



CEU DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF HISTORY

The Doctoral Thesis in Comparative History

by

**Andriy Posun'ko**

on

“The Ambiguities of Cossackdom: The Case of the Pontic Steppe, 1775-1830s”

will be held on

**Thursday, Sep 13, 2018 at 16:15**

in

**Nádor 9, Senate room  
Central European University (CEU)  
Budapest — 1051**

Examination Committee

Mária Kovács – Chair (Department of Nationalism Studies, CEU)  
Alfred Rieber – supervisor (Department of History, CEU)  
Ostap Sereda – CEU internal member (Department of History)  
Benjamin Schenk – external member (University of Basel)  
Serhii Plokhii – external reader (Harvard University)

The doctoral dissertation is available for inspection on the CEU e-learning site.  
Should you wish to access it contact Mónika Nagy (nagymo@ceu.edu)

**ABSTRACT**

Traditionally, the history of the Pontic Steppe cossacks ends in 1775 with the dissolution of the Zaporozhian Sich by Russian troops. Indeed, after 1775 the majority of free cossacks communities had already been either dissolved or subjugated by the Russian Empire. On the other hand, in the late eighteenth century the Russian legislation was extremely vague and cossacks could not yet become a proper estate of the empire.

Studying the transitional period of 1775-1830s, I focus on the complexities of the borderland management in the Steppe region and imperial officials' attempts to win the loyalty of locals accustomed to the cossack tradition. Tracking various cossack formations, I demonstrate how competing understandings of cossackdom coexisted, influenced each other, and how cossackdom as a social category evolved.

Finally, paying attention to the under-represented cases of cossackdom – irregulars recruited from foreign subjects or from nomads, temporary raised cossack militias, etc. – I move towards more flexible understanding of the cossackdom with its varying contexts and attempt to answer the question – what could cossackdom mean at the turn of the centuries in the end?

## CURRICULUM VITAE

*Andriy Posun'ko*

### EDUCATION

MA in Central European History with Distinction, 2012. CEU History Department, Budapest, Hungary.

BA in History with Distinction, 2011. Dnipropetrovsk National University, Dnipro, Ukraine.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Comparative history of the Russian, Ottoman and Habsburg Empires

Imperial history in political memory and memory politics

Historical justice in contemporary international relations

Digital humanities, geographic information systems, current approaches to historical mapping

### CONFERENCES

*In-between, Across, Within: Thinking Borders in the Black Sea Region*, New Europe College, Bucharest, Romania, Jun 2018.

*“Contestation Past and Present: Institutions, Processes and Orders*, Evangelische Bildungsstätte Berlin, Germany, Apr 2017

*Images of the Other” ASEEES – MAG Convention*, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine, Jun 2016

*The State of the State: Organizing Power, Authority and Legitimacy*, Bucerius Law School, Hamburg, Germany, Jun 2016

*Transnational Imaginaries: Mediterranean Past and Present*, Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Busan, Republic of Korea, Jan 2016

*Military History of the Mediterranean Sea*, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey, Jun 2015

*Current Theoretical Interfaces: Iconicity, Semiotics, Historicity*, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, May 2013

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

Volkswagen Stiftung, Pontica Magna Fellow, Mar 2018 – Jul 2018

ZEIT Stiftung, Ebelin and Gerd Bucorius Fellow, Sep 2015 – Sep 2017

Max Weber Stiftung, German Historical Institute Moscow Fellow, Sep 2014 – Jun 2015

Open Society Foundation, Postgraduate Scholarship, Sep 2011 – Aug 2014

Mykhailo Hrushevs'ky Scholarship, (one-time Ukrainian government award, 2011)

The President of Ukraine Scholarship (one-time Ukrainian government award, 2010)

## LANGUAGES

Native: Ukrainian, Russian

Fluent: English

Elementary: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, German, French, Modern Turkish

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)

“Splintered Communities: The Pontic Steppe Cossacks as Refugees, Mercenaries and Irregulars 1775 – 1829” in *Mediterranean Chronicle* (Athens, Diavlos Publications, 2018 issue)

“Almost Cossacks, but Not Quite: Volunteer Units in the Russian Army (Mid-Eighteenth – Early-Nineteenth Centuries)” in *Mediterranean Review* 10 / 2 (Busan, Busan University of Foreign Studies, 2017)