

RETHINKING UKRAINIAN ACADEMIA

Hanna Starkova

DISCLAIMER

1. My research is now mainly about internet memes and how people use them daily. However, academic freedom imposes a proportional responsibility; I also must study all parts of life meticulously.
2. I don't have all the answers and never will, but I have stereotypes. Instead, I prefer to challenge them by listening to other well-reasoned opinions.



OVERVIEW

- 1) Ideas and enlightenments about theoretical approaches to rethinking Ukrainian academia in the context of decolonisation.
- 2) Dr Letizia Chiappini, Assistant Professor of Digitalisation and Sustainability University of Twente (4 min video)
- 3) Dr Stephen Albert (Steve) Mrozowski, Distinguished University Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston (4 min video)



THE MAIN QUESTION

How has the war reshaped academic objects, models, and interpretative frameworks beyond decolonisation, and what new theoretical approaches to knowledge production emerged?

To successfully decolonise knowledge, scholars should not focus just on their own experiences as being unique. Instead, they should build connections between the different experiences of colonial and postcolonial studies.



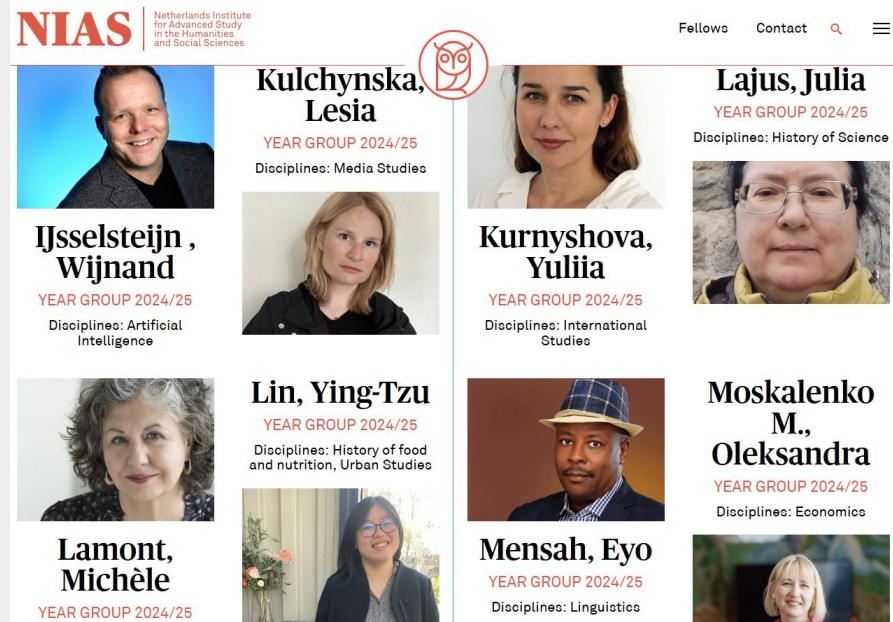
DR HANNA STARKOVA (CONTEXT)

- 1) I've lacked a holistic view of Ukraine. I didn't understand it and didn't feel the need to until 2014.
- 2) In 2018, I started researching the media consumption of journalism students, hoping that the theoretical content of their education would make them more responsible about the content. However, a more extensive study in 2021 showed that Russian narratives strongly influence Ukrainian young adults.
- 3) In 2024, we did the study again in Ukraine, and I was given a NIAS fellowship. This meant I could study Dutch students' media behaviour.



NIAS EXPERIENCE

Many of the last year my co-fellows are doing research or have personal experience in colonial and postcolonial studies, which is useful when looking for the best ways to produce knowledge in Ukraine



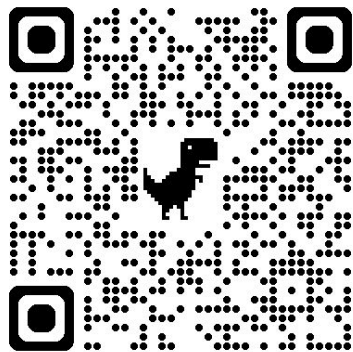
The screenshot displays the NIAS website header and a grid of fellow profiles. The header includes the NIAS logo (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences), a search icon, and navigation links for 'Fellows' and 'Contact'. A red owl icon is also present. The grid lists eight fellows, each with a portrait photo, name, year group, and disciplines.

