

# **“Alarmed Science”—Knowledge-Production in a State of Emergency**

**VUIAS / CEU IAS Workshop, January 20-22, 2025, Budapest**

The full-scale Russian war changed the strategies of knowledge production and cultural diplomacy of Ukrainian institutions. Ukrainian academia had to deal with changing research agendas, dependency on foreign funding, and mass displacement of scholars and students. All this threatens Ukraine's academic infrastructure and can have devastating consequences. At the same time, the international exposure of thousands of academics from the country also created new connectivities and intellectual opportunities. The Ukrainian experience is also indicative of larger, global trends of an academy at risk, pointing to the need to re-evaluate institutional partnerships, emergency funding mechanisms, and to reflect on epistemic injustices.

The goal of this conference is to discuss how institutions of knowledge production have adapted to the emergencies of the war. Ukrainian and international scholars will have a chance to discuss new academic models that have been developed and find practical solutions for sustaining academia during and after the crisis, based on the lessons that were learned so far.

## **Main conference themes:**

### **Displacement of Ukrainian Scholars**

The large-scale displacement of Ukrainian scholars fragmented the Ukrainian academic community, while the integration of displaced scholars into foreign institutions has also been problematic. How has the displacement of Ukrainian scholars affected Ukrainian and international academia? Which initiatives have been successful in integrating displaced scholars and which have failed? How can academic ecosystems be preserved in times of crisis?

### **Emergency Funding Mechanisms**

Emergency funding and scholarships have been important in supporting displaced Ukrainian scholars, but many of them focus only on short-term needs. What types of emergency support programs have been effective in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of displaced scholars and students? What are their limitations of access or eligibility that do not allow these programs to reach people who need them the most? What has worked and what hasn't in providing both immediate security and stability for Ukrainian scholars abroad?

### **Grants Economy during the War**

International support brought visibility, funding, and other resources to Ukrainian academics and institutions. At the same time, such support changed research

agendas and created different forms of dependencies, including overreliance on international funding. How did different fields (humanities, social sciences, law, etc.) change their research priorities and funding mechanisms after the full-scale invasion? How did it impact marginalized/less urgent research topics? What are the risks of such dependence on international collaborations and how can we avoid them?

### **Brain Drain of the Ukrainian Intellectual Ecosystem**

The displacement of Ukrainian scholars brought the brain drain that endangers the Ukrainian academic community with the loss of expertise. What strategies can reduce brain drain effects while continuing to support displaced scholars? What policies can be implemented to encourage the return of Ukrainian scholars and what conditions can institutions create to keep displaced scholars connected with their home institutions at least remotely? How can international support help rather than undermine the intellectual infrastructure in Ukraine?

### **Academic Infrastructure Under Fire**

The work of Ukrainian academic institutions is constantly disrupted because of the war which has forced them to find new ways to develop and maintain education and research. Most of them adapted remote or combined teaching modes, but digital tools are not able to completely replace in-person learning, which is not possible to continue because physical infrastructure is still vulnerable. How have Ukrainian universities, libraries, research and cultural institutions adapted operationally to continue education and research? What institutional strategies that emerged because of the war worked better or worse and why?

### **Rethinking Knowledge Production**

The war brought more and more calls to deconstruct traditional narratives and build new research frameworks, paradigms, and theories in Ukrainian and East European studies. Diplomacy through joint publications, conferences, and exhibitions brought more visibility to Ukrainian scholars and their attempts to decolonize the field. At the same time, these efforts often do not reach outside sympathetic networks and institutions often fail to take practical steps in this direction. What steps have been taken to rethink Ukrainian and East European studies and how effective have they been? How has the war changed academic objects, models, and interpretative frameworks beyond decolonization, and what new theoretical approaches to knowledge production emerged? How has Ukrainian cultural diplomacy changed since the full-scale invasion? What are the repercussions of all this in the Global South?

### **Disrupted Knowledge Exchange Flows**

External academic institutions restrict travel to war-torn societies and limit the possibility of their employees doing research there. These restrictions create a situation where the main research flows go in one direction. Often the only possibility for non-native researchers to conduct face-to-face or primary empirical research is in “collaboration” with native researchers. This leads to an asymmetric distribution of risks, shifting the risks in the field towards native researchers and research participants. In addition, it may form a labor division, where native researchers collect data and international experts are responsible for data analysis and presentation in the form of publications or policy reports. Sometimes, it pushes external academic institutions to “avoid” studying countries in war, because they can not provide access to fieldwork. How can the imbalance between native and non-native researchers during fieldwork in war zones be mitigated? What policies can external academic institutions develop to allow safe and ethical access to fieldwork in war-affected areas without abandoning research there?

