The Center for Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies **"Denkraum Ukraine" ("Think Space Ukraine")** at the University of Regensburg brings together expertise in Ukrainian history, culture, politics, law, and economics. Serving as an internationally recognized hub for knowledge and communication, it fosters interdisciplinary research and education on Ukraine.

The Center is financed by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) through funds from the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) from 2024 to 2028.

Established in 1930, the **Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg** is one of the world's largest and most renowned research centres specializing in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Researchers from history, economics, and political science collaborate at the IOS to analyse historical and contemporary developments. The Institute also houses one of the world's most extensive specialized libraries with literature on Eastern and Southeastern Europe and publishes prestigious book series and academic journals.

IOS Leibniz-Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung
UR Universität Regensburg
Denk Raum Ukraine
Supported by: Federal Foreign Office
DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service

International Ukrainian studies are currently evolving amid simultaneous challenges.

In different countries outside of Ukraine, establishment of new institutions and networking initiatives has significantly boosted research on Ukraine across various academic disciplines.

The result is the growing visibility of Ukrainian studies in the media, which remains particularly important during the Russian war against Ukraine. This development has also shaped the expertise influencing state policies and rapid changes in international politics and has had an impact on societal reflection on attitudes towards the war. At the same time, Ukrainian studies are developing in close contact with scholars in and from Ukraine while ongoing discussions about area studies are affecting the issue.

The conference will highlight case studies on knowledge production about Ukraine during wartime in connection with the field's own processes of self-reflection.

At the Annual Conference of "Denkraum Ukraine", marking two years since its establishment, over 30 participants from Ukraine, Germany, Canada, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic will address these challenges across the following thematic panels and roundtable discussions:

- the Construction of the Field: Intellectual Biographies in Ukrainian Studies,
- Conflict and Regional Entanglement in Black Sea Studies,
- Regions in Conflict and Entanglement: Carpathian Ukraine, Hungary and Ukraine,
- War and Knowledge Production on Ukraine,
- the Future of Minority Studies,
- Knowledge Transfer about Ukraine: Successes and Failures,
- Ukrainian Studies in International Dialogue.

Denkraum Ukraine
Annual Conference 2026

Spatial Turns in Ukrainian Studies

21-22 September 2026
Regensburg, Germany

Sunday, 20 September 2026

- Arrival in Regensburg

Monday, 21 September 2026

Room 319, 3rd floor, Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg

9.30-10.15 **Conference opening & Group Photo**

- **Guido Hausmann** (Denkraum Ukraine; IOS Regensburg, Germany; convener of the conference)
- **Udo Hebel** (President of the University of Regensburg)
- **Nataliia Chernopashchenko** (Embassy of Ukraine in Germany)

10.15-11.30 **Panel 1: The Construction of a Field: Intellectual Biographies in Ukrainian Studies**

- **Chair: Olga Zaitseva-Herz** (Fellow of Denkraum Ukraine)
- **Gennadii Korolov** (Mieroszewski Centre, Poland): *Between Eastern Europe and East Central Europe: Ukrainian Émigré Intellectuals and the Making of Europe's Mental Map after World War II*
- **Oksana Yurkova** (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine): *Professor from Altenheim: Natalia Polonska-Vasylenko as a Ukrainian Historian and a Historian of Ukraine in Postwar Europe*

11.30-11.45 **Coffee / Tea Break**

11.45-13.00 **Chair: Mirja Lecke** (Denkraum Ukraine; University of Regensburg, Germany)

- **Alessandro Achilli** (University of Cagliari, Italy): *Myth, Modernism, and the Nation: Vasyl Stus Between Biography and Textuality*
- **Polina Barvinska** (South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K. D. Ushynsky, Ukraine; University of Regensburg, Germany): *Borys Lewytzkyi: Representing Ukraine in the Western, Russia-centric World (in German)*

13.00-14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00-15.30 **Roundtable Discussion: Knowledge Transfer about Ukraine: Successes and Failures**

- **Chair: Oleksandr Zabirko** (Denkraum Ukraine; University of Regensburg, Germany)
- **Claudia Dathe** (European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany)
- **Oksana Ovsiiuk** (Ukraina Moderna, Ukraine)
- **Franziska Davies** (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam, Germany)

