

REElification

ROBERT F. BYRNES RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE



DIRECTOR'S GREETING

HALINA GOLDBERG, DIRECTOR

Dear members of the REEI community,

You last heard from me in the Spring 2020 issue, when I was completing my one-year term as the interim director. I am delighted to address you again in my new role as REEI's director.

Professor Sarah Phillips, the outgoing director, joyfully returned to teaching full-time in the Department of Anthropology. Sarah served REEI with dedication, diligence, wisdom, and grace. During her two terms as the director, she led the institute through two very successful Title VI grant applications, initiated several research projects that greatly benefited our faculty and students, and undertook important educational and outreach initiatives. I deeply appreciate Sarah's enthusiastic support and the positivity she brings into every situation. I am sure there will be many times when I will turn to Sarah for her experience and wisdom.

Sarah will go on, with Svitlana Melnyk and Russell Valentino, administering the [IU-Ukraine Nonresidential Scholars Program](#). The program has a new 2023-24 cohort of 34 Ukrainian scholars in addition to the 35 Ukrainian scholars from previous year's cohort who are continuing this year.

REEI is thriving—just look at our line-up at the [2023 ASEEEES](#) conference and at the news from our faculty, students, and alumni! [A new class of REEI MA students](#) is settling into their first year at IU. We also welcomed several visiting scholars from Georgia, Hungary, Poland, and Russia.

Last summer, students and faculty from the University of Novi Sad in Serbia participated in a transnational dialogue about the role of history and memory in relation to [racial or ethnic conflict in the US and the Balkans](#), a program co-sponsored by a grant from Ann and David Erne. Keep an eye out for more information about our collaboration with the Un/Filmed project in Yerevan, Armenia, which was co-sponsored by the Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina vanden Heuvel Fund from REEI. During this fall, we offered Bloomingtonians many [opportunities to engage with films](#) from our regions. In addition to the powerful *20 Days in Mariupol*, soul-searching *R.M.N.*, and poetic *Color of Pomegranates*, REEI supported two successful and important film festivals, featuring film screenings and accompanying events: Želimir Žilnik: Essential Work and When the Past Becomes the Present: Four Female Filmmakers Voices on the Roles of Women in the Post-Soviet World. We featured numerous guest speakers who offered scholarly insights on topics such as Tatar diaspora, the impact of George Soros on Hungary, UNESCO's safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, politics and gender in industrial agriculture, Robert Oppenheimer in relation to the past and present of the Nuclear Age, Russia's kinetic and non-kinetic warfare in Georgia, as well as our Russian-language talks, renamed Прямая речь!/Straight Talk! The much-awaited visit of [Nadya Tolokonnikova](#) of the dissident punk group Pussy Riot closed the 2023 Themester: Light and Truth (echoing the IU motto "Lux et Veritas"). This was the last event of the Themester program, which is concluding its 15-year run.

We also experienced sadness among us as we mourned the passing of Professor Emeritus of History [Arthur Benoit \(Ben\) Eklof](#). Plans are underway to celebrate Ben's amazingly rich life early next year, so expect an email from REEI with more details.

We are currently preparing an exciting line-up of events for Spring 2024. We will share more information on these in early January.

In the meantime, I hope you have a happy and restful holiday season, and I send you my best wishes for the New Year!

Fall 2023

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Professor Elizabeth
 Geballe

AA: What research projects are you working on right now?

EG: I am writing a book about Tolstoy, tentatively titled “*Were I the Author of this Tale*”: *Tolstoy as Translator*. People have talked about him as almost everything else: as preacher, novelist, landowner, prophet, peace activist, but no one has written a monograph about him as a translator. Everyone seems to know that he translated the Gospels, but in fact he translated a lot of fiction, starting with Laurence Sterne, going through to Maupassant, Hugo, Aesop’s fables, and Paul Carus, in addition to tons of non-fiction, too. He even translated some philosophy from Chinese, but always using German, English, or French as an intermediary, because I don’t think he trusted his knowledge of Chinese. My book looks at texts that he translated, and also depictions of translators and translations in his fiction.

AA: Was Tolstoy a good translator?

EG: Well, we don’t use labels like “good” or “bad” anymore, but I will say that copyright law was a lot different back then and I am finding many instances in which he conveniently forgot to list the original author. Tolstoy’s translations were then assumed to be written by him and translated into other languages under

Interview continued on p. 15.

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH GEBALLE ON TOLSTY, TRANSLATION, AND TEACHING

Ani Abrahamyan (AA): Lizi, it is such a pleasure to interview you for the REEIfication. Let’s jump right in. how did you become interested in Russian literature and comparative literature?

