Universität Basel

Philosophisch-Historische Fakultät

ORDO PHILOSOPHORUM ET HISTORICORUM

30 October 2026

Ukrainian Studies in Times of War and International Crisis.

Challenges, Achievements, and Perspectives 2017-2026

International Workshop
Celebrating 10 Years of the URIS Fellowship Programme



URIS **Ukrainian Research** in Switzerland

Ukrainian Studies in Times of War and International Crisis: Challenges, Achievements, and Perspectives 2017–2026

International Workshop on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the URIS fellowship programme

30 October 2026 | University of Basel
Workshop: 09.00–17.00 – Europa-Institut, Riehenstrasse 154, Orangerie
Public panel: 18:00–19:30 – Alte Universität, Rheinsprung 9, Hörsaal -101

The academic initiative «Ukrainian Research in Switzerland» (URIS) strengthens expertise on Ukraine in Switzerland through research and teaching, academic exchange across borders, and dialogue between academia and the wider public.

For ten years, the URIS Fellowship Programme at the University of Basel has brought internationally recognised scholars working on Ukraine to Switzerland. In Basel, URIS Fellows pursue their research, teach and share their expertise with the next generation of students. Through public talks, events and publications, they also contribute to a broader understanding of Ukraine within academia and beyond.

To mark the fellowship programme's tenth anniversary, former and current URIS Fellows, Advisory Board members and colleagues from Switzerland and abroad will come together in Basel to reflect on a decade that has profoundly changed Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies.

The international workshop will look back at how Ukrainian Studies, research questions, and academic careers have evolved since 2017 – and discuss the role of academic networks such as URIS in times of war and international crisis.

Three roundtables will explore Ukrainian Studies in international perspective, the academic trajectories of URIS Fellows, developments across different disciplines, and the future of Ukrainian Studies in Switzerland.

The day will conclude with the **public panel discussion** "Beyond the Headlines. Rethinking Ukraine since 2014: Academic Knowledge and Public Engagement", exploring how knowledge about Ukraine enters media and public debate – and what research can contribute beyond the daily news cycle.

Organised by URIS, Department of History, University of Basel. With the generous support of the Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft Basel (FAG)

Programme
30 October 2026

Venue: Europa-Institut, Orangerie, Riehenstrasse 154

09.00 – 09.30	Coffee & Tea
09.30 – 10.00	**Welcome & Introduction** F. Benjamin Schenk (Director & Founder of URIS)
10.00 – 12.00	**Roundtable #1: The Development of Ukrainian Studies: Switzerland in International Perspective** Chair: Harald Binder (Lviv) **Input Statements**: **Viktoriya Sereda** (Berlin): Germany **Georgiy Kasianov** (Lublin): Poland **Valeriya Korablyova** (Prague): Czech Republic **Vitaly Chernetsky** (online, Kansas): Northern America
12.00 – 13.30	Ukrainian Lunch by Kozak Buvette
13.30 – 15.00	**Roundtable #2: From Basel Onwards: URIS and Academic Trajectories** Chair: Norbert Rütsche (Tbilisi) **Input Statements**: **Kateryna Dysa** (Kyiv) **Kateryna Yeremieieva** (Würzburg) **Oleksandr Polianichev** (Stockholm) **Svitlana Pidoprygora** (Innsbruck) **Mikhail Akulov** (Astana)
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee Break

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15.30–17.00	**Roundtable #3: The Development of Ukrainian Studies in Academic Disciplines** Chair: Anna Hodel (Basel) **Input Statements**: **Mikhail Minakov** (Milano): Political Science and Philosophy **Katia Denysova** (Tübingen): Art History **Olena Palko** (Basel): History
17.00–18.00	Break, Transfer to the Alte Universität, Hörsaal -101
18.00–19.30	**Public Podium Discussion** Alte Universität, Hörsaal -101 **Beyond the Headlines. Rethinking Ukraine since 2014: Academic Knowledge and Public Engagement** Welcome Remarks **by Iryna Venediktova, Ambassador of Ukraine to Switzerland** **Chair: F. Benjamin Schenk** (Basel) **Participants:** **Tetiana Kyselova** (Saarbrücken) **Gwendolyn Sasse** (Berlin) **Maryna Shevtsova** (Basel/Leuven) **Claude Wild**
20.00	Dinner for conference participants, Restaurant Ufer7

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