



University
of Basel

Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences



URIS Workshop

Documenting War in Ukraine in Comics. Ukrainian and European Representations and Perspectives

24 October 2023, 13.00–17.30

Mehrzweckraum 035, Kollegienhaus University of Basel



Ukrainian Research
in Switzerland

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URIS Workshop: Documenting War in Ukraine in Comics. Ukrainian and European Representations and Perspectives

Tuesday, 24 October 2023, 13.00–17.30

Kollegienhaus, University of Basel, Petersplatz 1, Mehrzweckraum 035

Comics today represent a cultural phenomenon reflecting society's cultural and sociopolitical landscape. They possess a remarkable ability to swiftly respond to various facets of human life, including environmental disasters, global crises, wars, displacement, violence, and humiliation. Beyond their role as entertainment, comics serve as a versatile medium capable of addressing various subjects, fulfilling both documentary and investigative journalism needs, and offering socially relevant information. Consequently, comics have evolved into not only a distinct element of popular culture but also a political one, a kind of information warfare, particularly evident in times of armed conflict, such as the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war.

This workshop aims to illuminate (self-)representations of Ukraine in predominantly documentary comics and graphic novels created during wartime in Ukraine. It will focus on analyzing the various artistic responses to the Russian-Ukrainian war, narrative strategies within comics, framing techniques, aesthetic elements, and the role of comics in depicting the war experience.

Participants

Nina Mickwitz (London)

Ralf Kauranen (Turku)

Svitlana Pidoprygora (Mykolaiv/Basel)

Kees Ribbens (Amsterdam)

Johannes C. P. Schmid (Flensburg)

Gernot Howanitz (Innsbruck)

The workshop is organized by Svitlana Pidoprygora (University of Basel, URIS fellow) and supported by the URIS – “Ukrainian Research in Switzerland” initiative.



We would also like to promote an associated event the day before the workshop on «**The Virtual East: Eastern European Video Game Landscapes**» with our workshop participant Gernot Howanitz. All are welcome, entry is free.

Monday, 23 October 2023, 18.15–19.45

Alte Universität Basel, Rheinsprung 9, 4051 Basel, Seminarraum –201



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Workshop Program

Tuesday, 24 October 2023, 13.00–17.30

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13.00–13.15 **Welcome / Introduction by F. Benjamin Schenk and Svitlana Pidoprygora**

13.15–15.00 **Panel 1: Representation of War in Ukrainian Comics**

Nina Mickwitz (London): Aesthetic Registers, Visual Motifs, and Genre-Blending in Sashko Komyakhov's Graphic Novel TATO (2019)

Kees Ribbens (Amsterdam): Visualizing the Impact of War on Civilians. Representing War in Ukraine between Recording and Interpreting

Svitlana Pidoprygora (Mykolaiv/Basel): The Ukrainian Comic Magazine INKER: Different Ways to Narrate the War

Chair: Anna Hodel

15.00–15.30 Coffee/ Tea

15.30–17.15 **Panel 2: European Perspectives on Comics Amid the War of the Russian Federation against Ukraine**

Johannes C. P. Schmid (Flensburg): Framing the Ukrainian Invasion in Documentary Comics

Ralf Kauranen (Turku): From Fundraisings to Graphic Novels: Artistic Responses to the Russian-Ukrainian War in the Nordic Comics Cultures

Gernot Howanitz (Innsbruck): Traumas Past and Present: The Documentary vs. the Mythical

Chair: Svitlana Pidoprygora

17.15–17.30 **Final Discussion/ Closing Remarks**

18.00 Dinner



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