



Indigeneity and Transnationalism: The Forced Displacement of the Crimean Tatars and the Challenges of Transnational Approach

Online Workshop

May 5th, 2025. EDT 9:30 - 15:00, CEST 15:30 – 21:00, EEST 16:30-22:00.



**Carleton
University**

Institute of
European, Russian
and Eurasian Studies

Workshop Panelists:

Elmira Muratova

Endangered Indigenous Identity: The Crimean Tatars in the Context of Displacement and Occupation.

This paper examines the transformation of Crimean Tatar identity in the context of Russian occupation and forced displacement since 2014. It explores the challenges Crimean Tatars face across different socio-political settings and the strategies they employ to navigate these difficulties. In occupied Crimea, state policies aim to depoliticize and marginalize Crimean Tatars, posing serious threats to the preservation of their Indigenous identity. Meanwhile, those living in culturally distinct and socially fragmented environments on mainland Ukraine encounter their own identity-related challenges. The author argues that, in response to intensifying pressures, Crimean Tatars – both in Crimea and on the mainland – are rethinking their agency and adjusting their strategies accordingly. This re-evaluation includes shifts in the perception of victimhood, leadership and communal responsibility.

Elmira Muratova is a Post-doctoral Researcher at the European Centre for Minority Issues, Germany. Before that, she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Taurida National University, Ukraine. She gained her PhD in Political Science (Taurida National University, 2005) and works at the intersection of political science and cultural anthropology. She has published widely on Crimean Tatars' identity, collective memory and Islam. She is the co-author of *Crimean Tatars under the Changes in Political Arena* (Ariel, 2020) and the co-editor of the volume *Minorities at War: Cultural Identity and Resilience in Ukraine* (Routledge, 2025).

Nara Narimanova

Forced Displacement of the Crimean Tatars, Crimean Tatar Toponymy and Colonization

The impact of Russian colonialism on the Indigenous Crimean Tatar population, focusing on the erasure of geographic names in Crimea, had a massive effect on Crimean Tatars by forcing them to flee Crimea and replacing them with other populations. Crimean Tatar toponymy serves both a historical record and an affirmation of the people's relationship to the land. In 1783, the Russian Empire annexed the Crimean Khanate, beginning a process of colonialism that had a lasting impact on its Indigenous people and geographical names. The forced deportation of Crimean Tatars in 1944 by the Soviet Union severed this bond, leading to many decades of exile where Crimea remained a symbol of hope and longing for Crimean Tatars. Crimean Tatar villages were renamed, repurposing of cultural spaces reflected the colonial effort to erase Crimean Tatars. Russia changed the original geographic names from Crimean Tatar to Russian and new Greek names with the first step of wiping out the existence of the Indigenous Crimean Tatars in the peninsula. The 2014 annexation continues this colonial agenda, further distorting historical narratives and suppressing Indigenous presence. This paper will address Indigenous self-

determination, positionality, methodology, data collection and analysis, ethical considerations, and anticipated challenges, with a commitment to conducting research consistent with principles of Indigenous self-determination. By centering Crimean Tatar voices and experiences, this research aims to contribute to the broader discourse on decolonization and Indigenous resistance against imperial erasure.

Nara Narimanova, Ph.D. student in Indigenous Crimean Tatar Studies at the Faculty of Native Studies (FNS), and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta. Nara has her MA in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the U.S. Nara is Crimean Tatar – the Indigenous People of Ukraine. Nara’s research focuses on the experiences of Crimean Tatars, particularly in the context of their resistance to colonial and imperialist forces, their displacement, and toponymy in Crimea.

Mariia Shynkarenko

The Indigenous Self and Its Limits: Crimean Tatars and the Politics of Identity

Mariia Shynkarenko is a Research Director in Ukraine in European Dialogue program at the Institute for Human Science (IWM) in Vienna. She is a political scientist, who specializes in questions of resistance, nationalism, and identity. Specifically, her research focuses on identity and resistance of Crimean Tatars both historically and contemporary. Mariia received her PhD from the New School in 2023. Mariia published in various academic and non-academic journals, such as Canadian Slavonic Papers, Communist and Post-Communist Studies, Commons, Public Seminar, IWMpost, Eurozine. She is currently working on a book “Identity as Weapon: Indigenous Crimean Tatars and their Quest for Self-determination”.

