

Kremlin Aggression in Ukraine: Seeking Restitution for Private Property Seized and Destroyed

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Atlantic Council Headquarters

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Speaker Biographies



Mr. Dmytro Shymkiv

Deputy Head of Presidential Administration, Government of Ukraine

[@dshymkiv](#)

Dmytro Shymkiv has been deputy head of the presidential administration of Ukraine since July of 2014. His responsibilities include implementation of administrative, social, and economic reforms. Mr. Shymkiv also chairs the Executive Reforms Committee of the National Reforms Council, an advisory body to the president. The Committee's main functions are to prepare proposals for strategic planning of reforms and to coordinate and monitor their implementation. Mr. Shymkiv is additionally responsible for the management, reorganization, and implementation of e-governance in the administration. He is a technology entrepreneur, innovator, and respected professional with twenty years of leadership experience in the information technology industry across Ukraine, Europe, and the United States. He previously was general manager of Microsoft Ukraine, and led the company from the global recession towards new growth and business opportunities. Mr. Shymkiv holds a systems engineering degree in information technology, electronics, and telecommunication from Lviv State University Lvivska Politehnika.



Dr. Anders Åslund

Senior Fellow, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

[@anders_aslund](#)

Anders Åslund is a senior fellow in the Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council. He also teaches at Georgetown University. He is a leading specialist on economic policy in Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe. Dr. Åslund has served as an economic adviser to several governments, notably the governments of Russia (1991-94) and Ukraine (1994-97). He is chairman of the Advisory Council of the Center for Social and Economic Research, Warsaw, and of the Scientific Council of the Bank of Finland Institute for Economies in Transition. He has published widely and is the author of fourteen books, most recently with Simeon Djankov, *Europe's Growth Challenge* (OUP, 2017) and *Ukraine: What Went Wrong and How to Fix It* (2015). Other books of his are *How Capitalism Was Built* (CUP, 2013) and *Russia's Capitalist Revolution* (2007). He has also edited sixteen books. Previously, Dr. Åslund worked at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Brookings Institution, and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He was a professor at the Stockholm School of Economics and the founding director of the Stockholm Institute of East European Economics. He served as a Swedish diplomat in Kuwait, Poland, Geneva, and Moscow. He earned his PhD from Oxford University.



Mr. Jock Mendoza-Wilson

Director of International and Investor Relations, System Capital Management Holdings

[@jockmw](#)

Jock Mendoza-Wilson is the director of international and investor relations at System Capital Management, the leading Ukrainian holding company. Since joining System Capital in 2005, he has been involved in developing and implementing the company's communications, government relations, and investor relations strategies. Mr. Mendoza-Wilson also is chairperson of the United Nations Global Compact in Ukraine, a member of the Advisory Board of the EU-Ukraine Business Council, a director of the British Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the President's Advisory Council of the US-Ukraine Business Council. In 2004, he served as regional director for Eastern Europe for the international communications consultancy Mmd. From 1999 to 2004, Mr. Mendoza-Wilson worked for Promoseven Weber Shandwick PR in Dubai, where as regional director he covered the Middle East and North Africa. In 1989, he founded his own public relations consultancy in London, where he dealt with litigation, public affairs, and corporate communications. Mr. Mendoza-Wilson holds an honors degree in economics from Heriot-Watt University and is an Honorary Professor in International Relations at the University of Mariupol.



Mr. Paul Thomas

Partner and President, IRE USA Inc., IRE UKRAINE, LLC, Thomas & Simonova, LLC

Paul Thomas is an economist and financial analyst with over thirty-five years of international experience, including over twenty years of experience in the appraisal and financial services industry in Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. He specializes in the valuation of land, development projects, and financial due diligence. Mr. Thomas serves as special adviser to the rector of the Ukrainian-American Concordia University in Kyiv (UACU), where he is responsible for supporting strategic development, including developing new academic programs and creating new business, scientific, and academic relationships. He previously served for seven years as vice president and president of the Economics Institute of the American Economic Association, located at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. For eight years, he was a supervisory economist at the US Bureau of Mines. Mr. Thomas has also designed academic programs and taught business and economics courses for universities around the world. He has authored numerous publications in the fields of industrial economics and international valuation.



