



**Shifting
Borders,
Fluid
Landscapes:
Exploring
Industrial
Regions
in Transition**

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
September 30 –
October 2, 2024**

**FOYER OF THE
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY &
VIELBERTH
BUILDING
H25/26**



Universität Regensburg

The dynamism of nineteenth-century Europe elevated technological progress to the status of virtue itself. The expansive mining zones, heralded as catalysts of the Industrial Revolution, became this new, vibrant reality, shaped by imperialism and a confluence of demographic, technical, and economic powers. Over the following two centuries, industrial regions emerged as embodiments of social forces, driven by class loyalties and labour migrations. In border-straddling industrial areas (such as the Donbas or Upper Silesia), the interplay of competing nationalisms and particular forms of national indifference collided with class dynamics and migration patterns. However, structural transformations have since turned industrial regions into murky landscapes full of ruins. Despite occasional revitalized symbolic remnants of the glorious industrial past, these regions now grapple with identity crises stemming from the decline of heavy industry and a transition from once-thriving hubs to realms of uncertainty, where the proximity of the state border remains a potential trigger for armed conflict.

The aim of our conference is to conceptualize the fluid and overlapping identities within Europe's industrial spaces as well as their shifting loyalties to central governments or nation-states. Additionally, we aim to explore their impact on cognitive, economic, and political shifts and transitions, which have significantly shaped collective paradigms in these regions. Focusing specifically on cultural and literary studies, we explicitly welcome researchers specializing in anthropology, history, political studies, sociology, economy, and other related disciplines. Although our attention centres on the Eastern and Central European old industrial borderlands of the Donbas and Upper Silesia, situated along the (cultural) frontiers of Russia-Ukraine and Germany-Poland respectively, we extended an open invitation to all scholars studying European industrial areas and borderlands to partake in a broader comparative dialogue.

September 30, 2024
FOYER OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

5 PM – 5.45 PM

Welcoming address by
Prof.in Dr. Ursula Regener
*Vice President for
Internationalization and
Diversity at University of
Regensburg*

Dr. André Schüller-Zwierlein
Head of the University Library

Opening of the exhibition
“Shifting Borders,
Fluid Landscapes”
with photographs by
Viktor Marushchenko
Karolina Jonderko
Alexander Chekmenev
Michał Cała

5.45 PM – 7.45 PM

Podium discussion with
Lyuba Yakimchuk
and Zbigniew Rokita

7.45 PM –
Reception

Viktor Marushchenko (1946-2020) was one of the most internationally renowned Ukrainian photographers. He participated in the Venice Biennale in 2001 and in the São Paulo Biennale in 2004. He also founded the Victor Marushchenko School of Photography in Kyiv.

Karolina Jonderko, born 1985 in Rydułtowy, Upper Silesia, works on both local and international projects, focusing on themes of loss and its aftermath. She won the World Press Photo Award in 2021.

Alexander Chekmenev, born 1969 in Luhansk, Donbas, has been living in Kyiv since 1997. He continuously documents the changing reality of his country and exhibits his work internationally.

Michał Cała (1948) photographed Silesia most intensively between 1975 and 1992. In 2007, he was invited to participate in an exhibition at the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, showcasing the works of the 100 most important Polish photographers.

Lyuba Yakimchuk, born 1985 in Luhansk, Donbas, is a Ukrainian poet and writer known for her compelling work that often explores themes of identity, memory, and the effects of historical trauma. Her work has been translated into several European languages.

Zbigniew Rokita, born in 1989 in Gliwice, Upper Silesia, explores the multiple identities of the former German territories in today's Poland in his non-fiction literary works. He won the prestigious Polish NIKE Award in 2021.

October 1, 2024
VIELBERTH BUILDING

9 AM – 10.45 AM

Andrii Portnov (Frankfurt/O.)

