

**Researching the NKVD/KGB
and the Opening of Soviet Secret Police Archives in Ukraine, 2014-2024**
Prague, Toskánský palác, June 20–22, 2024

Program

Thursday, June 20. Conference Opening

17:30. Welcome from Jan Lipavský – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Discussion: **“Ten Years After: The Opening of Secret Police Archives in Ukraine in A Time of War.”** Guest Speakers: **Andriy Kohut** (Director, Sectoral State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine); **Iryna Lopuschynska** (Director, State Archives of Kherson Region); **David Stulík** (moderator, Special Representative for the Eastern Partnership)

Friday, June 21. Day 1

9:45-10:45. **Session 1. Terror and its Perpetrators**

Moderator: **Adam Hradilek**, Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (ÚSTR)

- **Timothy K. Blauvelt** (Ilia State University, Tbilisi), “NKVD Investigators as Subjects during the Great Terror in the Stalinist Periphery”
- **David Brandenberger** (University of Richmond), “Reading Interrogation Protocols after the Linguistic Turn: A Textual Analysis of Uman’s 1939-1940 Purge of the Purgers”

11:00-12:00. **Session 2. War Crimes and Evidence**

Moderator: **Serhii Plokhii** (Harvard University)

- **Fransızka Exeler** (Magdalene College, Cambridge and Freie Universität Berlin), “What Counts as a Reliable Historical Source and For Whom? The 1947 Soviet Military Trial at Chernihiv and Some Reflections on the Nature of Soviet War Crimes Trials”
- **Olena Lysenko** (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), “Documents from State Security Agencies of the 1970-1980s as a Source for Investigating Nazi War Crimes: A Case Study of the Chernihiv Region of Ukraine”

12:00-12:30: **General Discussion on Papers from Sessions 1 and 2.**

Moderator and Discussant: **Lynne Viola** (University of Toronto)

14:00-15:00. **Session 3. Secret Police Files: Lives and Afterlives**

Moderator: **Igor Cașu** (National Agency for Archives, Moldova)

- **Paula Chan** (All Soul's, Oxford), "A Tale of Two Perpetrators: Soviet War Crimes Prosecutions from Local to Digital"
- **Karolina Koziura** (European University Institute, Florence), "The Afterlife of Files: Secret Police Archives across Eastern Europe"

15:30-16:30. **Session 4. Violence and Memory**

Moderator: **Vanessa Voisin** (University of Bologna)

- **Jared McBride** (UCLA), "Just Off-Camera: Epistemic Borders and Violence in Ukrainian Secret Police Archives"
- **Victoria Smolkin** (Wesleyan), "How the Security Apparatus Participated in both the Repression and Construction of Memory in Late Soviet Ukraine"

16:30-17:00. **General Discussion on Sessions 3 and 4.**

Moderator and Discussant: **Vanessa Voisin** (University of Bologna)

17:00-18:00. Roundtable 1: Digital-Age Scholarship, International Cooperation, Public History

Igor Cașu (National Agency for Archives, Moldova), **Adam Hradilek** (ÚSTR), **Andrii Kohut** (SBU Archive), **Natalia Khanenko-Friese** (University of Alberta), **Christian Ostermann** (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars)

Saturday, June 22. Day 2.

9:30-10:45. **Session 5. Secret Police Practices**

Moderator: **Lynne Viola** (University of Toronto)

- **Guillaume Minea-Pic** (CERCEC/EHESS and European University Institute), "Theory and Practices of Violence: The Cheka/OGPU and Soviet State-Building"
- **Kathryn David** (Office of Historian, U.S. Department of State), "Surveillance and the Sacred"

11:00-12:00. **Session 6. Stalinist Deportations and the Agency of the Deportees**

Moderator: **Andriy Kohut** (SBU Archive)

- **Roman Podkur** (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), “The Research Potential of the Files of Department V (Military Censorship) for the Study of Popular Opinion”
- **Alain Blum** (EHESS and INED), “Postal Control and Family Files: What Ukrainian and Lithuanian Archives Reveal about Deportation Situations”

12:00-12:30: **General Discussion on Sessions 5 and 6**

Moderator and Discussant: **David Brandenberger** (University of Richmond)

14:00-15:30. **Session 7. Informants, Information, and Ideology**

Moderator: **Michael David-Fox** (Georgetown University)

- **Julie Fedor** (University of Melbourne), “The KGB’s ‘Trusted Persons’: A Closer Look at an Important but Neglected Category of KGB Collaborators”
- **Oksana Yurkova** (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), “GPU Secret Informants at the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences: The Cases of Secret Informants ‘Academician’ and ‘European’ in the 1920s”
- **Olga Bertelsen** (Tiffin University, Ohio), “The KGB and Soviet Youth: Forms of Ideological Control”

15:30-16:00. **General discussion for Session 7**

Moderator and Discussant: **Michael David-Fox** (Georgetown University)

16:30-17:30. **Roundtable: Reflections on the State of the Field**

Seth Bernstein, **Michael David-Fox** (Georgetown University), **Serhii Plokhii** (Harvard University), **Roman Podkur** (Institute of the History of Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), **Vanessa Voisin** (University of Bologna)