

# BLACK SEA REGION IN WAR AND UNDER OCCUPATION: DIVERSIFYING SOURCES FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH



Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust,  
Conference Room, First Floor  
(89 Dacia Blvd., 2nd District, Bucharest)



April 23, 2026

The workshop focuses on individual experiences of the Second World War and its immediate aftermath on the northern Black Sea coast. Our aim is to explore the potential of lesser-known, censored, marginalized, or undervalued sources and to enhance their use in teaching the region. The main emphasis will be on visual sources and ego-documents. These still undervalued types of sources can help not only to fill in the gaps in the reconstruction of the course of historical events, but also in exploring agency and subjectivities, mechanisms of social interaction, processes of decision-making, biographical trajectories, histories of emotions, bodily aspects, impacts of climate and weather, everyday life dimensions, and many more. Furthermore, such sources can also bring to light the actors previously understudied in wartime contexts: families, professions and corporations, friendly circles, and informal networks of solidarity.

Multiple practices of social and political re/bordering, migrations, and deportations taking place in the Black Sea region during and in the wake of WWII impacted personal narrations, documentations, and witnessing. A combination of ego-documents and visual sources can provide a productive match when, for example, silenced and erased aspects can be “accidentally” present in the source as unintended “background objects” or “blurted out” in the personal narration. Focus of the northern part of the Black Sea coast can be productive for further development of relatively young disciplines, such as environmental history or borderlands studies, as well as for creative comparisons and entangled histories beyond the existing political borders and established macro-regional divisions (for example, going beyond “post-Soviet space”, “Balkans”, or “Eastern and Southern Europe”).

## Co-organisers:

- Center for Urban History (Lviv, Ukraine)
- Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust (Bucharest, Romania)
- Research Centre Ukraine / Max Weber Foundation (Lviv, Ukraine)
- Center for Crimean Studies of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Kyiv, Ukraine)
- Center for Governance and Culture in Europe, University of St. Gallen (St. Gallen, Switzerland)



Кримські Студії  
Києво-Могилянської академії



# Programme

9:30-10:00

Welcome coffee, Intro about REESOURCES educational platform,  
**Ivanna Cherchovych** (Center for Urban History)

10:00-11:00

**Marius Cazan**

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

**Iryna Sklokina**

Center for Urban History

**Ana Bărbulescu**, chair

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

11:00-11:15

*Coffee Break*

11:15-12:15

**Yuri Radchenko**

Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe

**Petre Matei**

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

**Nadia Skokova**, chair

Center for Urban History

12:15-13:15

*Lunch*

13:15-14:15

**Ana Bărbulescu**

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

**Dana Mihăilescu**

University of Bucharest

**Iryna Sklokina**, chair

Center for Urban History

14:15-14:30

*Coffee Break*

14:30-15:30

**Artem Kharchenko**

I. P. Kotlyarevsky Kharkiv National University of Arts

**Roman Shliakhtych**

State University of Economics and Technology in Kryvyi Rih

**Ivanna Cherchovych**, chair

Center for Urban History

15:30-15:45

*Coffee Break*

15:45-16:45

**Roundtable, concluding remarks**

19:00

*Lunch*

# Participants

## **Ana Bărbulescu**

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

PhD in Sociology, researcher at the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania and an Associate Professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Bucharest. Her research interests are: antisemitism in public discourses in Romania before 1940, the Holocaust history in Romania, particularly in the Transnistria's ghettos, the forced labor during the Second World War and the Holocaust collective memories in Romania after 1989. Her latest research is "The social web of Transnistria's ghettos: local and remote networks of survival" (2025).

## **Marius Cazan**

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

PhD in History, researcher at the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania. He was a member of the research team of the project "Economic Planning, Higher Education, and the Accumulation of Human Capital in Romania during Communism (1948-1989)." His research areas of interest are the Holocaust in Romania, antisemitism, online hate speech, urban history, Romanian higher education history, and the history of everyday life during communism. He was a member of the team project "The Reconstruction of Holocaust Public Memory in Post-Communism".

## **Ivanna Cherchovych**

Center for Urban History

Historian, head of educational projects at the Center for Urban History. Her Candidate of Historical Studies (PhD equivalent) was completed at the Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in 2014 with a focus on gender and women's history. Her most recent research interests focus on women's domestic servants and female criminality at fin de siècle Habsburg Galicia.

