

# 2023 Series on Ukraine

## Curative Mythmaking: Children's Bodies, Medical Knowledge, and the Frontier of Health in Early Soviet Odesa

A talk by Dr. Matthew Pauly



This talk explores how Soviet authorities appropriated medical knowledge derived from the treatment of a “passive” juvenile population to create a new assurance of municipal well-being in 1920s Odesa. After the tumult of revolution and war, state custodians sought to raise a new, loyal generation in this traumatized city at the Soviet Union’s edge. Children’s health would signify revolution achieved. Illness would continue to plague the city’s residents, but the myth of a community united in health created an ecology of promise and activism.

**FRIDAY**

**January 20**

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Gambrell Hall**

**Room 429**



Dr. Matthew D. Pauly is an Associate Professor of History at Michigan State University. He is the author of *Breaking the Tongue: Language, Education, and Power in Soviet Ukraine* (University of Toronto Press 2014) as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters on early Soviet nationalities policy, education, and childhood in the Russian Empire and Soviet Ukraine.



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