

Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute
Announces a Two-Day International Conference

Poltava 1709: Revisiting a Turning Point in European History
10-11 November 2009

Harvard Conference to Shed New Light on Turning Point in European History

In association with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta and the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) will on November 10th and 11th host *Poltava 1709: Revisiting a Turning Point in European History*, an international conference that marks the 300th anniversary of the pivotal battle.



The two-day event coincides with the passing of three centuries since Russia's Peter I vanquished Charles XII of Sweden in one of the most decisive assaults of the Great Northern War at Poltava in Ukraine in 1709. It also commemorates the October 1709 passing of Ivan Mazepa, the Cossack Hetman whose ambition to use the battle as a means to achieve an independent Ukrainian state has made him both a national legend and an international controversy.

The conference will bring together prominent scholars from Ukraine, Russia, Austria, Sweden, Canada, Germany, Scotland, Italy, and the United States with the intent to utilize new historiographical approaches to reassess the Battle of Poltava as a crucial military event in the geopolitical development of Europe. With more than 25 paper presentations including those from the three main players in the battle, Russia, Sweden, and Ukraine, HURI's *Poltava 1709* aims to revisit the contention of the battle's age, events, actors, and the stereotypes of following centuries with an objective dialogue in a modern discourse.

The conference will be divided into sessions presenting the Ukrainian, Russian, and broader international perspectives; historical memory, myth, and fact surrounding the event; and a multi-faceted look at Mazepa in all his forms—man, warrior, national hero, lover, embodiment of genius and European inspiration—including an auditory and visual analysis of the architecture, music, art and literature of his era.

HURI invites the academic community and the general public to attend the conference free of charge. However, registration is required. To register and to learn more about the event, the program and its participants, visit the website of the [Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute](http://www.huri.harvard.edu) <<http://www.huri.harvard.edu>>.

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