Elizabeth Geballe: (EG) Middlebury College where I was an undergraduate, and they had an academic forum where you could go around and talk to different faculty members. And only one table had people who were laughing. I went over and asked what department they represented. “Oh, it’s the Russian department,” came the reply. “It seems that you are the only ones with a sense of humor,” I remarked, to which they replied, “We don’t have a sense of humor—we have vodka hidden under the table.” I signed up for Russian language because I thought that was so funny. From that foundation I became really interested in the literature and history, and studied abroad. I had not heard about comparative literature until graduate school and it just seemed like the obvious place for someone who did not know what they wanted to do.

AA: That funny story leads perfectly to my next set of questions. As someone that has been in Slavic studies for some time, do you see any changes over time? Does the Slavic field still have a sense of humor?

EG: Yes, we do! We witnessed the Funny Dostoevsky conference [at Dartmouth College, a.a.] that happened a few years ago. Maybe people are more interested in humor and that’s a good thing. As for other changes in the field: I was at such a small school where there was a Russian department but there were no other Slavic languages taught. At a big state university, the field just seemed much larger and made me more optimistic. There is more interest now in indigenous literatures, decolonizing the field—I don’t remember much talk about that when I was an undergraduate. Now it’s the official topic of ASEES 2023.

SLAVIC DEPARTMENT ROUNDUP

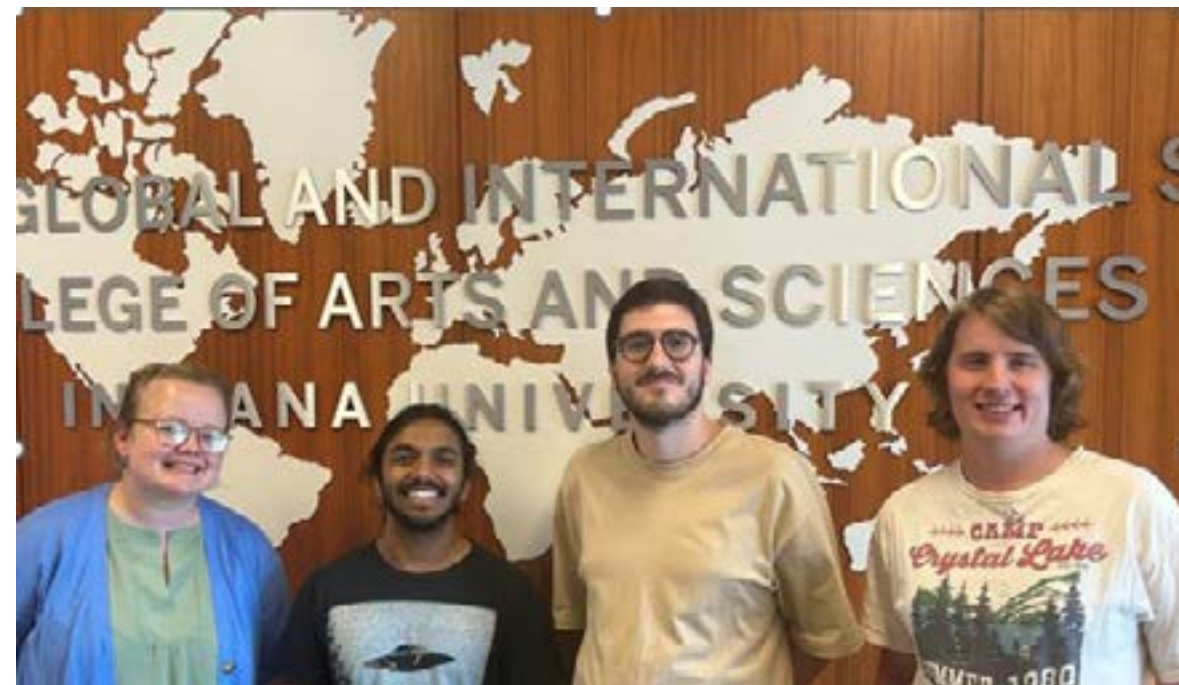
BY: DOROTEA SOTIROVSKA

This semester, the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures (hereafter Slavic Department) is again joined by Visiting Assistant Professor **Nicoletta Rousseva**. An art historian specializing in the contemporary art of Southeastern Europe, Rousseva teaches courses on Eastern European art history and South Slavic literature, film, and culture. She recently curated the film series Želimir Žilnik: Essential Work, which brought the acclaimed Serbian filmmaker to IU’s campus in October for a celebration and screenings of his socially engaged work. Žilnik’s six-decade long career has focused on the topic of marginality and spanned both narrative and documentary cinema. As part of the series, his debut feature film *Early Works* and a program of his rarely shown short documentaries was screened at IU Cinema, in addition to talks and discussions held during his Žilnik’s visit, which kicked off an extended tour of universities and film centers throughout the US.

This semester also featured the debut of the Slavic Department’s Graduate Student Colloquiums this semester, a forum in which graduate students present their ongoing research and projects on topics in Slavic literature, culture, and linguistics. In September, the series’ inaugural graduate student presenter **Ani Abrahamyan** presented a tentative chapter of her in-process dissertation “Ethnographies of Siberian Prison Life: Reevaluating Colonization and/ as Punishment.”

