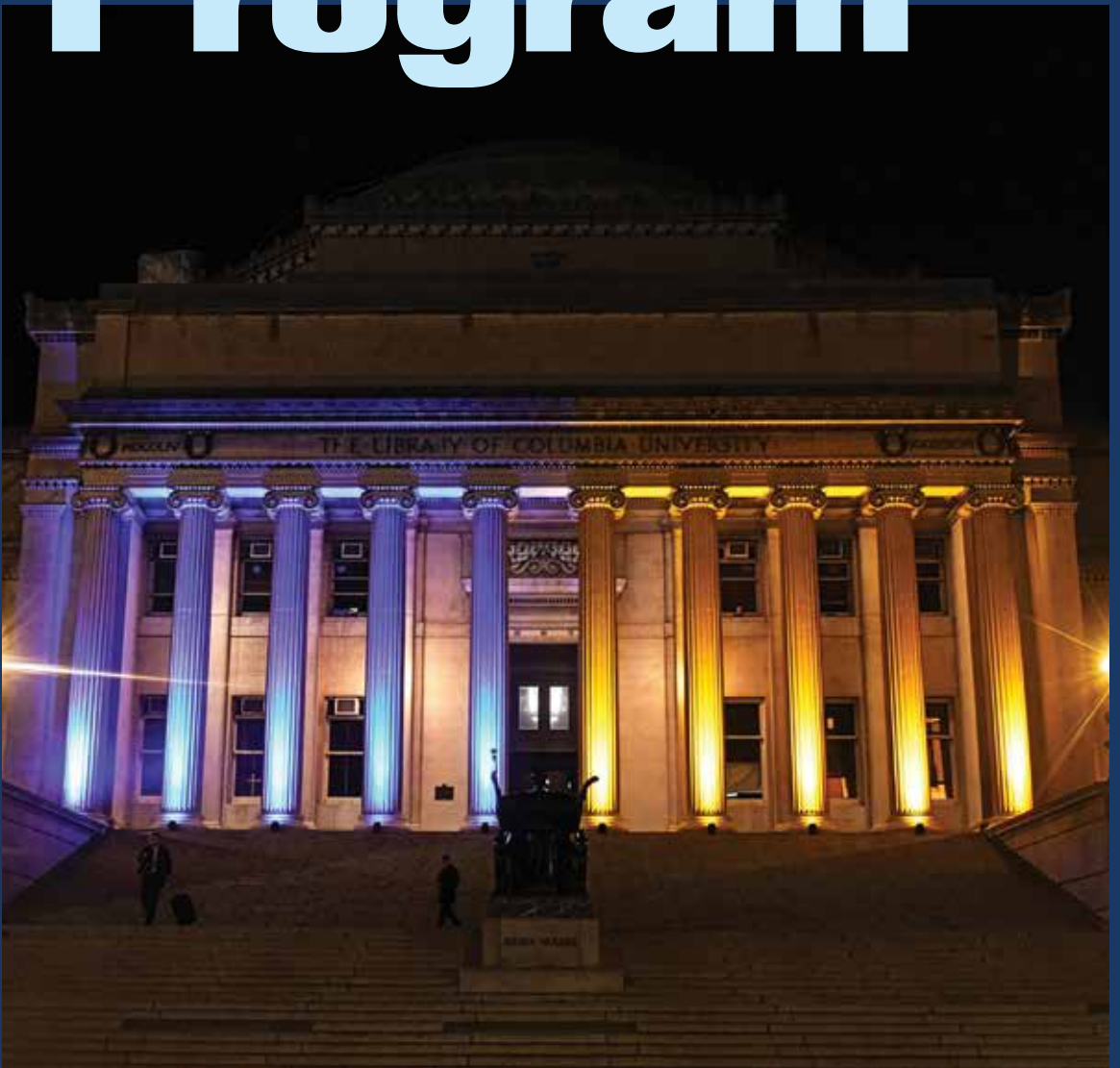


 COLUMBIA | HARRIMAN INSTITUTE

Ukrainian Studies Program



About the Ukrainian Studies Program



The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University is a vibrant and multi-faceted program that promotes research and scholarship on Ukraine while also integrating Ukrainian studies into broader intellectual and policy agendas. By expanding the existing course offerings at Columbia, the Ukrainian Studies Program aims to develop a curriculum that educates academics, diplomats, journalists, businesspeople, and future specialists on the history, language, literature, and politics of Ukraine.

