

Workshop

How to Teach Eastern Europe? Revising Optics and Decentering Curricula

Center for Urban History, Lviv, June 17, 2023

Idea

The workshop is designed to urge the discussion on incorporating of new sources and topics into curricula focusing on the region of Eastern Europe or when Eastern Europe is a context for the course. It continues a series of events on rethinking the teaching of the history of Ukraine, which took place at the Ukrainian Catholic University. The workshop agenda will include the aspects about how such additions could change the epistemological framework we use to comprehend the history of Central and Eastern Europe, and how we see its national histories (such as Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, and Russian), the history of empires (Austro-Hungary, Russian, and Ottoman), the Soviet past and our present. The program elicits the discussion of history courses but we shall also consider courses in anthropology, cultural studies, sociology, literature, and other related disciplines focusing on the study of Central and Eastern Europe, Soviet history, or the history of Ukraine. The workshop will also present an opportunity to discuss the role of teachers, the Ukraine-related topics in this process, and the difference of experiences in teaching the courses on Ukraine, both in Ukraine and beyond.

The one-day workshop will bring together researchers and lecturers to reflect on teaching about the region of Central and Eastern Europe, such as the search for new theoretical frameworks, curriculum decentralization, introducing into the syllabi the still marginalized topics and understudied sources. Participants are encouraged to present their syllabi from the courses they delivered this year, or from the courses to be delivered next year. In this regard, they are invited to reflect on the topic and concept of decolonization, to discuss the opportunities and the effectiveness, the challenges of using it in teaching about the region. February, 24, 2022, is a starting point for all of us to have the unprecedented scale of discussions about various perspectives to explore Ukraine, and broader the Central and Eastern Europe in Ukrainian and Western academia.

The workshop's objectives focus on the search of new perspectives to study and lecture about Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, national histories of this region, specifically Ukrainian history; reflections on teaching beyond Ukraine and in Ukraine in the settings of the full-scale war unleashed by the Russian federation against Ukraine; discussion of syllabi and sources for their design and content, and the discussion on the opportunities of digital technologies in teaching and learning. During the workshop, we shall present the [Educational Platform](#), a new project by the Center for Urban History, and discuss its regular updates with the new content.

The questions we would try to discuss with the workshop participants include: What is Eastern Europe, what is the mental boundaries of the region, what is typical for their fluidity? What has the history of eastern Europe been for Western Academia? How to undermine the established limits of the eastern Europe as a peculiar suffering region in teaching its multiple histories? What is / could be the region for global history and for academia? How to construct inclusive history of this part of Europe that would include the complex, the close and contested histories of its different ethnic groups, social environments, and cultural identities?

The workshop is organized by the Center for Urban History and supported by the Center for Governance and Culture at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland).

Program

10.00-11.00 - [offline] Greeting & Coffee

11- 11.15 - [offline & online] Workshop introduction

11.15-13.00 **Panel I. Shifting a focus**

Moderator: Vladyslava Moskalets

Participants:

Oleksii Chebotarov, Vienna University / St. Gallen University (online)

Ofer Dynes, Columbia University (online)

Iryna Klymenko, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (online)

Volodymyr Masliychuk, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

13.00-14.00 - Lunch

14.00 - 15.45 **Panel II. Optic on Imperial & Soviet (Part 1)**

Moderator: Ivanna Cherchovych

Participants:

Mayhill Fowler, Stetson University

Artem Kharchenko, Kharkiv I. P. Kotlyarevsky National University of Arts

Elżbieta Kwiecińska, Warsaw University

Volodymyr Sklokin, Ukrainian Catholic University

15.45-16.00 - Coffee Break

16.00-17.45 **Panel III. Optic on Post/Imperial & Soviet (Part 2)**

Moderator: Sofia Dyak

Participants:

Pavlo Eremeev, V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University (online)

Vladyslava Moskalets, Center for Urban History, Ukrainian Catholic University

Malgorzata Mazurek, Columbia University

Mayhill Fowler, Stetson University

17.45-18.00 - Coffee Break

18.00-19.00 **IV. Educational Platform: Presentation & Discussion**

19.00-21:00 - Afterparty