

# Nationality, Identity, Memory

Keynote Lecture by George Gasyna, University of Illinois Urbana  
Champaign

Slavic Graduate Student Conference

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign April 11–12, 2026

## Program

**11 APRIL 2026 SATURDAY 11.30pm - 6.00pm**

SNACKS/WELCOME 11.30-12.00

KEYNOTE: George Gasyna, “Narrating the Hybrid Self: Nation and Memory in Modern Polish Literature,” 12.00-1.00

*Freedom of Expression Through Writing, Linguistic Choice, Artistic Sport:* 1.20-2.20

Discussant: David Cooper

Chair: Megi Tedoradze

- Reading Freedom in Serf Memoirs: Emancipation as Lived Experience, Mariana Kellis (UIUC)
- Sports Citizenship and Athlete Identity Among Elite Figure Skaters in Russia, East Europe, and Eurasia, Eryn Cannon (University of Kansas)
- Redefining the Role of Women: Wartime Gender and Identity Transformation in Ukraine, Yana Koza (University of Washington)

LUNCH 2.20-3.30

Pizza

*Literature and Reception in Poland and Abroad:* 3:30-4:30

Discussant: Marek Sroka

Chair: Sasha Khuzina

- Towards Rhythm: From Witold Gombrowicz’s *Slub* to its Spanish Work *El casamiento*, Zoey Grant (UIC)
- The Reception of Montaigne in Polish Literary and Intellectual History, Gabrielle Okun (Indiana)
- Revolutionary Poet or Imperial Voice? Pushkin in Polish Discourse of the 1930s, Sofia Osokina (UIC)

**12 APRIL 2026 SUNDAY 9.00am - 12.30pm**

SNACKS/WELCOME 9.00-9.30

*Ukrainian Cultural Identity throughout History: 9.30-10.30*

Discussant: Valeria Sobol

Chair: Mariana Kellis

- Reimagining a Ukrainian Past: Natalena Koroleva's Old Kyivan Legends, Joseph Mosse (UIUC)
- National Identity and Cultural Memory in Feder Krychevskyi's Life Triptych, Kateryna Lytvynenko (University of Wisconsin)
- From “Bilingualism” to Linguistic Moral Choice: War as a Postcolonial Catalyst of Linguistic Self-Identification in Ukraine, Tala Naumovska (UIUC)

Slavic Reference Service talk 10.40-11.00

*Identity and Memory in Historic Times of Crisis: 11.00-12.00*

Discussant: Peter Wright

Chair: Mack Noxon

- The Tapestry of Testimony: Defining Alexievich's Ecological Thought in 'Chernobyl Prayer' through Literary Allusions, Aleksandr Perchatkin (University of Wisconsin)
- Mediating AIDS Crisis: Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Society in AIDS Films in 1987-1992, Ekaterina Petrenko (UIC)
- Narrative and Memory at Home and in Exile in 20<sup>th</sup> C. Czechoslovakia, Emma Baldwin (UMichigan)