Columbia University is one of the world's most important centers of research and a globally-renowned center of learning. The Harriman Institute is the first and leading academic institution devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the successor states of the Soviet Union and the post-communist states of Eastern Europe.



Harriman Director Valentina Izmirlieva
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso



Harriman event "Art in Time of War: Celebrating the Resilience of Ukrainian Culture" (2023)
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso



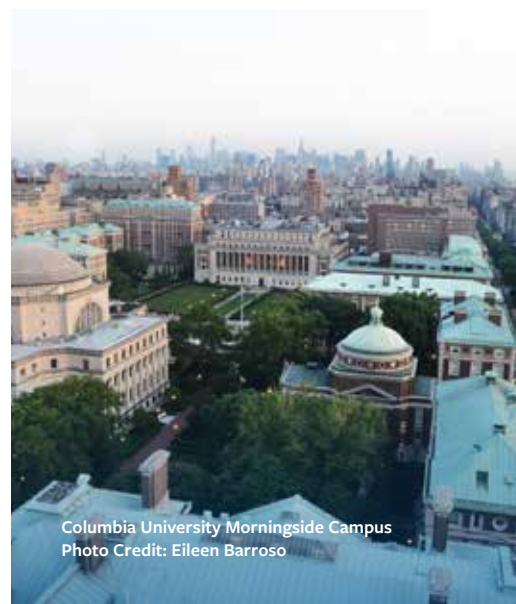
Harriman graduates on Commencement Day



Harriman Institute joins the Global Coalition of Ukrainian Studies – Harriman Interim Director Jack Snyder; Fordham Professor of Political Science Olena Nikolayenko; First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska (2025)



Nobel Prize winner Oleksandra Matviichuk and Columbia's Wafaa El-Sadr (2024)
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso



Columbia University Morningside Campus
Photo Credit: Eileen Barroso

Affiliated Faculty

Faculty, Visiting Faculty, and Postdoctoral Scholars are the foundation of the Ukrainian Studies Program. They conduct research, train the next generation of experts, and share their knowledge of the region with a broad audience through public events.



Mark Andryczyk

Administrative Director of the Ukrainian Studies Program and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures



Elise Giuliano

Senior Lecturer of Political Science and Director of the MARS-REERS Program



Valentina Izmirlieva

Director of the Harriman Institute and Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures



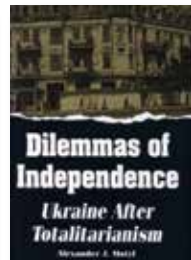
Alexander J. Motyl

Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs



Yuri Shevchuk

Senior Lecturer in Ukrainian



When, by omission or by design, our educational programs and the research that supports them ignore the Russian ideological manipulations of Ukrainian history, we, too, become complicit in them. So, teaching today the literary and cultural heritage of Kyivan Rus' as "Old Russian Literature," whether in Russia or in North America, makes all of us accomplices in a grand imperial theft of history.

—VALENTINA IZMIRLIEVA
From her George Shevelov Memorial Lecture in Ukrainian Studies (2018)

Petro Jacyk Postdoctoral Scholars

The Petro Jacyk Postdoctoral Scholar is appointed at the Harriman Institute for a two-year term. During each academic year of the appointment, the scholar teaches one course. Past appointees have included specialists in fields such as political science, art history, sociology, and music.

