

**Scientific Conference**

**16/17 November 2022**

# **Social Change in Ukraine**

Obstacles and Opportunities



At this scientific conference, the structure of Ukraine's society, economy and polity will be analyzed. The focus lies on potential hurdles to overcome in order for the country to integrate in a sustainable way into the community of European states.

Ukraine sees itself on the threshold of change from a post-Soviet to a European model. However, many hurdles are still to be overcome on this path. There is often a gap between political declarations of intent and their realization - not only in Ukraine. The depiction of a linear development is too simplistic to take complex social processes into account. The instrumental logic of economic reform and development policy may conflict with informal institutions, unwritten rules, or corrupt practices. Such mechanisms can hijack good intentions and steer processes in a different direction.

With the military aggression against Ukraine, global media attention, and widespread support in Western countries, a new situation exists.

At the conference, international experts will examine social phenomena in Ukraine. Where are the levers for change? Which hurdles exist? And how can they be overcome? The conference aims to contribute to a better understanding of the country in order to correctly assess opportunities and risks for integration efforts, reconstruction aid or investments.



*Michael Derrer, Initiator of the Conference*

## **FACTS LIST**

### **Aims of our Conference Series**

- How does social change come about?
- How can rules and habits be changed towards the positive?
- Which are the levers for change?
- How can and how may the state try to influence people towards the common good?
- What contribution can informal leaders make?
- To answer such questions, one must delve deeply into the specifics of a society. Approaches from sociology, institutional economics or psychology provide conceptualizations and theories that enable a deeper understanding. Therefore, they are very relevant for decision makers in the state administration and the private sector.

### **What the conference is not**

This is not an event of a political nature, nor is it an aid campaign for Ukraine. The theme of the conference is not the present war, even though it obviously shapes the framework conditions for change in Ukraine. The participating social scientists present their socio-critical analyses and enter into dialogue with each other, with the aim of cognition. Since specific knowledge is a prerequisite for purposeful action, our intention is a humanistic one. The organizers are aware that the realization of this objective is challenging in the present circumstances.

### **Our Values**

- Scientific ambition and social relevance
- Interest in new ideas and their open and unprejudiced discussion
- Individuality, diversity, creativity and search for unconventional solutions

### **Target Audience**

- Decision-makers of the state administration, business and nonprofit organizations will be able to better assess the context, risks and opportunities.
- The conference is open for the general public, in particular journalists, university teaching staff, high school teachers of history, economics or PPP, or anyone interested in further developments in Ukraine.
- Students *from HSLU and other universities are welcome*

## DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 16 NOV

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### Location:

Hochschule Luzern, Zentralstrasse 9, CH-6002 Luzern

Morning: Auditorium, Room 1.24 1st floor (9 am - 1 pm)

Afternoon: Room 4.04, 4th floor (2 pm - 5 pm)

09.00	<b>The practical use of institutional economics and economic sociology for business and international cooperation</b>  <i>Michael DERRER</i>	Projects of private business, government cooperation, and non-governmental assistance may fail, due to an insufficient understanding of local realities. The specificity of social phenomena can be understood using concepts like formal and informal institutions, cultural embeddedness, and power relations. The success of projects is often decided by what lies under the surface, and what is unsaid in official discourses.
09.20	<b>The Ukraine Reform Conference (URC22) and the Lugano Principles</b>  <i>Simon PIDOUX</i>	Ambassador Simon Pidoux speaks about the Ukraine Reform Conference in Lugano 2022 (URC22) and the resulting Lugano Principles.
09.30	<b>Post-Communist Regime Trajectories and Challenges for Patronal Democracies</b>  <i>Bálint MAGYAR</i>	The tragic events in Ukraine must compel Western observers to seek a more authentic language, words, and concepts that can explain the post-communist world, its peculiarities, and tendencies. The presentation offers a conceptual framework. Ukraine is analyzed as a "patronal democracy", where color revolutions brought democratic transformation without anti-patronal transformation. The question is, whether the war will lead out of a cyclical regime development, and which factors can increase the chances of anti-patronal transformation.
10.20	Break	

10.40	<p><b>Relational Economy and Oligarchs in Post-Communist Regimes</b></p> <p><i>Bálint MADLOVICS</i></p>	<p>Just as the main actors of political competition are not “parties” in the Western sense but informal patronal networks, the main actors of economic competition are not “entrepreneurs” in the Western sense but oligarchs. Using the concept of relational economy, the presentation explores the difficulties of conceptualization and empirical measurement of oligarchs, and underlines the differences between a patronal democracy (Ukraine) and a patronal autocracy (Russia and Hungary).</p>
11.30	Break	
11.50	<p><b>Ukraine's socio-politico-economic system</b></p> <p><i>Vladimir DUBROVSKY</i></p>	<p>Ukraine's formal institutions can appear "European", although in fact the system is based predominantly on informal institutions in a "limited access social order". Zero-sum thinking complements these institutions. However, there are at least two kinds of forces that are driving the evolution of this system and indicate levers for change.</p>
12.40	<p>Lunch</p> <p><b>Mensa Oase</b> - 5th floor</p>	
14.00	<p><b>The oligarchy as Ukraine's dominant post-communist political economy regime</b></p> <p><i>David DALTON</i></p>	<p>What is the oligarchy, how it has been able to reproduce itself across crises, and has this meant for Ukraine's economic development. And why it is important that reform of the oligarchy as an institution should be, but so far has not been, at the centre of discussions of Ukraine's post-war reform and reconstruction.</p>
14.50	Break	
15.10	<p><b>Considerations on the Difference in Post-Communist Transformation of Poland and Ukraine</b></p> <p><i>Jacek KURCZEWSKI</i></p>	<p>The presentation addresses pre-communist and communist legacies, and the social mechanisms of transformation. It is completed by a glimpse at the sociology of attitudes to law and justice, and ends with conjectures on normative infrastructures.</p>
16.00	Break	

