

**Field Report**  
**UC Berkeley CASE – CRRC Field Development Project**  
**by Lioubov Kozik**

First of all, my visit to University of California, Berkeley was very useful for me. It was my first visit to American university and my first acquaintance with American system of higher education. My visiting scholarship at UC Berkeley helped me to learn more about American historiography on myth-making and history of Eastern Europe at whole.

I was particularly interested in construction of national historical myths and their usage in contemporary polish society. My syllabus project was about historiography and mythography in Poland in 1991-2012 (construction and deconstruction of national historical myths). I've got some advice and suggestions from my faculty mentor prof. John Connelly and graduate student David Beecher before my arrival, so I have the opportunity to read some theoretical articles which were very useful for me.

Particularly helpful for my research and teaching project were the meetings and discussions with professors John Connelly, Yuri Slezkine, Victoria Bonnell, Edward Walker and graduate students who helped the Carnegi fellows. During workshops I've received many useful suggestions and some advice to improve my project. The discussions during workshop and the literature I've read at the library helped me to reconsider some ideas of my syllabus project. First of all I decided to change the topic of my syllabus. There were a few reasons for this. The first one is the limit of time for proposed course (2 lectures and 7 seminars). So I decided to take one problem instead of a few – the events of World War II in Poland – and on this case to introduce my students to myth-making and the usage of myths in contemporary society.

During my visit I attended the seminars for graduate students with prof. John Connelly, Davis Frick, Stephan Ludwig-Hoffman and lecture for undergraduate students with prof. Yuri Slezkine's. Besides that I took part in scientific meetings

at the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies – David Priestland lecture, discussion with Chad Bryant and Vlad Zubok.

The workshop provided by Dr. Kim Starr-Reid from GSI Teaching and resource center was very interesting and useful too. She explained the key components of integrated course design and the process of developing a course syllabus.

During our visit to Stanford University I had an opportunity to meet professor Norman Naimark, who gave me some suggestions on my research. Besides that I acquainted with the Polish and Belarusian collections of documents at the Hoover Archives. There are a lot of documents on modern Polish history there which are very useful for my further research.

Participation in Carnegie program gave me the opportunity to revise my reading list and syllabus, to analyze major theoretical approaches in historiography and mythography, to find out some new problems (collaboration, Polish-Jewish relations, national features and traditions and so on) in modern Polish history. It was interesting to read the books and articles of B. Anderson, E. Renan, E. Hobsbaum and others about nations, nationalism and creating myths. Some books on case-studies, for example “Independence Day: Myth, Symbolism, and the Creation of Modern Poland” by M. B. Biskupski, “Battle for the Castle. The Myth of Czechoslovakia in Europe, 1914-1948” by A. Orzoff, were very helpful in understanding the origin of a myth and its development. In some articles and reviews (see syllabus) professor John Connelly deconstruct some myths about Holocaust and collaboration during World War II in Poland.

In reading list I suggest my students not only English-language literature. There are some books and articles in Polish, Belarusian, Russian and Ukraine languages. I think that in this way my students can compare different scientific approaches and find out some “misunderstandings” in describing events of World War II in Poland.

I'm sure that the knowledge I've got during my visit at UC Berkeley I would use in my researches and teaching practice at the Belarusian State University with undergraduate and graduate students.