

## OPENING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

### OCTOBER 24, 2024, 6 PM AT KYIV CITY CENTER AND ONLINE

The venue has a fully equipped shelter. Participants will receive the address after registration. For in-person attendance, please register by October 22 via email at [sereda@vuias.org](mailto:sereda@vuias.org). For online attendance, please register by October 22 via email at [kempa@vuias.org](mailto:kempa@vuias.org).

This evening event marks the beginning of the second academic year of the Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study ([www.vuias.org](http://www.vuias.org)). VUIAS was founded in 2023 by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin – Institute for Advanced Study in cooperation with partner institutions from Ukraine, Europe, and the United States. Its purpose is to foster excellent and innovative Ukrainian research and interdisciplinary exchange by granting fellowships to highly qualified scholars in Ukraine and to Ukrainian scholars who had to leave the country. Please join us in welcoming the new cohort of VUIAS Fellows!

### PROGRAM

5.45 pm Admission of participants

6.00 pm Welcome Speeches

Daniel Schönplug (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/VUIAS)

Vitali Klitschko (Mayor of Kyiv)

Opening Addresses

Martin Jäger (Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany)

Mychailo Wynnyckyj (Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine)

Georg Schütte (Secretary General of the Volkswagen Foundation)

6.30 pm Presentation of the VUIAS

Viktoriya Sereda (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/VUIAS)

Khrystyna Gnatenko (University of Lviv, VUIAS Fellow 2023/2024)

6.40 pm Keynote Lectures

Jan Kubik (Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and former Director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London (UCL))

Ella Libanova (Director of the M.V. Ptukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies, Academician of NAS of Ukraine)

7.30 pm Audiovisual Performance “7 Basic Emotions of War”

Asmati Chibalashvili (Composer, Deputy Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art, the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine and VUIAS Fellow 2023/2024)

Irma Gotkova (Piano, A. V. Nezhdanov Odesa National Academy of Music)

8:00 pm Reception

## VIRTUAL UKRAINE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

The Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, in close cooperation with partner institutes from Ukraine, Europe, and the United States, has launched an initiative to support Ukrainian scholars in their effort to found a Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (UIAS) in Kyiv. Full-scale institutional activities in Ukraine will only be possible once the war is over, but a preliminary virtual institution, VUIAS ([www.vuias.org](http://www.vuias.org)) started operations in September 2023. The project is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation for the first three years.

The goals of the newly founded institution are manifold: VUIAS will mobilize support for scholarship under conditions of war and contribute to rebuilding Ukrainian academia once the war is over. By connecting Ukrainian scholars in and outside Ukraine, VUIAS will more strongly integrate Ukrainian scholars into the international academic landscape and broaden and deepen knowledge on Ukraine within global academia. It will also help combat the brain drain caused by war and displacement. The founding phase of the institute will be overseen by offices in Kyiv and Berlin. As long as the Russian attack on Ukraine continues, academic events are to take place in virtual and hybrid form.

With the support of various funding partners, for the academic year 2024/2025 32 fellowships were awarded to Ukrainian scholars, representing 17 different disciplines at 26 academic institutions in Ukraine representing 11 cities.

VUIAS provides two kinds of fellowships to scholars from all disciplines: First, VUIAS Fellowships abroad are funded and hosted by the world's leading Institutes for Advanced Study in Europe and the United States. In 2024/2025, 14 Fellowships abroad will be hosted by the partner institutes in Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA. Second, VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine, which are granted by the Wissenschaftskolleg and its partners (Open Society University) to scholars working at universities and research institutions in Ukraine. In 2024/2025, 18 Fellowships in Ukraine will be funded.

The Ukrainian social scientist Viktoriya Sereda leads and coordinates the project's academic activities. The goal is to establish a Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study physically located in Kyiv as soon as Russia's war of aggression comes to an end.



Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin



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