

**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



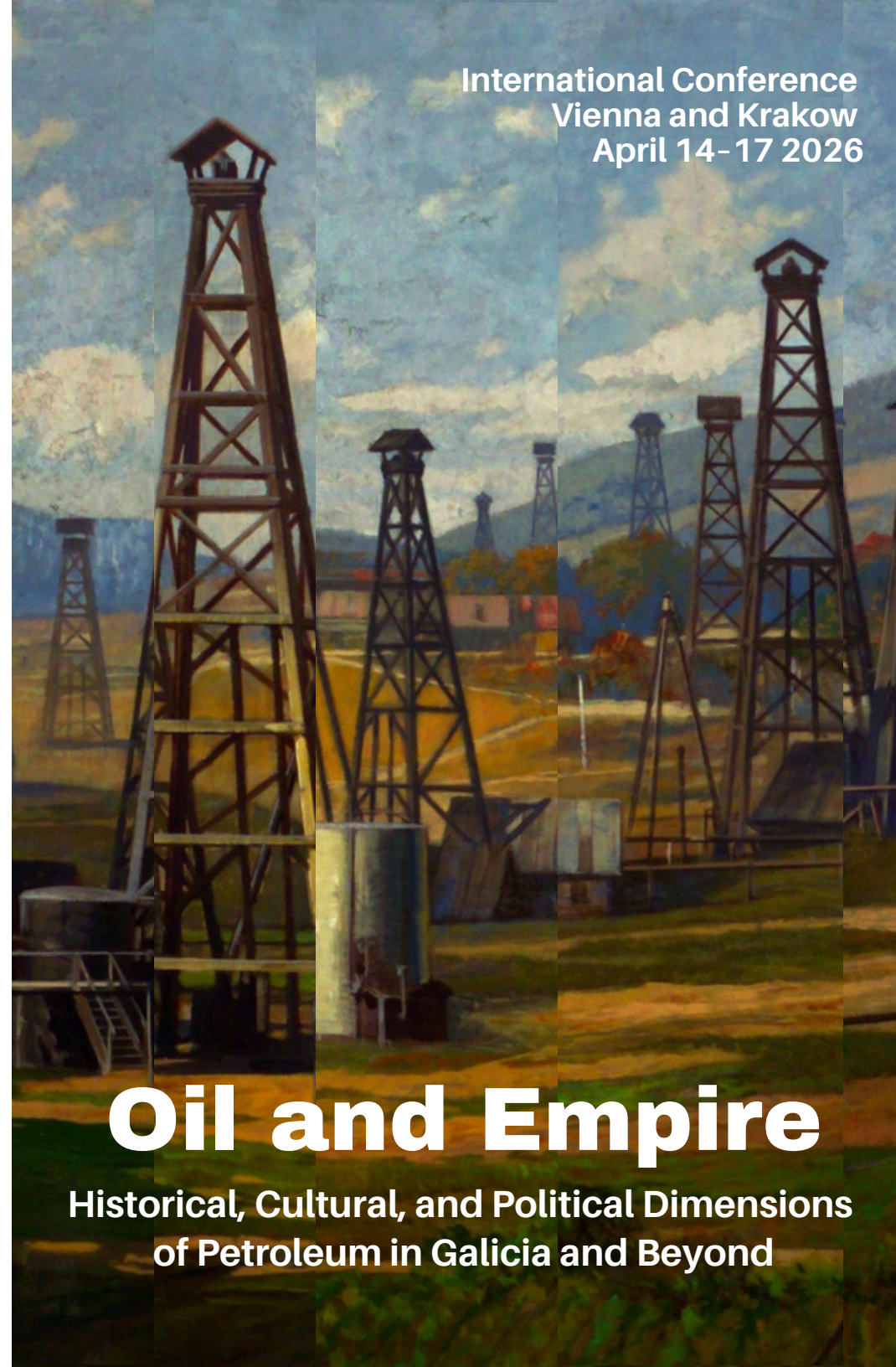
**Organisation:** Christine Frank and Ulrike Tanzer (Research Institute Brenner Archive, University of Innsbruck) in collaboration with Florian Schwarz (Institute of Iranian Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna)

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**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 Americas. 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