



"The Three Revolutions" Project: a short introduction



The project aims, first, to collect oral testimonies of the participants in three revolutions in Ukraine that occurred since the 1990s – the Revolution on Granite of 1990, the “Orange Revolution” of 2004-5 and the Euromaidan of 2013-2014. Find out more [here](#)

"The Oral History of Ukrainian Revolutions" seminar



The seminar “The Oral History of Ukrainian Revolutions” was the first organized within the framework of the “Three Ukrainian Revolutions” (3R) project. Find out more [here](#)

The Vice-Rector's Address



The Natolin campus of the College of Europe, with its European Neighbourhood Policy and European Civilization chairs, has embarked on an interdisciplinary study of the Three Revolutions in Ukraine. Find out more [here](#)

Upcoming conference and call for papers



On 20 June 2016, the Natolin campus of the College of Europe will host another conference within “Three Revolutions” framework. The conference “Revolutions, maidans and protests in contemporary Ukraine. Find out more [here](#)

“The Three Revolutions” project: a short introduction



“The Three Revolutions” is an interdisciplinary history project initiated and carried out by the European Civilization Chair of the College of Europe in cooperation with a number of academic partners, including, among others, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Harvard University, the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre-européen, the University of Alberta, and the Institute of Political Sciences at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The project aims, first, to collect oral testimonies of the participants in three revolutions in Ukraine that occurred since the 1990s – the Revolution on Granite of 1990, the “Orange Revolution” of 2004-5 and the

Euromaidan of 2013-2014. The secondary aims of the project include compiling an important resource for scholars, which would provide insight into the atmosphere of all three events through the eyes of its crucial participants. Achieving this goal would provide a valuable historical account for all interested in modern Ukrainian history at these three important junctures and examine them from a comparative historical perspective. Finally, the project will also constitute an opportunity for the scholars to meet and discuss the methodological approaches to oral history and its relevance to the study of modern Ukrainian history.

The project's overall contours are shaped by the Programme Council, which is composed of prominent historians and experts in current Ukrainian affairs. The Council's efforts are supported by a team of experts.

The team in charge of coordinating the project is composed of the College of Europe staff members and is headed by Prof. Georges Mink (Permanent Professor) and Dr Paweł Kowal (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the European Civilization Chair). The rest of the team comprises of Marek Rybak (Head of Events), Kateryna Pryshchepa (Project Officer), Przemysław Pazik (Assistant at the European Civilization Chair), Miłosz Wiatrowski (Academic Assistant), and Paweł Pujszo (Academic Assistant).

The implementation of the project began in November 2015 and will last until the first half of 2017. So far, the College of Europe has hosted two research seminars – “Oral history as a source for researching political breakthroughs in the context of Ukrainian revolutionary movements 1990-2014” (December 2015) and “The Oral History of Ukrainian Revolutions” (February 2016).

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The Vice-Rector's Address



The Natolin campus of the College of Europe, with its European Neighbourhood Policy and European Civilization chairs, has embarked on an interdisciplinary study of the Three Revolutions in Ukraine. The study stems from firm and deep-rooted ties between Natolin campus and Ukraine. For 15 years, Ukraine has been among the destinations of choice for the College of Europe's study trips. The study trips constitute a vital and cherished part of academic programme, which allows Natolin's students and staff to engage in in-depth discussions on a wide variety of matters with scholars, researchers and high-level officials. Moreover, Ukrainian students have been selected to study in Natolin and their presence helps us

to continuously deepen our understanding of Ukrainian culture.

With use of our expertise, we wish to explore the Revolution on Granite, the Orange Revolution and the Euromaidan. All three revolutions had an immediate and tangible impact on the Ukrainian and regional political arenas. Like many other revolutions, they were mixtures of desperation and hope. Consequently, it is more than likely that this will be reflected in the accounts of the interviewees, whose memories will be collected as a part of the project. The task of preserving emotionally-charged accounts with academic rigour is difficult. Nevertheless, as the recent seminar on oral history methodology has shown, the participating researchers are fully aware of and capable of addressing the methodological pitfalls.

The project aims at nothing less than a comprehensive collection of the accounts of main participants of the three revolutions and their historical analysis. I am confident that the quality of the outcome will reflect the importance of the topic.

Ewa Ośniecka-Tamecka

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“The Oral History of Ukrainian Revolutions” seminar



The seminar “The Oral History of Ukrainian Revolutions” was the first organized within the framework of the “Three Ukrainian Revolutions” (3R) project. The overall objective of the event, which took place on 19 February 2016 at the College of Europe’s campus in Natolin, was to discuss the applicability of using oral history as a methodological means to explore the three Ukrainian revolts. The seminar was split into two parts.

The first began with Prof. Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski’s welcome address, in which he thanked the Vice-Rector of the College of Europe, Ewa Ośniecka-Tamecka, for making the project

one of her priorities and introduced the project leader, Prof. Georges Mink, and its main investigator – Dr. Paweł Kowal. Then, Prof. Butterwick-Pawlikowski highlighted the importance of the events on which the project focuses. On the one hand, their historical roots can be found in the direct democratic traditions of the Zaporozhian Cossacks. On the other, the means used by, in particular, the Euromaidan revolutionaries bear a strong imprint of contemporary fascination with social media. Consequently, a rigorous study of the three Ukrainian revolutions could not only contribute to the manner in which modern Ukrainian history is viewed, but also lead to a valuable advance of political sciences.

