



1st Summer School

Marginality and diversity in the Black Sea Region

July, 12-19, 2026

Chişinău, Moldova

Venue: Labour Institute, Zimbrului 10 Str.

Max Weber Foundation

Research Centre
Ukraine

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With funding from the:



Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space



Center for Interethnic
Relations Research
in Eastern Europe



University of St. Gallen
Center for Governance
and Culture in Europe

NM BABYN
YAR



Center for Urban History

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SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JULY 12

| Arrival and accommodation

MONDAY, JULY 13

10.00-10.30	Welcome & Introduction
10.30-12.00	Workshop with Bogdan Pavlish : “Whose Marginality? Which Diversity? Historiographic Perspectives on the Premodern Black Sea”
12.00-12.30	Coffee-break
12.30-14.00	Constantin Ardeleanu , Guest lecture: “Black and White. On Snake Island and the shifting borders of the Black Sea”
14.00-15.00	Lunch
15.00-17.00	City walk by Irina Nicorici
18.00	Welcome reception

TUESDAY, JULY 14

9.30-11.00	Masha Cerovic , Main Course, Lecture 1: “Shores and seas: from landscape to environment”
11.00-11.30	Coffee-break
11.30-13.00	Constantin Ardeleanu , Guest lecture: “A sanctuary region? Refuge, empire, and mobility in the Lower Danube borderlands”
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.30	Participants presentations with Ioulia Shukan Session 1. 15 min. for person and 1 hour for general discussion: Elena Dahlgren; Akniyet Seidigali; Olena Uvarova; Gjeraqina Leka

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

9.30-11.30	Participants presentations with Iryna Klymenko Session 2. 15 min. for person and 1 hour for general discussion: Enes Şamil Kiraz; Tuna Basibek; Samuel Baur; Tetiana Kmytiuk
11.30-12.00	Coffee-break
12.00-13.30	Masha Cerovic , Main Course, Lecture 2: “Torn by empire: modern histories of the Russian-Ottoman Black Sea”
13.30-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.30	Participants presentations with Ioulia Shukan Session 3. 15 min. for person and 1 hour for general discussion: Stefan-Marius Deaconu; Silvia Lupan; Aikaterini Lykoudi; Katharina Kleynmans
16.30-17.00	Coffee-break
17.00-19.00	Workshop with Yurii Radchenko : “The (In)visible Synagogues of Chişinău”

THURSDAY, JULY 16

8.30-17.00	Study Trip to Gagauzia and Raionul Taraclia with Ivan Duminica
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FRIDAY, JULY 17

9.00-10.30	Mišo Kapetanović , Guest lecture: “Stuck and on the Move: Intimacy, sexuality, and moral economies of LGBTIQ+ persons and the State”
10.30-11.00	Coffee-break
11.00-12.30	Masha Cerovic , Main Course, Lecture 3: “Forced displacement and the shaping of the Black Sea region”
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.30	Participants presentations with Roksolyana Holovata Session 4. 15 min. for person and 1 hour for general discussion: Aytan Merdan Hajiyeva; Cristina Discusar; Esma Berikishvili; Alina Solnyshkina
16.00-18.00	Study visit to Promo-LEX

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 18

10.00-11.30	Masha Cerovic , Main Course, Lecture 4: “Sailing the sea”
11.30-12.00	Coffee-break
12.00-13.30	Mišo Kapetanović , Guest lecture: “Queers of the past, where are you? The Western Gaze in the early Balkan ethnographies, and traces of queer performances and practices”
13.30-15.00	Discussion and Summing-up

JULY 19

| Departure

LECTURERS



CONSTANTIN ARDELEANU

Constantin Ardeleanu is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for South-East European Studies of the Romanian Academy and the New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest. His research focuses on the social and economic history of Danubian Europe and the Black Sea region from the eighteenth century onward. He has published extensively on the opening of the Black Sea to international trade, maritime shipping, and the market integration of South-East European port cities. Having served on several national and European research teams, he was recently the Principal Investigator (PI) of a Romanian-funded research project titled “Entangled Histories of the Danubian Quarantine System (1774–1914).” His latest monograph is *Steamboat Modernity: Travel, Transport, and Social Transformation on the Lower Danube, 1830–1860* (Central European University Press, 2024).