Chair: Oleksandr Zabirko
(Regensburg)

DONBAS: SOME

REFLECTIONS ON POSSIBLE
RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

Room: H26

11 AM – 12.30 PM

Panel 1

Across the Disciplines:

**Donbas and Upper Silesia in
Comparative Perspective**

Room: H26

Chair: Oleksandr Zabirko (Regensburg)

Peter Oliver Loew (Darmstadt):

Upper Silesia and Donbas:
Century-Spanning Conflicts
over Two Industrial Regions

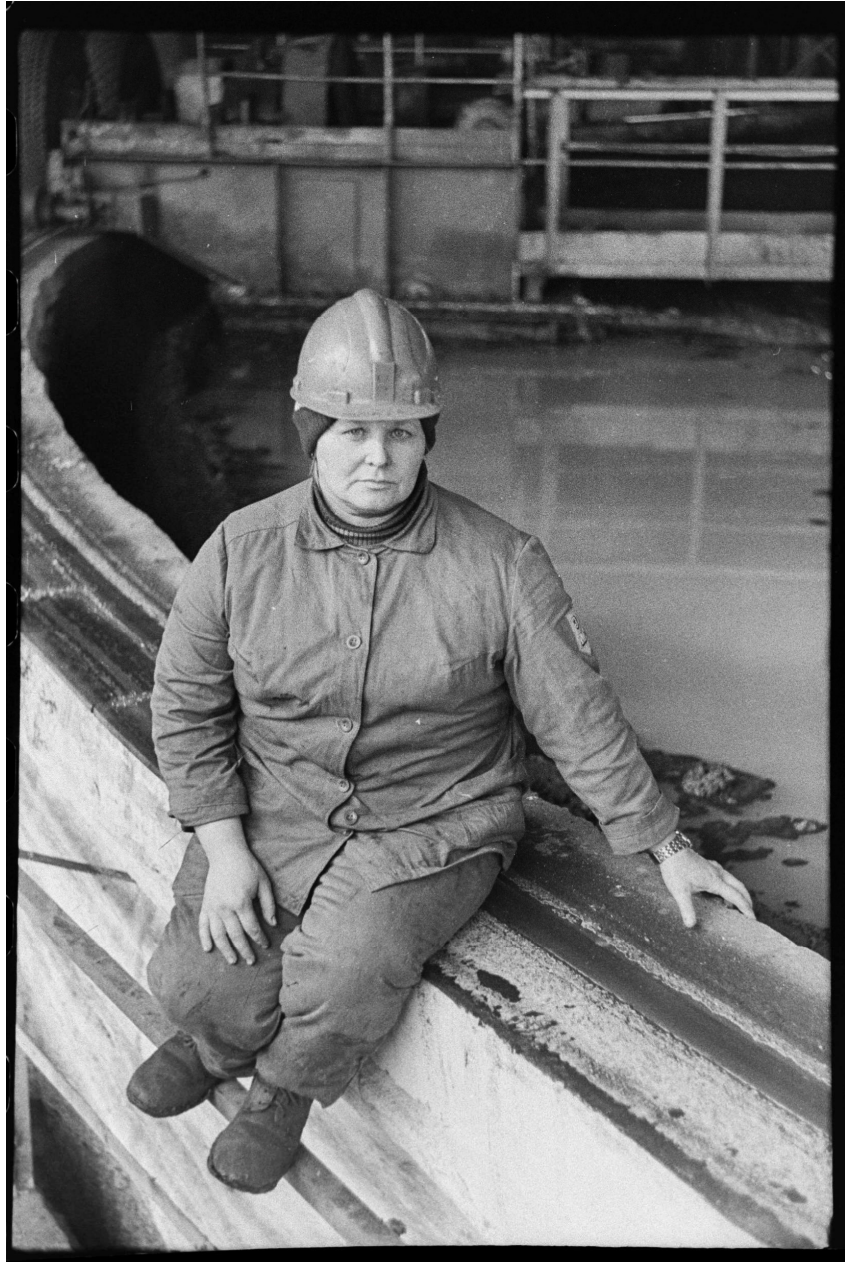
Vlad Mykhnenko (Oxford):