Ukrainian Studies Visiting Professors

The Ukrainian Studies Visiting Professor is appointed annually to Columbia's History Department to teach undergraduate and graduate courses and contribute to the university's interdisciplinary engagement with Ukrainian studies. This position is possible thanks to the generosity of the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

A Selection of Previous Visitors

Frank Sysyn, University of Alberta

Myroslav Shkandrij, University of Manitoba

Oksana Kis, Institute of Ethnology,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Serhiy Bilenky, University of Alberta

Volodymyr Kulyk, Kyiv School of Economics

A Selection of Our Extensive Course Offerings

Between Empire and Nation: Ukraine, 1772–1917

Fin de Siècle Ukrainian Literature: Beauty, Duty, and Decadence

Literature and Politics in Ukraine after 1991

Politics and Society in Ukraine

Revolutionary Ukraine, 1917–2017: History's Flashpoints and Today's Memory Wars

Soviet, Post-Soviet, Colonial, and Post-Colonial Cinema

Soviet Ukrainian Modernism: Revolutions, Rebirth, and Experimentation

The Culture of Kyivan Rus'

Today's Ukraine: Power, Politics, and Diplomacy

Ukraine in New York

Ukraine in World War II

Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe, and the U.S.

Ukrainian Language: Elementary, Intermediate, Advanced, Superior

Ukrainian Nationalism and its Mythmaking from Interwar to Postwar Years

War and Peace: Exploring Contemporary Ukraine

Academics

The Harriman Institute promotes the academic study of Ukraine with its broad support of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs at Columbia University. In addition, the Harriman Institute offers its own standalone master's program and graduate certificate program. These programs are tailored to accommodate scholars of all levels and disciplines who are interested in specializing in Ukraine or applying a Ukrainian regional focus to their general fields of study.

M.A. in Regional Studies

The Master of Arts in Regional Studies – Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe (MARS-REERS) program offers graduate-level training in the politics, international relations, modern history, and cultural and social formations of the region, with both Ukraine-specific and trans-regional focuses.

Ukrainian Language Program

The Ukrainian Language Program is a model of scholarly excellence and pedagogical innovation. Inspired by the groundbreaking theoretical work of the late George Y. Shevelov, it brings his seminal research in Ukrainian phonology, morphology, vocabulary, and stylistics into the living practice of language acquisition.

Regional Specialization – School of International and Public Affairs

Students in the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) may complete a regional specialization in Ukraine with coursework on the modern history of the country, along with courses in other disciplines that focus on Ukraine.

Certificate Program

The Harriman Institute sponsors a certificate program that trains students in Columbia University's many graduate and professional schools to adapt their individual expertise to the Ukrainian context. Certificates are granted in conjunction with graduate degree programs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of International and Public Affairs, Teachers College, Law School, Journalism School, Business School, and the School of Public Health, among others.

Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate students have the opportunity to major in Slavic Studies, or may earn a minor in Slavic and Eastern European Language and Culture with an exclusive focus on Ukraine, or on Ukraine in a comparative context.

Student Fellowships

The Harriman Institute supports students with numerous fellowships devoted to promoting the study of Ukraine: including the Bazarko, Chemych, Danko, Kanytsky, Procyk, and Shkilnyk fellowships.



Studying Ukraine at Columbia and the Harriman Institute was, for me, a life-changing interdisciplinary adventure. Literature, language, film, diplomacy, history, political science — the course offerings were unfailingly rich, innovative, urgent, and designed to showcase Ukraine in countless dimensions. **The dynamism of Columbia's Ukrainian Studies program, not to mention its outstanding faculty, sets it apart as a world leader.**

—RORY FINNIN (HI '06; Ph.D. Slavic, '10)
Professor of Ukrainian Studies and Founding Director,
Cambridge Ukrainian Studies Programme,
University of Cambridge

My time at Columbia was profoundly shaped by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute. **As a PhD student in ethnomusicology, I focused on the rich musical traditions of Ukraine's minority communities.** The program offered not only essential research support, but also a welcoming intellectual home where my ideas were challenged, nurtured, and refined.

