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Between Probability and Possibility: Productive Scholarly Research in the Shadow of War

The war in Ukraine has taken many unexpected turns. It joins a litany of other examples where scholars expressed certainty about a probability that did not come to pass. Perhaps scholars are more certain than they should be. A shift in how the scholarly community approaches uncertainty could help navigate the tension between probability and possibility. Using examples from the war in Ukraine and beyond, this lecture will focus on how a better balance between probability and possibility has benefits for both the accuracy of scholarly work and its ethical implications.