

Conference Venue in Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences in the historical Austrian Postal Savings Bank building, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Wien, Besprechungsraum 2 (3rd floor)

Conference Venue in Krakow: Austrian General Consulate, Ul. Krupnicza 42, 31-123 Krakow



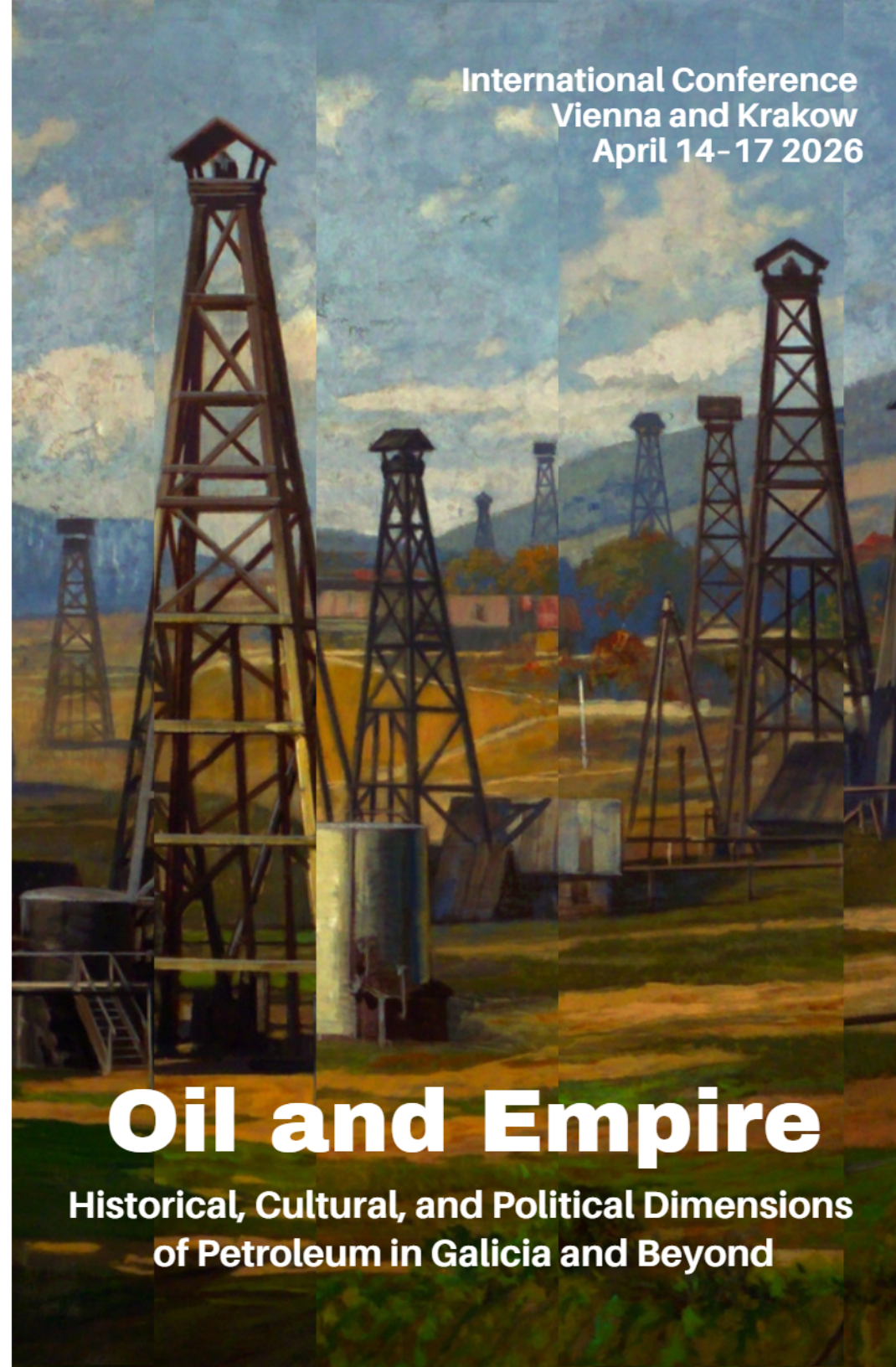
Organisation: Christine Frank and Ulrike Tanzer (Research Institute Brenner Archive, University of Innsbruck) in collaboration with Florian Schwarz (Institute of Iranian Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna)

Contact:

Forschungsinstitut Brenner-Archiv
Universität Innsbruck
Georg-Trakl-Turm, Josef-Hirn-Straße 5 / 10. Stock
A-6020 Innsbruck
sekretariat-brenner-archiv@uibk.ac.at

Image source: Technisches Museum Wien, Archive.

