

"Member Scholars of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada" Annual Conference

In these difficult times, full of challenges for Ukraine and Ukrainians, the importance of purposeful and persistent efforts on diverse fronts cannot be overestimated. Including the unifying activity of The Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada (NTSh), which organizes an annual academic conference to present new research, new publications, new scholars, new directions, and new creative ideas.

Board member and director of conferences, Uliana Pasicznyk, was the chairperson of the 2022 "Member Scholars of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada" Annual Conference held online on December 10, 2022. Heartfelt thanks to her, as organizing committee Chair, and to all the committee members (Dr. Daria Darewych, Mrs. Chrystia Kolos, Dr. Dagmara Turchyn-Duvirak, and Ms. Nadia Gereliouk) for the successful organization of this event. The conference was opened by Dr. Marta Dyczok, President of The Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada, who also later expressed the organization's thanks to all participants and the audience. The scholars involved represented diverse fields on equally diverse topics:

- Oleksandr (Alex) Averbuch - "«Я назавжди рада забути мову якою написано всі мої вірші»: про перехід російськомовних авторів України на українську" ("I am forever glad to forget the language in which all my poems are written": about the transition of Russian-speaking authors of Ukraine to Ukrainian")
- Daria Glazkova – "Поза декомунізацією: зміна дискурсу щодо топонімів міста Одеси серед повномасштабного російського вторгнення в Україну" ("Beyond decommunization: changing the discourse on the toponyms of the city of Odesa amid the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine")
- Katharina Davoudian - "Modelling the capacity of the ovarian cancer biomarker lysophosphatidic acid to destabilize the gelsolin-actin complex"
- Kalyna Somchynsky - "Is there such a thing as Ukrainian Canadian Feminism? Lessons from the Second Wreath Conference, 1985"
- Myroslaw Iwanek - "Архів Євгена Пастернака як цінне джерело інформації про політичне та суспільно-громадське життя української діаспори" ("The archive of Yevhen Pasternak as a valuable source of information about the political and social life of the Ukrainian diaspora")

A few thoughts about each presentation. I encourage those who were not able to participate in the broadcast of the conference to watch the video, which will appear shortly on the Society's YouTube channel - (do subscribe to this channel)

<https://www.youtube.com/@theshevchenkoscientificsoc94>

Dr. Oleksandr (Alex) Averbuch, a native of Novoaidar, Luhansk oblast, Ukraine, is a literary historian, poet, and translator. He is the author of three books of poetry and an array of literary translations between Hebrew, Ukrainian, English, and Russian. His poetry deals with the issues of ethnic fragmentation and in-betweenness, multiple identities, queerness, cross- and multilingualism, documentalist writing, and memory. Since 2022 he has been an Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow and lecturer at the University of Alberta.

Based on a specially designed questionnaire, Dr. Averbuch conducted and continues to conduct research with poets, writers, and translators about their use of the Ukrainian language before and after the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. For the authors interviewed, this final post-invasion language shift was a profoundly transformative “reshaping of their internal geography.” More on this thoughtful study and its nuanced findings can be found in Dr. Averbuch's upcoming journal paper. You can read about his other research work here: <https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=eGFFEPkAAAAJ&hl=en>

Daria Glazkova earned a Master's Degree in European and Russian Affairs, Slavic Studies at the University of Toronto, a certificate from the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, and has two Bachelor degrees: in human geography and history from the University of Toronto and in philology (English language and literature) from Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University. Daria Glazkova is the coordinator of events and programs at the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, University of Toronto. She is a researcher and editor.

In her presentation, Ms. Glazkova stated that her research is focused on changes in the urban landscape of Odesa in the years after the Revolution of Dignity and as a result of decommunization initiatives in Ukraine, and in particular after the current Russian invasion of Ukraine. She talked about how a new cosmopolitan narrative of Odesa might be implemented through attempts to distance the city from its Russian past and develop its distinctive national identity. The presentation considered the controversial issue of toponymic changes, their historical and political roots, and the key role of public involvement in this issue.

