome from the UC

09:15 - 10:00
Ukrainian female academics as knowledge producers and community actors in New Zealand and Australia: To the question of knowledge diplomacy
Natalia Chaban,
University of Canterbury, New Zealand
James Headley,
Otago University, New Zealand

10:00 - 10:45
Living in two worlds: Ukrainian scholars in Western academia during wartime
Kateryna Kasianenko,
Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Olga Boichak,
The University of Sydney, Australia

10:45 - 11:15
Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00
War, displacement, and new beginnings: Ukrainians in Australia negotiating identity and redefining belonging
Olga Maxwell,
University of Melbourne, Australia
Dariia Orobchuk,
University of Hildesheim, Germany

12:00 - 12:30
Address by *HE Vasyl Myroshnychenko*,
Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia
and New Zealand (via Zoom)

12:30 - 14:00
Lunch Break

14:00 - 14:45
What's The Story and Who's Telling It? A Systematic Review of Research on Ukraine and the Russia's War Against Ukraine
Daria Kuznetsova,
Liang Peng,
University of Canterbury, New Zealand

14:45 - 15:30
Women and Materiality Amidst Russia's War in Ukraine: Between Survival, Belonging, and Solidarity Networks
Iryna Skubii,
University of Melbourne, Australia

15:30 - 16:00
Break

16:00 - 16:45
Women in the Ukrainian Media Space
(via Zoom)
Galyna Piskorska,
Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan
University, Ukraine / University of
Melbourne, Australia

16:45 - 18:00
Break

19:00
Dinner

Programme at a Glance

DAY 2 - Thursday, 12 December 2024
Zoom link: https://canterbury.zoom.us/j/95861158755

09:00 - 10:15
Keynote: Knowledge-making as salvaging: epistemic trajectories in a shattered world
(via Zoom)
Darya Tsymbalyuk,
University of Chicago, United States

10:15 - 10:30
Coffee break

10:30 - 11:15
Women, Peace, and Security: Preliminary Lessons from Feminist Mobilization in Wartime
Ukraine (via Zoom)
Hanna Manoilenko,
University of Melbourne, Australia

11:15 - 12:00
Creative writing as an epistemic practice: why writing beyond academy matters (hugely) for
Ukrainian studies
Maria Tumarkin,
University of Melbourne, Australia

12:00 - 14:00
Lunch Break

14:00 - 17:00
Networking session. Specialist Development. Institutional matters
[with coffee break 3:15-3:45]

19:00
Dinner

UC | Arts Toi Tangata   UC ARTS Department of Media and Communication   Public Diplomacy and Political Communication Forum   PD-PCF   АУАНЗ USAANZ   UKRAINIAN STUDIES FOUNDATION IN AUSTRALIA

Abstracts

09:15 - 10:00

Ukrainian female academics as knowledge producers and community actors in New Zealand and Australia: To the question of knowledge diplomacy

Natalia Chaban, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
James Headley, Otago University, New Zealand

The intersection between higher education and international relations remains a novel field to investigate in the context of rapidly changing world. For some, this intersection is interpreted in terms of public diplomacy, mainly through the practice of academic and student exchanges, as well as advocacy by the producers of public diplomacy. For others, the intersection invites insights into the internationalisation of higher education. In a different debate, relevant scholarship argues a novel concept of "knowledge diplomacy" – a process marked by the "contribution that education and knowledge creation, sharing and use make to international relations and engagement" (Knight 2015). Our paper contributes to this last strand, in which we assess the role of academics who volunteer to engage with the topics and themes related to international relations not only in their teaching and research, but also in their outreach to local communities and stakeholders. Empirically, we engage with the results of in-depth interviews with Ukrainian female academics in New Zealand and Australia who reflect critically on their role and place as actors in producing and shaping knowledge in academia and their respective societies about the ongoing war, understanding of the events around Ukraine in the context of decolonisation, and their implications in an increasingly geopolitical world, including for New Zealand and Australia.

