

# CERES GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

March 9-11, 2023



Identity and Place: A Discussion of Borders,  
Transformation, Histories, and Movements

PRESENTED BY THE CERES GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

## THURSDAY, MARCH 9

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5:30 PM

### Conference Opening Remarks

6:00-8:00 PM

### Keynote Presentation

**Speaker: Dr. Maria Popova,**  
Associate Professor of Political Science, McGill

“Russia and Ukraine: Entangled Histories, Diverging States”

8:30 PM

### Reception

Duke of York Pub, 39 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto, M5R 1B2

\*Please be advised that this event is invite only\*

## FRIDAY, MARCH 10

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9:00-9:45 AM

### Panel 1: Ireland

Chair: Dr. William M. Jenkins

#### Presenters:

**Benson Cheung, University of Toronto**

“Think Global, Act Local?: The Geopolitics of Siege Mentality in Ulster Protestant Paramilitary Identity and Discourse during the Troubles”

**Brady Stephens**

“Identity and Ireland: What Changing Identity means for Peace in Ireland and Unification”

9:45-10:00 AM

### Coffee Break

10:00-11:30 AM

### Panel 2: Ukraine

Chair: Dr. Serhiy Bilenky

#### Presenters:

**Sydney Shiller, CERES University of Toronto**

“Divide and Rule: European Memory Politics and the Russo-Ukrainian War, 2014-2022”

**Dariya Akhova, CERES University of Toronto**

“Language Ideologies Following Full-Scale Invasion & Displacement.”

**Nicholas Panczenko, CERES University of Toronto**

“Russkiy Mir, Novorossiya, and Separatism: Understanding Russia’s intervention into Donbas”

**11:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Presentation 1: Armenia**

Chair: Dr. Anna Shternshis

**Presenters:**

**Arman Ghaloosian, CERES University of Toronto**

"Armenian Literature in the 20th Century: The Soviet and Diasporan Response to Genocide"

**12:00-12:45 PM**

**Lunch**

**12:45 - 2:30 PM**

**Panel 3: Balkans**

Chair: Dr. Milena Methodieva

**Presenters:**

**Emel Tabaku, MPP University of Toronto**

"Displacement, nostalgia and reimagination: The evolution of Albanian migrant identities in the wake of post-communism and international migration?"

**Paul Persaud, CERES University of Toronto**

"Humanitarianism as a façade for Imperialism: Examining International Liberal Peacebuilding Practices in Kosov"

**Isabelle Avakumovic-Pointon, CERES University of Toronto**

"Ferizaj: A Window into Ottoman Balkan Modernity 1872-1912"

**Alexandra Nisipeanu, CERES University of Toronto**

"Anti-Semitic Violence and Ethnic Conflicts in the Romanian Peasant Revolt of 1907"

**Michaela Nudo, CERES University of Toronto**

"The Role of Corruption in Contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina"

**2:30 - 2:45 PM**

**Coffee Break**

**2:45 - 3:15 PM**

**Presentation 2: Estonia**

Chair: Dr. Andres Kasekamp

**Presenters:**

**Léo Henry, University of Toronto**

"Estonification, Inclusions, and Social Mobility: An Analysis of Two Estonicized Russian Teachers' Trajectory to Tallinn"

**3:15 - 4:00 PM**

**Panel 3: Germany**

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Jenkins

**Presenters:**

Julia Xavier, CERES University of Toronto

"You Get an Orgasm, and You get an Orgasm, and You Get an Orgasm: An Exploration of Female Sexual Expression and Identity in East Germany, 1954-1972"

Dylan McNeill, CERES University of Toronto

"Post-Soviet Russian Jewish Refugees: Experiences of Asylum in Germany"

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

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**10:00 - 11:30 AM**

**Virtual Workshop: PhD Applications**

**Speaker: Tess Megginson**

Ph.D. Candidate, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

\*Please be advised that this presentation will be virtual\*

**11:30 - 11:45 AM**

**Coffee Break**

**11:45 AM - 1:15 PM**

**Panel 5: Building a Goulash Democracy: Hungary in the 21st Century**

Chair: Dr. Ivan Kalmar

**Presenters:**

Ioana Zamfir, CERES University of Toronto

"Roma in Hungary after Communism: What is Needed Beyond Money for a Real Change?"