—ADRIANA HELBIG (Ph.D. Ethnomusicology '05)
Professor of Music and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
and the College of General Studies, University of Pittsburgh



I got my start as a scholar of Ukraine at Columbia University where, as an undergraduate and then graduate student, I learned from academic luminaries in language, history, and literature. I benefited from the rich offerings in Ukrainian Studies and later contributed to them as a Jacyk Postdoctoral Scholar at Harriman. **At this pivotal moment, it is crucial to continue offering rigorous courses that reflect Ukraine's lively pluralism, complex history, and ongoing fight against Russian aggression.**

—MARIA SONEVYSTKY (Ph.D. Ethnomusicology '12)
Associate Professor of Anthropology & Music, Bard College

Engagement

Through its programs, conferences, lectures, and publications, the Ukrainian Studies Program seeks to create a forum to enrich student life, promote academic research, and inform policy.

Groundbreaking Conferences

10th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster (1996)

Conference in Honor of the 90th Anniversary of George Y. Shevelov's Birth (1998)

The Man-Made Great Famine in Ukraine of 1932–33 (Holodomor) (2003)

Nonconformism and Dissent in the Soviet Bloc: Guiding Legacy or Passing Memory? (2011)

'Braking News': Censorship, Media and Ukraine (2013)

Kharkiv, City of Ukrainian Culture: An International Conference in Honor of Yuri Shevelov (2015)

Ukrainian Statehood 1917–21: Institutions and Individuals (2017)

Five Years of War in the Donbas: Cultural Responses and Reverberations (2019)

Ukraine in North America: Diaspora Activism, Academic Initiatives (2022)

The Assault on Culture in Ukraine: The Holodomor Years (2023)

1990s Ukraine: Undertaken Initiatives & Squandered Opportunities (2026)



Mark Andryczyk in conversation with writer Yuri Andrukhovych (2024)

The **Ukrainian Studies** public events program serves the academic community and introduces Ukraine to wider audiences. Events include conferences, lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, and performances. Past events have featured renowned writers such as Yuri Andrukhovych, Serhiy Zhadan, and Oksana Zabuzhko. In collaboration with Columbia's World Leaders Forum, we hosted the Nobel Prize-winning human rights lawyer Oleksandra Matviichuk. Public intellectuals Anne Applebaum and Timothy Snyder spoke about their latest books and participated in panel discussions.

Former Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk and Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak shared their views on the political situation in Ukraine. Vitali Klitschko, mayor of Kyiv and former world boxing champion, spoke about political reforms in Ukraine. Oscar and Pulitzer prize-winning filmmaker Mstyslav Chernov participated in a film screening and discussion, and musicians Taras Chubai and Svyatoslav Vakarchuk performed in our halls. Artists Alvetina Kakhidze and Tetiana Khodakivska presented a mixed-media documentary project at an event celebrating the resilience of Ukrainian culture in wartime.

The Harriman Institute hosts the annual convention of the **Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN)**. Each year, the ASN convention features dozens of panels on Ukrainian politics, economics, social relations, and history by world-leading scholars, policy analysts, and practitioners.

The Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series (2008-2016) was organized by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute and by the Kennan Institute. It brought over a dozen leading Ukrainian writers to NYC and Washington, D.C. to meet with audiences and present new English-language translations of their works. Mark



Andryczyk's anthology made these writers more accessible in English, an important initiative of this period. Today, the Harriman Institute continues to be a leading forum for contemporary Ukrainian literature.



Oscar and Pulitzer Prize-winning Filmmaker Mstyslav Chernov, flanked by students, at the Ukrainian Film Club's 2025 screening of "2000 Meters to Andriivka"

Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University

The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University was established in October 2004 by Yuri Shevchuk, a preeminent authority on Ukrainian cinema. The club has become a unique international initiative connecting Ukrainian filmmakers with the world. Many important filmmakers have visited, including Serhii Bukovsky, Oscar winner Mstyslav Chernov, Emmy winner Volodymyr Mula, Oles Sanin, Valentyn Vasyanovych, and Krzysztof Zanussi, the prominent Polish film director.