Name	Year Group	Disciplines
Kulchynska, Lesia	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	Media Studies
Ijsselsteijn, Wijnand	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	Artificial Intelligence
Lajus, Julia	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	History of Science
Kurnyshova, Yuliia	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	International Studies
Lin, Ying-Tzu	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	History of food and nutrition, Urban Studies
Moskalenko M., Oleksandra	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	Economics
Lamont, Michèle	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	
Mensah, Eyo	YEAR GROUP 2024/25	Linguistics



DISCOVERING DECOLONISATION

Dr Nadia Ait Said-Ghanem is currently pondering the return of cultural heritage objects from European museums to Iraq



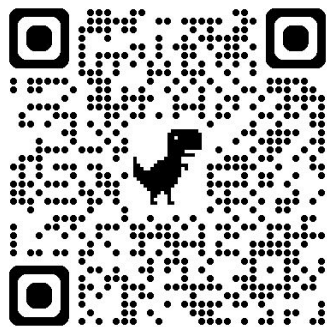
Project title

Cuneiform tablets in Dutch museums and the Iraqi-French antiquities dealer Ibrahim Elias Gejou



DISCOVERING DECOLONISATION

Emir Suljagić, Director of the Srebrenica Memorial Centre, calls for research into little-known facts of war crimes against Bosnian Muslims



Project title

Voicing the silences over Srebrenica: An investigation of genocide before and beyond the mass graves



DISCOVERING DECOLONISATION

Olívia Maria Gomes da Cunha,
Professor of Anthropology at the
National Museum, Federal
University of Rio de Janeiro, is
sure that existential landscapes
can tell the painful stories of
the war and its quotidian effects



Project title

On the impossibility of forgetting: runaways and refugees in the
sentient maroon landscapes



DISCOVERING DECOLONISATION

Dr James Symonds, Professor of Historical Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam, studies how colonial commodities become the 'new norm' in Dutch households

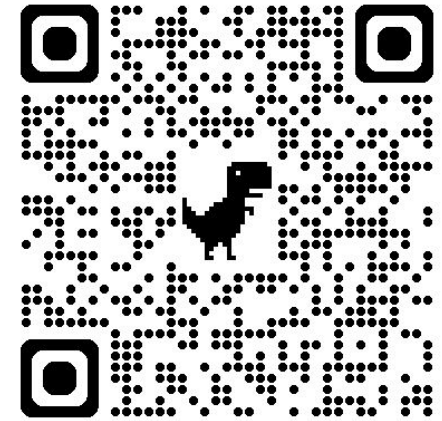
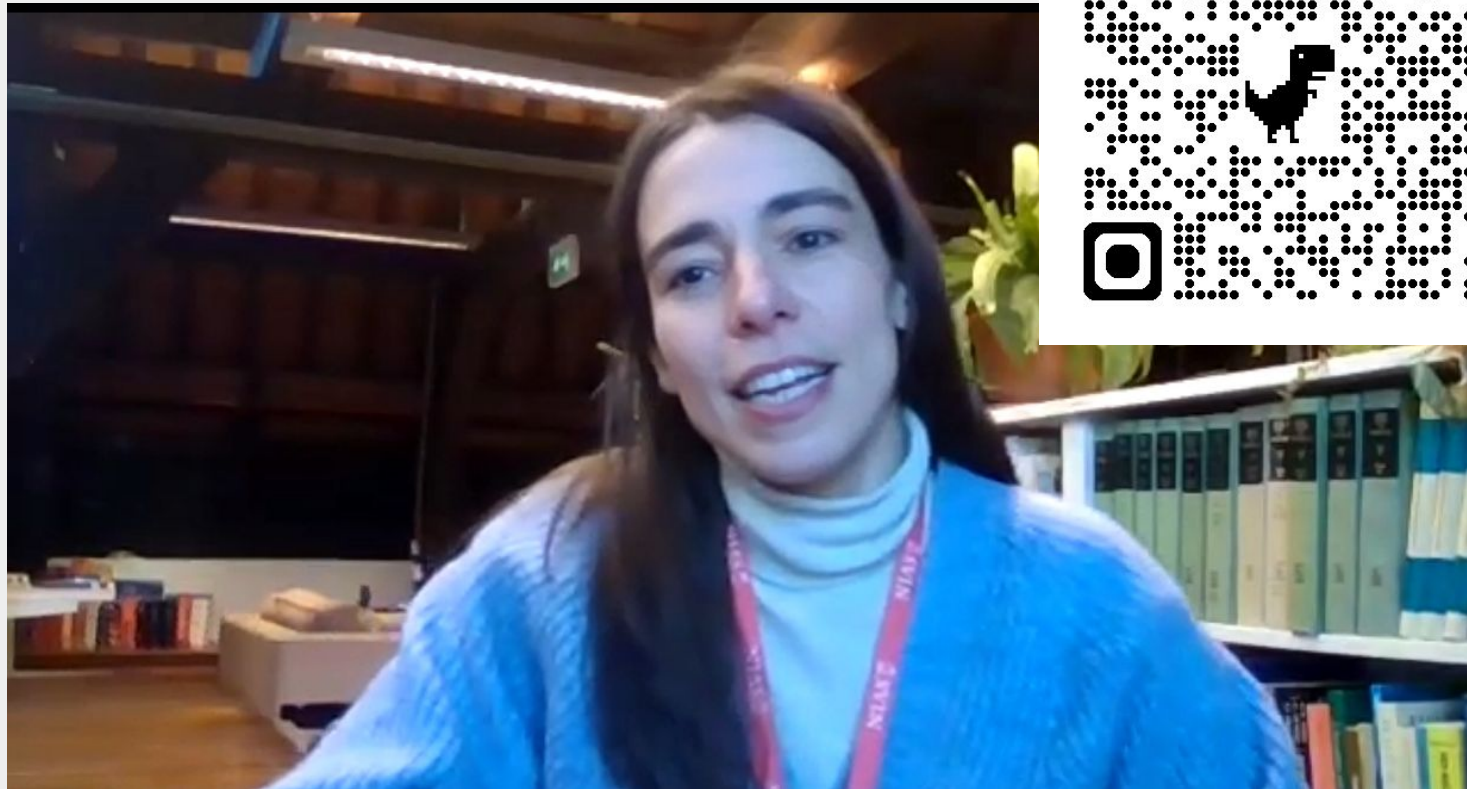


