HISTORIES AND LEGACIES OF THE DIGITAL: FROM SOVIET CYBERNETICS TO LOCAL HISTORIES OF THE INTERNET

📍 Center for Urban History,
Bohomoltsia St, 6

Центр міської історії
Center for Urban History

University of St.Gallen
Center for Governance
and Culture n Europe

NARODOWY INSTYTUT
ARCHITEKTURY
I URBANISTYKI

DAY 1 OCTOBER 3, 2024

09:30-10:00	Welcome remarks

10:00-12:30 **DECENTERING SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES** ⇄ **Taras Nazaruk** 🗩 **Svitlana Matviyenko**

Networking the Baltic: A Regional History of Digital Statecraft
🔊 **Aro Velmet**

The Evolution of RADA Systems as a Realization of
the V.M. Glushkov's Paperless Technologies Concept. Historical Aspects
🔊 **Serhiy Zhabin, Vitaliy Vishnevskey (online)**

Assembling and Disassembling Nortel Networks in Eastern
and Central Europe
🔊 **Kayla Hilstob (online)**

Civil Defense Automated Control Systems (1994), film screening
🔊 **Oleksiy Radynski (online)**

12:30-14:00	Lunch

14:00-16:00 **DECENTERING SOVIET AND POST-SOVIET DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES** ⇄ **Taras Nazaruk** 🗩 **Bohdan Shumylovych**

No Digital Networks Without Computers.
The Shortcomings of the Soviet Computer Industry
🔊 **Felix Herrmann**

Archeology of Polish File Transfer Networks: 1989-1999
🔊 **Patryk Wasiak**

De-centering the History of the Soviet Internet: Computer Networks,
Simulations and AI in the Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Lithuania
🔊 **Eglė Rindzevičiūtė (online)**

16:00-17:30	Break

17:30-19:00 **DIGITAL AS HERITAGE: COMPUTERS "LVIV" AND "KYIV," AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE INTERNET IN UKRAINE** ⇄ **Maryana Mazurak**

Public event
🔊 **Oleg Farenyuk, Darya Minieieva, Oleksa Balyura, Mykola Shcherbyna**

19:30-21:30	Dinner

🔊 Speakers   🗩 Discussant   ⇄ Chair

DAY 2 OCTOBER 4, 2024

10:00-12:00   Guided Tour to Computer History Museum (Lviv University Library)
⏩ **Mykola Shcherbyna**

12:30-14:30   **CONTEMPORARY DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND MEDIA PRACTICES**   ⇄ **Oleksandr Makhanets**
🗪 **Taras Nazaruk**

Countering Russian Attacks: the History of Civilian Data
and Media Practices in the Baltics
⏩ **Miglė Bareikytė, Johanna Hiebl (online)**

The Formative Phase of the Belarusian Internet (2010-2020):
Between Technological Innovation and State Control
⏩ **Tatsiana Astrouskaya**

Constructing the Infrastructural (In)security: The Evolving Role
of Internet Infrastructures in Cybersecurity Discourse in Ukraine
Throughout the Russian-Ukrainian War
⏩ **Mykola Makhortykh (online)**

14:30-16:00   Lunch

16:00-18:00   **DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND PRACTICES IN THE WAR**   ⇄ **Oleksandr Makhanets**
🗪 **Miglė Bareikytė**

Digital Occupation: The Illegal Transfers of Internet
Resources in the Occupied Territories of Ukraine
⏩ **Anh PhanVu (online)**

Weapons of Despair: FPV Drones, Volumes and the
Transparency of the Battlefield in the Russo-Ukrainian War
⏩ **Ksenia Rybak**

Critical Explorations of Video Games Practices in Ukraine
⏩ **Françoise Daucé**

18:00-21:00   Reception

⏩ Speakers   🗪 Discussant   ⇄ Chair

PARTICIPANTS

Aro Velmet
University of Southern California, University of Tartu

Associate Professor at the University of Southern California and Visiting Researcher at the University of Tartu. A historian of modern Europe, colonialism, science, technology, and medicine. He is the author of Pasteur's Empire (OUP, 2020) and a number of articles on French colonial and late Soviet history.

Felix Herrmann
University of Bremen

Research associate for e-Research & Digital Humanities at the Research Centre for East European Studies at the University of Bremen; he is the head of the centre's IT team and lead software developer in the DFG-funded project for research data management. Before that, he worked as a research developer at the Department for Digital Humanities at King's College London and as an IT consultant at Univention GmbH, Bremen. In November 2023, he submitted his PhD thesis titled "Red Computers. The Economic Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GDR in the Computer and Microelectronics Industry" at the University of Bremen.