Ms. Melinda Haring

Editor, UkraineAlert, Atlantic Council

[@melindaharing](#)

Melinda Haring is the editor of the *UkraineAlert*, a biweekly publication by the Atlantic Council. *UkraineAlert* is the Atlantic Council's most popular publication. Its articles are regularly republished by *Newsweek*, *Kyiv Post*, *Novoe Vremya*, *Huffington Post*, *Real Clear Defense*, and *World Affairs Journal*. In 2016, *UkraineAlert's* most popular article garnered more than 100,000 hits. Ms. Haring is a longtime observer of political developments in the Eurasia region, and her analysis has been featured in *Foreign Policy*, *Newsweek*, the *Kyiv Post*, *Global Post*, *The Press-Enterprise*, *News Decoder*, and *Transitions Online*, and broadcast and published by *NPR*, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, and *Voice of America*. Ms. Haring has worked for Eurasia Foundation, Freedom House, and the National Democratic Institute, where she managed democracy assistance programs in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Russia. She has served as an international election observer in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. A graduate of Georgetown University's Democracy and Governance Program, she holds an MA in Government with a certificate in Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies. Ms. Haring is also a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.



Dr. Eugene Czolij

President, Ukrainian World Congress; Senior Partner, Lavery, de Billy, LLP

Eugene Czolij was called to the Quebec Bar in 1982 and is a senior partner at Lavery, de Billy, one of the largest law firms in Quebec, with more than 200 lawyers. His legal practice includes corporate and commercial litigation, as well as insolvency and financial restructuring law. He pleads before the Supreme Court of Canada and all court levels in Quebec. In 2008, he was elected president of the Ukrainian World Congress for a five-year term, and was re-elected for a second term in 2013. Since 2006, he has been president of the Caisse populaire Desjardins Ukrainienne de Montréal, a Ukrainian credit union, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions of Canada. Since 2009, he has been a member of the Council of Representatives, East of Montreal, of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, the largest cooperative financial group in Canada. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress since 1994. Dr. Czolij has received several awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the Order of Merit of Ukraine III Degree, the Commemorative Medal of the President of Ukraine - "25 years of the Independence of Ukraine", the Medal of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, and the Shevchenko Medal of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Since 2012, he has been listed in *Best Lawyers*, one of the oldest and most respected publications in the legal profession, in his practice areas. In 2016, he received an honorary doctorate from Lviv Polytechnic National University in Ukraine for his contribution to promoting Ukraine's interests and its Euro-integration.



Dr. Irina Paliashvili

Managing Partner, RULG - Ukrainian Legal Group

Irina Paliashvili began her private practice by co-founding one of the first private law firms in Ukraine, and expanded by founding the Washington-based RULG-Ukrainian Legal Group, PA, where she serves as the managing partner. Dr. Paliashvili frequently speaks at international conferences and publishes on the legal and business climate in Ukraine, and serves as chair of the Legal Committee of the US-Ukraine Business Council, co-chair of the International Bar Association's Senior Lawyers Committee, and member of the Advisory Board of Best Lawyers. Dr. Paliashvili is a member of the Energy Community Dispute and Negotiation Centre Panel of Mediators in Vienna. She has extensive experience in acting as an independent expert on the matters of Ukrainian law in international arbitration and in the US, UK, and Swedish courts. Dr. Paliashvili is included in the arbitrators' panels of the Riga International Commercial Arbitration Court (RICAC) in Riga, the International Arbitral Centre of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (VIAC) in Vienna, Georgian International Arbitration Centre (GIAC) in Tbilisi, and Lewiatan Court of Arbitration in Warsaw. She graduated with highest honors from the Kyiv State University School of International Law and received a PhD in private international law from the same school. She also holds an LLM in international and comparative law from George Washington University. She is licensed to practice Ukrainian law as a special legal consultant in the District of Columbia and is a member of the Kyiv Bar.