Project title

New Worlds & New Commodities: Transformations of Everyday Life in 17th & 18th century Dutch Republic

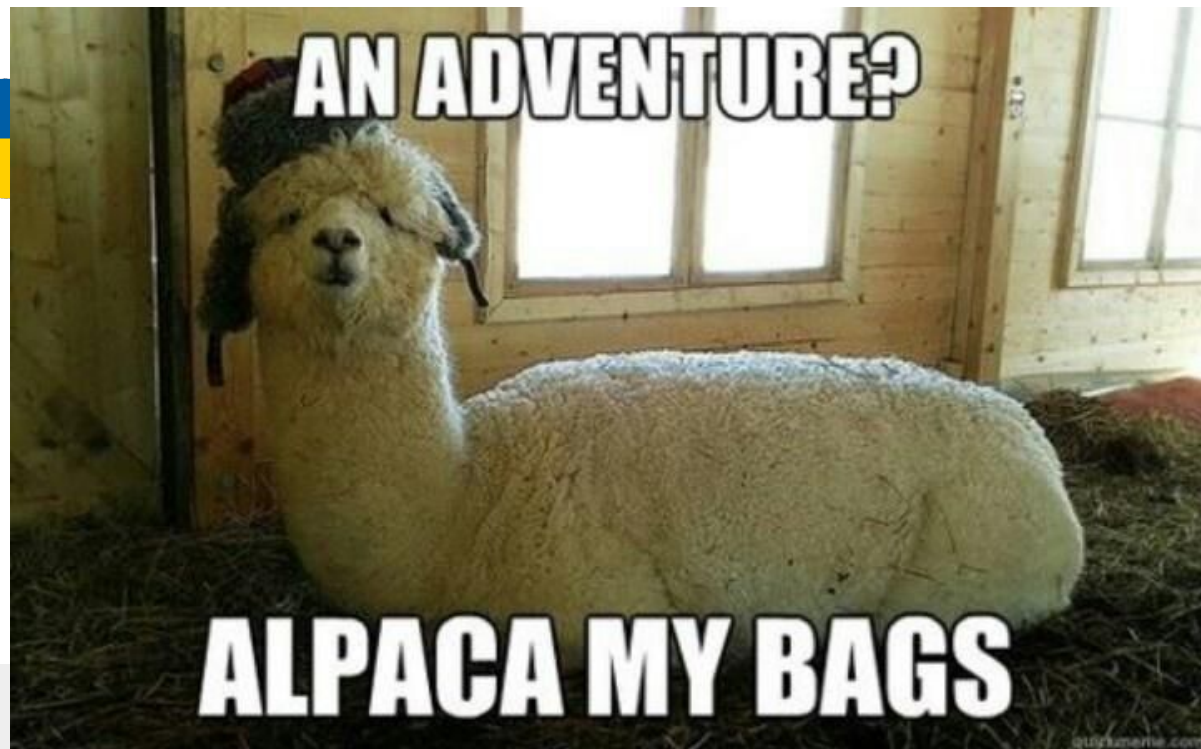


DR LETIZIA CHIAPPINI



DR STEVE MROZOWSKI





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!

Hanna Starkova
'Alarmed Science' – Knowledge-Production in a State of Emergency, Budapest,
January 20-22, 2025