The presentation by Dr. Katarzyna Bock-Matuszyk (associated with the „Remembrance and the Past” centre in Poland) followed. Her paper entitled “Contemporary discussions on oral history methodology use in historical research” began by pointing out that methodological disputes are fiercely contested to the extent that the oral historians do not to agree even on a definition of oral history itself. Moreover, she also drew attention to a number of ethical dilemmas that a historian may encounter while crafting and using oral history accounts. Dr. Bock-Matuszyk highlighted the fluidity of an oral history account, associated dilemmas of historians related to, for example, a witness’s unwillingness to protect the identity of the source or willingness to change fragments of the account after a period of time. The first panelist concluded by posing questions regarding the role and moral obligations of the historian vis-à-vis the witness and the oral history account.

The second paper, “Oral history as a source for contemporary history studies”, given by Dr Dobrochna Kałwa of the University of Warsaw, related to a number of topics discussed in the previous presentation and touched on other pertinent issues. She underlined the importance of oral historians’ much-needed ability to promote their project’s significance as some large, valuable and meticulously collected databases of oral history are hardly ever used. She has also dealt with some further methodological dilemmas such as whether a historian should analyse oral history sources

(partially) created by herself/himself. Finally, she briefly discussed the pros and cons of a diachronical method of studying oral history, in which the researchers return to the interviewee after a period of time to revisit same or similar questions.

The first session of the panel concluded with a brief questions and answers session initiated by Prof. Aleksanda Hnatiuk. She has stressed that when designing oral history projects' methodologies, it is important to recognize the achievements and address some rather unsettling questions raised as a result of the so-called "linguistic turn". Afterwards, Prof. Georges Mink took up a question about the researcher-interviewee relations and mentioned practical techniques which aim at establishing the relationship of equality between the interviewer and interviewees. Then, Prof. Jan Kubik of UCL pointed out that the diachronical method raises a question about the very object of studies – whether oral history is a study of historical events or rather a study of the memories about those events, or, the later stages, a kind of meta-memory. Delving deeper into the practicalities of diachronical studies, Dr. Paweł Kowal asked about the techniques facilitating avoidance of repetitive oral history accounts offered by those interviewees, who during the consequent interviews would return to their accounts rather than their memories. The second panelist addressed the issue by saying that the questions posed in the second and consequent interviews do not have to be the same as during the first one.



After a brief break, the second part of the seminar began with "Experience of oral history research in Ukraine", the presentation by Prof. Gelinada Grinchenko of Kharkiv National University. The professor discussed a number of Ukrainian oral history projects completed in recent years. She has described the practicalities of conducting an oral history study in the Ukrainian context. Prof. Grinchenko also highlighted the importance of oral history in Ukrainian historiographical debates.

The presentation of Leonid Findberg, the director of the Judaica Center at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy concerned other pitfalls of oral history projects. In the intervention on "Interview with intellectual, opinion leader or commentator. Oral history or personal commentary of events?", Mr. Findberg draw attention to the impact of the current position of interviewees on the content of their accounts.

Finally, Dr. Pavel Mücke of the Czech Academy of Sciences delivered a presentation "Oral history as a document of transformations in Central Europe".

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Upcoming conference and call for papers



On 20 June 2016, the Natolin campus of the College of Europe will host another conference within “Three Revolutions” framework. The conference “Revolutions, maidans and protests in contemporary Ukraine. The current state of research and future directions” will summarise the research on revolutionary movements in contemporary Ukraine from a wide scope of scholarly (e.g. history, political science, sociology etc.) and national historiographical (i.e. Ukrainian, German, Russian, Polish, Anglo-Saxon etc.) perspectives.

The conference will also focus on the relevant research methods, the availability and usability of the sources needed for in-depth studies of Ukrainian revolutions and assess the expertise of the leading think-tanks deal with the Ukrainian recent history and its political arena.

Please refer to the call for papers below for further details.

“Revolutions, maidans and protests in contemporary Ukraine. The current state of research and future directions.”

The conference will take place within the framework of the “Three Revolutions” research project realized by the European Civilization Chair at the College of Europe Natolin EP carried out in cooperation with the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, University College London (the School of Slavonic and East European Studies), the University of Alberta Canadian Institute of Ukrainian, Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre-européen, Paris

Date: 20 June, 2016

Place of conference: Warsaw, Natolin

Conference languages: English, Polish, Ukrainian

Conference topics:

- a summary of the current state of research on the revolutionary movements in contemporary Ukraine in the fields of history, political science, sociology, etc. with special emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach and on the international context,
- a summary of the current state of research in terms of historiography in different countries (Ukraine, Germany, Russia, Poland, etc.) and in different languages (Anglo-Saxon literature, Russian-speaking literature)
- a summary of the current state of research in chronological order (the study of the Revolution on Granite, the Orange Revolution, etc.),
- methodology of research on the transformation of modern Ukraine, the availability and usability of sources etc.,
- assessment of the expertise of leading think-tanks in relation to Ukraine.

The scientific & organizing committee expects from the authors/papers/contributions an assessment of the state of research on the problems of system transformation in Ukraine and a formulation of proposals on future research.

The scientific & organizing committee of the conference: Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, Professor Georges Mink, Dr. Paweł Kowal, Przemysław Pazik, Paweł Pujszo

Main investigator of the conference: Dr. Paweł Kowal (pawel.kowal@coleurope.eu)

The secretary of the conference: Kateryna Pryshchepa (kateryna.pryshchepa@coleurope.eu), Miłosz Wiatrowski (m.wiatrowski@coleurope.eu)

Organizers do not charge a fee for participation in the conference, but the authors of the papers are paid.

Application Form (please send the completed form by 30 April 2016)

E-mail address:

Name:

Academic title, position, university:

Address, telephone contact, e-mail:

Title of the paper:

Required equipment for presentations (please specify from among the following: multimedia projector + laptop, overhead projector):

Abstract of the paper (about 10 sentences):

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Editors: Prof. Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, Paweł Pujszo