10:00 - 10:45

Living in two worlds: Ukrainian scholars in Western academia during wartime

Kateryna Kasianenko, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Olga Boichak, The University of Sydney, Australia

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has irreversibly impacted the lives of many – most significantly, Ukrainians on the frontlines and on the ground - but also, persons of Ukrainian heritage, foreigners with connections to the country, and the world more broadly. Ukrainian academics in Western institutions have found themselves uniquely positioned as producers of knowledge about the invasion and agents of "knowledge diplomacy" (Chaban, 2024). This paper presents an auto-ethnographic scroll-back (Robards & Lincoln, 2017) analysis of private and public social media messaging among two Ukrainian scholars' experience in Western academia during wartime. Drawing on the themes that emerge from our analysis, we argue that our knowledge-making practices are impacted by what Indigenous Australian scholars call "living in two worlds" (Bennell, 2016; McCoy, 2009) – a simultaneous experience of the war in our country of origin and the continued need to perform objectivity as an academic in a Western institution. Contributing to a growing body of literature (Hendl et al., 2024; Kurylo, 2023) on epistemic inequalities in relation to scholarship on Russia's invasion, we uncover and discuss challenges in knowledge production by Ukrainian academics during the war.

Abstracts

11:15 - 12:00

War, displacement, and new beginnings: Ukrainians in Australia negotiating identity and redefining belonging

Olga Maxwell, University of Melbourne, Australia
Dariia Orobchuk, University of Hildesheim, Germany

War-induced displacement has a profound effect on people's perceptions of self and their sociolinguistic identity, often resulting in vulnerable communities in which language is closely tied to physical and mental wellbeing (Heugh, 2017). Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Australia has accepted around 11,400 Ukrainians (Department of Home Affairs, 2024). Using narrative and visual methods (Busch, 2018; Franceschini, 2022), this paper explores how war-displaced Ukrainians in Australia navigate identity (re)construction and belonging after fleeing the war. Drawing on interviews with 24 participants, preliminary results highlight the psychological impact of trauma and forced migration, challenges of linguistic adaptation, and the complex dynamics of maintaining ties with Ukrainian culture in the diaspora (Seals, 2019). Participants reflect on their language attitudes and practices in the context of the war and the role of the English language as a tool of survival, while also navigating displacement, negotiating new social networks, emotional recovery, and redefined roles within both Ukrainian and Australian settings. The paper concludes with reflections from the authors, themselves female academics coming from Ukraine, about their role as knowledge producers, including the privilege of engaging with diverse Ukrainian narratives.

14:00 - 14:45

What's The Story and Who's Telling It? A Systematic Review of Research on Ukraine and the Russia's War Against Ukraine

Daria Kuznetsova and Liang Peng
University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Who is producing knowledge about Ukraine and the war in the context of the Russian war against Ukraine within the fields of political science and international relations? What topics in relation to the Russian war against Ukraine dominate in academic literature? And how the Russian war against Ukraine is framed in the academic research? This paper will conduct a systematic review of studies about Ukraine and the Russian war against Ukraine that have been published since 2014 to date (October 2024). Previous research demonstrated that perspectives from female researchers on the war and their role as knowledge producers are limited. The study will focus on the role of Ukrainian female scholars in producing knowledge about the Russian war against Ukraine.

Abstracts

14:45 - 15:30

Women and Materiality Amidst Russia's War in Ukraine: Between Survival, Belonging, and Solidarity Networks

Iryna Skubii, University of Melbourne

War and its materiality are commonly associated with massive bombs, deadly missiles, piles of rubble, and boarded-up windows of abandoned houses. While this materiality is publicly visible across Ukraine's urban and rural landscapes, there exists another layer of everyday life during war that is less noticeable but deeply woven into personal stories of survival and belonging amidst the war – individual objects of survival. Since women make up the majority of Ukraine's displaced population, this paper focuses on the items they own, preserve, and remember.

Drawing on publicly available women's testimonies and exhibitions featuring their personal belongings, this paper seeks to "unpack" the meanings of materiality in women's war experiences, especially in their stories of displacement and migration. Building on the concept of the "materiality of survival" introduced in my previous research on the Soviet famines in Ukraine, I expand its meaning further and apply to the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war. Through narrating their stories of war via these material objects, women contribute to the creation of a shared, publicly accessible narrative of survival and forced migration, fostering solidarity networks among displaced communities in Ukraine and audiences abroad.

16:00 - 16:45

Women in the Ukrainian Media Space (via Zoom)

Galyna Piskorska,
Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University, Ukraine / University of Melbourne, Australia

The author highlights the specific challenges that Ukrainian women in the media industry face. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has had a very negative impact on the visibility of women in mass media. Military officials and their comments are pushing women out of the public space. Women are underrepresented in media companies, particularly in terms of access to management positions, and in media content creation. The author also discusses the importance of non-state actors, such as civic and professional associations, in adapting global norms of gender equality to local social practices. Furthermore, the author emphasizes the significance of internal policies in media organizations regarding gender equality and non-discrimination in the newsroom.

