

**This project is sponsored by the German Ministry of Education and Research and the workshop is hosted at the University of St. Gallen**



**UNDIPUS PROJECT WORKSHOP**

**PLURALIZING UKRAINIAN STUDIES**

**IN TIMES OF TURMOIL**

**UNIVERSITY OF ST. GALLEN**  
**MÜLLER-FRIEDBERG-STRASSE 8**  
**27-28 MARCH 2023**

**The UNDIPUS project comprises the  
Universities of Greifswald, Regensburg, and Giessen**



## **PROGRAM: Monday, March 27, Room 52-5120**

- 10:00**            **WORKSHOP OPENING**
- 10:15-11:30**    **SESSION 1**  
*Roman Dubasevych (U Greifswald)*  
Trauma, Heroism, and War  
Discussant: *Ulrich Bröckling (U Freiburg i. Br.)*  
Moderator: *Tatjana Hofmann (Collegium Helveticum, ETH Zurich)*
- 11:30-11:45**    **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:45-13:00**    **SESSION 2**  
*Martin Henzelmann (U Greifswald)*  
Tracing Language Contact in Southern Bessarabia  
*Elena Denisova-Schmidt (U St. Gallen)*  
Language of Corruption in Ukraine: Some Insights from Business, Higher Education, and Society  
Moderator: *Svitlana Ovcharenko (Genève Graduate Institute)*
- 13:00-14:30**    **LUNCH**
- 14:30-15:45**    **SESSION 3**  
*Oksana Myshlovska (U Bern)*  
The Government and its Regionally-Based Challengers: Trajectories of Contention and Radicalization during Yushchenko Presidency  
*Oleksandr Zabirko, Alina Strzempa (U Regensburg)*  
After the Collapse of the Soviet Union: Intercultural Literary Negotiations about the Donbas and Upper Silesia in Comparative Perspective  
Moderator: *Olena Palko (U Basel)*
- 16:00-18:00**    **PODIUM DISCUSSION**  
“Future of Ukrainian Studies”

**PROGRAM: Tuesday, March 28, Room 52-7024**

- 10:00-11:15**    **SESSION 4**  
*Alexander Chertenko (U Giessen)*  
Nationalizing Women? L'écriture feminine and Ukrainian  
Identity Debates before and after February 2022  
*Marta Havryshko (U Basel)*  
Sexual Violence, War, and Militarism: Challenges in  
Ukrainian Studies  
Moderator: *Maria Mayerchyk (U Greifswald)*
- 11:15-11:30**    **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:30-12:45**    **SESSION 5**  
*Olga Plakhotnik (U Greifswald)*  
Contested Categories in Social Science: Gender, Sexuality,  
and Citizenship  
Discussants: *Oleksandra Tarkhanova (U St. Gallen)* and  
*Yuliia Soroka (U Fribourg/Freiburg)*
- 12:45-14:30**    **LUNCH**
- 16:00-18:00**    **MOVIE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION**  
“Мої думки тихі” (“My Thoughts Are Silent,” 2019)  
Discussant: *Nataliya Tchermalykh (U Genève)*  
Moderator: *Roman Dubasevych (U Greifswald)*
- 18:00-18:30**    **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

## **(UN)DISCIPLINED: PLURALIZING UKRAINIAN STUDIES – UNDERSTANDING THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

The project “(Un)Disciplined: Pluralizing Ukrainian Studies: Understanding the War in Ukraine” (UNDIPUS) is a research network comprising five subprojects, four disciplines, and three locations, which are the universities of Greifswald, Regensburg, and Giessen. Thematically, it was designed to understand the “frozen conflict” in Donbas(s), to investigate its long foreplay and cultural dimensions, and most importantly, the impact of the war on Ukrainian society and identity discourses. Methodologically and institutionally, its goals are pluralization, networking, and thus the consolidation of Ukrainian studies in Germany and internationally. Of particular significance for the project’s collective are the critical perspectives on the interplay between nation-building and Ukrainian studies and the attempts to “discipline” and instrumentalize them, especially in times of war.

**Subproject I** (Olga Plakhotnik, Greifswald), titled “Building Nation, Negotiating Identities: Sexual Citizenship on Ukrainian-Russian Borderland,” examines how identities and belongings are negotiated in regional LGBT+ communities on the Ukrainian-Russian borderland in wartime. Using a combination of critical discourse analysis and a decolonial approach, the project seeks to connect borderland as a material-symbolic condition of everyday life and border thinking as a method.

**Subproject II** (Roman Dubasevych, Greifswald): Trauma, Heroism, and War. Since 2014 Russian hybrid war against Ukraine has produced a new wave of heroic narratives on both sides of the conflict. Using the concepts of memory, gender studies, and psychoanalytic trauma theory, subproject II puts the current development into the context of the dominant Ukrainian memory paradigm. Against the backdrop of the Cossack myth, “the battle of Kruty,” UPA guerrilla warfare, the victims of the Maidan massacre, and the current war victims, the research explores the interplay between trauma, heroism, and humiliated masculinity, as well as their influence on political imagination and peace process.

**Subproject III** (Martin Henzelmann, Greifswald) is “Tracing Language(s) and Ethnicity in Budzhak.” The linguistic reality in Ukraine is reflected primarily in the competitive use of Ukrainian and Russian. Thus, the members of the numerous linguistic minorities and their needs are rarely considered. This subproject aims to document the perspective of these groups in southern Bessarabia and to highlight their point of view on Kyiv’s current language politics.

**Subproject IV** “After Masculinity. Female Perspectives on the War in Eastern Ukraine” (Alexander Chertenko, Giessen) examines the specific figurations of the feminine in Ukrainian literature by women in the context of the war in the Donbas(s). By this means, it attempts to gain a deeper understanding of the conflict’s causes, its interpretations, and cultural repercussions.

**Subproject V** (Oleksandr Zabirko & Alina Strzempa, both Regensburg) is titled “Poetics of Industrial Landscape: Donbas(s) and Upper Silesia in Comparative Perspective.” The subproject explores the literary and cinematographic representations of the (post)industrial living environment against the background of global and regional structural changes which affect the old industrial regions. In this regard, the project’s main focus is on the discursive potentials of regional spaces and ecocritical thinking, and the relations between borderlands and national centers.