15.30-15.45 **Coffee / Tea Break**

15.45-17.00 **Panel 2: War and Knowledge Production on Ukraine**

- **Chair: Ulf Brunnbauer** (Denkraum Ukraine; IOS Regensburg, Germany)
- **Natalia Khanenko-Friesen** (CIUS University of Alberta, Canada): *Deconstructing the Language of the KGB Files*
- **Andreas Umland** (European Policy Institute Kyiv, Ukraine; Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Sweden): *Competing Explanations of the Russian-Ukrainian War: Between Structural Determinism and Historical Revisionism*

17.00-17.15 **Coffee / Tea Break**

17.15-18.45

- **Chair: Antje Himmelreich** (Denkraum Ukraine; Institute for East European Law, Germany)
- **Valeriya Korablyova** (Charles University, Czech Republic): *From the Margins to the Limelight: How Wartime Scholarship on Ukraine Unsettles Regional Expertise*
- **Yuliya Yurchuk** (Södertörn University, Sweden): *War, Epistemic Authority and the Making of Ukraine as a Knowledge Subject*
- **Olena Romanova** (West University of Timisoara, Romania): *The Portable Ark of Ukrainian Amazons: The Transnational Laboratory of Knowledge for Post-War Reconstruction*

19.30 **Dinner**

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

Room 319, 3rd floor, Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg

9.15-10.45 **Panel 3: Regions in Conflict and Entanglement: Carpathian-Ukraine, Hungary and Ukraine**

- **Chair: Katrin Boeckh** (Denkraum Ukraine; IOS Regensburg, Germany)
- **Myroslava Lendel** (National University of Uzhhorod, Ukraine): *Zakarpattia: Historical Legacies. Cross-Border Interactions and Ukrainian-Hungarian Relations*
- **Csilla Fedinec** (Centre for Social Sciences, Hungary): *Minority, Borderland, Region? Rethinking Carpathian Ukraine Beyond National Frameworks*
- **Dmytro Tuzhansky** (Embassy of Ukraine in Hungary): *The Ukrainian - Hungarian Agreement on the Rights of the Hungarian National Minority in Ukraine: An Opportunity for Bilateral Reconciliation, a Reset in Relations, and the Development of European Best Practices*

10.45-11.00 **Coffee / Tea Break**

11.00-12.30 **Roundtable Discussion: Ukrainian Studies in International Dialogue**

- **Chair: Mirja Lecke** (Denkraum Ukraine; University of Regensburg, Germany), **Guido Hausmann** (Denkraum Ukraine; IOS Regensburg, Germany)
- **Natalia Khanenko-Friesen** (CIUS Edmonton, University of Alberta, Canada)
- **Olena Palko** (URIS Basel, Switzerland)
- **Susann Worschech** (European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder); KIU Competence Network Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies Frankfurt (Oder) – Berlin, Germany)
- **Martin Paulsen** (University of Bergen and Ukrainett, Norway)

12.30-13.30 **Lunch Break**

13.30-15.30 **Panel 4: Conflict and Regional Entanglement in Black Sea Studies**

- **Chair: Oleksandr Fisun** (Fellow of Denkraum Ukraine; V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine)
- **Stefan Meister** (German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Germany): *Securitization and Connectivity: Redefining the Regional Order in the Black Sea*
- **Stefan Rohdewald** (University of Leipzig, Germany): *Ukrainian History in Transimperial Black Sea Constellations*
- **Mihai Sebe** (European Institute of Romania; University of Bucharest, Romania) (online): *The European Agenda of Ukraine: The Impact of the Ukraine Negotiation Process on the EU and Neighbouring States*
- **Oksana Dovgopolova** (Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine): *The Imperial Concept of Empty Space: The Odesa Case of Imperial Mapping*

15.30-15.45 **Coffee / Tea Break**

15.45-17.15 **Panel 5: The Future of Minority Studies**

- **Chair: Kateryna Chuyeva** (Fellow of Denkraum Ukraine)
- **Yevhenii Tkachenko** (Yaroslav Mudriy National Law University, Ukraine): *Displacement, Diversity and Democracy. National Minorities in Post-War Ukraine*
- **Olena Palko** (URIS Basel, Switzerland): *Diversity Management in Soviet Ukraine. From Policies to Politics*
- **Elmira Ablyalimova-Chyigoz** (Fellow of Denkraum Ukraine; Borys Hrinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University, Ukraine): *Beyond Minority Studies: Indigenous Status and the Limits of the Minority Paradigm for the Crimean Tatars*

17.15-17.45 **Conference Closing**

17.45 **Walking Tour Regensburg**

19.15 **Dinner**