**International Conference
Vienna and Krakow
April 14-17 2026**



Oil and Empire

**Historical, Cultural, and Political Dimensions
of Petroleum in Galicia and Beyond**

Tuesday, April 14

9.00-9.30 // Welcome and Introduction

Ulrike Tanzer and Christine Frank (Research Institute Brenner Archive, University of Innsbruck)

9.30-10.30 // Keynote

Alison Frank (Harvard University)

Austrian El Dorado: Re/Envisioning the Galician Oil Industry

10.30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-12.30 // Panel 1: Oil Before the Modern Age

Johann Hillen (University of Innsbruck)

Oil as a Medieval Weapon – The Mysterious Byzantine Liquid Fire

Milad Abedi (University of Innsbruck)

Black, Inflammable, and Mobile: Tracing New Persian naft 'oil' from Old Iranian Contact to Early New Persian (1000 BCE–900 CE)

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 // Panel 2: Oil and Modernity

Nadia Caprioglio (University of Torino)

From Development to Dependence: Oil, Empire, and Peripheral Modernities in Soviet Literature

Alireza Fakhrkonandeh (University of Southampton)

Towards a poetics of the pipelines: an infrastructural analysis of the figure of the pipeline

15.00-15.30 Coffee

15.30-17.45 // Panel 3: Oil in Galicia (I)

Stefano Franchini (Istituto Italiano di Studi Germanici, Rome)

From Mud to Black Gold: The Reinvention of Galicia as "European California"

Daniel Brandlechner (University of Vienna)

Oil City Galicia: Transimperial Imaginaries around the 1908 Tustanowice Oil Fire

Oleh Mykulych (Boryslaw) and Jaroslaw Lopuschanskyj (Drohobych State Pedagogical University of Ivan Franko)

Boryslaw als Hauptstadt der Öl-, Ozokerit- und Gasindustrie Europas in Illustrationen bis 1918

19.30 // Literary Performance

The Gulf of the Américas. Lyrik in Öl, followed by a reception

Venue: Alte Schmiede, Schönlaterngasse 9, 1010 Wien

Wednesday, April 15

8.10-13.46 // Train journey Vienna – Krakow

15.00-16.00 Welcome reception at the Consulate General

16.00-18.30 // Panel 4: Oil in Galicia (II)

Maria Antosik-Piela (University of Warsaw)

The Galician Ethnic Triangle in Polish Oil Novels

Larissa Cybenko (University of Vienna)

„... wie sehr das klebrige, öde Erdöl die Welt in Geschicke verstricken kann“: Debora Vogels ökologisches Werk

Beata Nykiel (International Cultural Centre Krakow)

Our oilmen, or who was looking for oil in Galician California

20.00 Conference Dinner

Thursday, April 16

Bus excursion to the Muzeum Przemysłu Naftowego i

Gazowniczego im. I. Łukasiewicza at Bóbrka

Friday, April 17

9.30-12.00 // Panel 5: Oil, Galicia and World Literature

Alois Woldan (University of Vienna)

The Oil-text in Galician literature – an issue for Comparative literature

Paul-Henri Campbell (Vienna)

Drill, Baby, Drill: Petrofiction, extracting Literature from the Bowels of Hell

Graeme Macdonald (University of Warwick)

"Where the smoke and flames are." Oil in World Literature

Christine Frank and Ulrike Tanzer: *Concluding Remarks*

12.00-13.00 Lunch // End of the conference

13.56-19.49 // Train journey Krakow – Vienna