



Dr. Olha Haidamachuk
photo: private

TOPIC: “The Prodigal Son” (1899) by Ukrainian writer Hnat Khotkevych: the context and subtext of philosophical interventions

SPEAKER: Dr. Olha Haidamachuk, candidate of philosophical science, Department of Ukrainian Studies, Cultural Studies and History of Science, National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”

MODERATOR: Dr. Tetiana Portnova, Institute for Slavic and Hungarian Studies at the

Humboldt University of Berlin

DATE: 21 October 2026, Wednesday

TIME: 18:00–19:30 (Berlin Time)

This lecture will be held in English.

Registration is open until 20 October at: berlin@ukrainet.eu

The event will be held on the Zoom platform. During the discussion, you can also use the chat option, or formulate your questions in advance and send them to the following email address: berlin@ukrainet.eu. Please note that the presentation will be video-recorded, so we recommend keeping your microphones and cameras off during the lecture.

Dear ladies and gentlemen! Dear colleagues! Dear friends!

The German-Ukrainian Academic Society and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany invite you to attend the next lecture within our lecture series “Science First Hand” entitled „**The Prodigal Son**” (1899) by Ukrainian writer Hnat Khotkevych: the context and subtext of philosophical interventions”, to be given by **Dr. Olha Haidamachuk**, associate Professor at the Department of Ukrainian Studies, Cultural Studies and History of Science at the National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute” (Ukraine).

Summary: The lecture examines one of the ‘short-forms’ by Hnat Khotkevych – a prominent figure in the history of modern Ukrainian culture. His early work, *The Prodigal Son*, is analyzed as an artifact in which were etched cultural and worldview shifts of the educated urban youth in the late 19th century, a time when traditional morality was being re-evaluated under the influence of Nietzschean ideas. From the perspective of cultural hermeneutics, the characters' philosophical reflections reveal a clash between old and new cultural codes and concepts. Drawing upon the biblical parable, Khotkevych provocatively

This lecture series is organized by the regional group of the German-Ukrainian Academic Society / UKRAINET with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany. Contact: Dr. Olesia Lazarenko (berlin@ukrainet.eu)

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urbanizes, secularizes, and feminizes the plot, thereby proposing a radically different cultural model of return.

SPEAKER:

Dr. Olha Haidamachuk teaches history of Ukrainian culture at the National Technical University „Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute“ in Ukraine. She has researched intonation in philosophical texts as well as the tonalities of Ukrainian cultural memory. As a member of the Prisma Ukraïna research network (<https://www.prisma-ukraina.de/home>), she co-edits the „Rethinking East European Studies in Times of Upheaval“ series on the Trafo-blog for Transregional Research. She is the author of numerous articles in scholarly journals and edited volumes dedicated to the culture of contemporary Ukraine. Dr. Haidamachuk's current research is focused on studying Hnat Khotkevych's interventions in the Ukrainian cultural infrastructure. Her professional interests include philosophical anthropology, philosophy of culture, Ukrainian and European culture, memory studies, cultural studies, philosophy of language, Ukrainian modernism.

The organizers of the event:

- German-Ukrainian Academic Society
- Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany
- Department of Ukrainian Studies, Cultural Studies and History of Science at the National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute” (Ukraine)

Information about the event:

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