MASHA CEROVIC

Masha Cerovic holds a PhD in History from the University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (2012) and is Associate Professor at the School for the Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Paris, France). Her research focuses on experiences of war, empire and occupation from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. Her first research area was on the experience of Nazi occupation in the Soviet Union, with a particular focus on Belarus. She is currently working on Romanov colonization projects in Anatolia and the regional effects of Russian imperial expansion in the Black Sea region in the late 19th century. In both cases, she explores the reconfiguration of social ties, the salience of land issues, community autonomy and resistance, and local dynamics of political conflict in situations marked by violent attempts by imperial actors to impose extractive colonial orders on conquered territories.



IVAN DUMINICA

Ivan Duminica, Dr. habil. in History is Head of the Service for Policies in the Field of Interethnic Relations at the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova. He holds a habilitated doctorate in history and specializes in ethnic minorities, intercultural dialogue, multilingual education, Roma inclusion, and minority language policies. He coordinates national programs related to the educational inclusion of ethnic minorities and refugees and has extensive experience in developing public policies in the fields of diversity and social cohesion. Dr. Duminica is the author of numerous academic publications on the history and contemporary development of ethnic communities in Moldova, particularly the Roma, Bulgarians, Gagauz, and Ukrainians. He regularly cooperates with international organizations, including the Council of Europe, OSCE, UN agencies, and academic institutions across Europe. His current work focuses on multilingual education, minority rights, and strengthening intercultural understanding in Moldova’s diverse society.

LECTURERS



MIŠO KAPETANOVIĆ

Mišo Kapetanović received his PhD in Balkan Studies from the University of Ljubljana in 2017. As a postdoctoral researcher, he was a fellow at the Centre for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe at the University of Rijeka (2017–2018), at the Institute for Advanced Studies Kőszeg (2019), and at the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe in Lviv (2019). From 2019 to 2022, he was a GFF-IPF fellow at the University of St. Gallen. Between 2022 and 2025, he was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow in the Balkan Studies research area at the IHB. He is a postdoctoral researcher in the Balkan Studies research area at the IHB and project manager of the ERC-funded project Orthopol. His research focuses on the intersections of migration, identity, and queerness in the post-Yugoslav region and in Southeast Europe more broadly.



IRYNA KLYMENKO

Iryna Klymenko is a historian, Head of the Research Centre Ukraine / Max Weber Foundation in Lviv, and professor at the Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. Her research focuses on early modern history, with particular emphasis on the entanglements of the European “East” and “West”, as well as on interdisciplinary approaches to historical inquiry. Her first monograph, awarded the Munchner Historicum Prize 2021 in the field of intellectual history, examined the emergence of ideas of societal transformation in the transition to modernity. Her second forthcoming book, honoured with a prize from the Bavarian Academy of Science in 2025, investigates how practices of food and dress contributed to the construction of collective identities within and across Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and Jewish communities. Klymenko has held research appointments at University of California, Berkeley and University of Cambridge. She has been the recipient of numerous fellowships, including the one by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.



BOGDAN PAVLISH

Bogdan Pavlish is a postdoctoral fellow at the Research Centre Ukraine / Max Weber Foundation. He is a historian of early modern Eastern Europe with a special interest in topics of mobility, diaspora, and cross-cultural exchange. He is currently working on a book project about the role of religion in interactions between Christian slaves and Catholic missionaries in the Black Sea region, particularly in Crimea, in the early modern period. Bogdan received his PhD in 2024 from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

LECTURERS



IOULIA SHUKAN

Ioulia Shukan is a sociologist and Professor at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), and a member of the Centre for Russian, Caucasian, East European and Central Asian Studies (CERCEC). Her research examines, through the lens of sociology while also in dialogue with the history of armed conflicts of the 20th century, the relationship between war, solidarity, and the care for mutilated bodies in the Russian-Ukrainian war (2014–present). She approaches this relationship ethnographically, both from the perspective of personal experiences of traumatic limb amputation and the reconstruction of life following the resulting biographical disruption, as well as through the lens of structural reconfigurations in care and inclusion policies, and the possible articulations between civic solidarities and state responsibilities in this domain. Her ongoing work at the EHESS builds on a previous cycle of research into civic action and its reconfigurations during the Maidan (winter 2013-2014), and then the war in Eastern Ukraine (2014–2022). Well beyond the Ukrainian case, Ioulia Shukan's research resonates with the global questions surrounding the construction of care and the reinvention of solidarity in the face of disability in extreme times.

