

International Conference

The Multiplicity of Exits from the War:
The Experiences
of the Eastern Front Cities, 1917–1923

Center for Urban History, Lviv,
August 28–29, 2018



Photo credit:

1 - In front of Town Hall in Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv, November 1918

2 - Civilians passing by a Ukrainian barricade on Sykstuska Street (today Doroshenka Street) in Lviv during a short armistice. Nearby is the main city post office.

Photos from the Stepan Haiduchok Collection, Krypiakevych Family Archive // Urban Media Archive

The conference is the second of the events dedicated to studying the urban experience of the Great War in the areas where the Eastern Front ran from the Baltic to the Caucasus. The first event, an international seminar "The City Experience of the Great War in Eastern Europe," took place on June 23–25, 2016, at the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe in Lviv. The purpose of this conference is to focus on the period at the end of the Great War, which on the Eastern Front was accompanied by revolutions, formation of national states, civilian wars, and armed conflicts for disputed territories. Chronologically, it covers the years 1917–1923: from the February Revolution in the Russian Empire to the final determination of borders in post-war Eastern Europe. Consequently, this era was a period of transformation when new political practices were introduced in conditions of general social and economic instability, violence and impunity, demobilization and new mobilization. At the same time, these years can be considered as a probation period of practices that would eventually become dominant in the totalitarian states of the USSR and the Third Reich: controlling people through the introduction of cards and the differentiation of society according to ethnic/class/political criteria.

Studying these processes in all their multidimensionality and complexity, we proceed from the fact that they should not be separated from the very context of the war. Therefore, we propose to consider them without dividing the First World War and the Revolution into two periods. For better comprehension of the material and identification of peculiarities within the region, we chose the cities as the subject of research. A transnational comparative perspective of cities will make it possible to better understand the process of various cities' "exits" from the war, the cities which experienced the collapse of the Russian, AustroHungarian, and German Empires, and the process of creating national states. A comparative method in the study of cities will help us to better understand the common experience of the First World War and the peculiarities of its end at the Eastern Front, without, however, avoiding the analysis of regional and national peculiarities. The micro level of the city helps us, on the one hand, to better understand the revolutionary and state-building transformations and to examine the transformation of the city from the core of the "home front" into the center of state and regional governance. On the other hand, it allows us to study the period of the most rapid changes "from below," taking into account everyday histories and practices of behavior of different strata of the population, acquired in conditions of further chaos and destruction, violence and collision between the culture of war and that of peace. We are interested in exchanging research findings between researchers studying the urban experience of the given transformation period within the framework of national, transnational, imperial, and global approaches.

Conference Venue:
Center for Urban History
6 Bohomoltsia St | Lviv

August 28

9:30
10:00

Registration
Welcome

10:30 – 12:00

Chair:

Panel 1: “(Re)presentations of the War and Revolution in the Press and Private Texts”

Serhy Yekelchuk

(University of Victoria, Canada)

Ivan Basenko

(National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine)

“The Ukrainian and Russian Perspectives on Exiting from the Great War: Case Study of Kyiv Daily Press (November 1917 - March 1918)”

Mariana Baidak

(Lviv National University, Ukraine)

“Images of Galician Cities and Towns in Women’s Private Texts”

Anna Isaeva

(National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine)

“(Un)present: Representations of Women in War in the Kyiv Press”

Discussant:

Guido Hausmann (University of Regensburg, Germany)

12:30 – 14:00

Panel 2: “Power Transition: Spectacle, Compromise, or Conflict?”

Chair:

Guido Hausmann (University of Regensburg, Germany)

Serhy Yekelchuk (University of Victoria, Canada)

“How the Hanging Prime Minister Got Hanged: The Removal of the Stolypin Statue in Kyiv as an Urban Revolutionary Spectacle”

Piotr Szlanta

(University of Warsaw, Poland; editor of the International Encyclopedia of the First World War)

“Disarmament or Negotiable Independence? Transmission of Power in Warsaw, October–November 1918”

Christoph Mick (University of Warwick, UK)

“The Damage Done by Nationalism Is Strong and Powerful!” Attempts to Stop the Transition from War to War in Lviv in November 1918”

Discussant:

Joshua Sanborn (Lafayette College, USA)

15:00 – 16:30

Panel 3: “Violence in the City: Its Experience and Perception”

