

Diaspora Activism and the Holodomor in the Early Cold War Era (1945-1955)

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My presentation will focus on the post-war decade (1945–1955) as thousands of refugees from various parts of Ukraine began arriving in North America. Specifically, I will examine diaspora activism as it related to the Holodomor. One of the most important and unknown parts of the story is the way that diaspora activists in the U.S. worked to give Ukrainian refugees from the Soviet Union a public platform to relate their experiences to an American audience during the early years of the Cold War—at the very moment when U.S. policy towards the Soviet Union was being debated and defined in Washington D.C. I will consider the role of various institutions and individuals in this campaign—as well as the lasting impact of this remarkable decade of political activism.