PARTICIPANTS



TUNA BASIBEK

Tuna Basibek is a historian specializing in the late Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, the Caucasus, and the Black Sea region. His research examines empire, slavery, frontier societies, and empire-building in the nineteenth century. He received his Ph.D. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington in 2026. His dissertation examines Ottoman and Russian expansion into the Caucasus during the nineteenth century, exploring how imperial authorities sought to establish governance in a region characterized by complex social structures, shifting political allegiances, and diverse forms of local autonomy. Drawing on archival sources in Ottoman Turkish, Russian, and other languages, his work places the Caucasus within broader discussions of empire, frontier governance, and comparative empire-making. Basibek's broader scholarly interests include the histories of the Black Sea world, mobility, environmental conflicts and migration across the littoral, slavery and emancipation, and interactions between imperial states and frontier communities. He is currently preparing his dissertation for publication and pursuing new research projects on the nineteenth-century Caucasus and Black Sea regions.



SAMUEL BAUR

Samuel Baur studied History, Political Science and Digital Humanities at the University of Munich (LMU). His research interests comprise the modern history of Central and Eastern Europe, with a particular focus on nationalism and nationality studies, intellectual history and the Caucasus. In his PhD project, which he began in 2026, Samuel is examining the synergies and tensions between socialism and national emancipation that shaped the revolutions and brief periods of independence in Georgia and Ukraine following the First World War. From August 2026, he will continue this research at the University of Zurich, where he will also work in teaching and curriculum development.



ESMA BERIKISHVILI

Esma Berikishvili holds a PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Ilia State University and a master's degree in Sociology and Social Anthropology from Central European University (CEU). Her research offers a situated analysis of post-socialist transformation in the Black Sea region, with particular attention to infrastructure, materiality, and informal economies. Through ethnographic work in Georgian port cities and urban contexts, Esma's research maps how processes of deindustrialisation, infrastructural reconfiguration, and shifting maritime economies are translated into everyday practices of labour, exchange, and survival. Her work has been published in academic journals and edited volumes, and she has collaborated with various academic and research organisations. Her broader interests include urban anthropology, activism, informal and everyday economic practices, port cities and maritime livelihoods, the Black Sea region, and visual anthropology.

PARTICIPANTS



ELENA DAHLGREN

Elena Dahlgren is a social anthropologist based in Stockholm, Sweden. Her work explores sound, embodiment, collective memory, and identity in contexts of occupation and displacement, with a particular focus on Crimea and the wider Black Sea region. She is especially interested in Crimean Tatar communities and in how experiences of territorial instability shape everyday life and forms of belonging.



STEFAN-MARIUS DEACONU

Stefan-Marius Deaconu is a lecturer in the Faculty of History at the University of Bucharest. Previously an associate lecturer (2022–2025), he holds a PhD in History, having defended his thesis on the social dimension of higher education in Romania (1965–1989) at the same institution in 2024. He was a fellow at the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER) from October 2015 to July 2016 and completed an internship at the Open Society Archives in Budapest, Hungary, from November 2016 to January 2017. His areas of interest include higher education in the post-war period, the economic analysis of communist regimes and the dynamics of social mobility in communist societies. His latest publication: Deaconu, Ș. M. (2025). Unintended Consequences: The Impact of Socialist Education Policies on Women's Access to Higher Education in the 1980s. *History of Communism in Europe*, 16, 35-71.



CRISTINA DICUSAR

Cristina Dicusar is a researcher at the Institute of Romanian Philology “Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu” of the State University of Moldova. With a bachelor's and a master's degree in philology from the University of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, she has been involved in philological research since 2014. Her primary interest is in literary anthropology and contemporary poetic texts. Since 2019, she has been pursuing a PhD at the State University of Moldova, focusing on Expressions of Authenticity in Post-80s Romanian Poetry. In 2026, the topic of research she will be focusing on is: Dynamics of Marginality in Post-1980s Literature from the Republic of Moldova, identifying and analyzing marginalized writers and informal literary networks in post-1980s literature from the Republic of Moldova, with particular attention to alternative mechanisms of cultural legitimization. It will also examine feminist literary discourses and compare marginal and canonical positions in order to understand how marginality shapes strategies of authorship, identity construction, and literary authenticity.

PARTICIPANTS



AYTAN MERDAN HAJIYEVA

is an Adjunct Faculty member at ADA University (Azerbaijan). She holds a PhD in European Studies from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, where her dissertation examined the socio-political participation of ethnic Azerbaijani women in Georgia's path towards European integration. Her research focuses on minority participation, Europeanisation, and questions of inclusion in the South Caucasus. Applying an intersectional perspective, she explores the relationship between gender, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic factors, and political participation in multicultural societies. She has published on ethnic minority integration, women's empowerment and political participation, migration, education, and Europeanisation, with a particular focus on ethnic Azerbaijani communities in Georgia and the wider South Caucasus.