Abstracts

DAY 2 - Thursday, 12 December 2024
Zoom link: https://canterbury.zoom.us/j/95861158755

09:00 - 10:15

Keynote: Knowledge-making as salvaging: epistemic trajectories in a shattered world
(via Zoom)

Darya Tsymbalyuk, University of Chicago, United States

The war not only shatters physical and emotional realities, and it also occupies time. To very different degrees of violence scholars in and from Ukraine have been operating in the conditions of emergency, where the temporality of urgency structures the very forms of knowledge-making practice. In this talk I reflect on my own engagement with drawing, essay writing, video making, and academic research in response to the conditions of emergency and (past) precarity. For some of us the practice of knowledge-making has become an act of salvaging the pieces, where, for example, in my recent research and writing I (re)turn to my homeland of the south of Ukraine in a gesture of grief and love, where holding the (hi)stories from the south, I am seeking to hold the places that raised me, closer. How do we make and understand knowledge when life is suspended in uncertainty, when one is overwhelmed by destruction, and when after years of working in a state of urgency, we feel depleted? This talk does not promise to offer clear answers but hopes to find some solace in articulating the conditions of making knowledge in a shattered world and a world on fire.

10:30 - 11:15

Women, Peace, and Security: Preliminary Lessons from Feminist Mobilization in Wartime Ukraine (via Zoom)

Hanna Manoilenko, University of Melbourne, Australia

At the time of Russia's full-scale invasion on the 24th of February 2022, Ukraine had already adopted two National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR Resolution 1325, also known as the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS). The first plan, covering the period of 2016–2020, was developed and implemented during localized military conflict in certain territories of the country. The second plan, for 2021–2025, faced the full-scale invasion by Russia, which targeted all of Ukraine and its people. A few months into the full-scale war, the second NAP was updated to better respond to emerging challenges. The initial adoption of the agenda, its development, and subsequent update of the second NAP have been part of broader feminist mobilization in the country, which has gained prominence since the Euromaidan protests of 2014 and contributed to the resilience and resistance of Ukraine and its society after the full-scale invasion in 2022. Neither part of the Global North nor the Global South, Ukraine has long been overlooked in WPS scholarship. Nevertheless, it has become an outstanding case of remarkable localization and broadening of the WPS agenda during wartime. What can we learn from Ukrainian feminists advancing WPS during a full-scale war? And what role does WPS play in feminist mobilization in Ukraine? This paper will share preliminary lessons based on qualitative fieldwork data collected by a Ukrainian feminist activist and researcher.

Abstracts

11:15 - 12:00

Creative writing as an epistemic practice: why writing beyond academy matters (hugely) for Ukrainian studies

Maria Tumarkin, University of Melbourne, Australia

Something happens to the best and most life-giving research when it's communicated through ready-made sentence constructions and modes of framing. Foreshadowing, signposting, summarising, deferring and referring (the list goes on) – these academic writing conventions can suck the mightiest of insights into their own vacuum-sealed orbits. They can undo a sense of urgency. When sentences, which feel dead on arrival by virtue of being put through an academic filter, speak of life and death, there is a rift, a dissonance. For Ukrainian studies at this time, the question of how we communicate our ideas and research is vital. I'm not advocating for a specific kind of writing but for the necessity of recognising language in which we speak of Ukraine as, in the words of Toni Morrison, 'an act with consequences'.

Profiles

Natalia Chaban is a Professor at the Department of Media and Communication, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. She focuses her interdisciplinary research on cognitive and semiotic aspects of political and media discourses, image and perceptions studies within the EU and IR contexts, and public diplomacy and political communication. Natalia widely publishes including articles in high impact journals such as the Journal of Common Market Studies, Cooperation and Conflict, Journal of European Integration, Foreign Policy Analysis, Mobilities, Comparative European Politics. Professor Chaban is a twice awarded Jean Monnet Chair, President of Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand, co-editor of the peer-reviewed "Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies" and leader of a number of transnational research projects supported by the European Commission and NATO. In 2024, she was awarded the Mason Durie Medal given to the nation's pre-eminent social scientist. It is intended to recognise an outstanding contribution to the social sciences that while originating in a New Zealand environment, has had an international impact.

