

BOHDAN TOKARSKYI

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CURRENT POSITION

URIS Fellow, University of Basel

Project: “‘A Fragment of Wholeness’”: The Making of the Self in the Works of Vasyl Stus’

2020/21 Prisma Ukraïna Fellow, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin

Project: ‘Ukraine’s Executed Renaissance: Fragmentation of the Literary Self in Early Soviet Culture’

EDUCATION

PhD in Slavonic Studies 2015 -
Slavonic Studies Section, University of Cambridge 2020

Thesis title: ‘A Fragment of Wholeness’: The Making of the Poetic Subject in
Vasyl Stus’s *Palimpsests*

Supervisor: Dr Rory Finnin

MPhil in European Literature and Culture 2014 -
University of Cambridge, Distinction 2015

LLB, and LLM in International Law 2008 -
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, High Distinction 2014

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Gates Cambridge Scholarship (full PhD support) 2015 -
2019

St John’s Benefactors’ Scholarship (PhD support) 2015 -
2018

CRASSH Conference Funding for the international conference ‘Ukraine and the
Challenges of International Law’ 2017

Erasmus Mobility Grant (PhD research at Humboldt University of Berlin) 2017

Santander Mobility Grant (PhD research at l’INALCO, Paris) 2016

Santander Postgraduate Award (Outstanding Master’s thesis) 2015

Cambridge Ukrainian Studentship (full Master’s support) 2014 -
2015

‘Best Exhibition Oralist’ Award 2014
Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Washington DC

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Journal Article: *Selfhood, Body, Metaphor and Metonymy in the Poetry of Walt Whitman and Vasyl' Stus*. *The Slavonic and East European Review* 98(3), July 2020, pp. 401-433

Essay: *Thriving in Isolation and Beyond: The Empowering Poetry of Vasyl Stus*. *Los Angeles Review of Books*, June 2020, available at: <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/thriving-in-isolation-and-beyond-the-empowering-poetry-of-vasyl-stus/>

Review: Probst, I. *The River of Time: Time-Space, History, and Language in Avant-Garde, Modernist, and Contemporary Russian and Anglo-American Poetry*. *The Slavonic and East European Review* 97(2), April 2019

In Preparation

Essay: *The Unexecuted Renaissance: (Re-)Discovering Soviet Ukrainian Modernism*, *Forum Transregionale Studien Essays*

Manuscript: *A Fragment of Wholeness: The Making of the Self in the Works of Vasyl' Stus*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Slavonic Studies Section, University of Cambridge

Introduction to the Language, Literature and Culture of Ukraine

Lecturer and Course Convenor in Ukrainian Studies

Ran the course and taught it to 14 undergraduate students: 20 lectures; 54 supervisions; 40 hours of language teaching 2018 - 2019

Read lectures on Nikolai Gogol, Ukrainian Modernism, and the Soviet Ukrainian dissidents; supervisions on the Soviet Ukrainian dissidents 2016 - 2017

Russian Literature from the Golden Age to the Silver Age

Supervisor

Taught supervisions on Anton Chekhov's prose and plays 2017-2018

Russian Language supervisions

Taught supervisions on grammar, reading skills, and translation (40 hours) 2017 - 2018

Cambridge University Open Ukrainian Classes

Teaching Fellow

Advanced Ukrainian: 5 members of the University (20 hours) 2016-2017

Advanced Ukrainian, and Beginners Ukrainian: 18 members of the University (40 hours) 2015 - 2016

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

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- Arena Programme** (Institute of Global Affairs, London School of Economics): 2019 -
carrying out historical and cultural research for overcoming the challenges of 2020
disinformation related to historical narratives in Ukraine (programme directors: Anne
Applebaum, Peter Pomerantsev).
- The film *Zaboronenyi* (*Banned*, 2019):** acted as an ad hoc research assistant and script 2018 -
editor for the first ever full-length feature film about the Ukrainian dissident poet Vasyl' 2019
Stus.
- The verbatim play *The Summer Before Everything*:** co-authored the play on 2015 -
revolution and war in Ukraine, which was selected for 2016 Hotbed Festival at 2016
Cambridge Junction (Cambridge) and the Oxford Playhouse Burton Taylor Studio
(Oxford). The play is based on more than 100 hours of interviews that my co-author and
I did all over Ukraine with soldiers, internally displaced persons, and volunteers.
- Translation of *Blackbird*:** commissioned by the British Council, I translated the award- 2016
winning play *Blackbird* (2005) by David Harrower from English into Ukrainian for the
'Taking the Stage' New British Drama Festival.
- Baker and McKenzie** (Kyiv Office): worked as a junior attorney at the world's leading 2013 -
multinational law firm. 2014