ENES KIRAZ

Enes Kiraz is a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford and a scholar at the Oxford Nizami Ganjavi Centre. He is broadly interested in the Russian-Ottoman interactions at the turn of the 20th century. His PhD dissertation is on the Russo-Ottoman borderlands from the Congress of Berlin of 1878 until the Russian Revolution of 1905. His thesis explores how the two empires interacted, how the local populations coexisted, and how inter-regional, transimperial, and inter-imperial relations intersected in the Caucasus in the post-Berlin environment. Kiraz holds a BA degree in History and a Minor in Political Science and International Relations from Boğaziçi University. Before joining Oxford, he finished his MA in International Relations at Bilkent University with a thesis entitled "A Tale of Two Wars: The Russo-Japanese War and the Ottoman Public Opinion".



KATHARINA KLEYNMANS

Katharina Kleynmans, a PhD student at the Institute for Migration Studies and Intercultural Relations, Osnabrück University, Germany. She obtained a bachelor's degree in Comparative Ethnology and German as a Foreign Language from Regensburg University and a master's degree in International Migration and Intercultural Relations from Osnabrück University. Between her BA and MA Katharina spent one year with a scholarship as German lecturer and project manager at Alecu Russo State University in Bălți, Moldova where she coordinated exchange projects between Ukrainian and Moldovan students

PARTICIPANTS



TETIANA KMYTIUK

Tetiana Kmytiuk, PhD in Economics, is an Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Artificial Intelligence, Modeling and Statistics at Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman (Ukraine). She specializes in economic and mathematical modeling, data science, risk analysis, forecasting, and machine learning applications in economics, including agricultural and financial systems. She has completed international research fellowships at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (Austria) and Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences (Latvia), contributing to comparative research in applied econometrics and data-driven economic analysis. She is actively engaged in international research and educational initiatives, including Horizon Europe projects, NATO science and innovation programmes, and the SI Baltic Sea Neighbourhood Programme, where she participates in interdisciplinary collaborations and methodological development. In addition, she maintains an active presence in the international academic community by regularly participating in scientific conferences, thematic workshops, and research seminars, where she presents and disseminates empirical findings and methodological advancements. Her academic activity also includes editorial work as an editorial assistant for the Scopus-indexed journal *Neuro-Fuzzy Modeling Techniques in Economics*, contributing to peer-review coordination and scholarly publication processes.



GJERAQINA LEKA

Gjeraqina Leka is a Dr. and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Tetova, North Macedonia, where she teaches courses in EU Law, U.S. Foreign Policy, International Terrorism, International Relations, and EU Justice and Home Affairs. She is also involved in a research project at the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, examining peacebuilding, state-building, and civil society resistance in the Western Balkans. In 2025, she was selected for the U.S. Department of State's Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Scholars on U.S. Foreign Policy at the University of Delaware. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and Conflict Management from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Her research focuses on European integration, small-state foreign policy, security studies, democratic resilience, and inter-ethnic relations. Dr. Leka has published on these topics in international academic journals and regularly presents her work at regional and international conferences.

PARTICIPANTS



KATERINA LYKOUDI

Katerina Lykoudi is a Research Fellow at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, working within the ERC project "In Pursuit of 'Legality' and 'Justice': Minority Struggles in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union"; (JUSTIMINO). Her current research, titled "Secret minority: Karaite Jews at the crossroads of Russian and Ottoman Empires", examines Russo-Ottoman relations and the case of the Karaites, focusing on their legal and political claims through Moldavian and Ottoman archives. Simultaneously, her PhD in Slavic Studies and History at Sorbonne University (Paris IV), entitled "The Question of the Crimean Tatars and the Soviet Politics of Mistrust", explores the politics of mistrust toward the Crimean Tatars, based on extensive research in Russian and Ukrainian archives, as well as oral sources from Uzbekistan. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Slavic Studies from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She also holds Master's degrees in Cultural Management and European & International Relations (Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle), as well as in Mediterranean & North African Studies (Paris VIII). Her academic journey has been supported by a DAAD scholarship for research at Humboldt University in Berlin.



SILVIA LUPAN

Silvia Lupan is a researcher at the Institute of Romanian Philology "Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu" of Moldova State University. Her research focuses on contemporary Romanian literature, exile literature, literary identity, cultural memory, and the poetry of Vasile Romanciuc. In addition to her academic work, Silvia Lupan has extensive experience as an editor and publishing professional, having collaborated with major publishing houses in both Moldova and Romania. She has also participated as a researcher in Erasmus+ projects dedicated to STEAME education, teacher training, and educational innovation. Before pursuing a full-time research career, she worked as a teacher of Romanian language and literature, developing a lasting interest in reading promotion, cultural education, and literary heritage. She holds degrees in Romanian Language and Literature.



