



GLOBAL COALITION
OF UKRAINIAN
STUDIES

UKRAINIAN WEEK
IN GERMANY
12–16 OCT 2026

Ukrainian-German Academic Cooperation and Cultural Diplomacy



University of Tübingen
14th of October

Organisational Partner in Germany



Philosophische Fakultät
Slavisches Seminar
Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte
und Landeskunde

KOSME – Kompetenzzentrum für Ost-, Südost- und Mitteleuropa

Funded as part of the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal and State Governments

Schedule

Venue: University of Tübingen, Alte Aula, Münzgasse 30

Language: English

14:00 - 14:30

Official opening

Prof. Dr. József Fortágh, Vice-President for International Strategy, Diversity, and University Culture, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen;

Olga Budnyk, Adviser–Commissioner to the President of Ukraine on the Fund of the President of Ukraine for the Support of Education, Science, and Sports;

Alim Aliev, Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Institute.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding

14:30 - 14:50

Presentation of Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies

Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Olha Oseredchuk, Head of the Project Office, Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies; Professor, Lviv Polytechnic National University.

14:50 - 15:10

Presentation of the University of Tübingen and its Cooperation with Ukrainian Partners

Speaker:

Dr. Antonino Spinelli, Project Coordinator Erasmus+ worldwide, Exchange Programs with Ukraine, University of Tübingen.

Schedule

15:10 - 15:30

Students' Posters Session | Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:15

Panel Discussion “Ukrainian-German Academic Cooperation: Successful Projects and Challenges”

Speakers:

Olga Budnyk, Adviser–Commissioner to the President of Ukraine on the Fund of the President of Ukraine for the Support of Education, Science, and Sports;

Prof. Dr. Olha Oseredchuk, Head of the Project Office, Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies; Professor, Lviv Polytechnic National University;

Prof. Dr. Schamma Schahadat, Head of the Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Tübingen;

Prof. Dr. Tetiana Grebeniuk, Philipp Schwartz Initiative Fellow at the Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Tübingen;

Prof. em. Dr. Gerhard Gruhler, Emeritus Professor, Reutlingen University; Honorary Professor, Dnipro University of Technology (Ukraine).

Moderator:

Dr. Olena Saikovska, Research Associate at the Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Tübingen.

16:15 - 17:00

Panel Discussion “What Holds a Diverse Society Together? Ukraine’s Experience of Civic Identity and Resilience”

Speakers:

Schedule

Alim Aliev, Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Institute

Dr. Roman Nazarenko, Director of the Institute of Religion and Society at the Ukrainian Catholic University; Senior Lecturer at the National Academy of the Security Service of Ukraine;

Prof. Dr. Oksana Mikheieva, Professor of Sociology and Academic Director of the PhD Programme in History at the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), Doctor of Historical Sciences;

Moderator:

Dr. Ivanna Cherchovych, Head of Educational Projects at the Center for Urban History (Lviv, Ukraine); Member of the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Women's History.

Evening Programme

Language: German

17:00 - 18:00

**Welcome Reception and Ukrainian Buffet
(organized in cooperation with the initiative
"Tübingen hilft Ukraine")**

18:00 - 19:30

**"She and the War": Film Screening and Discussion
with the film director Tetiana Vysotska (German-
Dubbed Version)**

Further speakers:

Dr. Olena Apchel, Theatre director, researcher, playwright and cultural scholar; Member of the National Union of Theatre Workers of Ukraine; Military servicewoman in the National Guard of Ukraine;

Evening Programme

Dr. Ivanna Cherchovych, Head of Educational Projects at the Center for Urban History (Lviv, Ukraine); Member of the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Women's History

Thomas Nolden, Painter, Tübingen; Head of Studies in Painting, Design and Art Academy, Reutlingen; Lecturer in Figurative Painting, Freie Kunstakademie Frankfurt am Main

Moderator:

Prof. Dr. Klaus Gestwa, Head of the Institute for Eastern European History and Area Studies, University of Tübingen.

Interpreter: Olga Bohachova (German/Ukrainian)

Event Speakers and Contributors



Olga Budnyk

Adviser – Commissioner to the President of Ukraine at the Fund of the President of Ukraine for the Support of Education, Science and Sports. Co-launched the Twinning initiative, creating 100+ partnerships between Ukrainian and UK universities, initiated dual-degree programs, helped establish the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies, Expert in civic education and public administration.