16.20	<b>Panel discussion</b> Christoph HAUSER, Michael DERRER and today's speakers	The starting point for the discussion is a 10 minutes input presentation of Christoph Hauser on institutional economics and development. Then the speakers enter into a dialogue, and respond to questions of the audience.
19.00	Dinner <b>Restaurant Wirtshaus Taube</b> Burgerstrasse 3 6003 Luzern	

## DAY 2: THURSDAY, 17 NOV

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### Location:

Hochschule Luzern, Zentralstrasse 9, CH-6002 Luzern  
 Room 3.14, 3rd floor

09.00	<b>What is the economic future of Ukraine after the war?</b>  <i>Mikhail CHAPLYGA</i>	The war led to fundamental changes in the structure of the Ukrainian economy. Ukraine has become 100% dependent on external financial assistance - mainly humanitarian aid and loans. As a result, volunteering and humanitarian aid became one of the most profitable "businesses", which led to several high-profile corruption scandals and revelations.  Will Ukraine follow the Bosnian path, where the national economy collapsed not so much from the war as from foreign aid? Is a Marshall Plan for Ukraine possible? How do experts and authorities see it?
09.50 -	Break	
10.10	<b>Continuity and change of the social contract in Ukraine seen through the lens of contested anti-corruption policies</b>  <i>Oksana HUSS</i>	Now that Western partners are concerned with the mechanisms to maintain and recover Ukraine during and after the war, voices denouncing widespread corruption in the country are loud. What has been overseen is the incremental change in the social contract that has been ongoing since the Revolution of Dignity. I will assess anti-corruption policies from the perspective of historical institutionalism. I will also discuss the influence of Martial Law on anti-corruption policies.
11.00	Break	



11.20	<b>The Rise and Fall of Populism in Ukraine</b>	<p>During the 2019 presidential campaign, the question was discussed whether Volodymyr Zelensky was a populist, as his rhetoric and figure met many of the criteria of populism. Zelensky promoted the inclusive concept of “the people,” based on citizenship, multiethnicity and regional heterogeneity, and contrasted it with “the corrupt elites”. In contrast, former President Petro Poroshenko promoted an exclusive ethno-nationalist, anti-liberal concept of the people that required homogenization based on a common language, culture and faith. Voting for Zelensky can be considered as a democratic uprising against a right-wing conservative nation-building and corrupt political system. After the outbreak of the war, populist discourse lost its relevance, and we are witnessing a nation-building process based entirely on nationalist grounds.</p>
	<i>Svitlana SHCHERBAK</i>	
12.10	Lunch <b>Mensa Oase - 5th floor</b>	
13.30	<b>The temporary labor migration from Ukraine from 2014 to 2022</b>	<p>Ukraine has been called “Europe’s Mexico” because the level of migration from both countries is comparable. At the same time, there were no structural prerequisites for such high migration dynamics. This means that the sociopolitical environment has played a dominant role in stimulating migration. Most of the works about migration of Ukrainians are a collection of statistical data with brief conclusions and forecasts based on it. I propose to look at the issue in a broader context, as a complex social and economic phenomenon. This analysis allows us to understand modern social processes in Eastern European countries and to revise the concept of “forced migration.”</p>
	<i>Denys KIRYUKHIN</i>	
14.20	Break	
14.40	<b>Sociological perspective of Ukraine’s transformations since 2014: main shifts and potential for development</b>	<p>We trace the most remarkable societal changes that have been observed since 2014 as compared to the preceding period of Ukraine’s transition from the post-Soviet to a European model of development. Are the observed shifts irreversible? What policy efforts are needed to build on the achievements and move forward on an evolutionary path? The analysis is based on the available sociological data.</p>
	<i>Kateryna IVASHCHENKO-STADNIK</i>	

15.10 **Panel discussion**

*Michael DERRER &  
today's speakers*

Panel discussion with today's speakers about the chances and obstacles of reforms moderated by Michael Derrer.

15.40 **Closing:  
Conclusions and  
possibilities for  
generalization**

*Michael DERRER*

What contribution can be made by business, international cooperation, and foreign aid? How to avoid wrong decisions based on a superficial understanding?

19.00 Dinner Fondue Magic by the Lake

**Seehotel Kastanienbaum**

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6047 Kastanienbaum