ALINA SOLNYSHKINA

Alina Solnyshkina is a Candidate of Sociological Sciences (PhD) and Associate Professor at the Department of Social Work and Management of Social Processes, Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, Ukraine. She received her degree in Sociology from Dnipropetrovsk National University in 2002 and completed her doctoral studies at the same institution before defending her dissertation in 2010. Her research interests include migration, social work with vulnerable groups, visual sociology, peacebuilding, social adaptation, dialogue facilitation, and conflict transformation. Since 2025, she has also worked as a social worker at a center for the social adaptation of internally displaced persons. Since 2024, she has served as a facilitator of psychological resource groups supported by USAID and has participated in OSCE programs on dialogue facilitation in crisis-affected communities. She has been involved in numerous international social and research projects in Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Romania, and France.

PARTICIPANTS



OLENA UVAROVA

Olena Uvarova graduated from the Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University in 2003 with an honors degree and obtained a PhD in World History in 2008. She is currently a Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS), Bulgaria, and an Associate Professor at the Department of Social Sciences at Odesa National Medical University, Ukraine. Dr. Uvarova was the Visiting Fellow at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland (2025, 2023), Fellow at the New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, Romania (2024–2025), Virtual Fellow at the Linda Hall Library, Kansas, USA (2024). She was awarded by the University of Alberta, Canada, (2024) and received the Honorary title of professional delegate of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture, Athens (2023). In cooperation with the Odesa Branch of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture in 2021–2023 she was the co-author of the research "Patriarch of Constantinople Gregory"; and "Greeks of Odesa: Burgomasters and Mayors of the late 18th-19th centuries".

ORGANIZING TEAM



ROKSOLYANA HOLOVATA

Roksolyana Holovata is the head of the Lviv Interactive digital platform and a researcher at the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe in Lviv, Ukraine. In 2025, she received her PhD in Art History from the University of Wrocław. She obtained her previous degrees (MA and BA) in History from the Ukrainian Catholic University. In 2023, she was a fellow at the C2DH at the University of Luxembourg. From 2023 to 2024, she was a fellow and participant in the Getty Foundation Summer School in Digital Art History in Venice. Her research interests include urban history in the long nineteenth century, the perception of urban space, social topography and digital history. At the Center for Urban History, she is a member of the research group studying urban heritage. Currently, she is developing a research project focusing on the history of suburbs and green spaces in Lviv based on her dissertation.



ARTEM KHARCHENKO

Artem Kharchenko is an associate professor at the I. P. Kotlyarevsky Kharkiv National University of Arts. He is an affiliated researcher at the Center for Urban History in Lviv. He is currently working on the habilitation process at Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, with a monograph "Jewish Community Within the Space of an Imperial City, 1859–1923". From 2019 to 2023, he was a lecturer on Holocaust history at the Claims Conference, a university partnership program. Co-founder of the NGO "Center for research of interethnic relations of Eastern Europe". He participated in education programs in the USA, France, and Germany. He was a guest researcher at the Simon Dubnov Institute in Leipzig, New European College in Bucharest, Jerusalem University CERCEC in Paris. Some recent publications include chapters in a collective monograph, "Uman. (Un) known stories of the city", (2021).



YURI (AMIR) RADCHENKO

Yuri (Amir) Radchenko is a scientific researcher in National Historical and Memorial Reserve "BabynYar" (Kyiv, Ukraine), habilitation researcher (докторант) at department of World History Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, scientific researcher at the Mykola Hayevoy Modern History Center (Ukrainian Catholic University), cofounder and the director of the Center for Interethnic Relations Research in Eastern Europe (Kharkiv, Ukraine). Yuri was a post-graduate student (aspirant) at the Department of the History of Ukraine of the Vasyl Karazin Kharkiv National University. His dissertation dealt with "Nazi Genocide of the Ukrainian Jews in the Military-Administered Area (1941-1943)". His academic interests include history of the Holocaust, Ukrainian-Jewish and Jewish-Karaite-Muslim relations in 1920-1940-th in Ukraine, collaboration with Nazis in Eastern Europe and history of right radical movements in Europe in 1920s-1940s. Yuri is working on his project, "The Karaites of Central and Eastern Europe, 1910–1945: The Evolution of Identity."