Greta Uehling

Transnationality and Indigeneity across Space and Time: Embodying and Navigating National and Colonial Legacies

This presentation explores transnationalism and Indigeneity as frameworks for identity construction, cultural preservation, and political activism among the Crimean Tatars, a community shaped by repeated episodes of displacement. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with Crimean Tatars in Ukraine and the United States and the scholarly literature, I examine the extent to which these frameworks offer analytic value for scholars and strategic utility for Indigenous communities. Transnationalism disrupts territorially bounded notions of identity and politics by decoupling belonging from the nation-state. At the same time, it foregrounds the embodied experiences of migration and the negotiation of multiple affiliations. While transnationalism accommodates the complexities of diasporic and globalized life, it risks normalizing displacement and undermining territorial claims. Indigeneity, by contrast, rests on an ontology of inalienable rights to land grounded not in genetics but long histories of marginalization and a continuous relationship to place. Indigeneity holds greater political potential for Crimean Tatars due

to its institutional recognition within the United Nations system, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); its vocabulary of global solidarity; and its ability to provide a basis for future, more capacious legal protections. For scholars, Indigeneity provides the most incisive analytic theoretical framework because it directly confronts the legacies of expropriation and population displacement of settler colonial logics. Together, these frameworks reveal both tensions and possibilities in articulating Crimean Tatar identity in a globalized world.

Greta Uehling is a cultural anthropologist whose scholarship is broadly concerned with how social worlds are reconfigured by war. She is currently a Teaching Professor at the University of Michigan, where she also serves as a Faculty Associate with the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES). Her recent books include *Everyday War: The Conflict over Donbas, Ukraine* (2023) which won Harvard University's Davis Prize, and *Decolonizing Ukraine: The Indigenous People and Pathways to Freedom* (2025). Between 2015 and 2017, she was a Fulbright Scholar in Ukraine.

Didem Buhari & Hasan Işıklı

Crimean Tatars' memory politics with a particular focus on their strategies for reconstructing their memories and sense of belonging to a place/space that has been “lost” as a result of anti-Tatar policies in Crimea since the 1944 Deportation.

Didem Buhari is a Professor of International Relations at Izmir Katip Celebi University. She holds PhD in Politics and International Relations from the University of London (Royal Holloway), MSc by Research from the University of Edinburgh, and BSc in International Relations from the Middle East Technical University. She was also received as a Jean Monnet fellow a private Postgraduate Diploma from Paris Institute of International and Strategic Relations. After her PhD studies, she served as an Early Career Research fellow at Oxford Brookes University and a visiting TUBITAK fellow at LSE European Institute (South East Europe section). Her research focuses on globalization, European studies, US foreign policy, and Crimean Tatar's cultural diplomacy.

Hasan Işıklı received his PhD degree from the Department of Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies at Ghent University and holds BA and MA degrees in Graphic Design from Bilkent University and Jean Jaurès University respectively. His research focuses on urban memory, sustainability and festivals. He worked for various national and international arts and festival projects on urban history. He taught at Yaşar University's Department of Visual Communication Design between 2015 and 2023. He is the founding owner of an arts and education studio “Hi Journey” that is based in Izmir since 2024.

Alina Dochu

Language rights of indigenous Crimean Tatars in places of exile after the annexation of Crimea and the Russian war on Ukraine

Crimean Tatars are indigenous people of Crimea, whose language became endangered due to forced displacement by rounds of colonizations of Crimea by Russia between 1783 and 2014, the deportation of the entire Crimean Tatar population from Crimea in 1944 and present displacement after the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and beginning of full scale attack on Ukraine 2022 . This research aims to analyze transnational movements of Crimean Tatars from perspective of language rights, focusing on challenges of maintaining the language in the places of exile, Crimean Tatar cultural diplomacy focusing on language and the role of Ukraine, Turkey and European Union in transnational advocacy processes for the Crimean Tatar indigenous rights. We will conduct a content analysis of relevant legal and political documents, media and cultural production of Crimean Tatars (movies, music, literature). We hypothesize that Crimean Tatar language is under greater threat due to scattering of community (break up of families, separation from older generation in Crimea) and depletion of resources (schools, education, books, finances) however these challenges led language rights to become a key issue in Crimean Tatar cultural diplomacy as Crimean Tatar language appeared in Crimean Tatar movies, music performances and literary production in mother-tongue proliferated. The efforts of transnational community of Crimean Tatars are supported by several cultural initiatives in Ukraine (publication of language coursebooks), Turkey (publication of books and journals on Crimean Tatar language by diaspora community) and EU (release of legal documents advocating for Crimean Tatar language rights).

