

The triumphant arrival of Postcolonial Theory in Ukraine in the 1990s made its future look promising. Postcolonial rhetoric proliferated in public discussions along with appeals to “derussification”, “desovietization”, and “ukrainization”. Yet the subsequent renaming of streets and towns and the substantial limiting of the previous scope of Russophone literature and culture covered in schools and university syllabi stood in contrast to the latter’s still dominant role in the media and popular domain. Simultaneously, Ukraine’s new self-definition as a “bulwark” on the path of a despotic “Orthodox ummah” (M. Riabchuk), or as a democratic and modern “gate of Europe” (S. Plokhyy), indicated a strong influence of the European imperialist imagination. Moreover, the “hybrid war” in Donbas(s), categorized as a Huntingtonian “clash of civilizations” between the “Russian world” and pro-European Ukraine, or as a *Kulturkampf* inside the country, revealed the stunning persistence of imperialist discourses on both sides. Acknowledging Ukraine’s palimpsest postimperial condition, our workshop will discuss the transformations of Postcolonial Studies in Ukraine during their almost 30-year-long history, their applicability and possible instrumentalizations in various cultural and historical contexts, most notably against the backdrop of the ongoing war in Donbas(s). Special attention will be paid to the insights the postcolonial discourse can provide to our understanding of the country’s past, present, and future. Likewise, we will discuss how a postcolonial focus on Ukraine could contribute to the global debate on postcolonialty/postimperiality/postsocialism.

Workshop series “Postimperial Knowledge after Socialism”

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Our workshop will take place online.
To access the livestream, please
copy-paste the following Zoom link
to your browser:

<https://uni-greifswald-de.zoom.us/j/84629489609?pwd=S3JuUGVNSmRRUm1nWDRHZkFhWVNvZz09>

Meeting-ID: 846 2948 9609
Kenncode: 774154

UNIVERSITÄT GREIFSWALD
Wissen lockt. Seit 1456



International workshop

R/EVOKING THE EMPIRE: RE-THINKING UKRAINE'S POSTIMPERIAL LEGACIES



PROGRAM

December 10–11, 2021
13.00–18.30 UTC+1

DAY 1. 10.12.2021

12.30–13.00 Welcoming remarks

13.00–14.20

Panel 1. Postcolonial Studies in Ukraine: (Dis-)Orientation on Location?

MARKO PAVLYSHYN (Melbourne)

Restorative and Anticipatory Justice: On the Vocations
of Postcolonial Studies

OLA HNATIUK (Kyiv/Warsaw)

“Farewell to Empire” Revisited

14.20–14.40 Break

14.40–16.00

Panel 2. Ukraine between Orient and Occident: Inventing a Faustian Dilemma

TAMARA HUNDOROVA (Kyiv)

Europe and Us: “Asian Renaissance” and Ukrainian
Occidentalism

OLEKSANDR ZABIRKO (Regensburg)

Beyond the “Orthodox Ummah”: The Concept of Holy
Rus’ and the Burden of Russian Empire-Building

16.00–16.20 Break

16.20–17.40

Panel 3. Envisaging New Approaches: Post-Soviet Ukraine and the Global

MARIYA MAYERCHYK, OLGA

PLAKHOTNIK (Edmonton)

Gender and Sexuality in a Buffer Periphery of Europe

VITALY CHERNETSKY (Kansas)

Postcoloniality, Traveling Theories, and the
Responsibility of the Intellectuals: Ukrainian and
Other Glocal Contexts

17.40–18.30 Common discussion

DAY 2. 11.12.2021

13.00–14.20

Panel 4. Farewell to Empire?

TATJANA HOFMANN, CYRIL VENZIN

(Zurich)

Visual Anthropology as a Perspective on
(Post-)Imperialism

STEFAN SIMONEK (Wien)

Serhii Zhadan: Soviet Literature in a Post-Soviet
Lyrical Setting

14.20–14.40 Break

14.40–16.00

Panel 5. The Burden of the Subaltern

TARIK CYRIL AMAR (Istanbul)

The Politics of Postcolonial Discourse on Ukraine

ROMAN DUBASEVYCH (Greifswald)

The Unho(me)ly Wings of “Aviatsiia Halychyny”:
Postcolonial Theory and the Phantasms of
Ukrainian Nationalism

16.00–16.20 Break

16.20–17.40

Panel 6. Ukrainian Literature on the War in Donbas(s): Trauma, Nation, and Narration

YULIYA YURCHUK (Umeå)

War Through a Reflexive Postcolonial Gaze: War
Literature and the Formation of Memory of the
Russian-Ukrainian War in Donbas (2014–2017)

ALEXANDER CHERTENKO (Giessen)

Becoming an Elder Brother: Ukrainian Literature on
the War in Donbas between Mimicry and
Compensatory Colonization

17.40–18.30 Final discussion