In April, the Slavic Department announced the **Michael Henry Heim Chair in Central and East European Letters**, an endowed professorship created through a gift by **Priscilla Heim** in honor of her husband, literary scholar, translator, and **Professor Michael Henry Heim**. Heim introduced numerous literary classics to the English-reading world through his translations and helped develop the field of translation studies. Professor of Comparative Literature **Bill Johnston**, himself an accomplished translator and teacher of literary translation, is the inaugural recipient of the Heim Chair. Johnston will work with the Slavic Department to organize academic events as part of his duties as Heim Chair.

In August, Senior Lecturer **Sofiya Asher** launched the Global Russian Language Project, an open-source tool for Russian language training that provides an audio repository of regional variation in spoken Russian. It also includes audio recordings of Russian language samples from Russian-as-a second/foreign-language speakers of various native languages, such as Kazakh, Romanian, Ukrainian, and Kyrgyz.



REEI was delighted to welcome four new MA students in August 2023. From left to right: Emma Carlson, Ru Khazi, Nika Khomeriki, and Kirby Fleitz.

THE HOOSIER CONNECTION POLAND IN INDIANA: THE WHITING PIEROGI FEST

BY KIRBY FLEITZ

Though 4,700 miles separate it from Indiana, Poland maintains a tangible presence in the Hoosier State on the shores of Lake Michigan and especially in the town of Whiting., home to the Pierogi Fest, an annual festival celebration that has showcased Polish / Eastern European culture for almost three decades.

It was back in 1994 that friends Tom Dabertin, Marlene Beerling, and Marty Dybel met to discuss Marty's idea for an event that would celebrate Whiting's Eastern European heritage. In their search for a suitable mascot, they settled on the humble pierogi, a staple of Polish cuisine.

The precise origins of pierogi in Poland are unknown. References to pierogi enter the historical record in the thirteenth century. Beyond this, any more certainty is elusive. One legend holds that they were imported from Kievan Rus by St. Hyacinth, the patron saint of pierogi. Another suggests that Marco Polo brought back a version of Chinese dumplings that entered Poland via Italy. Or that they tup in the wake entered Poland in the wake of Tartar invasions in the 1240s, according to yet another version. Regardless of how pierogi entered Poland, it is now a staple and Poland's best-known food.

For the uninitiated, pierogi are made from flour-based dough and water, although some recipes incorporate egg. They are then rolled, cut into pieces, filled and formed into half-moon shapes. Aside from variants of flour used in the dough, the fillings of pierogi are what truly distinguishes different versions from each other. The most common filling in Polish pierogi is potatoes with onions in second.

Pierogi Fest regularly welcomes 300,000 visitors with 70+ vendors, and seven performance stages that host everything from classic rock to folk music. Originally taking up some 50 feet of space, the event now occupies whole city blocks. Celebration of Polish and East European heritage remain the focus of Pierogi Fest despite the increase in size. Food, music, and art vendors all offer Eastern European products. Festival organizers adhere to policies of vendor rotation from year to year and a ban on national chain vendors. Also important to the festival is not to take itself too seriously. In the words of Mr. Dabertin, "we have fun"

Each year Pierogi Fest each year concludes on the third day with a pierogi eating contest and pierogi toss. The eating contest provides contestants three minutes to eat their fill of pierogi. According to Mr. Dabertin, the current record is three dozen. The pierogi toss event is set up like balloon toss, except with greased pierogi instead of a balloon. Pierogi Fest is serious about one thing though: celebrating Whiting's unique East European heritage. The festival started out of a desire to honor what Tom, Marty, and Marlene saw as their familial roots and the wider community they lived in. It continues to live up to that calling. Pierogi Fest 2024 is slated to kick off on July 26th. Midwest-based readers, if you want to experience a taste of Poland and Eastern Europe, don't worry about the hassle of a plane ticket. Instead, hop in your car or take a bus down to Whiting, Indiana and enjoy the festivities!



Mr. Pierogi 2023 with busha ladies.

