

For Immediate Release — Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Public Professor Series examines the long and uneasy history between Ukraine and Russia

Who is a Russian? Who is a Ukrainian? The answers are complex, problematic and illuminate the fighting in 2022.



On Thursday, Feb. 23, University of Lethbridge history professor, Dr. Chris Burton, will present *Identity and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine*. The free event runs from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge in Essie's and is open to the public.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 took nearly everyone, including the experts, by surprise, but is rooted in the long and uneasy history between Ukraine and Russia. Burton will analyze the contemporary and historical causes of the conflict with a focus on questions of identity. Vladimir Putin himself claims to be acting on behalf of the diaspora of ethnic Russians, but cross-border populations have a long and tangled history.

Burton grew up in St. John's, Newfoundland, taking his BA in history at Memorial University, followed by an MA from Carleton University. He worked in the Soviet Union during the glasnost years, then studied with Sheila Fitzpatrick in the 1990s at the University of Chicago for his PhD. He is an associate professor of history at ULeithbridge and has been teaching Russian history, and modern European history more generally, for the last 20 years. His research interests include the medical profession under Stalin, social policy in the Soviet Union and the Soviet science of environmental health, including their understanding of air and water pollution.

[Learn more](#)

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