



University
of Basel

Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences



URIS Workshop

Refugees, Diaspora and Belonging in the Digital Age: Rethinking Citizenship after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

7 May 2024, 12.30–17.45

Mehrzweckraum 035, Kollegienhaus, University of Basel



Ukrainian Research
in Switzerland

URIS Workshop: Refugees, Diaspora and Belonging in the Digital Age. Rethinking Citizenship after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

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Kollegienhaus, University of Basel, Petersplatz 1, Mehrzweckraum 035

What does citizenship mean today? This question gains significance amidst the profound changes of recent decades. The biopolitics of globalisation has created new flows and networks of people that, through economic migration and recurrent refugee crises, transgressed and challenged the traditional model of citizenship tied to territory, sovereignty and imagined national community. Digitization has fostered deterritorialized identities, leading to concepts like «networked citizenship», «network nations», or «platform nations». Scholars explore diasporas, diasporic media, and the impact of smartphones on migration and refugee adaptation.

The recent Russian invasion of Ukraine has created significant forced migration, reshaping diasporas and citizenship dynamics worldwide. The illegal and unprovoked full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine has since 2022 unleashed the most potent waves of forced migration *within* Europe since World War II. This prompts examination of how massive emigration influences citizenship in the home society. Forced migrants navigate complex contexts, altering citizenship practices. How do recent Ukrainian emigrants engage with citizenship across borders? How does wartime influence their belonging and situation in host societies? Our workshop delves into these questions, exploring how citizenship evolves in a contemporary network society post-Russo-Ukrainian War.

Participants

Alina Dolea (Bournemouth)

Tanya Lokot (Dublin)

Viktoriya Sereda (Berlin)

Yuliya Soroka (Fribourg)

Roman Horbyk (Basel)

Olena Palko (Basel)

Olena Sobolieva (Basel)

Oleksandra Tarkhanova (St. Gallen)

The workshop is organized by Roman Horbyk (Basel, URIS fellow), Oleksandra Tarkhanova (University of St. Gallen), Olena Palko (University of Basel) and supported by the URIS – “Ukrainian Research in Switzerland” initiative.



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Workshop Program

Tuesday, 7 May 2023, 12.30–17.45

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12.30 – 12.40 **Welcome / Introduction by Roman Horbyk**

12.40 – 13.15 **Keynote Tanya Lokot (Dublin):** Networked Citizenship in the Age of Participatory Warfare: Charting a Path to Citizen Agency

13.15 – 15.00 **Panel 1: Mediation and Narratives of Belonging**

Alina Dolea (Bournemouth): Belonging, Emotions and Discourse: A Framework to Analyse (Digital) Diasporas in Public Diplomacy

Oleksandra Tarkhanova (St. Gallen): Narratives of Belonging among Ukrainian Refugees: Beyond Staying or Returning

Roman Horbyk (Basel): Citizenship as Connectivity: On Splendors and Perils of Mediatized Belonging

Chair: Olena Palko

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee/ Tea Break

15.30 – 17.15 **Panel 2: Doing Citizenship in Occupation and Displacement**

Viktoriya Sereda (Berlin): Ukrainian Displaced 2014-2024: Uneven Citizenship and Contested Belonging

Yuliya Soroka (Fribourg): (Military) Occupation as a Space for Rethinking Citizenship

Olena Sobolieva (Basel): In the Thunderstorm of War: Ukrainian Scholars and Their Experiences

Chair: Roman Horbyk

17.15 – 17.45 **Final Discussion/ Closing Remarks**

18.15 Dinner