EAST EUROPEAN FILMS AT IU IN FALL 2023

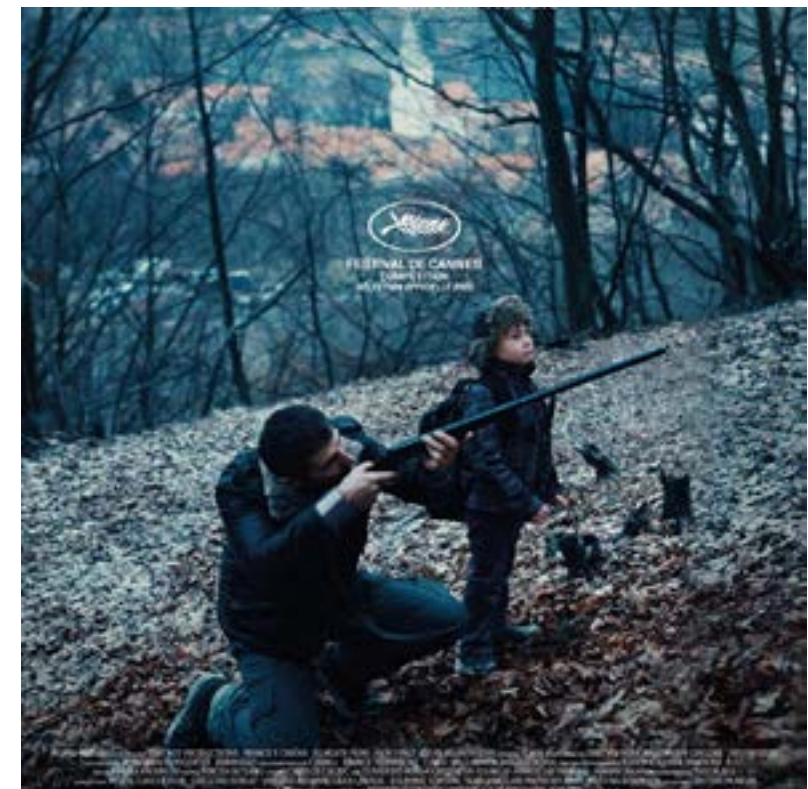
BY LINDSEY GRUTCHFIELD AND AARON KENNET

This semester, REEI once again supported screenings of films centered on Russia and Eastern Europe, highlighting filmmakers from the region. Films shown included *20 Days in Mariupol* (2023), *RMN* (2022), and *Color of Pomegranates* (1969), as well as items in two multi-film series: one focused on the work of *Zelimir Zilnik* and another featuring women directors from Eastern Europe, particularly Russia and Belarus.

Screened at the IU Radio and Television Theater in September, *20 Days in Mariupol*, documents the horrors of the battle for Mariupol during Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The film won the Sundance World Cinema Documentary competition. *RMN*, screened in October at the IU Cinema, is a film by Romanian director Cristian Mungiu, premiering at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022. It centers on a struggling town in Transylvania as it grapples with larger issues of ethnic tensions and economic resentments which threaten to tear the town apart. *Color of Pomegranates*, a Soviet Armenian art film written and directed by Sergei Parajanov and released in 1969, It is a lyrical treatment of 18th-century Armenian poet and troubadour Sayat-Nova and his life.

Želimir Žilnik is a Serbian film director best known as one of the major figures of the Yugoslav Black Water film movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Featuring Žilnik's best-known film, *Early Works* (1969), together with experimental short films rarely screened in North America, the series Essential Work addressed work as a critical category and thematic thread that runs across the filmmaker's six-decade-long career.

The series When the Past Becomes the Present: Four Female Filmmakers Voices on the Roles of Women in the Post-Soviet World comprised three films: *Unclenching the Fists* (2021) directed by Kira Kovalenko, *Nika* (2022) directed by Vasilisa Kuzmina, and *Crystal Swan* (2018) directed by Darya Zhuk. These three films explores themes of gender, belonging, and independence as they play out in a newly post-Soviet world from the vantage points of North Ossetia, Belarus, and Moscow. The series also included a media art installation entitled *The Horses Come for Everyone*, directed by Alisa Minyukova. In addition, the three film screenings included Q&A sessions with their directors.



PUSSY RIOT COMES TO BLOOMINGTON

BY RU KAZI

Nadya Tolokonnikova's interview and DJ performance at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on November 13 proved to be one of the most unique and interesting events that Themester, with the support of REEI, offered in Fall 2024. Co-founder of the performance art collective Pussy Riot, Nadya and Pussy Riot colleagues garnered global attention as they challenged the legitimacy of Vladimir Putin's regime. In 2012, she and two other members of the collective were sentenced to two years in prison on charges of "hooliganism." After completing her prison term, Nadya has since been listed as a foreign agent under the terms of Russia's infamous Foreign Agent Law. Referring to herself as a stateless person, the co-founder of Pussy Riot travels the world to continue her work of activism against authoritarian and in favor of women's rights and gender equality.

Since the outbreak of Putin's war in Ukraine, the activist has raised over \$7 million in aid for Ukrainian refugees and those displaced by the war. The event was moderated by Dr. Maria Bucur-Deckard, Professor of History, and Zoe Bardon, an undergraduate Gender Studies student at IU. Upon introduction, Nadya began to speak about her early journey in the direction of feminism, when she drew inspiration from material she discovered outside of the traditional education system. Upon realizing that feminism was viewed as a social deviation, Nadya was drawn to activism. Dr. Bucur-Deckard and Zoe Bardon led a brief round of "truth or dare" for Nadya, who quickly selected truth each time to no surprise. The renowned performance art activist denounced Putin's invasion of Ukraine and called for the freeing of political prisoners, including recently imprisoned fellow performance art activist Sasha Skochilenko. After her deeply personal and insightful interview regarding her inspiration, activism and the state of democracy today, Nadya stepped into the role of DJ for the packed theater. As the lights dimmed, the energy in the room began to rise as iconic pink ski masks filled the theater to the sounds of techno music.