Chair:

Oksana Dudko (Center for Urban History / University of Toronto)

Jesse Kauffman

(Eastern Michigan University, USA)

“From the Great War to the Central European Civil War: Warsaw and Lviv, 1914–1921”

Jagoda Wierzejska

(University of Warsaw, Institute of Polish Literature, Poland)

"Recording the Destruction of the Jewish Idea of Galicia"

Olena Betlii

(Center for Urban History/National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine)

"When the Home Front Collapsed: Revolution from Kyiv Perspective"

Discussant:**Guido Hausmann**

(University of Regensburg, Germany)

18:30 – 20:00**Keynote Address: "The Conflict that Did not End:
The Second Great War, 1917–1923"****Jay Winter** (Yale University, USA)**Location:**

Grand Session Hall of the Lviv City Council (1 Rynok Sq)

August 29**10:30 – 12:00****Panel 4: "Structures of Urban Life: Governance, Medical Care,
and the Cultural Angle"****Chair:****Olena Betlii**

(Center for Urban History / National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine)

Kamil Śmiechowski

(University of Łódź, Poland)

"How to Govern a City? Polish Debates about Urban Policy during the First World War"

Iaroslav Golubinov

(Samara State Medical University, Russia)

"Try to Control the Chaos: The Problem of Food Supply as a Focal Point of the Russian Revolution in Provincial Cities and Towns"

Oksana Dudko

(Center for Urban History, Lviv, Ukraine / University of Toronto, Canada)

"Theatre on Imperial Debris: The Case of the Ukrainian Besida Theatre (1908–1924)"

Discussant:

Serhy Yekelchuk (University of Victoria, Canada)

12:30 – 14:00

Panel 5: "City in Transition: Challenges, Changes, and Perspectives"

Chair:

Iryna Sklokina (Center for Urban History)

Nachtigal Reinhard (University of Freiburg, Germany)

"A Hinterland City Becomes a Front Town in the Final Stage of WWI: Kharkiv as a Turntable for Mass Migration and Social Disarray"

Karsten Brüggemann

(Tallinn University, Estonia)

"Tallinn during Revolution and War, 1917–1920"

Tetyana Portnova

(Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, Ukraine)

"The Great War and Revolution 1917–1923: The Katerynoslav Experience"

Discussant:

Joshua Sanborn (Lafayette College, USA)

15:00 – 16:30

Panel 6: "Whose City? Biased Heritage, New Identities, and Transformations of City Perception"

Chair:

Mariana Baidak (Lviv National University, Ukraine)

Stephanie Weismann

(Marie Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland)

"The (Poisoned) Air of Liberty and Independence: "Foreign" Elements Disfiguring Lublin's Urban Space"

Melinda Harlov-Csörtán

(Central European University / ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary)

"Budapest: From the Semi-center of a Monarchy to a National Capital with Revenge Politics: Analysis of the Public Art and Urban Structure Transformations in Budapest between 1917 and 1923"

Rasa Čepaitienė

(Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius, Lithuania)

"Lost Vilnius' in Political and Cultural Imagery of Interwar Lithuanian Society"

Discussant:

Christoph Mick (University of Warwick, UK)

16:30 – 17:30

Presentation of Lviv Interactive (LIA)

The Digital History Project “Lemberg/Lviv/Lwów: A City on the Line”
Taras Nazaruk, Vasyl Rasevych, Olha Zarechniuk, and Oksana Dudko
(in Ukrainian with simultaneous translation)

18:30 – 20:00

Roundtable Discussion: “The Birth of a New World: Urban Experiences in Eastern Europe after 1917”

Participants:

Oksana Dudko

(Center for Urban History / University of Toronto)

Joshua Sanborn

(Lafayette College, USA)

Serhy Yekelchuk

(University of Victoria, Canada)

Jay Winter

(Yale University, USA)

Moderator:

Olena Betlii

(Kyiv-Mohyla University / Center for Urban History)



Organizing committee

Olena Betlii (NAUKMA, Kyiv / Center for Urban History, Lviv)

Oksana Dudko (Center for Urban History, Lviv / University of Toronto)

Serhy Yekelchyk (University of Victoria)

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"Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" (Kyiv, Ukraine);
University of Victoria (Victoria, Canada)

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