

Brief report: Third URIS workshop

Contemporary Ukrainian Studies: Cross- and Interdisciplinary Perspective

16 March 2018, St. Gallen

As a nation in transition, Ukraine has experienced tremendous changes over the past 25 years. They have involved struggles for political power, the emergence of a free market and a civil society, clashes of old and new values, and a changing relationship between religion and the public sphere. The internal challenges have been exacerbated by the external threats. Among the most tumultuous events experienced by contemporary Ukraine are two Maidan revolutions, the annexation of Crimea, and the subsequent political crises and ongoing war in the east. The workshop invited scholars representing diverse disciplines and countries to examine the socio-political, cultural and institutional challenges Ukraine has faced during recent years. They discussed how those challenges have been addressed in contemporary Ukrainian studies and specifically in sociological studies of religion as well as political and anthropological research. The workshop also analyzed the epistemological and methodological complexities of doing fieldwork in times of political turbulence, transformation and war.



The initiative «Ukrainian Research in Switzerland» organises workshops twice a year in order to encourage the exchange between ongoing Ukraine related research projects that are currently underway at Swiss universities and international research on Ukraine, as well as between scholars, students and the public. The third URIS workshop was coorganised by Dr Tornike Metreveli (St. Gallen) and Dr Anastasiia Grynko (Kyiv/Aarau).



Workshop programme

Panel 1: The Intricacies of Studying Religion in Ukraine

Tetiana Kalenychenko (Kyiv)

Understanding the Religious Field: A Ukrainian Perspective

Iuliia Buyskykh (Kyiv)

Religion as Memory: Coexistence in Local Communities of Polish Subcarpathia

Chair: **Tornike Metreveli** (St. Gallen)

Panel 2: Accommodating Conflicting Discourses in Contemporary Ukrainian Studies

Anna Chebotariova (St. Gallen)

The Insider's Dilemma: „Native“ Sociologist in a Conflicting Society

Nutsa Batiashvili (Free University, Tbilisi)

Debating Politics in Bivocal Nations

Tetiana Kostiuchenko (Kyiv)

The Challenges of Surveying in Ukraine: Sociologists „Under Fire“

Chair: **Anastasiia Grynko** (Kyiv / Aarau)

Round Table: Understanding Contemporary Challenges of Ukraine

With **Viktoria Sereda** (Harvard University / Berlin / Lviv) and **Inna Melnykovska** (Harvard University / CEU)

Chair: **Ulrich Schmid** (St. Gallen)



URIS

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