

**Researching the NKVD/KGB
and the Opening of Soviet Secret Police Archives in Ukraine, 2014-2024
Prague, June 20-22, 2024**

Thursday, June 20. Conference Opening

16:30-17:00. Welcome for Scholars and Participants.

17:30-18:30. Welcome from Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Public Event: “Ten Years After: The Opening of Secret Police Archives in Ukraine in A Time of War.” Guest Speakers: Andriy Kohut (Director, Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine); Iryna Lopuschynska (Director, State Archives of Kherson Region)

18:30. Wine and hors d’oeuvres

Friday, June 21. Day 1

9:00-9:45. Coffee and *pečivo*

9:45-10:45. Session 1. Terror and its Perpetrators

Moderator: Adam Hradilek, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR)

- Timothy K. Blauvelt (Ilia State University, Tbilisi), “NKVD Investigators as Subjects during the Great Terror in the Stalinist Periphery”
- David Brandenberger (University of Richmond), “Reading Interrogation Protocols after the Linguistic Turn: A Textual Analysis of Uman’s 1939-1940 Purge of the Purgers”

10:45-11:00. Coffee Break

11:00-12:00. Session 2. War Crimes and Evidence

Moderator: Serhii Plokhii (Harvard University)

- Fransizka Exeler (Magdalene College, Cambridge and Freie Universität Berlin), “What Counts as a Reliable Historical Source and For Whom? The 1947 Soviet Military Trial at Chernihiv and Some Reflections on the Nature of Soviet War Crimes Trials”
- Olena Lysenko (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), “Documents from State Security Agencies of the 1970-1980s as a Source for Investigating Nazi War Crimes: A Case Study of the Chernihiv Region of Ukraine”

12:00-12:30. General Discussion on Papers from Sessions 1 and 2.

Moderator and Discussant: Lynne Viola (University of Toronto)

12:30-14:00. Lunch

14:00-15:00. Session 3. Secret Police Files: Lives and Afterlives

Moderator: Igor Cașu (National Agency for Archives, Moldova)

- Paula Chan (All Soul's, Oxford), "A Tale of Two Perpetrators: Soviet War Crimes Prosecutions from Local to Digital"
- Karolina Koziura (European University Institute, Florence), "The Afterlife of Files: Secret Police Archives across Eastern Europe"

15:00-1530. Coffee Break

15:30-16:30. Session 4. Violence and Memory

Moderator: Vanessa Voisin (University of Bologna)

- Jared McBride (UCLA), "Just Off-Camera: Epistemic Borders and Violence in Ukrainian Secret Police Archives"
- Victoria Smolkin (Wesleyan), "How the Security Apparatus Participated in both the Repression and Construction of Memory in Late Soviet Ukraine"

16:30-17:00. General Discussion on Sessions 3 and 4.

Moderator and Discussant: Vanessa Voisin (University of Bologna)

17:00-18:00. Roundtable 1: Digital-Age Scholarship, International Cooperation, Public History

Igor Cașu (National Agency for Archives, Moldova), Adam Hradilek (ÚSTR), Andrii Kohut (SBU Archive), Natalia Khanenko-Friese (University of Alberta), Christian Ostermann (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars)

Saturday, June 22. Day 2.

9:00-9:30. Coffee and pastries

9:30-10:45. Session 5. Secret Police Practices

Moderator: Lynne Viola (University of Toronto)

- Guillaume Minea-Pic (CERCEC/EHESS and European University Institute), "Theory and Practices of Violence: The Cheka/OGPU and Soviet State-Building"
- Kathryn David (Office of Historian, U.S. Department of State), "Surveillance and the Sacred"

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:00. Session 6. Stalinist Deportations and the Agency of the Deportees

Moderator: Andriy Kohut (SBU Archive)

- Roman Podkur (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), “The Research Potential of the Files of Department V (Military Censorship) for the Study of Popular Opinion”
- Alain Blum (EHESS and INED), “Postal Control and Family Files: What Ukrainian and Lithuanian Archives Reveal about Deportation Situations”

12:00-12:30: General Discussion on Sessions 5 and 6

Moderator and Discussant: David Brandenberger (University of Richmond)

12:30-14:00. Lunch

14:00-15:30. Session 7. Informants, Information, and Ideology

Moderator: Michael David-Fox (Georgetown University)

- Julie Fedor (University of Melbourne), “The KGB’s ‘Trusted Persons’: A Closer Look at an Important but Neglected Category of KGB Collaborators”
- Oksana Yurkova (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), “GPU Secret Informants at the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences: The Cases of Secret Informants ‘Academician’ and ‘European’ in the 1920s”
- Olga Bertelsen (Tiffin University, Ohio), “The KGB and Soviet Youth: Forms of Ideological Control”

15:30-16:00. General discussion for Session 7

Moderator and Discussant: Michael David-Fox (Georgetown University)

16:00:16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-17:30. Roundtable: Reflections on the State of the Field

Seth Bernstein, Michael David-Fox (Georgetown University), Serhii Plokhii (Harvard University), Roman Podkur (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), Vanessa Voisin (University of Bologna)

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