On the day after her appearance in Bloomington, Nadya joined IU students and faculty in staging a performance art protest for reproductive rights on the steps of the Indiana Supreme Court building in Indianapolis, as reported in Indiana local press as well as in the *Guardian*.



Nadya Tolokonnikova (center) with Maria Bucur (left) and Zoe Bardon (right) at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on November 13th, 2023.

UKRAINIAN HOMELANDS FILM SERIES CONTINUES IN FALL 2023

BY SOPHIA TRINKLE

The Ukrainian Homelands film series returned to IU campus in Fall 2023 in the form of two films that explore the unique period of early 1990s Ukrainian cinema. Curated by doctoral student Stas Menzelevskyi (Media School) and Senior Lecturer Svitlana Melnyk (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) with support of the Ukrainian Studies Organization, IU Cinema's Creative Collaborations Program and REEI, Ukrainian Homelands featured screenings of *Vadym Kastelli's Hunt for The Cossack Gold* (1993) on November 7 and *Mykhaylo Belikov's Decay/Rozpad* (1990), on December 5.

Hunt for The Cossack Gold is a comedy that follows the trials and tribulations of Ivan Polubotko, descendent of an ancient Ukrainian hetman who sent a large sum of gold to the British bank in hopes of retrieving the gold in the future to help the Ukrainian people. Ivan must dodge KGB agents, foreign spies, and local criminals all while trying to remember the code to reclaim the gold to help his country. *Decay/Rozpad* takes place in 1986 on the eve of the Chernobyl reactor explosion. It portrays the disorder of society, the collapse of the Soviet state apparatus, and the disintegration of personal relationships. Filmed during the reformation period of glasnost and perestroika, *Decay/Rozpad* was one of the first Ukrainian-American collaborations and used Dolby sound technology thanks to independent producer Peter Almond. Menzelevskyi shared that this period is particularly significant in Ukrainian film because it "gave people possibilities to create their own production" in conditions of "less ideological control, less censorship" with the possibility to address topics rarely found in traditional Soviet cinema. Menzelevskyi also underscores that the series seeks to revise the canon of Ukrainian history and "to rediscover Ukrainian identity before the Soviet times" (and Cossack history in particular).

Ukrainian Homelands was launched in 2015 through the efforts of the IU Ukrainian Studies Organization and the support of the IU Cinema's Creative Collaborations program and other university units including REEI and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures and has been offered in many successive semesters. Melnyk describes the Ukrainian Studies Organization as "a vibrant, active, talented community of graduate and undergraduate students, who are interested in Ukrainian studies; some of them are related to Ukraine or came from Ukraine and supporters [of Ukraine] as well." According to Melnyk, "the main idea" of the films screened in this latest version of Ukrainian Homelands "is to show the absurd and grotesque situation prevailing in Ukraine after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the way in which Ukraine moved forward as an independent state."



A still from "Hunt For the Cossack Gold" shown on Tuesday November 7th at the Indiana University Cinema.

IU AT ASEEEES 2023

The 55th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) took place in both virtual and in-person formats and in celebration of the 75th anniversary of ASEEEES. The virtual convention was held on October 19-20, whereas the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, PA served as the site of the in-person convention on November 30-December 3. IU faculty, staff, and students presented over 20 papers and contributed as chairs, discussants, or moderators at over 25 panels, roundtables, and meetings (see below for a comprehensive listing). IU figured prominently at the in-person convention’s Exhibition Hall, where visitors could find a set of adjacent booths for REEI, IU Press, and Slavica Publishers. Honoring a commitment of many years standing, REEI supported the convention as a Silver Sponsor.

Once again, REEI organized the IU Alumni Reception, an ever more legendary social event that has been a mainstay of the convention for decades, on the evening of Friday, December 1. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences’ Office of Advancement, Russian Studies Workshop, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, Polish Studies Center, Slavica Publishers, and the Language Workshop, the festive occasion brought together IU alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of REEI for a memorable evening of conviviality and camaraderie over cheese and charcuterie, desserts, wine and other beverages. At a small formal program, REEI Director Halina Goldberg welcomed guests and provided a brief summary of current REEI activity.

FACULTY/STAFF PAPERS

László Borhi, (Central Eurasian Studies): Revolution and Regime Change in Hungary 1956, 1989.

Gardner Bovingdon (Central Eurasian Studies): Staging the Narod in Late Soviet Central Asia.

Maria Bucur (History): Infirm, Invalid, Disabled: Vocabularies of Disability in Interwar Romania.

