

Ukrainian-German-Polish moving seminar

Borders and encounters between people, goods, cultures and knowledge along the via regia

Nicolai Teufel (University of Bayreuth)
nicolai.teufel@uni-bayreuth.de

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Borders are at the same time lines of division and places of cultural, economic and social encounters. They are part of political discussions as well as of daily life. Building

upon this perspective the moving seminar analyzes processes of ordering and bordering between the Ukraine, Germany and Poland in trinational teams in the respective three countries.

The project aims at showing students' and citizens' opportunities and perspectives for common pluralist and democratic action across national boundaries. It therefore contributes to the stabilization of democratic structures in Central and Eastern Europe.

► Dr. Evgenia Bystrov, Prof. Myron Yankiv, Nicolai Teufel and Prof. Martin Doevenspeck at the Lviv Institute of Management



Partners

Germany: Institute of Geography, Bayreuth
Ukraine: Institute of Management, Lviv

Participants

20 students from Ukraine, Poland and Germany. 7 lecturers from Bayreuth and Lviv

Coordinators

Bayreuth: Prof. Hannah, Prof. Doevenspeck, N. Teufel; Lviv: Dr. Myronyuk

Funding

Auswärtiges Amt: Extending the cooperation with civil society in the Eastern Partnership

Borders and encounters between people, cultures and goods

THE VIA REGIA was an important trade route of the Middle Ages. In 2005 it was awarded the title of a „European Cultural Route“ by the Council of Europe. The journey from Bayreuth to Lviv exemplifies the violent border shifts and changes in border regimes during the 20th century in Central Europe as well as zones of east-west-contacts.

CONCEPTUAL TALKS on three days in Bayreuth on topics such as territoriality and bordering laid the foundation for later discussions with experts and joint fieldwork. Lectures at Iwan-Franko-University focussed on the current geopolitical situation of Ukraine and cross-border-cooperation.

CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES like Galicja Jewish Museum (Kraków), Meetingpoint Music Messiaen e.V. (Zgorzelec-Görlitz), Dom im. Edyty Stein (Wrocław) gave insight into the practices of borderwork by citizens, whereas the administration of the Lviv Oblast (Department for International Relations) showed government attempts of CBC.

FIELDWORK was carried out by students in trinational teams during the journey at each stage of the project. Relying on the concept of place and using methods of empirical research various data was collected.

PRESENTATION of the groups' results took place at the „House of Science“ in Lviv in the presence of Marian Orlikowski, consul general of the Republic of Poland.



▲ Route of the moving seminar

Lessons learnt, achievements and further goals



▲ Prof. Myron Yankiv, Dr. Vasyl Myronyuk and Prof. Oleg Shabliy at National Iwan-Franko-University in Lviv, Ukraine



▲ Group photo in front of the main building of the National Iwan-Franko-University in Lviv, Ukraine.

Achieved Goals

- Building up mutual trust and understanding
- New perspectives for mutual pluralistic and democratic actions across state borders
- Networks between students and lecturers from GER, PL, UA

Extending Cooperation

- Formalizing cooperation
- Further exchange of students and lecturers
- Joint research project
- Fieldtrip to eastern Poland/ western Ukraine, summer 2017

Challenges

- Current (geo-)political and financial situation in Ukraine
- Language barrier
- Low interest from German side

Other Questions

- Further partners in Germany?
- Integrating academic partners from Poland in Ukrainian-German cooperation?

Contact

BAYREUTH: Nicolai Teufel, Research Assistant
✉ nicolai.teufel@uni-bayreuth.de

LVIV: Dr. Vasyl Myronyuk, Prorector for Science and Teaching
✉ myr_vas2@hotmail.com

www.kulturgeo.uni-bayreuth.de/de/movingseminar/
www.facebook.com/movingseminar/



Part of the group at Wawel Hill, Kraków, PL

Conceptual talk by Prof. Glasze (Erlangen)

Fieldwork: Interviewing citizens

Dom im. Edyty Stein, Wrocław, PL