## **Petre Matei**

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust

PhD in history from the University of Bucharest in Romania, from which he also holds master's and bachelor's degrees. His doctoral thesis is titled "Roma in Romania in the First Half of the 20th Century: Identity and Alterity". For his Tziporah Wiesel Fellowship, he conducted research for his project "The Romanian Police and the Gypsies: From Labeling to Deportations." Dr. Matei's research interests lie in the Holocaust, nationalism, Roma, and oral history. He has published articles in academic journals on ethnic minorities and Roma in the 20th century.

## **Dana Mihăilescu**

University of Bucharest

Associate Professor of English/American Studies at the University of Bucharest. She earned her PhD in Philology at the University of Bucharest in January 2010, with a dissertation entitled "Ethical Dilemmas and Reconfigurations of Identity in Early 20th Century Eastern European Jewish American Narratives." She is interested in how memory and the ethics of remembrance function for the immigrant generations of Eastern European Jews coming to the U.S., and in graphic narratives and Holocaust representation.

## **Artem Kharchenko**

I. P. Kotlyarevsky Kharkiv National University of Arts

Historian, Associate Professor at the Department of Art Education and Humanities at the I. P. Kotlyarevsky Kharkiv National University of Arts. Dr. Kharchenko is preparing his habilitation research at the Oles Honchar Dnipro National University and works on a monograph "Jewish Community Within the Space of an Imperial City, 1859-1923." He has participated in educational programs in the US, France, and Germany. He has been a visiting researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, the New European College in Bucharest, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the CERCEC research center in Paris.

## Roman Shliakhtych

State University of Economics and Technology in Kryvyi Rih

Historian, Associate Professor at the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities at the State University of Economics and Technology in Kryvyi Rih. His research focuses on the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police and its participation in the Holocaust in the occupied Ukrainian territories (Reich Commissariat Ukraine). He is also researching the implementation of Holocaust policy in Kryvyi Rih.

## Nadia Skokova

Center for Urban History

Historian, Researcher at the Center for Urban History. Dr. Skokova's dissertation was dedicated to the formation of the modern identity of Eastern Galicia Jews (Ukrainian Catholic University, 2023). She researches the social and political history of Central and Eastern Europe, the development and implementation of national minority rights, the transformation of traditional society, modern processes, and the development of political consciousness of non-historical nations.

## Iryna Sklokina

Center for Urban History

Historian, researcher at the Center for Urban History, participant of several international projects about historical memory and oral history, including "OpenHeritage (Organizing, Promoting and Enabling Heritage Re-Use Through Inclusion, Technology, Access, Governance, and Empowerment)" and "Un/archiving Post/industry." Currently Dr. Sklokina is working on a research project about the post-WWII social history of industrialization in Galicia. Dr. Sklokina's research interests include social history, politics of memory, cultural heritage, museum studies, and oral history.

## Yuri Radchenko

Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe

Co-founder and Director of the Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe. Researcher at Mykola Haievoi Center for Modern History at UCU and a researcher at National Historical and Memorial Reserve Babyn Yar. His research interests focus on Holocaust history, history of Judaism, Ukrainian-Jewish relations, collaboration in Central and Eastern Europe during World War II, history of right-wing radical movements in Europe in the 1920s and 1940s.

### The workshop is a part of the ongoing programs of the two institutions:

- "REESOURCES: Rethinking Eastern Europe" educational platform of the Center for Urban History, in particular, the project "Digital Resources for Teaching the Black Sea Region" supported by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen.
- "Rethinking Areas: Black Sea Region" research area at the Research Centre Ukraine / Max Weber Foundation funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR).

REESOURCES offers resources designed to decentralize curricula on the history of Eastern Europe by diversifying the sources used in teaching, to spark discussions about established metanarratives, and to foster new approaches to teaching and studying the region. The platform is based on the principles of open access, historical inclusivity (incorporating peripheral and marginalized experiences), and critical engagement with sources. These three concepts form the foundation of the project: creating opportunities to uncover history, explore it, and make educational materials accessible to diverse audiences and communities.