Patryk Wasiak
Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences

Associate Professor, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw. He holds a PhD in cultural studies (Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities). Recipient of grants and fellowships from the Volkswagen Foundation, the Center for Contemporary History Potsdam, the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and three consecutive grants from the Polish National Science Centre. His research interests include the cultural history of the Cold War and the history of computing. His current project is supported by a 4-year research grant from the National Science Centre of Poland on programming culture and cognitive capitalism in the 1980s. He has published articles in IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, International Journal of Communication, History and Technology, Journal of Design History, and Slavic Review. He has recently published a book on the electronic industry in socialist Poland: Wasiak, P. Technological Innovation, Modernity, and Electric Goods in Late State Socialist Poland, Lexington Books, 2024.

Miglė Bareikytė
European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder)

Professor Doctor Miglė Bareikytė holds the Chair for Digital Studies at European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), where she is a dual member of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences and the European New School of Digital Studies (ENS). She is currently researching media and data practices during Russia's war against Ukraine, which she began in 2022 with colleagues from the University of Siegen and the Center for Urban History in Lviv. Miglė's research extends to the study of historical and contemporary disinformation practices and labor organizing in the context of algorithmic economies.

Johanna Hiebl
European New School for Digital Studies in Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice

Doctoral Researcher at the European New School for Digital Studies in Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice, focusing on the historical self-organization of Ukrainian society with an emphasis on analog and digital resilience since February 2022. Her research challenges conventional military and journalistic frameworks by examining civilian media and data practices, known as civil war sensing, within the "War Sensing" project led by Professor Doctor Miglė Bareikytė for Digital Studies and funded by the DFG as part of the Collaborative Research Center "Media of Cooperation" (SFB 1187). Following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, she has coordinated digital support projects in higher educational institutions responding to Russian aggression and contributed to a mental health and psycho-social support network for civil society activists.

PARTICIPANTS

Serhii Zhabin
G.M.Dobrov Institute for Scientific and Technological Potential and Science History Studies NAS of Ukraine

PhD, Senior Researcher in the Science and Technology History and Sociology Studies Department in the G.M.Dobrov Institute for Scientific and Technological Potential and Science History Studies NAS of Ukraine. Research interests are history of IT, sociology of science and popularization of science.

Vitaliy Vishnevskey
Institute of Mathematical Machines and System (IPMMS) National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

PhD, Senior Researcher, Head of the Department of visualization and images processing Institute of Mathematical Machines and System (IPMMS) National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. His research interests are visualization, image processing, signal processing, and information technologies.

Françoise Daucé
CERCEC / EHESS

Director of Studies at EHESS and a member of the Centre for Russian, Caucasian, East European and Central Asian Studies (CERCEC). A political sociologist, she is currently working on the reconfiguration of digital practices in situations of political crisis in Eastern Europe. After having directing the ResisTIC project (Criticism and circumvention of digital borders in Russia), she is now working on the DIGISOV project (Digital Governance and Sovereignty in a Fractured World: Competing States and Circulating Norms – 2024-2026). On digital questions, she published: Daucé, Françoise and Francesca Musiani (eds). "Infrastructure-embedded control, circumvention and sovereignty in the Russian Internet." First Monday 26.5 (2021); Daucé, Françoise, Benjamin Loveluck, and Francesca Musiani. Genèse d'un autoritarisme numérique. Répression et résistance sur Internet en Russie, 2012-2022. Presses des Mines, 2023.

Tatsiana Astrouskaya
Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg, and University of Giessen

Postdoctoral Researcher at the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg and a lecturer of Digital History at the University of Giessen. She received her PhD in East European history from the University of Greifswald in 2018. She is the author of Cultural Dissent in Soviet Belarus (1968-1988) (Harrassowitz 2019, Viasna 2022) and several articles, including "In Schoolbooks and on Telegram. What Is the Place of Ukraine and Ukrainians in the Memory Politics of Post-Soviet Belarus?" (Journal of Applied History, 2022). Currently, she is working on a new project that delves into the history of anti-democratic attitudes in the early history of the Russian-speaking internet.

Mykola Makhortykh
University of Bern

Alfred Landecker lecturer at the Institute of Communication and Media Science, where he studies the impact of algorithmic systems and AI on Holocaust memory transmission. Before it, Mykola worked as postdoctoral researcher on the project "Populist radical-right attitudes and political information behaviour. A longitudinal study of attitude development in high-choice information environments" (University of Bern & University Koblenz-Landau). Mykola has an interdisciplinary background, which combines communication science, humanities, data science, and computer science. Before moving to Bern, he finished his PhD at the University of Amsterdam on the relationship between Second World War remembrance and online platforms in Eastern Europe, and worked as a postdoctoral researcher in Data Science at the Amsterdam School of Communication Science for the FairNews project, where Mykola studied algorithmic (un)fairness in news personalization systems.