Elizabeth Frances Geballe (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): Tolstoy’s ‘то есть’; or, In Other Words...

Dorian B. Juric (Folklore and Ethnomusicology): Gazija or Guzija?: Crossing the Line of Hate Speech in Bosnian Anti-Migrant Nationalism.

Joanna Nizynska (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): Oedipus 1968: Between Law and Theater in Michał Zadara’s *Sprawiedliwość* (virtual).

Alexandra Notivskaya (Gender Studies): ‘Life is Highly Overrated’: Necropolitics of Russian Masculinities during the War (virtual).

Tatiana Saburova (History): ‘It’s a Vast Mountain Country, a Birthplace of Siberian Rivers’: Altai in the Geographic Imagination, Scientific Research, and Photographs in the Late Russian Empire (virtual).



Left to right: Kathleen Evans (Language Workshop), Elliott Nowacky (REEI), and Franziska Krueger (Language Workshop) at ASEEEES 2023.

Lukasz Sicinski (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): *Causes and Reasons: The Moral Universe of Jerzy Kawalerowicz’s Maddalena*.

Miriam Shrager (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): The Fourth Dimension in Tarkovsky’s ‘Mirror’.

Regina Smyth (Political Science): Russian Wartime Migrants and Transitional Justice.

Jessica Ruth Storey-Nagy (REEI): (De-)colonization of the Mind?: Truth and Reality by Hungary’s Fidesz.

Mikhail Turchenko (Ostrom Workshop): Russian Wartime Migrants and Transitional Justice (virtual).

Ilia Utekhin (Anthropology/REEI): Soviet Character on the Late Soviet Screen: Women in Documentary Portraits of 1960-80s (virtual).

Russell Scott Valentino (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): World in a Word: Adriatic Mixtures and the Authenticity of Bastardization (virtual).

STUDENT PAPERS

Ani Abrahamyan (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): Ethnographies of Siberian Prison Life: Reevaluating Colonization and/as Punishment.

Erin Dusza (Art History): Early Influences of Pan-Slavism and Pan-Germanism on Czech National Artworks.

Kathleen Ann Gergely (Political Science): Does Performance Matter?: An Analysis of Working Meetings between the Russian President and the Governors, 2000-2022.

Joie Meier (Gender Studies): [De-][Re-]Colonization: The Strange Cases of Hungary and the United States.

Natasha Rubanova (Comparative Literature): Reporter as Listener and Re-Teller: How Hanna Krall’s Reportage Acknowledges Testimony.

PANEL DISCUSSANTS

Ke-chin Hsia (History): Habsburg Music and the Great Wars (virtual).

Padraic Kenney (History): Atoms, Unions, and the Rhythm Method: Ruptures and Continuities in Social Movement Mobilization across Poland’s 1989 Divide (virtual).

Padraic Kenney (History): Memoirs Competition: Class, People’s History, and Social Research in Postwar Poland
Documentary Literature: Aesthetics, Politics, and Gender.

PANEL/ROUNDTABLE CHAIRS AND SESSION MANAGERS

Ani Abrahamyan (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures) – chair: Prisons, Peasants, and Parapsychology: Anarchism and/in Kropotkin, Tolstoy, and Abramowski.

László Borhi (Central Eurasian Studies) – chair: Protest, Revolution, and Regime Change: The Experience of the Soviet Bloc, 1953-1990.

Maria Bucur (History) – chair: Rethinking Liberation and Reenacting Coloniality: Competing Frameworks, Concepts, and Approaches in Contemporary Hungarian Politics.

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

- Maria Bucur** (History) – meeting moderator: Business Meeting: Working Group on Disability Studies.
- Dorian B. Juric** (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) – meeting moderator: Business Meeting: Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Folklore Association.
- Dorian B. Juric** (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) – chair: Folklore and the Archive: Documenting, Uncovering, and Decolonizing.
- Alexandra Novitskaya** (Russian Studies Workshop) – session manager: Decolonizing Exhibitions: Perspectives from Post-Soviet Case Studies (virtual).
- Alexandra Novitskaya** (Russian Studies Workshop) – session manager: Decolonization, National Identity, and Culture in Contemporary Russia and Belarus (virtual).
- Alexandra Novitskaya** (Russian Studies Workshop) – session manager: Form and Ideology: Material Culture and Visual Education in East Germany, 1960-1980 (virtual).
- Alexandra Novitskaya** (Russian Studies Workshop) – session manager: Masculinity and Gender in Contemporary Georgia, Chechnya, Czechia, and Slovakia (virtual).
- Alexandra Novitskaya** (Russian Studies Workshop) – chair: Feminist Methodologies in Slavic Studies.
- Tatiana Saburova** (History) – chair: Spatial History and Digital Humanities: Landscape of Data and Tools for Mapping Decolonization.
- Maria Shardakova** (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures) – chair: Decentering Study Abroad: Preparing Students to Study Abroad in Multilingual Environments in Eurasia.
- Mark Trotter** (REEL) – chair: Normative Visibility (Nagliadnost’) in the Late USSR: How Socialism Structured Reality.
- Veronika Trotter** (Libraries) – chair: Decolonizing Special Collections: Challenges and Opportunities of Working with Slavic and East European Materials in Rare Book Libraries.