James Headley's research interests are in Russian foreign policy, the European Union, nationalism, and International Relations theory. He is the author of Russia and the Balkans: Foreign Policy from Yeltsin to Putin (Hurst and Co./Columbia University Press) and is currently working on a co-authored book on Russian foreign policy to be published by Polity. He completed his PhD at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London.

Kateryna Kasianenko is a PhD Candidate at the Digital Media Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology, and is affiliated with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Data61 group. She received her MA in Interdisciplinary Information Studies from the University of Tokyo, Japan. Her current overarching focus is on identifying practices of online engagement with Russia's war on Ukraine in Japan and globally using a combination of computational and qualitative methods.

Olga Boichak is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Cultures and the Director of the Computational Social Science Lab in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She is a media scholar researching the role of information and communication technologies in shaping public perception and outcomes of wars. She is the author of over 30 research articles that lay the groundwork for new directions in the studies of peace and conflict, particularly in the areas of participatory war, influence operations, digital humanitarianism, and open-source intelligence. Currently, she is an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow working on a project that maps colonial topographies of digital sovereignty, as well as chief investigator on a suite of research projects that explore digital and social media in a geopolitical context.

Profiles

Olga Maxwell is a Senior Lecturer in ESL and Applied Linguistics in the School of Languages and Linguistics, the University of Melbourne. Her research expertise includes bilingualism, language contact, varieties of English in multilingual societies, intonation and prosody, second language acquisition, language ideologies and language attitudes. Olga's research projects focus on linguistic variation in post-colonial varieties of English, contact prosody, migration and globalisation, and more recently, on the phonetics and prosody of Ukrainian as well as language practices, language and identity among the Ukrainian diaspora in Australia, including recently arrived Ukrainians displaced by the war.

Dariia Orobchuk is a linguist specializing in language education, multilingualism, and science communication. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in German Studies and English from Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine. In 2021, she completed her Ph.D. in German Linguistics at the University of Koblenz-Landau. Since 2021, she has been a professor assistant at the Institute for Intercultural Communication at the University of Hildesheim. In the summer semester of 2023, she filled it for Junior Professor for Science Communication in the Digital Age. Her research interests encompass the Ukrainian language during wartime, language attitudes and acquisition, German as a Foreign/Second Language, migration linguistics, metaphor research, multimodality.

Daria Kuznetsova is a Lecturer in the School of Languages, Social and Political Sciences at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and hold a dual appointment between Political Science and International Relations department and Media and Communication department. Her main research focuses on how political actors in authoritarian regimes use digital communication spaces to control, exploit, and manipulate information creation, dissemination, and consumption. Originally from Ukraine, Daria was a recipient of the Fulbright Ukraine Graduate Award to study Community and Regional Planning in the US. She continues her studies in the US, receiving PhD from the University of Iowa before joining the University of Canterbury.

Liang Peng is a PhD candidate in the Media and Communication Department at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Her research focuses on gender narrative in media, reception studies, and feminist perspectives in popular culture. Currently, she explores how young Chinese women interpret Great Heroine TV series. Liang served as a lecturer in Broadcasting and Hosting Arts at a private college in China.

Profiles

Iryna Skubii is the inaugural Mykola Zerov Fellow in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Melbourne. She holds a PhD in History from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and a Candidate of Science Degree in History from V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine. Dr. Skubii's research delves into the intersections of economic history, material culture, environmental, and animal studies, with a focus on early Soviet Ukraine and famines in the first half of the twentieth century. Recently, she has begun a multidisciplinary project examining the sunflowers in Ukraine and their significance through economic, environmental, and cultural lenses. Dr. Skubii is currently finalizing two new monographs. The first, based on her doctoral thesis, Survival Under Extremes: Human, Environmental, and Material Relationships Amidst the Soviet Famines in Ukraine, examines the interplay of human survival, environmental and material impact of famines. The second compiles her earlier research on consumption and material culture in early Soviet Ukraine, offering a critical analysis of societal and cultural transformations in this period. Previously, she taught in both Ukraine and Canada and held visiting research positions in Germany, Poland, Austria, and Canada. Her first monograph, Trade in Kharkiv in the Years of NEP: Economy and Everyday Life (Torhivlia v Kharkovi v roky NEPu (1921–1929): ekonomika ta povsiakdennist') (Kharkiv: Rarytety Ukrainy, 2017), offered a nuanced exploration of economic life and everyday practices in early Soviet Ukraine. For more on Dr. Skubii's publications, see her website: https://irynaskubii.com/.

