

# Identity Politics and War in Ukraine

*with*

**Prof. Olga Onuch**, University of Manchester



Observers generally concur that identity divides are central to Ukrainian politics, yet our assumptions as to precisely what is going on are rarely tested with rigor, and most prior studies have faced serious methodological limitations. In addition, while we typically presume that identity divides cause conflict, we must also allow for the possibility that violence can cause changes in identity politics. In her talk, Dr. Onuch draws from a rare survey that not only includes a uniquely robust array of identity measures, but that interviews a nationally representative sample of individuals (minus Crimea) three times over the course of 2014, the first year of the Russia-Ukraine war in the Donbas. The findings shed light on the extent to which the war has changed patterns of language use, ethnic identification, and related attitudes in Ukraine, highlighting the difference it makes when one uses different measures.

**Dr. Olga Onuch** is Lecturer in Politics at the University of Manchester and Associate Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford. She specializes in the comparative study of protest politics and elections in democratizing states in Latin America and Eastern Europe. Dr. Onuch is an expert on protests and activism in Ukraine and is co-investigator of the 2014 Ukrainian Crisis Election Panel Survey (UCEPS), funded by the National Science Foundation. She has advised the government and president of Ukraine and is the author of the book *Mapping Mass Mobilizations* (2014), which investigates mass mobilization in Ukraine and Argentina. Her research has also been highlighted on Al Jazeera English, BBC World Service, NPR, IBT, and Radio Free Europe. Follow her on Twitter @oonuch

**Friday, May 26, 2017**  
**12:30 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**Voesar Conference Room**  
**1957 E St. NW, Suite 412**  
**Please RSVP at [go.gwu.edu/onuch1](http://go.gwu.edu/onuch1)**

*This event is on the record.*