Columbia's Slavic Collections and Archives

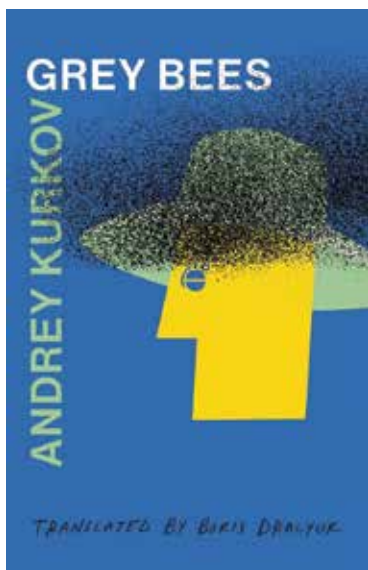
Columbia University's Slavic collections and archival resources are of international significance, including many works that are rare even in their countries of origin. The Columbia Slavic serial collections, notable for their breadth, represent an important part of the essential body of the Slavic world's intellectual heritage for the last 150 years. Additionally, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia includes 991 collections containing historically significant Ukrainian materials.



Mystetstvo cover (1920) by Heorhiy Narbut — prominent painter, graphic artist, and promoter of the rebirth of Ukrainian art

Writer in Residence

In 2023, Ukrainian novelist Andrey Kurkov became Harriman's Writer in Residence. While in the role, Kurkov offered novel insights about the impact of Russia's invasion on contemporary Ukrainian cultural production in a series of interviews and public talks. Kurkov also taught an expansive course detailing the ever-evolving relationship between Ukrainian writers and Ukraine's political developments across the last century – from the Soviet 1920s to the present day.



Andrey Kurkov's "Grey Bees"

Harriman Magazine

Since its launch in 2013, Harriman Magazine has prioritized coverage of the political and cultural developments of modern Ukraine. In 2015, an issue titled "Covering the Ukraine Crisis" was dedicated to the work of photojournalist Maria Turchenkova, who captured the aftermath of the Maidan protests and the annexation of Crimea. In 2020, the issue "Five Years of War in the Donbas" centered Vlodko Kaufman's installation at New York's Ukrainian Museum to take stock of the cultural reverberations caused by the ongoing conflict in the Donbas. The 2022 issue "Writers Respond to the War in Ukraine" and the 2024 issue "Beyond the Battlefield" offered extensive coverage of the war from the Ukrainian perspective.



The 2024 "Beyond the Battlefield" issue of Harriman Magazine



The club hosts the Unissued Diplomas exhibition honoring Ukrainian students killed before 2026

Columbia University Ukrainian Club

The Columbia University Ukrainian Club represents students of Ukrainian heritage and students with an interest in Ukraine. The club sponsors a variety of social and academic events.

Voices of Ukraine Podcast

In March 2022, the Harriman Institute released the first episode of Voices of Ukraine – a podcast dedicated to the stories of Ukrainian lives upended by Russia's war on Ukraine. Voices of Ukraine featured firsthand accounts of the war from eminent Ukrainian novelists, journalists from the Kyiv Independent, composers, and many others.



Voices of Ukraine Podcast. Artwork by Victoria Tentler-Krylov

Collaborations



Translating Ukraine Summer Institute in Wroclaw, Poland (2024)



Columbia Global Centers | Paris



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, IWM
Photo Credit: Michael Kleinsasser

Translating Ukraine Summer Institute

The Harriman Institute co-organizes the Translating Ukraine Summer Institute (TUSI) together with other premier centers of Ukrainian research around the globe. Taught and led by luminaries of Ukrainian-English translation, the twelve-day training program was established to support emerging and mid-career translators in the field of literary and academic translation.

Harriman Residents in Paris

In 2022–2023, in collaboration with the Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination and Columbia Global Centers | Paris, the Harriman Institute offered a year-long residency program in Paris to support four displaced Ukrainian intellectuals and their work.

Non-Residential Fellowships

Following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Harriman Institute partnered with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM, Vienna) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) to offer a slate of non-residential fellowships for Ukrainian scholars, cultural figures, and public intellectuals – prioritizing those who continued to live and work in Ukraine.

