



SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020



The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States sends its best wishes to those celebrating Easter. We wish you good health, a resilient spirit, and moments of joy in these staggering times.



COVID-19 Notice

In compliance with the government's policy [New York State on Pause](#), the main office of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States has suspended all scheduled face-to-face events, effective of March 14, 2020. The main office will be closed until further notice.

[Olya Yarychkivska](#), a post-doctoral fellow in the [Laboratory of Developmental Genetics](#) at the Rockefeller University and board member of [Razom for](#)

[Ukraine](#), discussed the coronavirus from the perspective of a genetics expert. For a full Ukrainian-language video, click [here](#).

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TOP TEN BOOKS TO READ DURING THE CORONAVIRUS



[Oleh Kotsyuba](#), Manager of Publications at Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute and Chief Online Editor at [Krytyka](#), an independent Ukrainian intellectual journal, compiled a list of books that might help you beat the boredom and uplift your spirit in these unsettling times.

BOOKS ON UKRAINE-RELATED SUBJECTS IN ENGLISH

[*Narkomania: Drugs, HIV, and Citizenship in Ukraine*](#), by Jennifer Carroll

[*Makhno and Memory: Anarchist and Mennonite Narratives of Ukraine's Civil War, 1917–1921*](#),
by Sean Patterson

[*Rampart Nations: Bulwark Myths of East European Multiconfessional Societies in the Age of Nationalism*](#),
by Liliya Berezhnaya and Heidi Hein-Kircher, eds.

[*The Burden of the Past: History, Memory, and Identity in Contemporary Ukraine*](#),

by Anna Wylegała and Małgorzata Głowacka-Grajper, eds.

[Crimea in War and Transformation](#),

by Mara Kozelsky

BOOKS IN THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

[Ivan i Feba](#), Oksana Lutsyshyna

Іван і Феба Оксана Луцишина

[Vichnyi kalendar](#), Vasyl Makhno

Вічний календар, Василь Махно

[Natsiia ovochiv?](#), Oksana Moroz

Нація овочів? Як інформація змінює мислення і поведінку українців, Оксана Мороз

[Amadoka](#), Sofiia Andrukhovych

Амадока, Софія Андрухович

[Tak, ale...](#), Taras Prokhas'ko

Так, але..., Тарас Прохасько



In 2014 Off Laboratory, an independent production company founded in 2009, and based in Ukraine, Poland, and the USA, started [The Poets project](#), focusing on poetry as a universal form of art, and decided to formulate a new aesthetic canon of Ukrainian modernist poetry of the twentieth century, raising public awareness of Ukrainian poets and their literary work. The documentaries were directed by Oleksandr Frazze-Frazenko.

**THE SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES
INVITES YOU TO SCREEN THE DOCUMENTARIES ONLINE**

AN AQUARIUM IN THE SEA

The Story of New York Group of Poets

[Watch now](#)

CASI DESNUDO

Featuring Yuriy Tarnawsky

[Watch now](#)

CHUBAI

Highlighting the life and literary work of Hryhoriy Chubai

[Watch now](#)

THE HOUSE ON SEVEN WINDS. VASYL MAKHNO'S PORTRAIT

Featuring Vasyl Makhno

[Watch now](#)

MISTER NOBODY

Featuring Ihor Kalynets and named after Kalynets's book for children based on the Ukrainian tale Rukavychka

[Watch now](#)



VASYL MAKHNO'S NEW POEM

Reflecting upon the staggering changes in our lives in the times of the pandemic, Vasyl Makhno presented his new poem on the Society's YouTube Channel.

*сховатися у затінок листка
в стиху що наближаються до Пасхи
з яких сторін на тіні віслюка
проїде тінь невидима для пастви?*

*із музикою тиші як сабвей
із рипанням шухляд – поруччя - сходів
заломлюване світло з-під дверей
немов листи підкинуті знаходиш...*



Photographer Alexander Chekmenev, Ukraine, Kyiv

INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER MOTYL: BITS AND PIECES

Alexander Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University and laureate of the [2019 Omelian and Tetiana Antonovych Foundation Award](#), has recently published the new book *[Bits and Pieces: Fragmentary Memoirs](#)*.

I've never wanted to write a memoir, and, as ***Bits and Pieces*** demonstrates, I haven't. These "fragmentary memoirs" consist of a handful or two of semi-biographical essays and interviews, interlaced with my drawings, poems, and paintings, and with a novella (which may have more to say about me than the non-fiction pieces) thrown in for good measure. And yet, notwithstanding the fragmentation and lack of narrative structure, the texts do hang together (as well they should: after all, they are mine), producing a set of coherent reflections on a variety of topics of interest to me and, I trust, to others.

Although I mention the pandemic in the preface, the rest of the book is fairly lighthearted in tone. The book also contains poetry, drawings, photographs, and a mass of my paintings. The book may or may not have any words of wisdom to impart, but it should certainly serve as a distraction from the ongoing crisis. I also hope that some of it will elicit a smile, a laugh, or at least a giggle.