**Zoom Link for online participation:** <https://ceu-edu.zoom.us/j/96352856925>

## **Day 1.** (CEU, Nador 13-15)

15:30–16:15 **Registration** (Front Office, Nador 15)

16:15–16:30 **Welcome Remarks** ( Nador 13, Room 416)

16:30–18:00 **Keynote Lecture** (Nador 13, Room 416)

- Anton Shehovtsov, *Central European University*

18:00–19:00 **Reception** (Panorama Lounge)

## **Day 2.** (CEU, Nador 15)

09:30–10:00 **Registration**

10:00–12:00 **Panel 1** (Nador 15, Room 103, Tiered Room)

### **Emergency Funding Mechanisms & Grants Economy During the War**

**Chair:** Daniel Schönplug, *Free University Berlin*

#### **Participants:**

- Volodymyr Vakhitov, *American University Kyiv*
- Iuliia Pavlova, *Ivan Boberskyj Lviv State University of Physical Culture*
- Angela Kamyanyets, *Ivan Franko National University of Lviv*
- Oleksa Martiniouk, *“Ukraine on Campus” Program Coordinator, Razom for Ukraine*
- Oleksandra Demianenko, *Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University of Cherkasy*
- Serhiy Zaitsev, *Institute of International Education / Fulbright Program*

12:00–13:00 **Lunch Break** (Panorama Lounge)

13:00–15:00 **Panel 2.** (Nador 15, Room 103, Tiered Room)

### **Academic Infrastructure Under Fire**

**Chair:** Iryna Sklokina, *Lviv Center for Urban History*

**Presentation:** Yuliya Krylova-Grek, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy / Uppsala University*

#### **Participants:**

- Alina Mozolevska, *Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University*
- Pavlo Vehera, *Lviv Polytechnic National University*
- Pavlo Yermieiev, *Karazin Kharkiv National University*
- Olia Stasiuk, *Central European University*
- Olha Marmilova, *Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University*

15:00–15:30 **Coffee Break** (Nador 15, second floor)

15:30–17:30 **Panel 3** (Nador 15, Room 103, Tiered Room)

**Displacement of Ukrainian Scholars & Disrupted Knowledge Exchange Flows**

**Chair:** Nadiia Chervinska, *Central European University*

**Participants:**

- Kateryna Bondar, *Kyiv State Pedagogical University*
- Hanna Starkova, *Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics*
- Oleksandr Shtokvych, *Head of Secretariat, Open Society University Network*
- Olga Petrova, *Central European University*
- Maksym Snihyr, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy / University of Regensburg*

17:30–19:00 **Dinner** at Reteshaz (Október 6 street 22)

**Day 3.** (CEU, Nador 15)

10:00–12:00 **Panel 4** (Nador 15, Room 103, Tiered Room)

**Brain Drain of the Ukrainian Intellectual Ecosystem**

**Chair:** Nadiia Bureiko, *“Ukraine Abroad” Program Director, Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” Ukraine*

**Presentation:** Pavlo Fedorchenko-Kutuyev, *Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute*

**Participants:**

- Anna Prokhorova, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*
- Oksana Pyatkovska, *Lviv Polytechnic National University*
- Viktoria Sereda, *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin / Ukrainian Catholic University*
- Bálint Magyar, *CEU Democracy Institute*
- Liana Blikharska, *Ukrainian Catholic University*

12:00–13:00 **Lunch & Coffee Break** (Panorama Lounge)

13:00–15:00 **Closing Roundtable** (Nador 15, Room 103, Tiered Room)

**Rethinking Knowledge Production**

**Chair:** Balazs Trencsenyi, *CEU Institute for Advanced Studies*

**Participants:**

- Yuliia Kurnyshova, *University of Sodertorn*
- Igor Serdiuk, *Kyiv School of Economics*
- Anton Shehovtsov, *Central European University*
- Volodymyr Sklokin, *Ukrainian Catholic University*
- Volodymyr Vakhitov, *American University Kyiv*
- Volodymyr Ryzhkovskyi, *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*

Participants:

1. Liana Blikharska, *Ukrainian Catholic University*
2. Kateryna Bondar, *Kyiv State Pedagogical University*
3. Nadiia Bureiko, *“Ukraine Abroad” Program Director, Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” Ukraine*
4. Nadiia Chervinska, *Central European University*
5. Oleksandra Demianenko, *Bohdan Khmelnytsky National University of Cherkasy*
6. Pavlo Fedorchenko-Kutuyev, *Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute*
7. Angela Kamyants, *Ivan Franko National University of Lviv*
8. Yuliya Krylova-Grek, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy / Uppsala University*
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15. Olga Petrova, *Central European University*
16. Anna Prokhorova, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy*
17. Oksana Pyatkovska, *Lviv Polytechnic National University*
18. Volodymyr Ryzhkovskiy, *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*
19. Daniel Schönpflug, *Free University Berlin*
20. Viktoria Sereda, *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin / Ukrainian Catholic University*
21. Igor Serdiuk, *Kyiv School of Economics*
22. Anton Shehovtsov, *Central European University*
23. Volodymyr Sklokin, *Ukrainian Catholic University*
24. Iryna Sklokina, *Lviv Center for Urban History*
25. Maksym Snihyr, *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy / University of Regensburg*
26. Hanna Starkova, *Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics*
27. Oliia Stasiuk, *Central European University*
28. Oleksandr Shtokvych, *Head of Secretariat, Open Society University Network*
29. Balazs Trencsenyi, *CEU Institute for Advanced Studies*
30. Tetiana Tsuvina, *Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University*
31. Volodymyr Vakhitov, *American University Kyiv*
32. Pavlo Vehera, *Lviv Polytechnic National University*
33. Pavlo Yermieiev, *Karazin Kharkiv National University*
34. Serhiy Zaitsev, *Institute of International Education / Fulbright Program*