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FROM SOVIET TO INDEPENDENT UKRAINE
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Kremlin narratives have it that there is no Ukraine; that there are no Ukrainians; that the latter are only Western constructs; that the West exploited the collapse of the Soviet Union to take the Ukrainian lands away from Russia etc. The gist of these narratives goes back to the Nineteenth Century. They were part of imperial Russian policies resulting in the fact that Ukraine and the Ukrainians had a longer and more difficult way to nationhood and independence than many other European peoples. The Soviet period usually is seen as a continuation of these suppressive policies and practices. While there is a lot to say for this position, the talk will discuss some arguments that the Soviet period is more ambivalent and more interesting in terms of Ukrainian nation-building and state-building than one might think. Developments during the Soviet period also brought about or reinforced structures and regional differences that were important, and often problematic, for Ukraine after 1991.



Dr Felix Schnell is a Research seminar convenor in the Department of History at the University of Essex. His research interests include Russian and Soviet history in the 19th & 20th Centuries, the History of Ukraine, War, Violence and Revolution. He studied at Goettingen University, Berlin and at Bielefeld University.