
**Contemporary Ukraine Studies Program
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies**

**Online Symposium | Ukraine in the
Context of Thirty Years of Identity-
Building in Post-Communist
Europe**

29-30 November 2021

[Zoom registration](#)

[Visit symposium website](#)

ABOUT SYMPOSIUM

2021 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of Soviet Communism, a milestone for the region comprising former Soviet republics and satellite states. Each of these new sovereign entities has its own day of independence to celebrate, with the majority of them breaking away from the Kremlin's grip in 1989–91. The thirtieth anniversary presents us with the opportunity to examine the post-Communist transition in Ukraine in the comparative context of other countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

The CEE is a very diverse region. Following the fall of the Iron Curtain, the pace and complexity of events that shaped political realities on the ground were dizzying. Some states accomplished a decisive break with the Communist past and became members of European and transatlantic structures within almost a decade. Other states opted for pseudo-transition and fostered hybrid political regimes, jeopardizing their genuine integration with the West. Finally, there was a group of states which decided to preserve their Communist legacy largely untouched, merely putting a more “human face” on its centralized practices.

This transition is a fascinating subject, with numerous examples of successes, failures, compromises, and U-turns by the states undergoing it. The symposium aims to analyze the transitional events, focusing particularly on identity-building processes and reforms in Ukraine and CEE countries. It will describe and scrutinize the formation of geopolitical affiliations and the evolution of discourses of belonging. It will also trace the fluctuating dynamics of national decision

making and institution building, as many of the post-Communist states today reconsider their initial “idea of Europe.” The symposium will address the dynamics of the post-Communist transition and identity building, viewing them “from outside” and “from within” the region.

The symposium is organized by the Contemporary Ukraine Studies Program at the Canadian Institute of Ukraine Studies, University of Alberta, in cooperation with the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, University of Alberta, as well as the Institute of Central Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy Chair, College of Europe.

The panel papers presented during the symposium are published in [Meandering in Transition: Thirty Years of Reforms and Identity in Post-Communist Europe](#) (2021), co-edited by Ostap Kushnir and Oleksandr Pankieiev.

For more information about the symposium contact: ciusweb@ualberta.ca

PROGRAM

DAY ONE

29 November 2021

Welcome

10:00-10:30 a.m. (MST)

6:00–6:30 p.m. (Warsaw)

7:00–7:30 p.m. (Kyiv)

VOLODYMYR KRAVCHENKO | Director of the Contemporary Ukraine Studies Program, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and Professor of History, University of Alberta (Canada)

NATALIA KHANENKO-FRIESEN | Director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and Professor and Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta (Canada)

OSTAP KUSHNIR | Associate Professor, Lazarski University (Poland)

OLEKSANDR PANKIEIEV | Research Coordinator, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and Editor-in-Chief of Forum for Ukrainian Studies at CUSP-CIUS, University of Alberta (Canada)

Round-Table Discussion

Ukraine and the CEE Region: Thirty Years after Communism

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (MST)

6:30–8:00 p.m. (Warsaw)

7:30–9:00 p.m. (Kyiv)

CHAIR:

ALEXANDER CARPENTER | Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, and Professor of Music, University of Alberta (Canada)

PARTICIPANTS:

VOLODYMYR KRAVCHENKO | Director of the Contemporary Ukraine Studies Program, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and Professor of History, University of Alberta (Canada)

SERHII PLOKHY | Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University (USA)

LUCAN AHMAD WAY | Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto (Canada)

| Professor of Politics and Director of the Center for the Study of Post-Communist Societies, University of Maryland (USA)

LI BENNICH- | Johan Skytte Professor in Eloquence and Political Science, University of Uppsala (Sweden)

Break (15 minutes)

Panel One

Post-Communist Transition in a Global Perspective: Theoretical Aspects

12:15–1:45 p.m. (MST)

8:15–9:45 p.m. (Warsaw)

9:15–10:45 p.m. (Kyiv)

CHAIR:

OSTAP KUSHNIR | Associate Professor, Lazarski University (Poland)

PARTICIPANTS:

MYKOLA RIABCHUK | Senior Researcher at the Institute of Political Studies,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine)

“Shifting the wall further east: What remains of ‘Eastern Europe’ thirty years later?”

ANDRIY TYUSHKA | Senior Research Fellow, European Neighbourhood Policy
Chair, College of Europe (Poland)

“Democratic Transition, Europeanization, and Other Metamorphoses of Central
Eastern Europe: An EU Member State-Building Perspective”

ASSEN SLIM | Director of Research, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (France)

“Has the post-Communist transition been completed? An economic perspective”

ANNA RUDAKOWSKA | Associate Professor in the Department of Global Politics and Economics, Tamkang University (Taiwan)

EMILIAN KAVALSKI | Li Dak Sum Chair Professor in China-Eurasia Relations and International Studies, University of Nottingham Ningbo (China)

“China’s view on the post-Communist transition of the Central and East European countries”

NEDIM USEINOW | Researcher, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Warsaw University (Poland)

“The Middle East, North Africa, and post-Communist transition: From Soviet clientelism to restoration of Russia’s power”

DAY TWO

30 November 2021

Panel Two

Post-Communist Transition: The View from Within

10:00–11:30 a.m. (MST)

6:00–7:30 p.m. (Warsaw)

7:00–8:30 p.m. (Kyiv)

CHAIR:

| Associate Professor, Institute of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, and
Deputy Director, Institute of Central Europe (Poland)

PARTICIPANTS:

LI BENNICH- | Johan Skytte Professor in Eloquence and Political
Science, University of Uppsala (Sweden)

“Exceptional but different: Navigating transition in Estonia, Latvia, and
Lithuania”

| Senior Researcher at the Institute of Political Science,
Slovak Academy of Sciences (Slovakia)

“The Czech Republic and Slovakia: Changing perceptions of European
integration since 1989”

ADRIAN CHOJAN | Associate Professor in the Department of International
Political Relations, Lazarski University (Poland)

“Societies in post-Communist transition: The Polish and Hungarian experience”

MARGARYTA KHVOSTOVA | Lecturer and Researcher in the Department of Government Studies, Lazarski University (Poland)

“Thirty years of post-Communist nation building in Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine”

ROBERT RAJCZYK | Associate Professor at the Institute of Journalism and Media Communication, University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)

SPASIMIR DOMARADZKI | Associate Professor in the Department of European Law and Institutions, University of Warsaw (Poland)

“Thirty years after Communism: The Bulgarian and Romanian experience”

Break (15 minutes)

Panel Three

Post-Communist Transition: A Neighbourhood Perspective

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. (MST)

7:45–9:15 p.m. (Warsaw)

8:45–10:15 p.m. (Kyiv)

CHAIR:

NINA PAULOVICOVA | Associate Professor of History, Centre for Humanities, Athabasca University (Canada)

PARTICIPANTS:

BO PETERSSON

“From high hopes to mundane reality: Swedish perspectives on post-Communist Europe thirty years on”

SERENA GIUSTI | Head of the Programme on Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies (Italy)

CHRISTOPHER LASH | Associate Professor in the Department of Government Studies at Lazarski University (Poland)

“A successful partnership marred by Brexit?” Britain and post-1989 Central and Eastern Europe”

RASMUS NILSSON | Lecturer, University College London (UK)

“Russia and Central Eastern Europe Since 1992”