PARTICIPANTS

Eglė Rindzevičiūtė
🖼 Kingston University London

Associate Professor of Criminology and Sociology at Kingston University London, the UK. She is the author of "The Will to Predict: Orchestrating the Future through Science" (Cornell University Press, forthcoming in 2023), "The Power of Systems: How Policy Sciences Opened Up the Cold War World" (Cornell University Press, 2016), "Constructing Soviet Cultural Policy: Cybernetics and Governance in Lithuania After World War II" (Linkoping University Press, 2008) and co-editor of "The Struggle for the Long Term in Transnational Science and Politics: Forging the Future" (Routledge, 2015).

Anh PhanVu
🖼 Toronto Metropolitan University, York University

Doctoral Student in the joint Communication and Culture program at Toronto Metropolitan University and York University, Canada and a research assistant at the Infoscape Research Lab. Her research focuses on the politics and socio-technical imaginaries of digital infrastructures in Ukraine, contextualizing the topic within the heterogeneous yet interlinked historical and geopolitical developments of the former Soviet region. Additionally, her research interests encompass the conceptualization of translocal solidarities and geographical entanglements from diasporic positionalities, STS, infrastructural studies, and critical data studies.

Kayla Hilstob
🖼 Simon Fraser University

PhD Candidate at SFU's School of Communication and a researcher on the Cyberwar Topologies research stream at the Digital Democracies Institute. Her dissertation examines nationalism, sovereignty and internet(s) infrastructure in Canada both historically and in the contemporary moment. She has published journal articles in the Canadian Journal of Communication and Labour / le travail, and presented her work on Canada's first internet at the Special Interest Group for History of Computing (SIGCIS), the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) and the Canadian Communication Association (CCA). Her research interests include political economy of communication, the militarization of media, and the impacts of artificial intelligence on both organized and precarious labour.

Ksenia Rybak

Researcher and editor from Kyiv, Ukraine. Her interests lie at the intersection of media studies, investigative research, and spatial analysis. She has obtained a Master's degree in the Media Arts Cultures program investigating military technologies of vision and their relationship with political violence. Ksenia worked on the Center for Spatial Technologies' and Forensis's study on the Russian attack on the Mariupol Drama Theatre. She was a co-editor and journalist at the Ukrainian edition of Political Critique, where she has co-curated a research project, Ignorant Space.

Svitlana Matviyenko
🖼 Simon Fraser University

Associate Professor of Critical Media Analysis in the School of Communication and Associate Director of the Digital Democracies Institute. Her research and teaching, informed by science & technology studies and history of science, are focused on information and cyberwar, media and environment, critical infrastructure studies and postcolonial theory. Svitlana's current work on nuclear cultures and heritage investigates the practices of nuclear terror, weaponization of pollution and technogenic catastrophes during the Russian war in Ukraine. At the Digital Democracies Institute, Svitlana leads Cyberwar Topologies and Media, Infrastructure, Environment research streams. She serves on the Advisory Board of Critical Infrastructure Lab (University of Amsterdam)

PARTICIPANTS

Taras Nazaruk
Center for Urban History,
FernUniversität Hagen

Head of Digital History projects at the Center for Urban History and a coordinator of the "Telegram Archive of the War" project, which is also a subject of his PhD research at the FernUniversität in Hagen. Research focuses inculde social media archiving, digital humanities and the history of Soviet cybernetic legacy.

Oleksiy Radynski
Kinotron, KyivNaukFilm archive

Filmmaker and writer based in Kyiv. Among his projects are "Where Russia Ends," "Chornobyl 22" (grand prize at the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival), "Infinity According to Florian" (National Film Critics Award Kinokolo-22 for Best Ukrainian documentary of the year), "Circulation" (Special mention at Docudays UA), "Facade colour: blue" (Award at Kyiv International Film Festival "Molodist") and other. He was an editor of Kino-Kolo screen arts magazine and The Political Critique journal. Works on the preservation of the KyivNaukFilm archives.

Mykola Shcherbyna
Museum of Computer Technology

Co-founder and head of the Museum of Computer Technology at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, based on his personal collection of devices.

Oleg Farenyuk
Ukrainian Catholic University

Head of the Robotics Education Program, teaching Computer Sciences and Information Technologies, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

Oleksa Balyura
UAnetHistory project

Co-founder of the UAnetHistory, an archival project on the history of the Internet in Ukraine (1990-2005).

Darya Minieieva
Ukrainian Catholic University

Student at the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the Ukrainian Catholic University, co-developer of the "Kyiv" computer emulator.

Bohdan Shumylovych
Center for Urban History,
Ukrainian Catholic University

Historian and art historian, he worked with the archive of the Faculty of Visual Arts at George Washington University, Washington (USA) and the archive of Open Society Institute (www.osaarchivum.org), in Budapest. In 2020, he received a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence. The main focus of his work is media history in East Central Europe and the Soviet Union, as well as media arts, visual studies, urban spatial practices, and urban creativity.

Maryana Mazurak
Center for Urban History

Deputy Director of the Center for Urban History, where she is responsible for external and internal communication of the institution. She is involved in the Center's educational projects, coordination of academic events and research residency programs.