Prof. Dr. Olha Oseredchuk

Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences (PhD in History), Head of the Project Office of the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies, and Professor at the Department of Practical Psychology and Mental Health, Lviv Polytechnic National University. She has over 16 years of experience in the field of higher education and academic development. Her research focuses on adult education, particularly learning and reintegration of veterans, as well as teaching excellence and professional development of educators.



Prof. Dr. Oksana Mikheieva

Professor of Sociology and Academic Director of the PhD Programme in History at the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE). She holds a Doctorate in History (2012) and has been a Professor since 2014. She previously taught and conducted research at several universities in Donetsk and has been affiliated with Ukrainian Catholic University since 2014. Her research focuses on Ukrainian history and sociology. She has participated in and coordinated a number of local and international sociological research projects and is a member of the International Association of Humanities, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, and the Sociological Association of Ukraine.



Alim Aliev

Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian institute, founder of the "Crimean Fig" literary project. Human rights defender, curator of educational and cultural projects, researcher, essayist. Member of PEN Ukraine, co-founder of "Crimea SOS" NGO. Co-author of a book "Mustafa Dzhemilev. Unbreakable" about Crimean Tatars leader, author of essays about Crimea, Crimean Tatars, Ukrainian identity during the war in Ukrainian and international publications. Participant and speaker of Ukrainian delegations in the Council of Europe, European Parliament, OSCE, UN Security Council, and other political institutions. Awarded the Order of Merit, by the President of Ukraine in 2020. Professional activity is focused on the topics of Ukrainian civil society and multiculturalism, development of Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar studies abroad, occupied Crimea and the Crimean Tatar people, decolonization, freedom of speech, international representation of modern Ukrainian culture.



Dr. Roman Nazarenko

Scholar of religion and Islamic studies. He holds a PhD from Tilburg University in the Netherlands. He is Director of the Institute of Religion and Society at the Ukrainian Catholic University and a Senior Lecturer at the National Academy of the Security Service of Ukraine. He also teaches at Kyiv-Mohyla Business School and UCU Business School.

His areas of expertise include interreligious dialogue, reconciliation, and intercultural communication. He has represented Ukraine as a member of numerous international delegations engaged in interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Europe and the Middle East region. As a consultant, analyst, and trainer, he advises businesses and public institutions on intercultural communication and building effective partnerships in the Middle East.

He is the author of Unexpected Islam. The Story of Aladdin: What We Do Not See, The Pandemic and the Renaissance of World Religions, and A Catholic Perspective on the Qur'an. In Search for a Method.

Event Speakers and Contributors



Olena Apchel

Playwright, theatre director, performer, cultural ambassador, Board Member of the Coalition of Cultural Actors, member of SEMA Ukraine, member of the VETERANKA Movement, and Lieutenant in the National Guard of Ukraine. From 2010 to 2015, she taught at the Faculty of Theatre Arts of the Kharkiv State Academy of Culture, where she received her PhD in 2014. She is the author of a number of academic publications on socially engaged and political art.

Her professional work also focuses on promoting and advocating for women's human rights organisations. Since 2016, she has worked as an independent ambassador and expert at conferences and summits in Poland, Germany, France, Czechia, Lithuania, Belgium, Estonia, Spain, Greece, and the United Kingdom dedicated to the challenges and consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine.

From 2017 to 2019, she served as Chief Director of the Lesya Ukrainka Lviv Academic Drama Theatre. From 2019 to 2020, she co-authored the concept for the main exhibition of the First Barrack at the Territory of Terror Memorial Museum of Totalitarian Regimes in Lviv. From 2021 to 2022, she headed the Social Projects Department at Nowy Teatr International Cultural Centre in Warsaw. From 2022 to 2023, she served as Co-Director of the German theatre festival Theatertreffen (Berliner Festspiele) in Berlin.

She returned to Ukraine in 2023 and voluntarily joined the Defence Forces of Ukraine in early 2024. She began her service in the 1st Operational Assignment Battalion "Rubizh" (military unit 3018) as an external UAV pilot/operator, working in the Lyman direction. In early 2025, she transferred to the Separate Artillery Brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine (military unit 3101), serving as an operator in the artillery reconnaissance unit. She later headed the division's artillery reconnaissance command post, coordinating artillery reconnaissance operations in the Pokrovsk, Kupiansk, and later Kharkiv directions.



