

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Tetiana Bulakh

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“Things That Matter: Humanitarian Aid and Citizenship among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine”



Wednesday, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

Humanitarian aid—such as clothing, food, and basic household items—is a crucial response to the emergencies of displacement. However, little is known about how aid is designed and coordinated by multiple actors in practice and how it is used (or not) by aid recipients. This project investigates the governance and consumption of humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. Since 2014, a conflict in eastern Ukraine has forced more than 1.4 million people to become IDPs. Employing qualitative methods and ethnographic techniques, the study explores the politics of governance, routes of circulation, and patterns of consumption (or non-consumption) of material aid. The project aims to explain efficiency/inefficiency of policies for aid governance, elucidate common misconceptions in the understanding of IDPs’ needs, and explicate the informal economies surrounding humanitarian assistance.



[Tania Bulakh](#) is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology and Russian and East European Institute (REEI). Her research interests focus on forced migration, post-socialist transformations, social rights, and humanitarianism. For her doctoral dissertation, Tania studies the situation with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine, inquiring into the state-citizenship relationships, social welfare provision, and more generally exploring humanitarian responses to conflict-driven mobility. She earned her MA in Anthropology from IU as a Fulbright Scholar.

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).