Alina Dochu. is a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Advanced Research in Experimental and Applied Linguistics (ARiEAL), McMaster University (Canada). The focus of her postdoctoral studies is the revitalization of the indigenous Crimean Tatar language of Ukraine. Her current research work aims to apply language revitalization experience in language policies and education programs of different indigenous communities, including in Canada, to the revitalization of Crimean Tatar. Her project is funded by the Scholars at Risk USA Network Ukraine Fellowship.

Ayla Bakkalli

Thinking Through Transnationalism/Mobility from a Crimean Tatar Feminist Perspective

It is increasingly clear that conventional understandings of displacement, synonymous with forced mobility, are not sufficient to characterize the situations that many are currently dealing with. Rethinking transnationalism across different mobility patterns seen as an impetus for access offer a new conceptual lens for thinking and understanding multiple tiers of displacement one of which is indigeneity and feminism given its particular historic – social – cultural context. (Bakkalli, Ayla, Survey 2023, “Beyond Cig Borek”)

Ayla Bakkalli is the U.S. Executive Member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars and Representative of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (UN ECOSOC-accredited NGO). A member of the Ukrainian Women's League of America, she advocates globally for the rights of indigenous Crimean Tatars. A graduate of NYU, she pursued further studies at Princeton and Columbia. Since 2014, she has participated in Ukrainian Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., promoting U.S. legislation on Crimea and engaging with key U.S. policy institutions. At the UN, she has spoken at multiple Arria-formula and Indigenous Forums. Bakkalli authored a UN advocacy manual for indigenous peoples and has written widely on Crimean Tatar issues. Raised in a traditional Crimean Tatar family in New York, she continues her community's legacy of survival and resistance. Her recent work includes a feminist perspective on the war in Ukraine and a survey on Tatar women's empowerment.

Vic Satzewich

Reflections on the meaning and significance of transnationalism: 20 years later

This presentation is a reflection on how my thinking about transnationalism has evolved since the publication in 2006 of my co-edited collection *Transnational Identities and Practices in Canada* (University of British Columbia Press). In my remarks, I want to focus on three general conceptual and methodological issues. First, I comment on the challenges that transnational activists face in persuading those outside of those networks (or the imagined community) to care about events that sometimes happened long ago, and in places far away. Second, I consider the role that victim narratives tied to historical and contemporary traumas play in transnational community cohesion and the formation of transnational activist networks that connect diaspora with ancestral homeland and those who stayed. Third, I suggest that a research agenda that focuses on transnational activism could benefit from a more robust engagement with the literature on framing and the social construction of social problems.

Vic Satzewich is Professor of Sociology at McMaster University and Past-President of the Canadian Sociological Association. As either author, co-author, editor or co-editor, he has published 10 books and over 70 articles and chapters in books on various aspects of immigration, racism, transnationalism and diasporas. Among his most relevant books on this topic are *The Ukrainian Diaspora* (Routledge, 2002) and *Transnational Identities and Practices in Canada* (University of British Columbia Press, 2002). He is the recipient of several awards, including the Canadian Sociological Association's Outstanding Contributions Award and the John Porter Best Book Prize for *Points of Entry: How Canada's Immigration Officers Decide Who Gets In* (UBC Press, 2017). He is also the recipient of the Metropolis Canada Immigration Researcher Award, the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Lifetime Achievement Award., and the McMaster University Research Impact Award.

Martin-Oleksandr Kisly

From Russian Empire to Russian Occupation: Crimean Tatars and the Colonial Politics of Displacement

This presentation traces the history of Crimean Tatar displacement as a continuous colonial process spanning the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the present-day Russian occupation of Crimea. It examines 19th-century semi-forced emigration to the Ottoman Empire, the 1944 Stalinist deportation, and contemporary practices of hybrid deportation and repression. By framing these episodes as iterations of a colonial logic aimed at erasing indigenous presence and reclaiming territory, the paper highlights the limits of conventional migration narratives and calls for a transnational and decolonial approach to understanding Crimean Tatar mobility and resistance.

Martin-Oleksandr Kisly is a historian specializing in the history of Crimea and the Crimean Tatars, with a particular focus on the Soviet and post-Soviet periods. In 2021, he defended his PhD dissertation, “The Return of the Crimean Tatars to Their Homeland, 1956–1989.” His research interests include oral history, memory, trauma, identity, migration, and colonialism. He serves as an expert on the Council for Cognitive De-Occupation under the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and is the Executive Director of RUTA – the Association for Central, South-Eastern, and Eastern European, Baltic, Caucasus, Central and Northern Asian Studies in Global Conversation.

