

# 2023 Series on Ukraine

## "A Decolonizing Moment of Sorts": Who in Central Eastern Europe Supports Ukraine and Why

A talk by Dr. Dovilė Budrytė



When the war in Ukraine started last year, Maria Mälksoo argued that this war has become a “decolonizing moment of sorts” as Central and Eastern European states have started taking the “moral and practical lead” in supporting Ukraine and thus asserting their own agency. Following this line of argumentation, I assert that this war has indeed become a decolonizing moment for the states in Central Eastern Europe and beyond. Focusing on the Baltic states, I will explore the Central and Eastern European states’ vicarious identification with Ukraine, identifying multiple ways in which these actors have initiated policies to support Ukraine internationally and the ways in which solidarity with Ukraine has been received by various domestic constituencies, including ethnic minorities. By vicariously identifying with Ukraine, the states in Central and Eastern Europe have continued their transformation from “policy-takers” to “policy-makers” in the European security landscape.

**THURSDAY**

**April 13**

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Gambrell Hall**

**Room 429**



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and International Studies  
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Advancement of Baltic Studies



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