

Workshop and Virtual Tour: The Odesa Text in 2022

Date: 27-28 June 2022

Location: University of Fribourg, Switzerland, Miséricorde (Avenue de l'Europe 20), **room MIS 04 4122**. With the possibility to attend remotely (Zoom, link upon demand).

Organizer: Eliane Fitzé, University of Fribourg, eliane.fitze@unifr.ch

The event will be held in English, Ukrainian, and Russian.

Odesa, the port city on the Black Sea, has a vibrant literary tradition. In the Odesa text – the entirety of works written in and about Odesa – the city demonstrates its own character: it is “Europeanly”-open, international, and multi-ethnic; but it is also criminal and corrupt. Internationality and multinationality are already reflected in the language: The Odesa text is written in Russian, Ukrainian, Yiddish, and many other languages.

This virtual tour is meant to replace a real excursion to Odesa that was planned to take place in June 2022, as part of the seminar on the Odesa text at the University of Fribourg.

The following questions are at the center of the workshop and tour:

- Preparatory work in the seminar: What places have left their mark in stories about and from Odesa? How does literature describe these places? What recurring topoi, themes, motifs can be found?
- How is the memory of the Odesa text maintained in public space? What effects does the creation and maintenance of a “literary space” in public space (street names, monuments) create?
- How does contemporary Odesa literature make sense of its literary heritage?
- How does local literary studies – at the University of Odesa – explore its city’s literary tradition?
- How does literature ‘write’ imperial and Russian Odesa?
- How does literature ‘write’ Ukrainian Odesa?
- What is the place of literature/culture in the debates on political and cultural affiliation of the city of Odesa?
- How is the legacy of Odesa’s literary tradition, which is largely Russian-speaking, viewed today?

Program (Timezone: CET)

Day 1: 27 June 2022

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| 9:30-10:15 | Eliane Fitzé: Welcome address (English/Russian) |
| 10:15-11:45 | Ivan Savushkin (Moscow): Virtual tour through Odesa, part one (in Russian)

This virtual tour will take us to the places in Odesa that are most important for its history and for its literature, from today’s perspective as well as through a historical lens. |
| 13:15-14:45 | A virtual tour of the Odesa Literature Museum (in English) |

- The Odesa Literature Museum, founded in 1977, documents and exhibits Odesa's rich multicultural literary heritage. The virtual tour will give us an overview of the museum's inventory and reflect on how the Odesa text is remembered today.
- 15:15-16:45 Natal'ya Malyutina (Białystok/Odesa): Contemporary Ukrainian Odesan Writers: Contexts of Research (in Russian)
Natal'ya Malyutina, professor of Ukrainian literature at the I. Mechnikov University of Odesa and professor of modern Russian literature in the city of Białystok, Poland, will speak about the negotiation of national and regional identity in the most recent developments in Odesan literature, as well as about the contexts of researching and studying contemporary literature in Odesa.
- 18:15-19:30 Public reading and talk with the Odesan writer Ganna Kostenko (in Ukrainian with English translations). Event co-hosted by Ost|Est Osteuropa-Netzwerk Bern-Fribourg
Room MIS 03 3119 The young and promising Odesan writer Ganna Kostenko will read from her novel *Tsurki-hilki: Jazz Improvisations* (2017), which tells the story of one Odesan house and its history, which is interwoven with the history of the city. Each apartment is a small cosmos, each story is a reflection of an Odesa that no longer exists. The novel is written in Ukrainian, the conversations are written in the specific regional dialect of Odesa, which is based on Russian, but has incorporated the city's multicultural heritage. Followed by a light reception.

Day 2: 28 June 2022

- 10:15-11:45 Ivan Savushkin (Moscow): Virtual tour through Odesa: How literature shapes the city's public space (in Russian)
This virtual tour will focus on the traces Odesa's literature has left in the city's public space, through the naming of streets and squares, and especially through the erection of monuments in honor of writers – or even in honor of protagonists of literary works.
- 13:15-14:45 Tet'yana Kara (Odesa): All Roads Lead to Odessa: South Palmyra in the Life and Work of Lesya Ukrainka (in Russian)
Tet'yana Kara will examine the image of Odesa in the works of Lesya Ukrainka and the importance of the city in the life of the Ukrainian poetess, based on her correspondence and her lyrical cycle "Podorozh do moria" ("Journey to the Sea"). Emphasis is made on the places of L. Ukrainka's residence in Odessa.
- 15:15-16:45 Meeting with the writer Ganna Kostenko
Concluding remarks