Filiz Tutku Aydın

Transnationalizing Ethnocultural Justice Claims of Indigenous Crimean Tatars

Ethnocultural justice was previously addressed within domestic political realm and most notably Kymlicka suggested multicultural citizenship as a way to address demands for justice for territorial minorities, indigenous people, and immigrants. However, the reality of colonialism is that most of the indigenous people are displaced from their original homelands, therefore transitional justice ceased to be a solely domestic phenomenon but is required to be addressed in a transnational framework. How do displaced and scattered indigenous people claim their right to return, land rights, self-determination and recognition of their physical and cultural genocide? What are the challenges and opportunities of transnationalism for displaced indigenous people to obtain historical or transitional justice? In order to examine these questions, we will conduct a comparison of transitional justice claims Crimean Tatar communities who were exiled at different periods in time based on our various field research data and documentary analysis. We underline that claims for return, self-determination, land rights, genocide recognition, cultural preservation, socioeconomic rights, and end of racial discrimination were the main issues of transitional justice raised by these communities. We also would like to pay attention how Russian colonialism operates in transnational context, limiting the struggle of transitional justice for Crimean Tatar communities as their families were hostage to ongoing colonialism. Thirdly, we underline how experiences of injustice were constructed through the collective memory shared across

the whole transnational community. Fourthly, we hope to demonstrate how transitional justice continued to be pursued across various hostland spaces and through transnational activism.

Filiz Tutku Aydın is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Social Sciences University of Ankara. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto in 2012 and taught there. She contributed to the preparation of the open letter of scholars protesting the annexation of Crimea (scholarsforqirim.com). She returned to Turkey in 2014 as part of the returning scholars program of TUBITAK (Turkish Scientific Research Institution). She has published a book titled "Émigré, Exile, Diaspora and Transnational Movements of Crimean Tatars: Preserving the Eternal Flame of Crimea" published by Palgrave. She has published in *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Nordic Journal for Migration Research* and several journals in Turkey and Ukraine. She has several books, book chapters on international relations perspective on Crimean issue and history of Crimean Tatars published in English, Turkish, Romanian, German and Crimean Tatar and a photo exhibition on inter-war Crimean Tatar diaspora in Romania. She completed a research project on "Protection and Enforcement of Minority Rights in the Post-Soviet Space between 1991-2014" between 2015-2018 and participated in another research project on "Forced Migration from Ukraine and Occupied Crimea to Turkey during Russia's War in Ukraine" between 2023-2024, funded by TUBITAK and Social Sciences University of Ankara. She also contributed preparing the open letter of "Turkish academicians protesting against the Russian attack on Ukraine". Her research areas include diaspora history, diaspora identity, transnational politics, ethnicity, nationalism and social movements in the post-communist space.

Paul Robert Magocsi

Ukraine is Winning the Great Southern War

Paul Robert Magocsi is professor of history and political science at the University of Toronto, where since 1980 he also holds the John Yaremko Chair of Ukrainian Studies.

He completed his education at Rutgers University (B.A. 1966; M.A. 1967), Princeton University (M.A. 1969; Ph.D. 1972), and Harvard University (Society of Fellows 1976). He is a member of the Harvard University Society of Fellows (1976). Professor Magocsi has taught at Harvard University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Prešov University in Slovakia, and on five occasions was historian-in-residence at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. In 1996 he was appointed a permanent fellow of the Royal Society of Canada—Canadian Academies of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, and has been awarded honorary degrees from Prešov University in Slovakia (*doctor honoris causa*, 2013) and from Kamianets-Podilskyi National University in Ukraine (*pochesnyi profesor*, 2015).

Sebnem Koser Akcapar

Sebnem Koser Akcapar is Professor in Sociology at Social Sciences University of Ankara (ASBU). She also acts as the Director for the Global Migration Research Center (ASBU-GAUM). Her research areas include sociology of religion, marriage migration, forced migration, labor migration, highly skilled migration, social networks in migration, diaspora formation and political mobilization.