Dr. Ivanna Cherchovych

Researcher and head of educational projects at the Center for Urban History in Lviv. Candidate of Historical Studies, with a focus on gender and women history (2014, Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine). She has been working at the Center for Urban History since 2022, where she coordinated the development of the REESOURCES. Rethinking Eastern Europe educational platform and has served as Head of Educational Projects since 2023.

Event Speakers and Contributors



Prof. Dr. Klaus Gestwa

Professor Dr. Klaus Gestwa is a distinguished German historian and Professor of East European History at the University of Tübingen, where he has been working as Director of the Institute of East European History and Regional Studies since 2009. His research encompasses the history of the Soviet Union, as well as environmental and technological history, the Cold War, and the social and political transformations of Eastern Europe. A particular focus of his scholarly work is the history of Ukraine and the historical dimensions and consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine. Through his research and public scholarship, he contributes to a deeper understanding of Ukraine's history and its place in European history and contemporary Europe. In 2024, he received the University of Tübingen's Prize for Science Communication for his efforts to shed light on the historical background of Russia's war against Ukraine.



Prof. em. Dr. Gerhard Gruhler

Emeritus professor and former Vice President for Research at Reutlingen University. He is one of the pioneers of German-Ukrainian university cooperation and has played a key role in establishing and advancing partnerships with Ukrainian universities, particularly the Dnipro University of Technology. Since the late 1990s, he has fostered joint research projects, academic exchange, and educational innovation between the two countries. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to German-Ukrainian academic cooperation, he was awarded an honorary professorship by the Dnipro University of Technology.



Tetyana Tonkoshkur

Tetyana Tonkoshkur is a Coordinator for Research Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Division Research – International Research Cooperation, University of Tübingen.



Prof. Dr. Schamma Schahadat

Prof. Dr. Schamma Schahadat is Professor of Slavic Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Tübingen. Her research focuses on Slavic literatures, literary and cultural theory, gender studies, literature and film and theatre. Alongside her longstanding expertise in Russian and Polish literature, Ukrainian Studies has become an increasingly important part of her academic work, including research on Ukrainian literature and its representation in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war. Through her research, publications and academic engagement, she contributes to strengthening the study of Ukrainian literature and culture at the University of Tübingen and to fostering scholarly exchange between Ukraine and Germany.



Prof. Dr. Tetiana Grebeniuk

Philipp Schwartz Initiative Fellow, Doctor of Philology and Professor. Her research area includes contemporary Ukrainian literature and culture, memory and trauma studies and postcolonial studies, metamodernism in Ukrainian and world literature and culture.



Dr. Olena Saikovska

Literary scholar specializing in Slavic literatures, with a particular focus on contemporary Ukrainian and Bulgarian literature. She is a lecturer and researcher at the Institute of Slavic Languages and Literatures of the University of Tübingen. Her research interests include intermedial studies, Ukrainian and Bulgarian literatures, memory studies, and the relationship between war and literature. She has been actively involved in the development of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Tübingen.

Event Speakers and Contributors



Dr. Antonino Spilleni

Project Coordinator Erasmus+ worldwide, Exchange Programs with Ukraine, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen



Thomas Nolden

Thomas Nolden is a German contemporary painter, Head of Studies Painting, Design and Art Academy in Reutlingen and Lecturer in Figurative Painting in Freie Kunstakademie Frankfurt am Main. He has maintained a close artistic and cultural connection with Ukraine for many years, particularly with the city of Kremenchuk. His collaboration with Ukrainian cultural figures, including Sergey Sytnik, has resulted in exhibitions, joint artistic projects and ongoing cultural exchange between Germany and Ukraine. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, Thomas Nolden has also supported cultural and humanitarian initiatives in Kremenchuk.



Tetiana Vysotska

Ukrainian filmmaker, journalist, and human rights advocate, and a member of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ). She has over 15 years of experience in media, documentary filmmaking, and communications. In 2026, she was a fellow of the Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF's Memory Media Lab programme.

She is the writer and director of films exploring human rights and historical memory, which have been screened and recognised at international festivals. Her work includes Red Necklace (2013), telling the story of a young girl during the Holodomor in Ukraine; the Unbreakable (2019) trilogy, which follows the stories of women who survived Russian captivity; and the documentary series She and the War: Stories of Their Strength (2025), highlighting the strength and resilience of Ukrainian women during the war.