

Center for Governance and  
Culture in Europe

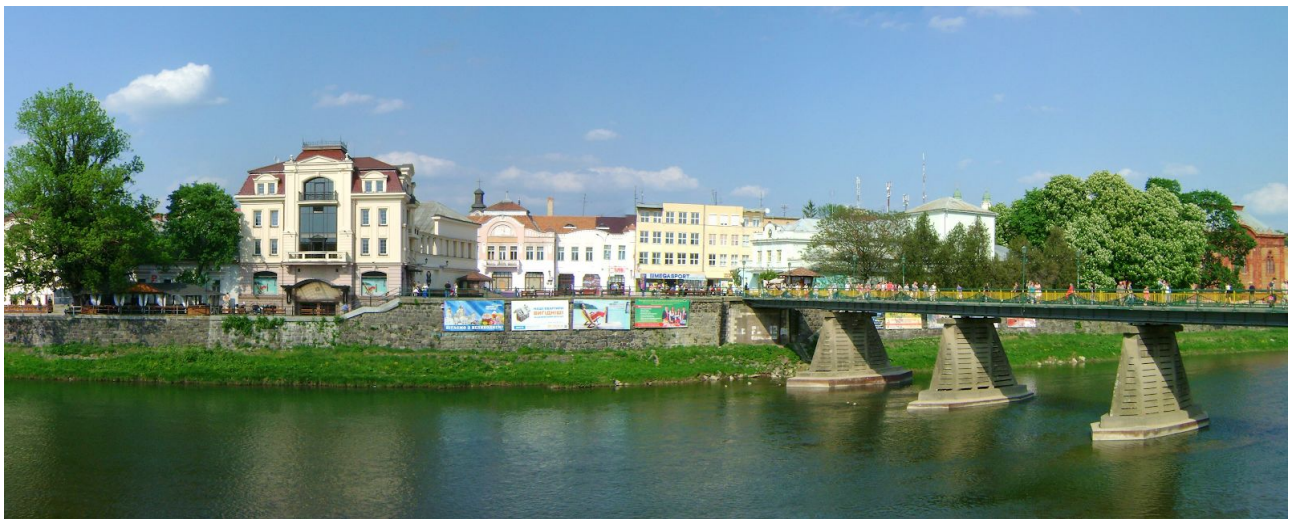


University of St.Gallen

## Transcultural Contact Zones in Ukraine: Borders, Conflicts, and Multiple Identities

Annual Conference of the "[Ukrainian Regionalism: A Research Platform](#)" Network

10-11 September 2018  
Uzhgorod, Ukraine



The *Transcultural Contact Zones* project brings together an international and interdisciplinary research team for the annual meeting in Ukraine. Coordinated by the University of St.Gallen (HSG) in Switzerland, the project is focused on the concept of transculturality by way of examining regionalism in Ukraine through various methodologies. Affiliated researchers include historians, sociologists, anthropologists, economists, literary scholars, and linguists from Ukraine, Switzerland, Poland, Austria, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Russia, Germany, Romania and the U.S. Please visit the [project website](#) from more information on hitherto project activities.

Mary Louise Pratt defined the concept of contact zones in relation to post-colonial Studies as social arenas in which cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other within spaces of asymmetrical power relations. The *Transcultural Contact Zones* project applies this concept to the heterogeneous cultural and social phenomena of Ukrainian regionalism. Contact zones in Ukraine might be described as dynamic cultural spaces that go beyond national narratives to encompass current processes of renegotiating identity, history, and belonging.

The thematic scope of the conference includes, but is not limited to:

- Case studies of borderlands and regionalism in Ukraine and the Black Sea region
- Transcultural history and heritage of borderlands
- Neighborhood relations, everyday diplomacy and patterns of othering
- Imperial and socialist legacies
- Multiple identities and polyphonal belongings
- History of nation building vs. local subcultures
- instrumentalization of the past and formation of collective memories
- Language and literature as a form of contact zones
- Religion and secularization in the public sphere
- Economy, mobilities, and migration
- Shifting contact zones: military conflict and IDPs
- Post-conflict societies and reconciliation strategies

### **How to apply**

We invite sociologists, historians, anthropologists, economists, geographers, slavists, political scientists, and academics from related disciplines to apply for the conference. We are looking forward to receiving applications from scholars who work with the framework of transculturality. While the conference is focused on Ukraine, proposals from academics working on East-Central Europe and the Black Sea region are welcome. The conference committee invites early stage, as well as advanced researchers. The working language of the conference is English. To apply, please send the following documents:

1. A curriculum vitae
2. A 300 to 500 word conference abstract

Please send application materials to [uaregio@gmail.com](mailto:uaregio@gmail.com) by **April 20, 2018**.

All travel expenses, accommodation, and meals are covered by the conference committee.