Harriman Resident in Vienna

Together with the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) and the Austrian Society for Literature (der ÖGfL), the Harriman Institute offered a six-month residency program in Vienna to support the cultural production of Ukrainian artists and academics.

Early Years of Ukrainian Scholarship at Columbia University

Introduction

Columbia University’s engagement with Ukrainian Studies began in the first half of the twentieth century when several faculty members developed sustained scholarly interest in Ukraine. Among the earliest scholars of Ukraine was Professor Clarence Manning, a founding member of Columbia’s Slavic Department, who taught from 1917 to 1958. Manning conducted research on Ukrainian literature and history and was among the initial contributors to “Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia,” the first English-language reference work of its kind upon publication in 1952. Starting in 1935, Professor Joseph Stetkewicz offered Ukrainian language courses for several years before being succeeded in the endeavor by Professor Simon Demydchuk.

Philip Mosely

Another pivotal figure was Professor Philip Mosely, a political scientist whose interest in Ukraine emerged during the 1920s and 1930s. He visited Kyiv in 1934 while traveling in the Soviet Union. In 1946, Mosely played a central role in establishing Columbia’s Russian Institute (now the Harriman Institute), serving as its director from 1951 to 1955. The Institute quickly became a major center for the study of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Mosely helped secure financial support for a number of emerging Ukrainian scholars at Columbia University. Among them were George S. N. Luckyj and Ivan Lysiak-Rudnytsky. Luckyj later became a founding figure of Ukrainian Studies in Canada, while Lysiak-Rudnytsky emerged as one of the most influential historians of Ukraine in the twentieth century.

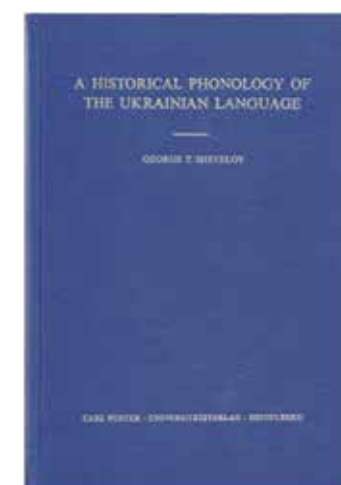


Ihor Ševčenko

Columbia also hosted several leading Ukrainian scholars whose work further strengthened the university’s role in the field. Professor Ihor Ševčenko taught at Columbia from 1957 to 1965, offering courses in Byzantine and Slavic studies before continuing his career at Harvard University.

George Y. Shevelov

In 1954, Professor George Y. Shevelov, a post-war refugee and perhaps the greatest philologist and linguist of the Ukrainian language in the 20th century, joined Columbia’s Slavic Department. He remained at Columbia until his retirement in 1977 and produced a vast body of scholarship that established the independent historical development of the Ukrainian language in relation to Russian and Belarusian. Shevelov authored over 600 articles and essays, and was the author of monographs in English, Ukrainian, and German, including “The Syntax of Modern Literary Ukrainian,”



“A Historical Phonology of the Ukrainian Language,” and “The Ukrainian Language in the First Half of the Twentieth Century.”



Yuriy Shcherbak with Volodymyr Yavorivsky (1996)

Mark von Hagen and Columbia University President George Rupp with diplomat Anatoliy Zlenko (1996)

Then-president Petro Poroshenko speaks at Columbia's World Leaders Forum (2015)

The Expansion of Columbia's Ukrainian Studies Program

The Ukrainian Studies Program continued to grow in the late 1980s as attention increasingly turned toward the non-Russian republics of the Soviet Union. During this period, the Harriman Institute's Nationality and Siberian Studies Program devoted significant intellectual and financial resources to the study of Ukraine, thereby cementing the foundation for a sustained institutional presence in Ukrainian Studies.

