

UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

FROM POST
INDEPENDENCE
TO POST WAR

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

21 & 22 April 2023
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Canada



Session: In Word and in Deed

9:50AM, April 22, 2023

A Multitude of Voices: Language Attitudes and Language Practices in the New Ukrainian Canadian Diaspora

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This study analyzes language attitudes and language practices among the newest waves of Ukrainian diaspora in Canada, which followed the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity and now exists due to the Russia-Ukraine war. The study explores narratives about languages focusing on how language is fueled by political actions and accrues sociopolitical meaning – particularly now in the context of war. The discussion includes changes in participants' beliefs about language(s), relating them to issues of identity construction and negotiation that are observable in the complex multilingual community studied. The analysis also considers real and symbolic language practices of Ukrainians, focusing on transformations, changes, and crossing of linguistic boundaries that are taking place.

This presentation will link research results to a larger discussion on the role of language(s) in the diaspora, integrating considerations of the significance of 'native' vs 'first' language development and maintenance in this community, as well as the constructions of 'new' or shifting social identities through language.