Dr. Alan Riley

Senior Fellow, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council

[@profalanriley1](#)

Alan Riley is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center. He is also a professor at City Law School. City University advises governments, European Union (EU) institutions, non-governmental organizations, and corporations on major strategic problems in relation to abuse of dominance, price-fixing, and merger cases concerning strategic problems in the global and European energy markets. Additionally, he is an associate senior research fellow of the Institute for Statecraft and is a regular guest columnist on competition and energy law issues with the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and the *Financial Times*. Professor Riley is a regular contributor to topical programs in the media, including a recent BBC appearance to discuss the implications of the EU's investigation into the Gazprom case.



Dr. Paula Stern

Board Director, Atlantic Council; Founder and Chairwoman, The Stern Group, Inc.

Dr. Paula Stern is a former chairwoman of the US International Trade Commission (ITC) and distinguished scholar. Dr. Stern founded The Stern Group, Inc. in 1988. Dr. Stern is a member of the US Department of Commerce's Advisory Committee on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the Executive Committee of the Atlantic Council, the Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Inter-American Dialogue, and the Advisory Council of the Wilson Center's Women in Public Service Project (WPSP). Dr. Stern also serves on the International Advisory Board of LafargeHolcim and of Diversified Search. She is a former Board member of CBS, Infinity, Duracell, Harcourt General, Hasbro, Scott Paper, Walmart, Westinghouse, Avaya, SSMC, Neiman Marcus, and Avon. She is the senior adviser to the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT). As both a member and senior adviser of the Trade Policy Sub-council of the bipartisan Competitiveness Policy Council, Dr. Stern prepared the Council's proposals for reforming US international economic policy making, which guided the trade and export policy of the Clinton

Administration. Dr. Stern also served as a member of the US President's Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations; co-chaired the International Competition Policy Advisory Committee for the Attorney General and US Department of Justice Antitrust Division; chaired the Advisory Committee of the US Export-Import Bank; and served as a Senate confirmed member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation. Dr. Stern began her Washington career in the 1970s as senior legislative assistant to US Senator Gaylord Nelson, and also was a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, where she wrote a definitive book on Congressional-Executive foreign policy making, titled *Water's Edge: Domestic Politics and the Making of American Foreign Policy*. She was also a senior international affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a senior fellow at the Progressive Policy Institute, and a member of the Trilateral Commission. Dr. Stern also held the Alkire Chair in International Business at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Stern's writings and commentary on foreign policy, trade, competitiveness, workforce, tech, and women's issues have been widely published in scholarly and popular journals as well as mainstream media. She was named one of the top women influencing the American economy by *MS Magazine*, and honored by the National Women's Economic Alliance Foundation with its Directors' Choice Award for Leadership. She is a recipient of the Alicia Patterson Journalism Award and the Joseph Papp Award for Racial Harmony from the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. Dr. Stern has a BA from Goucher College, an MA in regional studies from Harvard University, a PhD in international affairs from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and honorary degrees in law from Goucher College and Commercial Science from Babson College.



Ambassador John Herbst

Director, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

[@JohnEdHerbst](#)

Ambassador John Herbst is the director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. Ambassador Herbst served for thirty-one years as a foreign service officer in the US Department of State, retiring at the rank of career minister. He was the US ambassador to Ukraine from 2003 to 2006. Prior to his ambassadorship in Ukraine, he was the ambassador to Uzbekistan from 2000 to 2003. Ambassador Herbst previously served as US consul general in Jerusalem; principal deputy to the ambassador-at-large for the Newly Independent States; director of the Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs; director of regional affairs in the Near East Bureau; and at the embassies in Tel Aviv, Moscow, and Saudi Arabia. He most recently served as director of the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University. He has received two Presidential Distinguished Service Awards, the Secretary of State's Career Achievement Award, the State Department's Distinguished Honor Award, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Civilian Service Award. Ambassador Herbst's writings on stability operations, Central Asia, Ukraine, and Russia are widely published.