Factors in decision-making processes of refugees: Comparing Crimean Tatars and Ahiska Turks from Ukraine The purpose of this presentation is to examine the decision-making processes of Crimean Tatar and Ahiska Turk refugees from Ukraine following the Russian-Ukrainian war. While there is a growing literature on Ukrainian refugees settled in the West, little is known about their situation in the Global South. Moreover, Ukrainians are usually seen as a monolithic group undermining the ethno-religious differences within the country even before the war began. This research aims to fill the gap by examining trends in prospective plans, including return, settlement, migration to third countries, and main factors influencing secondary migration and integration in Turkey of these two groups. An extensive fieldwork was conducted in five provinces in Turkey between 2022 and 2024 adapting a qualitative method with refugees themselves, migrant organizations, migration management officials and other key actors. Although both ethnic groups from Ukraine are considered part of Turkish ancestry, significant differences emerged in terms of adaptation and decision to stay. The findings indicated that decisions were determined by two major factors: 1) The state's migrant and asylum policies. 2) Active involvement of diaspora organizations.

Round table discussion participants

Gayana Yuksel

Forced displacement of Crimean Tatars after Russia's full-scale invasion: study of migration dynamics.

The research examines the migration dynamics of the Crimean Tatars triggered by Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014 and the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Special focus is given to the phenomenon of "hidden deportation," which defines the modern migration of Crimean Tatars as a forced, complex, and ongoing process. Based on a survey conducted among Crimean Tatar diaspora representatives in Germany, Ireland, Turkey, Canada, the United States, Belgium, and the United Kingdom, the study highlights key drivers of migration, adaptation difficulties, and efforts to maintain national identity. Respondents cited concerns for their children's safety, rejection of Russian occupation, and fear of repression as major reasons for leaving. The escalation in 2022 added new pressures, notably the threat of forced conscription and participation in Russia's military actions. Migration routes primarily lead to Europe, North America, and Central Asia, regions offering relative security, support for integration, and basic social protections. In host countries, Crimean Tatars face considerable challenges, including language barriers, cultural gaps, and employment issues. Despite these obstacles, the preservation of cultural and national identity remains a priority. Diaspora communities actively maintain their language, cultural traditions, and religious practices, organize cultural events, and cooperate closely with Ukrainian diaspora networks. They place particular emphasis on transmitting their cultural heritage to younger generations. The findings reveal that the Crimean Tatar diaspora not only has strong potential to preserve its identity but also plays a vital role in strengthening the Ukrainian political nation.

Gayana Yuksel Prof., Dr., is a Member of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Doctor of Science in Social Communications/ She is the Professor at the Department of Journalism of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Philology and Journalism at V.I. Vernadsky Taurida National University (Kyiv). She is the author of 5 monographs, over 80 publications (articles and conference abstracts), has participated in more than 100 scientific and scientific-practical conferences, and organized and participated in nearly 130 public events. She was the founder and editor-in-chief of the Crimean News Agency (QHA) and Radio Hayat (Life). However, the occupation of 2014 obstructed this work. She has participated in meetings of the World Crimean Tatar Congress in Latvia, Turkey, Ukraine, on-site events in the Council of Europe, in meetings of the OSCE in Austria, Poland, in the USA (UN), Estonia, the UK, Sweden etc.

Anife Kurtseitova

Voices Without Borders: Crimean Tatar Cultural Resistance and Public Diplomacy

Anife Kurtseitova, Chairman of the Board of the Public Organization “Crimean Family / QIRIM AILESI ‘Initiator of the Educational Platform ‘BILGI.IN.UA ” Anife has implemented of more than 15 cultural and educational projects, including with the support of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, the International Renaissance Foundation, Stabilization Support Services, Crimea SOS, and UNHCR. She established communication, cooperation, and support with Emine Erdoğan - First Lady of the Republic of Turkey, Members of the Turkish Parliament, Ministry of Culture of Turkey, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of Turkey, Organization of Overseas Turks, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA).⁴ She launched the Bilgi educational platform, which debunks the historical myths of Russian propaganda. Her team has published of the first adapted children's book on the history of Crimea and the Crimean Tatar people. Expanding the activities of the Crimean Family / QIRIM AILESI NGO in Turkey, she organized cultural and educational events in the cities of Eskisehir, Ankara, Istanbul, and Bursa. She participated in The Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2024, where the center's students presented the cultural heritage of the Crimean Tatar people. She implemented the cultural and artistic project “Bilgi/Knowledge: Memory of Culture”, supported by the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, which received a wide response in the Turkish information space. Her NGO “Crimean Family / QIRIM AILESI” was recommended by the Embassy of Ukraine in Turkey for the Certificate of Honor of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for a significant contribution to the preservation and popularization of Ukrainian historical and cultural heritage. She received the Award of the State Order of Merit, III degree, according to the Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 335/220 of August 21, 2020.