Ben Marshall, CERES University of Toronto

"The European Union and Viticulture in Hungary: AKA what Fidesz Cannot Complain About"

Olivia Pape, CERES University of Toronto

"The Hungarian National Minority in Vojvodina: Protected Population or Orbán's Pawns?"

Isaure Vorstman, CERES University of Toronto

"Martyrs or murderers? How the Orbán government re-writes the history of Hungary in the Second World War"

**1:15 - 1:45 PM**

**Presentation 3: Greece**

Chair: Themistoklis Aravossitas

**Presenter:**

Basmah Ramadan, MGA University of Toronto

"Nationalism and Religion: Key Instruments Shaping Modern Greece"

**1:45 - 2:30 PM**

**Lunch**

**2:30 - 3:30 PM**

**Panel 6: Oil, Energy, & Populism**

Chair: Dr. Ed Schatz

**Presenters:**

Sasha Slobodov, CERES University of Toronto

"EU-Kazakhstan Energy Relations"

Sylvia Lorico, CERES University of Toronto

"How the EU could strengthen sanctions against Russia"

Yonatan Lavrukov, CERES University of Toronto

"Russian Sharp Power Foreign Policy and the Western Populist Radical Right"

## GUEST SPEAKERS

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**DR. MARIA POPOVA**, Associate Professor of Political Science at McGill University.

She held the Jean Monnet Chair “Europe and the Rule of Law” from 2017- 2021. Her work explores rule of law and judicial reform in the post-Communist region. Her first book *Politicized Justice in Emerging Democracies* (Cambridge UP, 2012) won the American Association for Ukrainian Studies prize for best book in the fields of Ukrainian history, politics, language, literature, and culture. Her recent work has focused on judicial reform in Ukraine, the politics of corruption prosecutions in Eastern Europe, conspiracies, and illiberalism. With Oxana Shevel, she is completing a book on the root causes of the Russo-Ukrainian war, entitled “Russia and Ukraine: Entangled Histories, Diverging States”.

**TESS MEGGINSON**, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Megginson currently holds a bachelor’s in History from McGill University and an MA from CERES at the University of Toronto. While at CERES, Megginson wrote the thesis, “Shaping Europe’s Borderlands: Maps, Sovereignty, and Violence in Teschen, 1918-1920” Megginson has also presented at several conferences in Toronto and Montreal and was previously the Co-Chair of the CERES Graduate Student Conference. Megginson’s work has been published in *Eurasiatique* vol. VII and *Re:Views Magazine* vol. VIII.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The CERES Graduate Student Union and Conference Committee would like to express our thanks to our guest speakers, Dr. Maria Popova and Tess Megginson, as well as our chairs, Dr. William M. Jenkins, Dr. Serhiy Bilenky, Dr. Anna Shternshis, Dr. Milena B. Methodieva, Dr. Andres Kasekamp, Dr. Jennifer Jenkins, Dr. Ivan Kalmar, and Dr. Ed Schatz for their time and expertise.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Larysa Iarovenko, Olga Kesarchuk, and Arba Bardhi for all their support in the planning process, and to the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Affairs, the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, and the Hungarian Studies Program at the University of Toronto for their generous funding.

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of our presenters, without whom this conference would not be possible.

**Sincerely,**

**CERES GSU & Conference Committee,**

Michaela Nudo (Co-Chair)

Julia-Maria Xavier (Co-Chair)

Isaure Vorstman

Alexandra Nisipeanu

Kayla Shainhouse

Blythe Gilbert