Galyna Piskorska is an Associate Professor in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at the Faculty of Journalism, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv . Metropolitan University (Ukraine). She was forced to leave Ukraine in March 2022 due to Russia's full-scale invasion. Currently, she holds the position of Honorary Principal Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Journalism at the University of Melbourne. She has completed research practices at the University of Toronto (Canada), specializing in information analytics. Dr. Piskorska has also served as the Chief Researcher at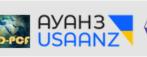 the Institute of International Relations, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine). She has authored around 100 journal articles, monographs, and encyclopedia chapters in Ukraine and the EU. Her research focuses on conveying the truth about the war waged by Russia against Ukraine, with a particular emphasis on strategic communications, information policy, propaganda, and counter-propaganda.

Darya Tsymbalyuk is an interdisciplinary scholar, and her practice includes writing and image-making. Most of Darya's work lies at the intersection of environmental humanities and artistic research. She is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago, and the author of "Ecocide in Ukraine: The Environmental Cost of Russia's War", forthcoming with Polity Press in March 2025.

Profiles

Hanna Manoilenko a PhD Candidate in International Relations at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Her field of interest includes feminist perspectives on security, UNSCR 1325 "Women, Peace, and Security" and feminist mobilization in wartime Ukraine.

Maria Tumarkin is a Ukrainian-Jewish-Australian writer born and raised in Kharkiv. She writes books, essays, reviews, and pieces for performance and radio. She is the author of four books of ideas. Her most recent book, Axiomatic, won the Melbourne Prize for Literature's Best Writing Award and was named a New Yorker top ten book of 2019. Tumarkin is an associate professor in the creative writing program at the University of Melbourne. http://www.mariatumarkin.com/
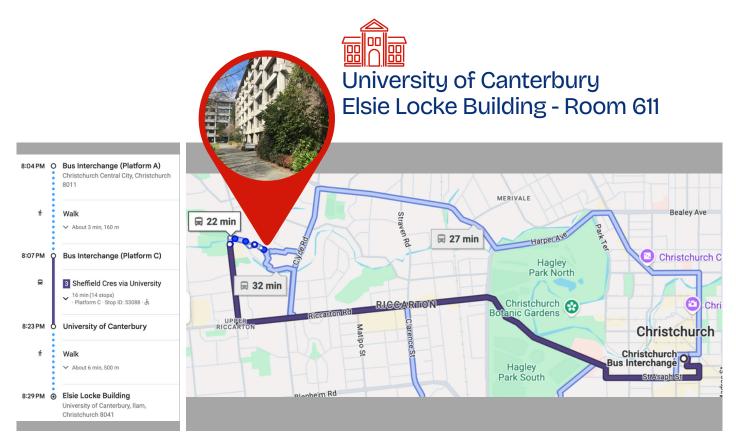
Explore Ōtautahi Christchurch

Explore Christchurch City

Getting around The City

University of Canterbury
Elsie Locke Building - Room 611

8:04 PM	○	**Bus Interchange (Platform A)**
		Christchurch Central City, Christchurch 8011
🚶		**Walk**
		⌄ About 3 min, 160 m
8:07 PM	○	**Bus Interchange (Platform C)**
🚌		3 Sheffield Cres via University
		⌄ 16 min (14 stops) · Platform C · Stop ID: 53088 · 🚹
8:23 PM	○	**University of Canterbury**
🚶		**Walk**
		⌄ About 6 min, 500 m
8:29 PM	◉	**Elsie Locke Building**
		University of Canterbury, Ilam, Christchurch 8041

🚌 22 min
🚌 27 min
🚌 32 min

MERIVALE
Bealey Ave
Straven Rd
Harper Ave
Park Ter
Christchurch C
Hagley Park North
RICCARTON
Riccarton Rd
Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Chri
Clarence St
Matipo St
UPPER RICCARTON
Christchurch
Christchurch Bus Interchange
Hagley Park South
St Asaph St
Blenheim Rd

Time for illustrative purposes only

Notes