



# The Backstage of Ukraine's Democratisation Progress

Viktoriya Bryndza

Wednesday 31 January 2024: 5:30pm for 6 – 7pm AEDT at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Ukraine has made significant efforts to democratise its political landscape since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Despite facing challenges such as low institutional trust and constant external pressure, Ukraine has shown resilience in its commitment to democratic principles, with the Maidan Revolution in 2014 serving as an example of Ukrainians' desire for greater political independence and accountability.

Currently, civil society in Ukraine is keeping authoritarianism at bay: fighting against external pressure but struggling to move further toward democracy due to a lack of security in the society and low institutional trust. Furthermore, public understanding of the rule of law is low due to the threats coming from the post-totalitarian state.

This talk offers Ukrainian sociologist Viktoriya Bryndza's viewpoint on Ukraine's democratisation efforts and progress. She considers historical and geographical aspects and modern generation and informational shifts in Ukraine society as a part of her research.

Why is it important to keep supporting Ukraine? What is needed for the country to evolve into a fully functional democratic society? What will a democratic Ukraine look like? AIIA VIC warmly invites you to join this thought-provoking discussion on Ukraine's path to democracy.



Photo Credit: Andriy Meakovskiy



**Viktoriya Bryndza** has a master's degree in Sociology and Political Science along with a Graduate Certificate in Education, and worked as the Head of Research and Analysis at pro.mova think tank in Ukraine from 2008 to 2016. Since 2011, she has been dedicated to developing and teaching her course in critical thinking, exploring the role of education in the democratisation process. Since 2016, Viktoriya has resided in Australia while remotely teaching and consulting on projects and institutions in Ukraine, such as Ukrainian Public Broadcasting and various NGOs. Viktoriya, born in the Soviet Union, completed her undergraduate studies in independent Ukraine, pursued postgraduate studies in both Germany and Australia, and gained professional experience in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia. She is a dedicated sociologist and educator with a keen focus on fostering intercultural understanding.

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