IU Alumni Reception at ASEES 2023.

- Sofya Asher** (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): Music and Youth Culture in Kazakhstan: A Russian Flagship Project (virtual).
- Maria Bucur** (History): Book Discussion: The Nation’s Gratitude: World War I and Citizenship Rights in Interwar Romania, by Maria Bucur.
- Joey Cleveland** (Anthropology and Central Eurasian Studies): Eurasia in the Era of the “Post” (-Colonial, -Socialist, -Soviet): What’s at Stake in Naming the Region.
- Hiroaki Kuromiya** (History): The Death and Legacy of Stalin: New Insights after 70 Years.
- Dafna Rachok** (Anthropology): Feminist Perspective on Russia’s War in Ukraine: On the Clash of Values and New Political Opportunities (virtual)
- Jessica Ruth Storey-Nagy** (REEL): Eurasia in the Era of the “Post” (-Colonial, -Socialist, -Soviet): What’s at Stake in Naming the Region.
- Ilia Utekhin** (Anthropology/REEL): Understanding and Preserving the History of Russia’s Independent Media (virtual).
- Russell Scott Valentino** (Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures): Who Possesses Russian Literature?: Elif Batuman and Slavic Studies (virtual).
- PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER INDIANA-BASED PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**
- Elizabeth Brite** (Purdue University): Competing Discourses over the Deep Past of the Aral Sea and its Inhabitants.
- Francine Friedman** (Ball State University): The War in Ukraine: Its Prospects and Impact, Regional and Global.
- Amina Gabrielova** (Purdue University): Shpet and Chyzhevsky on Poetic Language.
- Rebekah Klein-Pejsova** (Purdue University) – discussant: Postwar (Mis-)understandings of Wartime Experiences of Roma and Jews from Interwar Czechoslovakia.
- Olga Lyanda-Geller** (Purdue University) – discussant: Decolonization in Jewish Studies (virtual).
- Olga Lyanda-Geller** (Purdue University): The Logic of the Sayable(s): Shpet and the Stoic ‘Lekta’.
- Barbara J. Skinner** (Indiana State University): Ukraine and Empire: Political and Cultural Combinations of the 16th to 18th Centuries.
- Barbara J. Skinner** (Indiana State University): Religious Union for ‘Russians’ and Imperial Paranoia.

REEI WELCOMES FOUR NEW MA STUDENTS

REEI was delighted to welcome the following students to our MA program in August 2023.

EMMA CARLSON

Emma Carlson graduated from Montana State University in the spring of 2023 with bachelor's degrees in English Literature and History. Her research interests focus on the Balkans, specifically the republics of the former-Yugoslavia. She is passionate about how language and narrative have shaped foreign policy decisions in the Balkans. Emma studied Turkish in an intensive summer language program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Russian as a recipient of the Critical Language Scholarship Spark award. She continued her study of Russian, as a recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship, in the virtual Russian Language and Area Studies Program through American Councils in Chisinau, Moldova. Emma will study Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian as an MA student at REEI. She is interested in learning more about Russian influence in Bosnia and Serbia, and how the structure of the Dayton Accords has furthered divisions between ethnicities. Emma hopes to pursue a career in diplomacy, human rights, conflict resolution, and genocide prevention in the Balkans.

KIRBY FLEITZ

Kirby Fleitz graduated from Indiana University in May of 2021 with high academic distinction as a B.A. in History and a minor in Polish Studies. Kirby was a Hutton Honors College member and a member of the Collins Living Learning Center (LLC) at IU, serving in the Board of Educational Programming and as the LLC's Fee Committee Chair. Kirby's history capstone papers examined the evolution of post-WW2 reconstruction of Warsaw. At REEI, Kirby plans to continue her studies on Polish history & culture, with a focus on the 20th century Polish LGBTQIA+ community. The Interwar period is of particular interest to Kirby. Post REEI, Kirby hopes to work at a Polish/East European research/cultural institute or continue onto a PhD program and into academia.

RU KAZI

Ru Kazi graduated cum laude from the University of Richmond in May 2020, majoring in Political Science and Russian Studies. He started his MA at Georgetown University and is continuing it as a FLAS recipient at REEI. Interested in the structure of government and the socio-cultural impact of dissent, Ru intends to research the means by which oppositionists can initiate and enact reform within the Putin regime. Outside of the classroom, Ru is a competitive weightlifter, enjoys cooking and experiencing diverse cuisine. Currently, he is the US Membership Coordinator for IHRSA, the Global Health and Fitness Association.

