

## **Background, Context for learning about Ukraine**

March 2, 2022

Dear colleagues and students,

I (Tanya Richardson, [Anthropology & Global Studies](#)) am writing you as a scholar who has been carrying out ethnographic research in Ukraine since 1999. It is devastating for me and for Ukrainians to witness the destruction caused by the invasion of the Russian Army. Some students and faculty have asked me for resources to contextualize and better understand Ukraine and the Russian invasion. I am a Ukraine scholar and so these centre Ukraine.

This is a very hastily assembled and incomplete list that draws on what Ukrainian Studies Institutes have put together and some other compilations. They do not address all dimensions of the impact of the invasion. They are meant to help you better get to know this country.

### **Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies**

CIUS has a series of short videos called “Did you know?” That answers questions such as “Are Ukrainians and Russians the same people” “Are Ukrainian and Russian the same language” “Is the conflict in Ukraine an ethnic conflict?”

<https://www.ualberta.ca/canadian-institute-of-ukrainian-studies/publications-and-e-resources/did-you-know-cius-answers.html>

### **The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute**

HURI has assembled a resource page entitled “Russia’s War on Ukraine” which has news articles on different topics under one tab and reports and book chapters under the HURI resources tab.

<https://huri.harvard.edu/russia-ukraine-war>

### **The Ukrainian Institute London**

This institute has recordings of various talks on Ukrainian culture

<https://ukrainianinstitute.org.uk/media-hub/> and a video series called 10 Things You Should Know about Ukraine. They are available here <https://euromaidanpress.com/2021/05/16/10-things-everyone-should-know-about-ukraine/>

The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine does not have a resource page but they regularly hold excellent events. <https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/jacyk/>

In terms of following the war, now the mainstream media is covering it thoroughly.

*The Financial Times* has opened up its coverage. <https://www.ft.com/content/77ab8dcf-cb02-4e57-aff0-85c8a84f5a1f>

### **For local Ukrainian media see:**

Kyiv Independent <https://kyivindependent.com/>

New Voices of Ukraine [https://english.nv.ua/?utm\\_content=set\\_lang](https://english.nv.ua/?utm_content=set_lang)

Ukrainska Pravda <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/>

Commons Journal <https://commons.com.ua/uk/> (left commentary)

**For Ukraine-based journalists to follow on twitter:**

Terrell Jermain Starr <https://twitter.com/terrelljstarr>

Olga Tokariuk <https://twitter.com/olgotokariuk>

Christopher Miller <https://twitter.com/ChristopherJM>

Natalia Gumeniuk <https://twitter.com/ngumenyuk>

**Books:**

A couple of great recent books for understanding contemporary Ukrainian cultural politics are

*Wild Music: Sound and Sovereignty in Ukraine* by Maria Sonevytsky (on the Laurier list)

*Superfluous Women: Art, Feminism and Revolution in Twenty-First Century Ukraine*. By Jessica Zychowicz

*Hip Hop Ukraine: Music, Race, and African Migration* by Adriana Helbig is a bit older (2014) but very relevant. It is available as an ebook too but isn't on the list.

One of the best books for understanding the international relations and political side of the conflict is this book which I don't think is available electronically.

Paul D'Anieri. *Ukraine and Russia: From Civilized Divorce to Armed Conflict*. Cambridge University Press.

Laurier Library has assembled a good list of books that they have available electronically.

<https://ocul->

[wlu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=01OCUL\\_WLU:WLU\\_DEF&collectionId=81215932070005156](https://ocul-wlu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=01OCUL_WLU:WLU_DEF&collectionId=81215932070005156)

The New Books Series also has a section on Ukraine.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/search?q=Ukraine>

**Film resources.**

You can watch the film *the Earth is Blue as an Orange* about the War in Eastern Ukraine that began in spring 2014 through Omni (I am using it in my AN345 class). It's not available yet but should be soon.

For other recent films, see the Ukrainian streaming Service Takflix.

[https://takflix.com/en/films?eng\\_subs\[1\]=1&sort\\_by=created&page=1](https://takflix.com/en/films?eng_subs[1]=1&sort_by=created&page=1)

**Finally: how to help.**

You can donate to Canadahelps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/donate-to-ukraine/>

You can donate to independent media such as the Kyiv Independent

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/kyivindependent-launch>

You can donate to independent journalists such as Terrell Jermaine Starr.

[https://cash.app/\\$TerrellJStarr](https://cash.app/$TerrellJStarr)

There are more options listed here.

<https://ukrainianinstitute.org.uk/russias-war-against-ukraine-what-can-you-do-to-support-ukraine-ukrainians/>

Finally, if you care about animals, you can donate to the Askania Nova Biosphere Reserve which is now in occupied territory. They've been cut off from accessing state funds to help feed the animals in their care. You can read about the Reserve here. <https://roadsandkingdoms.com/2015/the-ukrainian-serengeti/> and about the Ukraine Nature Conservation Group which is helping Askania Nova here

<https://uncg.org.ua/en/>.

You can do a transfer using the Bank information at the bottom of this page.

<https://uncg.org.ua/prosymo-dopomohty-biosfernomu-zapovidnyku-askaniia-nova/>