Geopolitics versus the Regions:
Reframing the Old Industrial
Regions Research

Alina Strzempa (Regensburg):

Region, Globalization, Industry,
Borderland, Comparison: Donbas
and Upper Silesia in Literary and
Cultural Studies

12.30 PM – 1.30 PM LUNCH BREAK



1.30 PM – 3 PM (parallel panel)

Panel 2

**Traditions and Transitions:
Questioning Social Formations in
the Post-Industrial Regions**

Room: H26

Chair: Alina Strzempa (Regensburg)

**Wiktoria Tombarkiewicz-Gorzelik
(Kraków):** Folk Costume and Miner's
Uniform as a Representation of
Upper Silesianness – Roots,
Transformations, Meanings
of the Practice

Monika Glosowitz (Katowice):

Memoirs of Women from Upper-Silesian
Families as Counter-Archive of
De/Industrialisation

Olena Syaivo Dmytryk

(Cambridge): 'A Multi-Layered Pie
of Contradictions': Luhans'k
'Orchid' Theatre of Provocative
Fashion_ **VIA ZOOM**

3 PM – 3.30 PM COFFEE BREAK

1.30 PM – 3 PM (parallel panel)

Panel 3

**Identity Crises in Upper Silesia
and the Donbas: From Industrial
Heritage to Separatism and Beyond
Room: H25**

Chair: Andrzej Czyżewski (Warsaw)

Alexandr Osipian (Leipzig):

Identity Crisis in Old Industrial Region:
Historical Legacy of Donbas
in Ukraine and Russia, 1991-2024

Jerzy Gorzelik (Katowice):

The Industrial Heritage of
Upper Silesia after 1989 as a
Factor of Cohesion and Subversion

Kyrylo Tkachenko (München):

Separatism, Irredentism, or
Something Else? The Shifting Image
of the “Exploiting Center” in
the Political Debates in the Donbas,
1989-1993

3 PM – 3.30 PM COFFEE BREAK

3.30 PM – 5 PM (parallel panel)

Panel 4

**Belonging, Displacement, and
Propaganda in the Donbas**

Room: H26

Chair: Vlad Mykhnenko (Cambridge)

Qianrui Hu (London): Evolving
Narrative of Self and Belonging
among Displaced Ukrainians
from ‘Donbas’

Jon Roozenbeek (London):
The Long-Term Failure of Russian
Propaganda_ **VIA ZOOM**

3.30 PM – 5 PM (parallel panel)

Panel 5

**Upper Silesian Borderland
Narratives**

Room: H25

Chair: Anna Seidel (Berlin)

Jess Jensen Mitchell

(Harvard/Katowice): ‘Still nothing about Silesia’: Regional Family Sagas in Contemporary Polish Writing

Leszek Drong (Katowice):

Ghost of Borders Past: Haunted Borderscapes in Contemporary Narratives from Upper Silesia

Adam Kubik (Heidelberg): Industry as a Mirror of the Self and the Other in Contemporary Literature of Borderlands: Upper Silesia and South Tyrol

8 PM -

DINNER

"Weltenburger am Dom"

Domplatz 3

93047 Regensburg

October 2, 2024
VIELBERTH BUILDING

9 AM – 10.30 AM (parallel panel)

Panel 6

**Environmental Footprints: Water,
Nuclear, and Coal Legacies
Across Europe**

Room: H26

Chair: Olga Plakhotnik (Greifswald)

Anna Barcz (Warsaw):

Major River Floods in
19th Century Europe: Literary
Sources and a Non-Anthropocentric
History of Hydro-Infrastructure

Juliane Tomann (Regensburg):

Nuclear Heritage in the Making.
Negotiating the GDR Uranium
Mining Past in the “New Landscape”
Park in Ronneburg (Thuringia)

Marta Tomczok, Paweł Tomczok

(Katowice): Coal Humanities:
Assumptions, Perspectives,
and Possibilities

10.30 AM – 11 AM COFFEE BREAK

9 AM – 10.30 AM (parallel panel)

Panel 7

**Community Dynamics in
Industrial Landscapes**

Room: H25

Chair: Maria Mayerchyk (Kleve)

