

# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE



**FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023**  
**8:45 A. M. – 4:00 P. M. – EST**

ORGANIZED BY THE

**THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM OF GEORGIA (ISCOG)\* - CELEBRATING 30  
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## Agenda - Draft

- 8:45 a. m.      **WELCOME AND GREETINGS**
- 8:50            **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**  
Rajgopal Sashti, Consortium Founding/Executive Director, Reinhardt University.
- 9:00            **HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE: KREMLIN'S USE OF UKRAINE'S EAST/WEST DIVIDE**  
[Dr. Petro Kuzyk](#), Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations and Diplomatic Service, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine
- 9:45            **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 10:00          **Break**
- 10:15          **WHO ARE UKRAINE'S NEIGHBORS AND WHERE DO THEY STAND?**  
[Dr. Marianne Kamp](#), Associate Professor, Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University Bloomington.
- 11:00          **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 11:15          **Break**
- 11:30          **IMPACT OF THE WAR: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY AND GEOPOLITICS**  
[Dr. Olena Muradyan](#), Dean and Associate Professor at V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine.
- 12:15          **QUESTION AND ANSWER - PARTICIPANTS**
- 12:30          **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 p. m.      **AMERICAN/EUROPEAN/CHINESE RESPONSE AND SHORT- AND LONG-RANGE IMPLICATIONS**  
[Dr. Justyna Zajac](#), Visiting Professor, Political Science, Professor of Practice in European Security Studies, Indiana University Bloomington.
- 2:15            **QUESTION AND ANSWER - PARTICIPANTS**
- 2:30            **Break**
- 2:45            **RESOURCES FOR TEACHING ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND UKRAINIAN IDENTITY**  
[Dr. Tetiana Hrachak](#), Leading Research Fellow at V. I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine
- 3:30            **QUESTION AND ANSWER – PARTICIPANTS**
- 3:45            **CLOSING REMARKS, EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK**
- 4:00            ADJOURNMENT**

**\*Consortium Universities and Colleges:** Reinhardt University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University and University of North Georgia

## **Bios of Presenters and Hosts:**

Dr. Petro Kuzyk is an Assistant Professor of the International Relations and Diplomatic Service Department at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine. His research interests include post-communist transformation in Eastern and Central Europe, nationalism and nation-building, Ukraine's foreign policy and security. His most recent research has been focusing on Ukraine's often-cited domestic political and cultural differences and their relationship with the country's foreign trajectory preference.

**Dr. Marianne Kemp**

<https://ceus.indiana.edu/people/current-faculty/kamp-marianne.html>

Dr. Olena Muradyan is a Dean of the School of Sociology and an Associate Professor at Political Sociology Department at V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University. Candidate of Science in Sociology (Ph.D.) (2011). Gender Commissioner - Rector's Advisor. Her research focuses on social inequality, gender sociology, social values, political sociology, higher education, urban food policy, international comparative sociological studies

**Dr. Justyna Zajac**

<https://polisci.indiana.edu/about/faculty/zajac-justyna.html>

Dr. Tetiana Hrachak is a Leading Research Fellow, the Department of Theory and History of Librarianship at the V. I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Graduated from Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University. Historian, PhD in History, Doctor of Sciences in Social Communications, Professor, an expert of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, a member of the editorial boards of Ukrainian scholarly journals, engaged in civil activities as a member of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Library Association. Over 20 years of experience in research and approximately 10 years in higher education. Research interests include issues related to political and cultural communication, politics of memory, libraries' participation in the implementation of the politics of memory, preservation and transmission of historical memory, formation of critical media literacy and countering information manipulation and propaganda. Author of the monograph "Library and Political Communication" and more than 90 scholarly publications

**Director Raj Sashti.** Before joining Reinhardt University, Raj was an Associate Professor and in academic administration at half-dozen public universities and colleges in Georgia including the Georgia Institute of Technology – Sam Nunn School of International Affairs. During his 50+ years of service to higher education, he has been awarded more than \$5,000,000 grants by the U.S. Department of Education, Council for the International Exchange of Scholars and other organizations. Over the years, Raj has also received two Fulbright Specialist grants and three Fulbright Fellowships to study and travel in Germany, Japan, and Brazil. In addition to serving as an advisor to several major research universities across the U.S., he has traveled around the globe directing Fulbright funded faculty development programs in more than two dozen countries of Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Raj has two M. A. degrees in Geography, one from the University of Akron, Ohio, and the other from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India.

## **Why should American Students Learn More About the Russian Invasion of Ukraine?**

With the exception of Russia, Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. It is a country of significant security interests to the whole of Europe and to the United States. It is also a country with an immense economy, one that is still struggling to adjust to the realities of a market economy in the 21st century. But it is certainly a place of significant potential with a vibrant, educated workforce. It is a country that is not some parochial province on the edge of the world. It is a European country and from the perspective of Ukrainians, they are located at the center of Europe.

**Between January 2022 and now, the United States has provided about \$50 billion of aid to the war effort in Ukraine. A great majority of the aid sent to Ukraine has been military aid.**

Ukraine gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and has since veered between seeking closer integration with Western Europe and being drawn into the orbit of Russia, which sees its interests as threatened by a Western-leaning Ukraine.

The country is a land of wide, fertile agricultural plains, with large pockets of heavy industry in the east.

While Ukraine and Russia share common historical origins, the West of the country has closer ties with its European neighbors, particularly Poland, and nationalist sentiment has been strongest there. A significant minority of the population uses Russian as its first language, particularly in the cities and the industrialized east.

An uprising against pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich in 2014 ushered in a series of Western-leaning governments.

But Russia used the opportunity to seize the Crimean Peninsula and arm insurgent groups to occupy parts of the East, eventually launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

#### **REPUBLIC OF UKRAINE: FACTS**

- **Capital:** Kyiv
- **Area:** 603,550 sq km
- **Population:** 43.5 million
- **Language:** Ukrainian

**President: Volodymyr Zelensky**