For more, [see](#)



REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL

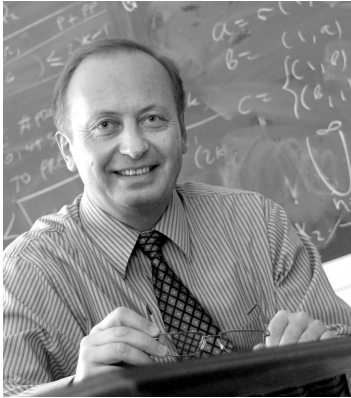
[Serhii Plokhii](#), Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University and author of *Chernobyl: The History of a Nuclear Catastrophe*, discussed the 1986 nuclear accident and the artistic representation of it with [Craig Mazin](#), creator of the HBO miniseries *Chernobyl*.

The event was broadcast live on April 24, 2020, on YouTube.

Watch now

[The Ukrainian Film](#) Club at Columbia University founded by [Yuri Shevchuk](#), Lecturer of Ukrainian at Columbia University, invited everyone for the online screening of the documentary *Stalking Chernobyl* and a subsequent discussion with the film director Lara Lee. The documentary examines the underground culture of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, where artists, extreme sports aficionados, and tour companies have begun to explore anew the ghostly landscape.

Watch *Stalking Chernobyl* now



MEMBER OF THE MONTH: ROSTISLAV GRIGORCHUK

Hometown: College Station, Texas

Current Position: Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, Texas A&M University (TAMU)

Professional Interests: Mathematics, Computer Science

Dr. [Grigorchuk](#) was the recipient of the 2019 [Humboldt Research Award](#) by Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, in recognition of his lifetime research on group theory and discrete mathematics.

As I am a member of the Ukrainian branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, I found it natural to join NTSh-A after my move to the USA. I am proud to be a member of NTSh-A and try to serve the Society in the best possible way. When I became a member, I convinced several colleagues at TAMU to join the Society. Among them were [Volodymyr Nekrashevych](#), [Sergiy Butenko](#), [Mariya Vorobets](#), and [Yaroslav Vorobets](#).

When I came up with the idea to start a new competition "[The best young mathematician in Ukraine](#)" with the goal to support young talented mathematicians and stimulate academic research in Ukraine, Amb. Popadiuk suggested a way to find sponsors. With the active support of [Roman Andrushkiw](#), chair of the Mathematics and Science section of NTSh-A, NTSh-A and the [U.S.-Ukraine Foundation](#) agreed to sponsor the competition. Now we regularly hold the competition.

For a full profile, [see](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Margarita Balmaceda, professor of diplomacy and international relations at Seton Hall University, **Oxana Shevel**, associate professor of political science at Tufts University, **Serhii Plokhii**, director of the Ukrainian Research Institute and Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University, and **Emily Channell-Justice**, director of the Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program at Harvard University, participated in a roundtable discussion of the new book, [*Ukraine and Russia: From Civilized Divorce to Uncivil War*](#), by [Paul D'Anieri](#), professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of California, Riverside.

Oksana Berezovska, associate professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, published the article “Presenilin 1 increases association with synaptotagmin 1 during normal aging,” in the journal [*Neurobiology of Aging*](#). The results suggest a compensatory mechanism during normal aging to offset detrimental age-associated effects.

Emily Channell-Justice, director of the Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program at Harvard University’s Ukrainian Research Institute, published the article “[Gender, Feminism, and Nation: Contributions of the Socialist and Post-socialist Worlds](#)” in the journal *Feminist Anthropology*.

Adriana Helbig, associate professor of music at the University of Pittsburgh, contributed a chapter titled “Lament as Protest: Music, Memory, and Mourning in War-Torn Ukraine” to *The Oxford Handbook on Protest Music* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

Oksana Lutsyshyna, Ukrainian poet, writer, and lecturer of

Ukrainian at the University of Texas at Austin, published the book [Persephone Blues](#) (Arrowsmith, 2019).

[Olena Nikolayenko](#), associate professor of Political Science at Fordham University, published the article “[Invisible Revolutionaries: Women’s Participation in the Revolution of Dignity](#)” in the journal *Comparative Politics*.

[Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern](#), the Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of Jewish History at Northwestern University, contributed several articles on Ukrainian Hasidism to the forthcoming Ukrainian-language book *Uman/Human: A Historical Guide*, edited by Iryna Matsevko. The book is an outcome of the project [ReHerit](#), aimed at advancing the revision, mainstreaming and capacity building for the cultural heritage of Uman, Lviv, and other Ukrainian towns and cities.

[Oleksandra Wallo](#), assistant professor of Ukrainian and Second Language Studies in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas, published the book [Ukrainian Women Writers and the National Imaginary: From the Collapse of the USSR to the Euromaidan](#) (University of Toronto Press, 2020), with the help of the grants from the First Book Subvention Program of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Olga Matsiuk Fund from the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States. Dr. Wallo examines the prose work and literary careers of three prominent women writers of the 1980s generation: Oksana Zabuzhko, Yevhenia Kononenko, and Maria Matios. As noted in the book, “these women have proved to be authoritative commentators on some of the most pressing issues faced by Ukrainian culture and society today.”

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