SELECTED CONFERENCE AND EVENTS

Organiser

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- '1919-2019: Kulish. Kurbas. Shakespeare'** theatre festival: co-organised this June
international theatre festival (held in Kharkiv and Kyiv) featuring a number of Ukrainian 2019
and British productions of Ukrainian modernist theatre masterpieces; more than 700
attendees.
- 2018 Cambridge Festival of Ukrainian Film:** organised this festival showcasing a 2018
selection of contemporary and classic Ukrainian films.
- International conference "Ukraine and the Challenges of International Law: 2017
Annexation, Aggression, Cyber Warfare":** fundraised for and organised this timely
conference with a panel of distinguished international experts in international law, cyber
security, and international relations; more than 50 attendees, more than 1,000 views of the
facebook livestreaming of the event.
- 2017 Annual 'Vsesvit' event:** organised the presentation of the first Ukrainian graphic 2017
novel *Heroi ponevoli*, based on Ivan Franko's eponymous novel, with live drawings, and
readings of Ukrainian and Russian poetry on the 1917 revolutions (in collaboration with
Cambridge University Russian Society); more than 30 attendees.
- 2016 Annual 'Vsesvit' event:** organised the concert of *Odyn v kanoe*, Ukraine's rising 2016
star music band, at St John's Chapel (Cambridge); more than 100 attendees.

Speaker

- Online lecture 'Soviet Ukrainian Dissident Movement', European University Viadrina 2020
(invited speaker)
- Online lecture 'Ukrainian Avant-garde Theatre: Kurbas, Kulish, Meller', Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (invited speaker) 2020
- Webinar 'Thriving in Isolation: the Poetry of Vasyl Stus', Ukrainian Institute London 2020
(invited speaker)
- 'Poetry Against the System: Vasyl Stus and the Untold Story of Ukrainian Dissidents', Ukrainian Institute London (invited speaker) 2020
- 'Pursuit of the Authentic Self in Vasyl Stus's *Palimpsests*', Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv (invited speaker) 2019
- 'Shaping Our Own Voice and Finding a Common Language: Towards a Cultural Diplomacy for Ukraine', Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv (invited speaker) 2019
- 'Vasyl Stus's Mirror and Its Reflections', Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature, Kyiv (invited speaker) 2019
- 'Gogol and Kotliarevskiy: Laughter, Language, and Identity in Ukraine', Conference 'Languages and Others: Diversity and Humour in Catalonia and Ukraine', MEITS, Cambridge, UK (invited speaker) 2019
- 'The Problem of Becoming Self in Vasyl Stus's Poetry', International Roundtable 'The Poetry of Vasyl Stus Today', Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature, Kyiv (invited speaker) 2018
- 'The Planet of Heart: Vasyl Stus's Poetry of Becoming Self', Academic Colloquium, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin 2017
- 'Resistance Through Poetry: Vasyl Stus's Innovative Poetical Language as a Response to the Historical Trauma of a Totalitarian Regime', ASN 22nd World Convention, Columbia University, New York City 2017
- 'La définition de l'âme: La psychologie de la poésie chez Ivan Franko', Journée Ivan Franko, l'INALCO, Paris (invited speaker) 2017
- 'Entre le silence en cinq langues et l'histoire: la nostalgie pour Czernowitz', Czernowitz: Cartographier les nostalgies d'un lieu, Colloque International, l'INALCO, Paris (invited speaker) 2016
- 'The State of Prose and the Regions of Poetry: Revisiting the Territory of Bruno Schulz and Paul Celan', 14th International Postgraduate Conference on Central and Eastern Europe London, SSEES UCL, London 2016

LANGUAGES

Ukrainian (native)

Russian (native)

English (near native)

French (fluent)

German (intermediate)

Polish (reading proficiency)