

## Fall 2022 Research Project Proposal to the Gould Center

### “War in Ukraine Social Engagement Project”

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The Gould Center War in Ukraine Social Engagement Project seeks to bring together 7-10 CMC students this Fall 2022 from any major or class to spend 8-10 hours per week exploring the history, motivations, and impact of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, humanitarian relief efforts, and practical steps to help raise awareness about the war and ameliorate the suffering through various forms of student, faculty and community social engagement.

The project team responsibilities and assignments will revolve around 4 components: (1) research on the above factors, (2) creation of awareness campaigns, (3) modest relief and fundraising efforts, and (4) 5Cs social engagement activities.

The first research component will focus on the history of Ukraine, motivations and impact of the Russian invasion, and humanitarian relief and peacebuilding efforts.

The second awareness campaigns component will work with Ukrainian student research teams (which I already have contact with) to create technical avenues for the public dissemination of reliable information about the above-mentioned factors via Twitter, Facebook, websites, and other forms of social media.

The third relief and fundraising efforts component will be tied to the Ukraine Fair and other lab team efforts aimed at modest student-level fundraising activities (e.g., bake sales, dances, auctions) to raise donations for students and faculty suffering from the dislocation and ravages of the war, where faculty have taken a 25 percent pay cut and been dislocated and students struggle to pay for tuition, housing, books, and food.

The fourth social engagement activities component will focus around three major live/virtual scholarly-student events:

- (1) 5Cs War in Ukraine Social Engagement Fair, October 5-7,
- (2) CMC-Ukrainian University Social Engagement Student Symposia, October 7, and
- (3) “Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Motivations, Human Rights, and Peacebuilding Conference,” Oct. 28.

The Conference will sponsor scholarly panels on the Theories and Motivations for the War, International Involvement, Human Right’s Abuses, Humanitarian Relief Efforts (religious & secular), and Peacebuilding Strategies. Students will help carry out background research on these above events, components, and panels and also create and draw up the publicity and other event-related materials for all activities for this Fall 2022.

This project builds on more than a decade of research by Dr. Espinosa in Ukraine from 2012-2022. He has given over twenty scholarly presentations at four of Ukraine’s leading universities and law schools in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odessa. He has also co-organized with Dr. Sergiy Makovksyy (Kyiv National University) and Dr. Denys Kuzmin (Odesa National University) a major conference on “The Influence of Religion on Ukrainian Independence, Politics, and Society” February 21-22, 2020, at the Institute of International Relations at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and “The Crisis in Ukraine: Summer Symposia Series” this May 25-26, 2022, attended by over 200 students, faculty, and other guests and also funded by the Gould Center.