Two years of war in Ukraine: at EHESS, the "War and Society" Research Alliance is organising an immersive exhibition, a meeting with Karl Schlögel and a round table discussion with journalists and researchers.

As we approach the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the tenth anniversary of the annexation of Crimea and Russia's military interference in the Donbas, the "War and Society", Research Alliance, supported by the Centre d'études russes, caucasiennes, est-européennes et centrasiatiques (CERCEC - EHESS, CNRS), is organising a series of public and scientific events at EHESS during March 2024, focusing on the experience of war in the 20th-21st centuries. Social science researchers, journalists and civil society actors from Ukraine, Germany, the Czech Republic and France will share their analyses and field experiences as part of this unique programme.

"War and Society", the first research alliance to emerge from the Europeanisation of EHESS

In 2023, with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, EHESS launched "EURETES", an experimental scheme for the Europeanisation of its research centres. The aim of these "European laboratories" is to encourage long-term partnerships on a European scale.

The "War and Society in Central and Eastern Europe (20th-21st centuries)" research alliance is the first EURETES to be set up at EHESS. Supported by the Centre d'études russes, caucasiennes, est-européennes et centrasiatiques (CERCEC - EHESS, CNRS) in Paris, the Institute of International Studies at Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic) and the Centre for Urban History (CUH) in Lviv (Ukraine), this scientific alliance is unique in several respects.

Hosted by EHESS, this interdisciplinary, multi-year cooperation (2023-2028) aims to structure encounters between historians, sociologists, anthropologists and geographers, from the east and west of the continent, around the experiences of war in Eastern Europe. This concerns both the memory and experience of wars of extermination in the 20th century and the current large-scale war underway in Ukraine, which is profoundly transforming the very conditions of research in and on these regions. This research, however difficult it may be today, is essential if we are to understand the importance of Central and Eastern Europe in contemporary European history.
A triple event around the Russian-Ukrainian war

Two years after the start of the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, ten years after the annexation of Crimea and the start of the war in the Donbas, the launch of the "War and Society" Research Alliance consists of a series of public and scientific events to be held in March 2024 at EHESS. Comprising an exhibition, an immersive virtual reality experience, a book presentation and scientific meetings: these activities, which are open to all, will focus on the war phenomena of the 20th and 21st centuries in Eastern Europe, particularly in Ukraine, and on the political, social and economic upheavals that ensued in this country and in Europe. Social science researchers, journalists and civil society actors from Ukraine, Germany, the Czech Republic and France will share their analyses and first-hand experiences as part of this unique programme.

These events are organised by the three member institutions of the "War and Society" Research Alliance, in partnership with the French Embassy in Kyiv, the Ukrainian Institute, the Centre des savoirs sur le politique. Recherches et analyses (CESPRA - EHESS, CNRS), the German Historical Institute in Paris (IHA) and the ANR-DFG LimSpaces project.

Programme and practical information

• 15 March 2024 - Round table with historian Karl Schlögel on his forthcoming book *L'avenir se joue à Kyiv* (Gallimard, 2024)
  EHESS, 54 boulevard Raspail, Paris, grand hall, 5pm-7pm
  In English, without translation
  Open to all, subject to availability

Drawing on his travels in Ukraine, Karl Schlögel shares his observations on the political and cultural situation there. He assesses Europe's responsibility for the war waged by Russia and shows that the future of Europe is being played out in Ukraine.

With Karl Schlögel, Thomas Serrier (University of Lille, translator of the book), Sofia Dyak (CUH), Catherine Gousseff (CNRS, CERCEC) and Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau (EHESS, CESPRA).

• 21 March 2024 - "European societies faced with wars of aggression, 1938-2024. Perspectives from researchers and journalists", workshop and round table discussion

  o Scientific workshop "After Annexation. Temporalities of Wars, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, 1938-2024"
    EHESS, 54 boulevard Raspail, Paris, room A4-32, 2pm-4.30pm
    In English, without translation

How can we think about the specific nature of these wars of annexation and imperial expansion? How did local actors mobilise and respond to these situations of brutal domination? How do Czechs and Ukrainians understand contemporary Europe in light of their experiences?
With Irina Sklokyna (CUH), Ota Konrád (Charles University, Prague), Ioulia Shukan (ISP - Université de Nanterre, CERCEC) and Masha Cerovic (EHESS, CERCEC).

- Round table "Fight, Resist, Live. Ukraine at War (2014-2024)"
  EHESS, 54 boulevard Raspail, Paris, grand hall, 5pm-7pm
  In English, without translation
  Open to all, subject to availability

Journalists and researchers exchange views on common themes: experiences of violence; citizen resistance and continuity of public services; forced displacement and exile; annexation and occupation; etc.

With Kristina Berdynskykh (Libération, Courrier d'Europe centrale), Stéphane Siohan (Libération, RFI), Alisa Kovalenko (documentary filmmaker), Oksana Dutchak (sociologist, co-editor-in-chief of the journal Spilne/Commons), Sophie Lambroschini (Centre Marc Bloch) and Ioulia Shukan (ISP - Université de Nanterre, CERCEC).

- From 15 March 2024 - Exhibition "Labor, exhaustion and success: company towns in the Donbas", accompanied by a virtual reality experience around Crimea
  15 March - 12 April 2024, EHESS, 54 boulevard Raspail, Paris
  In English and French
  Free admission Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm

The Donbas is one of Europe's oldest and largest mining and steel-producing regions. This exhibition shows how industry there has shaped state policies, the environment, daily life and identities. At the same time, a virtual reality immersion entitled "We are Crimea" allows visitors to discover the landscapes and cultural specificities of this peninsula, through the testimonies of its inhabitants, renowned personalities who are now in exile.

For further information, visit the EHESS website.

About EHESS
Founded in 1975, the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) is one of Europe's leading centres for the humanities and social sciences. It is unique in the French higher education and research landscape, as much for its interdisciplinary intellectual project as for its training-through-research model, its international reach and its openness to society.

EHESS brings together teacher-researchers and students from all over the world - over 3,000 of them - as well as administrative and technical research support staff. The School is based in Paris, at the Campus Condorcet in Aubervilliers, Toulouse, Lyon and Marseille, and is home to nearly 40 research units. It hosts visiting lecturers, has its own publishing house "les Éditions de l'EHESS" and its own social science festival "Allez Savoir".

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