Ayla Bakkalli

Thinking Through Transnationalism/Mobility from a Crimean Tatar Feminist Perspective

It is increasingly clear that conventional understandings of displacement, synonymous with forced mobility, are not sufficient to characterize the situations that many are currently dealing with. Rethinking transnationalism across

different mobility patterns seen as an impetus for access offer a new conceptual lens for thinking and understanding multiple tiers of displacement one of which is indigeneity and feminism given its particular historic – social – cultural context. (Bakkalli, Ayla, Survey 2023, “Beyond Cig Borek”)

Ayla Bakkalli is the U.S. Executive Member of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars and Representative of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations (UN ECOSOC-accredited NGO). A member of the Ukrainian Women’s League of America, she advocates globally for the rights of indigenous Crimean Tatars. A graduate of NYU, she pursued further studies at Princeton and Columbia. Since 2014, she has participated in Ukrainian Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., promoting U.S. legislation on Crimea and engaging with key U.S. policy institutions. At the UN, she has spoken at multiple Arria-formula and Indigenous Forums. Bakkalli authored a UN advocacy manual for indigenous peoples and has written widely on Crimean Tatar issues. Raised in a traditional Crimean Tatar family in New York, she continues her community’s legacy of survival and resistance. Her recent work includes a feminist perspective on the war in Ukraine and a survey on Tatar women’s empowerment.

Nedim Useinow

Between Exile and Return: Experiences of Crimean Tatar Displacement in Poland.

Nedim Useinow is a representative of the Board of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars in Poland. He holds a degree in political science from the University of Gdańsk and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in cultural and religious studies at the Department of European Islam, University of Warsaw. His research focuses on the formation of contemporary ethnic and religious identities among Crimean Tatars. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and opinion pieces on international and ethno-religious relations in Eastern Europe. As an independent researcher, he is currently participating in the international project *Return and Belonging After Conflict-Induced Displacement (RE-MIG)*, led by the Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies. Within this project, he conducts and analyzes semi-structured interviews with Crimean Tatar refugees in Poland, exploring their migration trajectories, motivations, and future aspirations.

Organizers

Milana Nikolko

Milana Nikolko PhD, is an adjunct professor at the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (EURUS), Carleton University and sessional Instructor, at the Department of Political Studies, Department of History University of Manitoba, Canada. From 2005 to 2014 Nikolko was an associate Professor of Political Science (Docent) at V. Vernadsky Taurida National University (Ukraine). In 2008, she was appointed as a visiting professor at Political Science Department, at Valdosta State University (USA). She has published extensively on topics of Ukraine's nation-building process, mediation of grey zone conflicts (case Ukraine), political narratives of victimization among ethnic minorities, migrants and diasporas groups in Canada. The full bio can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/eurus/people/nikolko-milana/>

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Filiz Tutku Aydın

Filiz Tutku Aydın is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Social Sciences University of Ankara. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto in 2012 and taught there. She contributed to the preparation of the open letter of scholars protesting the annexation of Crimea (scholarsforqirim.com). She returned to Turkey in 2014 as part of the returning scholars program of TUBITAK (Turkish Scientific Research Institution). She has published a book titled "Émigré, Exile, Diaspora and Transnational Movements of Crimean Tatars: Preserving the Eternal Flame of Crimea" published by Palgrave. She has published in Communist and Post-Communist Studies, Nordic Journal for Migration Research and several journals in Turkey and Ukraine. She has several books, book chapters on international relations perspective on Crimean issue and history of Crimean Tatars published in English, Turkish, Romanian, German and Crimean Tatar and a photo exhibition on inter-war Crimean Tatar diaspora in Romania. She completed a research project on "Protection and Enforcement of Minority Rights in the Post-Soviet Space between 1991-2014" between 2015-2018 and participated in another research project on "Forced Migration from Ukraine and Occupied Crimea to Turkey during Russia's War in Ukraine" between 2023-2024, funded by TUBITAK and Social Sciences University of Ankara. She also contributed preparing the open letter of "Turkish academicians protesting against the Russian attack on Ukraine". Her research areas include diaspora history, diaspora identity, transnational politics, ethnicity, nationalism and social movements in the post-communist space.

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