A key figure in this phase was Professor **Alexander J. Motyl**, a political scientist and Associate Director of the Harriman



Institute, who also served as director of the Nationality and Siberian Studies Program from 1988 to 1992. Under his leadership, the program supported Ukrainian language and literature instruction, hosted Professor James Mace, then the leading specialist on the

Holodomor, and sponsored numerous scholarly events on Ukraine. These initiatives directly contributed to the formal establishment of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University in 1993.

At the same time, Motyl encouraged Professor **Mark von Hagen**, a specialist in early Soviet military history, to undertake sustained research on Ukraine. As Director of the Harriman Institute from 1995 to

2001, von Hagen expanded the program's academic profile. His scholarship, which drew extensively on Ukrainian language sources, made a significant contribution to the reorientation of Ukrainian history within North American academic discourse. Von Hagen's later service as President of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies and as Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich further solidified Columbia University's standing in the international field of Ukrainian Studies.



The prominence of the Ukrainian Studies Program brought a number of Ukrainian leaders and public figures to Columbia University. These included President Leonid Kuchma; Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukraine's first Minister of Environmental Protection and later Ambassador to the United States; Anatoliy Zlenko, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; and Volodymyr Yavorivsky, a poet, public intellectual, and co-founder of the Ukrainian pro-independence movement Rukh. More recently, Columbia University hosted President Petro Poroshenko, continuing its ongoing engagement with Ukrainian political leadership.

Distinguished Alumni

Generations of Columbia-trained alumni have gone on to become leading scholars of Ukraine, as well as professionals and policymakers who engage with Ukraine. Through its graduate and undergraduate programs, the University has contributed to the formation of influential historians, literary scholars, political scientists, musicologists, and civic leaders, whose work continues to have an international impact.

Among Columbia's doctoral alumni in history are **Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, George Liber, Jaroslaw Pelensky, Anna Procyk, Oleh S. Fedyshyn, and Miroslav Labunka**. Graduates in Slavic Studies include **George Luckyj, Myroslava Znayenko, Michael Naydan, Rory Finin, Ivan Fizer, and George Perfecky**. Doctoral alumni in political science include **Alexander J. Motyl and Zenovia Sochor**. In musicology, Columbia-trained scholars include **Adriana Helbig and Maria Sonevitsky**. **Bohdan Vitvitsky** earned his doctorate

in philosophy, and **Virlana Tkacz** earned her MFA from the School of the Arts.

Columbia's alumni impact also extends beyond academia. **Dora Chomiak**, who received her MBA from Columbia, exemplifies the University's contribution to leadership in the nonprofit and civic sectors. At the undergraduate level, **Adrian Karatnycky**, a Columbia College graduate, represents Columbia's role in shaping public scholarship and policy engagement with Ukraine.

Ukraine is engaged in two wars, a hot war and an information war. Recognition of and support for Ukraine has always been influenced by how Ukraine is perceived and how it is understood. This is influenced by the kind of information that is generated and disseminated, whether accurate, inaccurate or intentionally distorted.

—DR. BOHDAN VITVITSKY
President, Ukrainian Studies Fund
(2014–2025)

 COLUMBIA | HARRIMAN INSTITUTE
Ukrainian Studies Program

420 West 118th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10027
(212) 854-4623 • ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu

The Ukrainian Studies Program is advised by a committee of prominent academics and Ukrainian community leaders. The Program is supported by 15 named endowed funds established at Columbia University by private donors and the Ukrainian Studies Fund, an educational not-for-profit organization founded by Columbia University alumni in 1958. Additionally, special purpose gifts have funded important library acquisitions and program activities, while grants from the New York-based Shevchenko Scientific Society have expanded teaching initiatives. Inquiries regarding future needs, planned giving, establishment of a permanent endowment fund for a tenured professorship, graduate fellowships, scholarships, or other purposes can be addressed to the Ukrainian Studies Fund at info@ukrainianstudiesfund.org

COVER CREDITS:

TYPEFACE: KTF Rublena, by Yevgeniy Anfalov (Kyiv Type Foundry)

PHOTO: Eileen Barroso

