



International Workshop

Ukrainian Forced Migration, Transnational Family Processes and Co-Agency

4 – 5 November 2025

**Center for the Study of Transnational Families
Babes-Bolyai University, Romania**

This workshop is organized in the framework of the collaboration between the Institute of Sociology at the University of Neuchâtel and the Center for the Study of Transnational Families at the University Babes-Bolyai related to two research projects: [Dealing with Crises and Liminal Situations: The Agency of Ukrainian and Syrian Forced Migrants in Three National Contexts](#) and [Transnational Family \(Re\)Configurations in a Context of Crisis Migration: The Case of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Romania and Switzerland](#), both funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Prof. Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
Dr. Viorela Ducu, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Workshop Description

The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine has triggered one of the largest waves of forced displacement in Europe since World War II, leading to a massive transnational dispersal of families, sometimes scattered across several countries. Ukrainian forced migrants, who are predominantly women and children, are leaving behind family members for whom they have cared, and they face multiple challenges in maintaining meaningful relationships and solidarity across borders. This has brought new forms of interdependence to the fore, revealing the complex relational mechanisms through which forced migrants and their relatives, whether left behind or living in other countries, act together to cope with the challenging reality of everyday life in contexts of displacement and war.

This two-day workshop proposes to explore transnational family processes within forced displacement from a relational perspective and through the lens of co-agency. In other words, it aims to analyze and discuss family life within forced migration as a process that is co-constructed, negotiated, and enacted together with others, and thus understand how migrants and non-migrants, those who leave and those who stay, actively shape one another's lives, identities, and futures across time and borders, while embedded within various relational and sociopolitical contexts.

Venue

Babes-Bolyai University
[Centrul pentru Studiul Familiilor Transnationale](#) (Center for the Study of Transnational Families)
FSPAC 2 building, 85 Minerilor Street, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Registration

The workshop is open to the public. If you would like to attend, please register by 20 October 2025 by sending an email to: mihaela.nedelcu@unine.ch and viorela.telegdi@ubbcluj.ro.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the local organizers: viorela.telegdi@ubbcluj.ro or alina.barbuta@ubbcluj.ro.

Tuesday, 4 November 2025

9:00 – 9:10

Welcome and Introduction

Viorela Ducu, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

9:10 – 10:10

Setting a research agenda: combining configurational and agentic approaches to families in forced migration contexts

Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Áron Telegdi Csetri, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

10:10 – 10:15

Opening the Workshop – The Faculty's Commitment to Research and Collaboration

Hanna Orsolya Vincze, Vice-Dean for Research FSPAC,
Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

10:15 – 10:30

Coffee break

Session 1

10:30 – 12:00

Chair: Mihaela Hărăguș
Babes-Bolyai University,
Romania

Explaining Remigration among Refugees in Romania

Alexandra Porumbescu, Universitatea Craiova, Romania

Anatolie Coșciug, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Livia Pogan, Universitatea Lucian Blaga, Romania

Categorization and social definitions in the practice of case workers – making sense of vulnerability

Alexandra Deliu, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania

Monika Nowicka, Collegium Civitas, Poland

Bogdan Voicu, Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, Romania

Humanitarianism in Transition: Localizing NGO Practices in the Ukrainian Refugee Response in Romania

Alina Bărbuță, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Mara Birou, Universitatea Lucian Blaga, Romania

Ovidiu Oltean, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Yuliia Kisielova, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Session 2

13:30 – 15:00

Chair: Mihaela Nedelcu,
University of Neuchâtel

Household composition and life satisfaction of Ukrainian refugees in Germany

Philippa Cumming & Elena Sommer, Socio-Economic Panel, German Institute for Economic Research, DIW Berlin, Germany

Care and Social Support Dynamics among Displaced Ukrainian Refugees: Reflections from Germany and Slovakia

Ute Karl, Protestant University of Applied Sciences, Ludwigsburg, Germany

Martina Wilsch, Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic

Ukrainians in Switzerland: The role of host families and activists in the (re)configuration of transnational family support networks

Oksana Ovsiuk & Nina Khamsy, Institute of Sociology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

15:00 – 15:15

Coffee break

Session 3

15:15 – 16:45

Chair: Viorela Ducu
Babes-Bolyai University,
Romania

Ukrainian Migrant Youth: Educational Pathways, Life Transitions and Care Relations

Between Borders and Classrooms: School Transitions and Wellbeing of Ukrainian Forced Migrant Adolescents in Poland

Anzhela Popyk, University SWPS, Warsaw, Poland

Ukrainian Adolescents – A Path to Adulthood Through War Migration

Svitlana Shevchenko, Department of Social Psychology & Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine

Reversing the Generational Order of Care Relations: Accessing the (Trans)National Care Practices of Ukrainian Refugee Children in Switzerland

Anne Carolina Ramos, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Documentary Films

17:00 – 19:00

Moderator: Iulia Hossu
Babes-Bolyai University
and ISPMN, Romania

“Women” & “Children”

followed by a discussion with the filmmaker Lora Arkhipenko

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

Session 4

9:00 – 10:30

Chair: Oleksandra
Tarkhanova, University of
St. Gallen, Switzerland

Gender, Kinship, and Support Networks in Ukrainian Refugee Experiences

(Lack of) the Space to Choose? The Role of Family in the Post-February 24, 2022 Decisions of Forced Migrants from Ukraine in Poland

Kateryna Krakhmalova & Weronika Kloc-Nowak,
Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw, Poland

From War to Resettlement in Poland: Ukrainian Refugee Women navigating Integration, Identity and Transnational Ties

Georgiana Udrea & Joanna Grams, SNSPA, Bucharest, Romania

Digital Care and Transnational Family Practices Among Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Germany

Taisiia Ratushna, Zaporizhzhia National University & Prisma Ukraina fellow of the Gerda Henkel Foundation at the Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

Session 5

11:00 – 12:30

Chair: Nina Khamsy,
Institute of Sociology,
University of Neuchâtel,
Switzerland

Family Fragmentation and Reconfiguration: War, Displacement, and Ideological Boundaries

Lived Experience and Rupture of a Remnant Territory: Russo-Ukrainian Kinships Narratives and their Actualization in the Context of Open Warfare

Grégoire Le Gall, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) & Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France

Divided/Reunited Families: The Impact of Double Forced Displacement (Due to the Chernobyl Disaster and the Russian-Ukrainian War)

Viktorina Naumenko, FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany

Across the 'Contact Line': Familial Reconfigurations and Ideological Cleavages in Donbas since 2014

Qianrui Hu, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, UK

14:00 – 15:30

“In the Thunderstorm of War”: A Project With and About Ukrainian Scholars in Times of War

Oksana Ovsiuk, Institute of Sociology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland & Ukraina Moderna

Roundtable

Moderator:

Anatolie Coşciug,
Babes-Bolyai University,
Romania

The Challenges of Being a Ukrainian Scholar in Times of War

Participants:

Viktoriia Kyrychenko, Center for Comparative Migration Studies & Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Domain of Physical Education and Sport, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
Oksana Ovsiuk, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
Anzhela Popyk, University SWPS, Warsaw, Poland
Oleksandra Tarkhanova, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Final Discussion

16:00 – 17:00

Chair: Áron Telegdi Csetri
Babes-Bolyai University,
Romania

Publication Plans

Viorela Ducu, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
Mihaela Nedelcu, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland