

The Great Famines in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Bengal (1930s-1940s): Economic and Political Factors

Online Colloquium

May 31, 2023

10:30 am (EDT), 8:30 am (MDT, 4:30 pm (CET), and 7:30 pm (IST)

This colloquium will address these three catastrophic famines in one forum in the 90th memorial year of the Holodomor and Kazakhstan famines, and the 80th memorial year of the Bengal famine. While India was a British overseas colony and Ukraine and Kazakhstan were formally republics of the Soviet Union, the three famines occurred on territories ruled by great powers, where major political and economic decisions made in faraway capitals resulted in mass starvation.

Niccolò Pianciola: "Feeding the Capitals: Stalinist Social Hierarchies and the Great Famine in Kazakhstan, 1928-1934"

Janam Mukherjee: "Producing Famine: War, Profits and Procurement in 1940s Bengal"

Bohdan Klid: "The Rise of Ukrainian National Sentiment as a Reaction to Soviet Agricultural Policies and Famine, 1928-1933"

Organized by the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium, CIUS, University of Alberta

Participants

Niccolò Pianciola, University of Padua

Dr. Niccolò Pianciola is associate professor of Asian History, University of Padua. He has taught at Lingnan University in Hong Kong and Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. His publications include: *Stalinismo di frontiera: Colonizzazione agricola, sterminio dei nomadi e costruzione statale in Asia centrale (1905-1936)* [Frontier Stalinism: Agricultural Colonisation, Extermination of the Nomads and

State Building in Central Asia (1905-1936)] (Rome, 2009); “Stalinist Spatial Hierarchies: Placing the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz in Soviet Economic Regionalization”, *Central Asian Survey*, 36/1 (2017): 73-92; and “Sacrificing the Qazaqs: The Stalinist Hierarchy of Consumption and the Great Famine of 1931–33 in Kazakhstan,” *Journal of Central Asian History* 1/2 (2022): 225-272.

Janam Mukherjee, Toronto Metropolitan University

Dr. Janam Mukherjee is associate professor at Toronto Metropolitan University. His book *Hungry Bengal: War, Famine and the End of Empire* is a detailed account of the impacts of hunger and economic violence on the people of undivided Bengal. Incorporating extensive archival and oral history research, Mukherjee draws structural links between war, famine, social upheaval and civil violence in mid-twentieth century Bengal. Dr. Mukherjee has also published theoretical work on structural violence more generally and creative non-fiction related to the period of war, famine, and riots in Bengal.

Bohdan Klid, University of Alberta

Dr. Bohdan Klid is Research Director of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC) at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. He is editor of *Empire, Colonialism, and Famine in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (2022), and co-editor, with Alexander Motyl, of *The Holodomor Reader: A Sourcebook on the Famine of 1932–1933 in Ukraine* (2012). In addition to scholarly articles on the famine of 1932–1933, he has written on contemporary popular music, politics and national culture in Ukraine; on the nineteenth-century historian Volodymyr Antonovych; and on Ukrainian historiography of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Andrea Graziosi, Università di Napoli Federico II

Dr. Andrea Graziosi is professor of history at the Università di Napoli Federico II and a past President of the Italian Society for the Study of Contemporary History (2007-11) as well as of Italy's National Authority for the Evaluation of Universities and Research (2014-2018). He is an *associé* of the *Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre-européen* (Paris) and a fellow of Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute and Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Among his publications are *Histoire de l'URSS* (Paris, 2011; Bologna, 2012; Moscow, 2016); *Lettres de Kharkov. La famine en Ukraine, 1932-33* (Paris 1989 and 2013; Torino 1991; Kyiv 2007); *The Great Soviet Peasant War, 1917-1933* (Cambridge, Ma, 1997; Napoli, 1998; Moscow, 2008); *The Battle for Ukrainian* (Cambridge, Ma, 2017) with Michael Flier, and *Genocide: The Power and Problems of a Concept* (Montreal 2022), with Frank Sysyn. He founded and coedited the series *Dokumenty sovetskoi istorii*.

Debjani Sengupta, University of Delhi

Dr. Debjani Sengupta is associate professor, Department of English, Indrapastha College for Women, University of Delhi. She is the author of *The Partition of Bengal: Fragile Borders and New Identities* (CUP, 2015), editor of *Mapmaking: Partition Stories from Two Bengals* (Amaryllis, 2011), and co-editor of *Looking Back: The 1947 Partition of India 70 Years On* (Orient Blackswan, 2017). Sengupta's two other co-edited volumes (with Rakhshanda Jalil) are *Women's Writings From India, Pakistan and Bangladesh: The Worlds of Bangla and Urdu* (Bloomsbury, 2019) and *Bangladesh: Writings on 1971* (Orient Blackswan, 2022). Her forthcoming publication is tentatively titled *A Grain of Rice: Writings on the 1943 Bengal Famine*, co-edited with Rakhshanda Jalil. Sengupta's translations from Bangla have been published in the *Oxford Anthology of Bengali Literature* (vol 2) and *Essential Tagore* (Harvard University Press).