Katharina Davoudian completed her bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of Toronto. During this period of study, she had the opportunity to be an Undergraduate Student Research Award student of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. During her studies, she became interested in biosensors and chemical sensors and realized that she wanted to do further research. In September 2021, Ms. Davoudian began her PhD in analytical chemistry at the University of Toronto. (In addition, she is an established and talented artist and writer who examines the topics of feminism, sustainability, art, writing, science, and more).

Katharina Davoudian provided examples of computational modeling and visualization that she and her team have been developing to investigate the defining biomarkers of ovarian cancer and their interactions with specific protein complexes. She described her findings so far and how the observed changes in the behaviour of biomarkers in relation to protein complexes increase our understanding of this cancer and, more specifically, the hope for early detection of the disease and improved survival rates.

Kalyna Somchynsky is an independent researcher and art historian living in Edmonton. In 2020, she received a Master's Degree in the History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture at the University of Alberta, where she studied contemporary feminist art in Ukraine. In 2021, she was hired by the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, to lead the oral history research project entitled “Local Narratives: The Lives, Legacies, and Locales of Edmonton's Ukrainian Canadian Community.” In this position, she also served as project coordinator of the short documentaries “Visionary Collaborations: The Life and Work of Dr. Roman Petryshyn” and “Mentoring Eternal Optimism: Dr. Ehor William Gauk.” Currently, together with Dr. John-Paul Himka, she is editing a volume of the Western Canadian Collection of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada on Ukrainian-

Canadian art and is working on an independent research project called "Our Feminist Aunties: Feminist Activism in the Ukrainian Canadian Community and the Second Wreath Conference."

Ms. Somchynsky talked about the foundations of her current research, including *The First Wreath* - the first feminist almanac in Ukraine, published in 1887 in Lviv by Nataliya Kobrynska and Olena Pchilka. This publication was the first in Galicia and in Ukraine to present the women's question as a problem to be considered from various aspects. To this point, the researcher remarked on the significance of an important event that took place on the North American continent, in Edmonton in 1985, called "The Second Wreath", on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Ukrainian women's movement. She talked about a complex issue that is as relevant today as it was then: the intersection of ethnic identity, social class, gender identity, and generation with feminism. The researcher mentioned the influence of prominent Ukrainian Canadian feminists and the identity issues of today's Ukrainian woman due to factors such as divorce, child rearing, single parenthood, domestic violence, birth control, and migration status.

Myrosław Iwanek graduated from the University of Warsaw, following which he worked there as a didactics lecturer in the Faculty of Slavic Studies and Applied Linguistics. After emigrating to Canada, he studied at York University and became a certified teacher in the province of Ontario. He worked as an editor of the magazine *Suchasnist* (*Modernity*) and serves as editor-in-chief of the publication series *Biblioteka Zakerzonnya* (*Library of Zakerzonnya*) and *Arkhiv Zakerzonnya* (*Archive of Zakerzonnya*). Historian, researcher, archivist, editor, screenwriter, and producer of documentaries, tireless compiler of materials about Kholm region, Zakerzonnya, Nadsyannya, and various other components of the Ukrainian nation. Author of a wide range of articles in Polish, Ukrainian, Czech, American, and Canadian journals about important Ukrainian social and political figures.

Mr. Iwanek spoke about his research work with the archive of Yevhen Pasternak, a Ukrainian public and cooperative activist, engineer, and amateur historian - an archive in 33 volumes, which he unexpectedly came across and which he was able to save from potential oblivion. (He is currently preparing an article on this topic.) Mr. Iwanek explained that this archive is a rich source of information not only about the life and activities of Pasternak (the husband of the late Yevheniya Pasternak, the founder of Ivan Franko Homes in Canada), but about the Ukrainian communities in which he lived, worked, and was a leading activist and journalist - in Poland, Germany, and later, in Canada. Mr. Iwanek also focused attention on the state of Ukrainian archival science and spoke about contexts (for example, Canada) where archives are well preserved. He expressed the hope that the complete archive of Ye. Pasternak will eventually be transferred to the State Archival Service of Ukraine in Kyiv, so that it will become more accessible to a larger number of researchers and, at some point, digitized.

<https://ntsh.ca/>

Ulana Plawuszczak Pidzamecky
Doctoral candidate
University of Glasgow
School of Education
Board member, NTSh of Canada