Oleksandr Zabirko (Regensburg):

The Owner and the Debt:

The Symbolic Economy of Miners'
Cult in the Soviet Donbas

Karolina Pospiszil-Hofmańska

(Katowice): Human Waste:

Exploring Narratives of Spoil Tip
Inhabitants in Upper Silesian
Literature

Anna Seidel (Berlin): Scooping
Oil and Digging Coal. Literary
Representations of Workers' Lives
in Teschen Silesia and Eastern
Galicia



*Nach dem Besuch in der
„Kopalnia Wujeta“*

10.30 AM – 11 AM COFFEE BREAK

11 AM – 12.30 PM (parallel panel)

Panel 8

**Art and Identity in Post-Industrial
Urban Settings**

Room: H26

Chair: Juliane Tomann (Regensburg)

Clemens Günther (Berlin):

Colours of Ostrava – Examining
the Colour Schemes of the Historical
Past and Present

Carlos Navarro González (Paris):

Cinema and Audiovisual Art in the
Post-Industrial Landscape of
Lisbon: Migrant, Working, and
Racialized Communities

Andrzej Czyżewski (Warsaw):

Promised Land – in Search of the
City's Identity (Łódź)

11 AM – 12.30 PM (parallel panel)

Panel 9

**Myths of the Donbas: Creation,
Persistence, and Destruction**

Room: H25

Chair: Oleksandr Zabirko
(Regensburg)

Mykola Riabchuk (Kyiv): Donbas
versus Galicia: Different Modes of
Othering and Mythologizing

Roman Dubasevych (Greifswald):

“You must defend what rightfully
belongs to you”: Masculinity,
Violence, and (Impending) War in
Serhii Zhadan’s novel

Voroshylivhrad (2010)

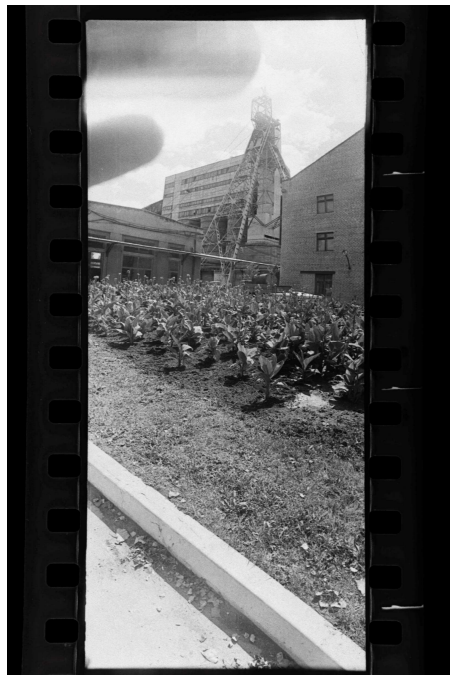
Oleksandr Chertenko (Giessen):

“Fortress Donbas”: Going Back to
a Wild Field? Cultural Accounts
of a (Former) Industrial Region
after 24.2.2022

12.30 PM –
1 PM

Room: H26
CONCLUDING
REMARKS

1 PM –
2 PM
LUNCH



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Pictures:

–Slag heap in Czerwionka-Leszczyne,
Upper Silesia, Poland, 2023, photo by
Alina Strzempa

–Worker at a beneficiation plant,
Pokrovsk, Donbas, Ukraine, 1994,
photo by Mykola Bilokon/Pokrovsk
Historical Museum/Urban Media Archive/
Center for Urban History

–After the visit in the mine „Wujek“
(„Oheim“, „Uncle“), Katowice, Upper
Silesia, 1958, photo by Joachim Dyrna
and Alfred Niewiadomski

–Building of the “Krasnolymanska”
Mine, Pokrovsk, Donbas, 1998,
photo by Mykola Bilokon/Pokrovsk
Historical Museum/Urban Media Archive/
Center for Urban History



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

