

# **We work Emo: Representing Russians through Script and Code in Ukrainian Wartime**

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**Wednesday, April 24, 3:30pm**  
**Gambrell 429**



In this talk, Dr. Dickinson describes and analyzes examples of social media posts and comments in which Ukrainian script is used to represent Russian speech, often for humorous effect. Utilizing a theoretical framework that combines the sociolinguistics of stance and recent work on multiscript writing in social media interactions, she argues that the orthographic device of "trans-scripted Russian" establishes separate voices associated with specific ideological positions.

She will review specific examples of wartime social media posts as well as historical relationships between Ukrainian and Russian scripts to build evidence for trans-scripted Russian as a humorous device that is also deployed to create and consolidate ideological positions. Although the caricatured representation of a specific kind of colonialist Russian speaker is deployed for humor in these examples, it also does the serious work of asserting Ukrainian independence and reinforcing Ukrainian as the language of opposition to contemporary Russian aggression and imperialism.

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