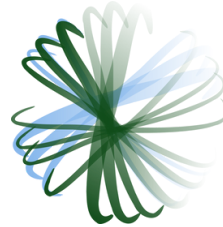


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Thursday, 3 March 2023

19:00 - 20:15 CET / 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM EST



THE WORKING GROUP  
ON LIVED RELIGION  
IN EASTERN EUROPE  
AND EURASIA

# JULIA BUYSKYH

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A Community without a Homeland: Religion, Belonging, Future Perspectives

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With commentary by Anna Wylęgała, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

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The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic community of Biały Bór (former German Baldenburg) in West Pomeranian voivodeship, Poland, was forged from Greek Catholics of various backgrounds forcibly resettled from their homelands in Subcarpathia in the frames of Operation "Vistula" (1947). Previously, Poles with rather blurred confessional and ethnic identities were repatriated there from the territories of nowadays Lithuania, Western Belarus, and Western Ukraine. Both groups were alien on these formerly German lands and burdened with mutual resentments and negative mutual stereotypes, which were strengthened by communist propaganda. Nowadays, although the two communities of Biały Bór (Polish Roman Catholics and Ukrainian Greek Catholics) are still very different, they coexist peacefully and tackle together a number of commemorative religious events: All Saints Day 31 October, and the mutual Carol singing festival are the most important. My research focuses on the three generations of the Ukrainian community. Two categories proved to be the most important here: "post-memory" (Marianne Hirsch) and "religion as a chain of memory" (Danièle Hervieu-Léger). From an epistemic perspective, post-memory is the memory of second and younger generations who have not experienced historical traumas directly but have inherited the memories of them from their parents or grandparents. Confessional identity here functions as a factor that determines national identity, which is very important for understanding the perception of history as defined by religion. Giving an account of Ukrainian Greek Catholic community of Biały Bór, I will show the role of the Greek Catholic Church, certain priests, and symbols such as the Bogorodytsia icon and a local church built in mid-1990-s, in forging this community and developing its Ukrainian identity through religion and memory. I will also show this community's ties with Ukraine, their connections with their "spiritual motherland" and how it influences identity formation. The role of the Russian invasion in Ukraine in 2014 and the full-scale war since 24 February 2022 have also played a huge role in cementing this community and strengthening their belonging to Ukraine as well as their future perspectives, and their mission in helping Ukraine as they see it.

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Meeting Link [Here](#)

No pre registration necessary. All are welcome!

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