

THE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Tuesday, October 11

11:00 a.m.–noon EDT

via Zoom register at (bit.ly/3AEPzZZ)



Yuliya V. Ladygina

Helena Rubinstein University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities
and Assistant Professor of Russian and Global Studies

*“Hauntology, Ruins, Macabre, and a Promise of a Brighter
Future in Valentyn Vasyanovych’s Atlantis (2019)”*

In her presentation, Dr. Ladygina will share her ongoing research on Valentyn Vasyanovych’s internationally acclaimed film *Atlantis* (2019), which evokes bombed-out postwar Ukraine of 2025, an alternate universe victorious in its war with Russia but left in total societal, economic, and environmental ruins. This study is a part of her second book project, preliminary titled *The Reel Story of Russia’s War Against Ukraine*, which examines cinematic depictions in recent Ukrainian films of the 2013–14 Euromaidan Revolution, Russia’s 2014 annexation of Crimea, the Donbas War, and Russia’s 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Dr. Ladygina will use a hauntological approach to her analysis of Vasyanovych’s film to elaborate on its sobering representation of highly complex dimensions of wartime experiences and position *Atlantis* as not only a powerful anti-war text but also a pertinent guide to Ukraine’s post-Soviet decommunization and its ongoing struggle to forge a new vision for its political future. To do so, she will use Jacques Derrida’s concept of hauntology and its adaptation by Alexander Etkind to his theory of post-Soviet cultural memory, as well as Michael Rothberg’s theory of multidirectional memory. She will also draw on Kate McLoughlin’s influential study of literary representations of war and several critical texts dealing with de-industrial representations. Vasyanovych’s use of macabre images and aesthetic choices associated with the phenomena known as “ruins port” will be of particular interest in that regard.