NIKA KHOMERIKI

Nika grew up in Georgia and finished his undergraduate studies at the Free University of Tbilisi with a BA in International Relations. He studied East Asia and the Chinese language as a part of his undergraduate education. Nika has worked as a teaching assistant at the university and as a lecturer at the student club. During his senior year, he also interned at the US Embassy in Tbilisi and researched the politics of the Russian Federation at GFSIS (Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies). His research interests include Soviet cinema, literature, history; Khrushchev Thaw and its effects on nationalism, artistic freedom; Ukrainian history and culture.

REEI FALL 2023 RECEPTION

A veritable throng of REEI faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends gathered to see in the new (academic) year at the institute's Fall Reception on Thursday, September 14 in the Global Lounge of the Global and International Studies Building.

Enthusiastic applause greeted Halina Goldberg, Professor of Musicology and newly appointed REEI Director, as she took the floor to preside over a brief formal program which commenced with fulsome praise for the outstanding service to REEI of her predecessor, Professor of Anthropology Sarah Phillips, and the introduction of REEI staff.

Professor Goldberg then moved on to present academic awards that celebrate the memory of Professor Daniel Armstrong, a talented and much beloved IU Slavic alumnus and professor, whose brilliant career was cut short before he reached the age of 40. Professor Armstrong's family generously provided funds to REEI for those who commit to the study of an Eastern European language while enrolled at Indiana University. Recipients of the Daniel Armstrong Memorial Research Paper Award for 2022-23 are:



(left to right) Armstrong Scholarship recipients Brandon Kem, Kathleen Silkes, Katharine Carver with son & granddaughters of Daniel Armstrong: Michael Armstrong, Andreina Soto and Lucia Davila (photo: Veronika Trotter)

Undergraduate category: **Nicholas Szambekos** (International Studies with REEI minor), "Dependence, Development, and diversification: The Impact of the Belt and Road initiative and Nurly Zhol on Kazakhstan's Trade Infrastructure" written for his INTL-I 406 Capstone Thesis Course, Spring 2023 with Andrea Siqueira, Senior Lecturer of International Studies and Michael De Groot, Assistant Professor of International Studies; **Jack Szczuka** (Music Composition/CEUS with minor in Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures), "Soviet Musical Orientalism: The Role of the Symphonic Works of Reinhold Gliere" written for Musicology 402: History and Literature of Music II", Spring 2023, taught by Assistant Visiting Professor Aaron Riedford.

Graduate Essay category: **Daniil Kabotyanski** (CEUS), "The Khanate That Never Was: The Mystery of State Formation in the Ferghana Valley" written for CEUS-R 613, Islamic Central Asia, 16th – 19th Centuries, Fall 2022, taught by Associate Professor of Central Eurasian Studies Ron Sela.

Master's Thesis/Essay category: **Thomas Brenberg**, "Russian Foreign Policy Toward Afghanistan: Strategic Culture, the Taliban Government, and the Kremlin's Quest for Regional Security in Central Asia" written under the guidance of committee chair Michael De Groot, Assistant Professor of International Studies, and committee members David Henry, Adjunct Instructor in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and Dina Spechler, Associate Professor of Political Science.

Recipients of the Daniel Armstrong Memorial Scholarship for 2023-24 are:

Incoming, first-year students: **Katharine Carver** and **Kathleen Silkes**, both majoring in International Studies.

Continuing students: **Theo Dillon** (Economics/Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures), **Isabel Hastings** (International Studies), **Brandon Kem** (International Studies), and **Nathan Monberg** (Computer Science/Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures).

Fall Reception cont'd

As a US Department of Education funded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) center, REEI awards FLAS fellowships to both graduate and undergraduate students to support their study of REE languages and area studies. Professor Goldberg congratulated the following FLAS recipients for 2023-24: **Hunter Brakovec**, PhD student in Second Language Studies; **Lindsey Grutchfield**, MA student in Russian and East European Studies; **Aaron Kennet**, MPA student in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs; **Kaitlyn Pieper**, MSW student in the School of Social Work; **Rubble Kazi**, MA student in Russian and East European Studies; **Dorotea Sotirovska**, MA student in Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures; and **Sophia Trinkle**, BA student in French and Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.

Professor Goldberg then recognized current academic-year REEI MA student recipients of fellowships that have been established by generous supporters of REEI and its mission. Incoming student **Nika Khomeriki** and continuing student **Bossan Abdyeva** hold the **Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship**, an award that preserves the memory of the founder and first director of REEI, Robert F. Byrnes and was established through the generous support of the late **Eleanor Byrnes**, widow of **Robert F. Byrnes**, and their children. Indiana University alumni **Ann Jakisich Erne** and **David A. Erne** recently established the Ann and David Erne Fellowship to support the studies of an incoming graduate student enrolled in the Russian and East European Institute MA program with special consideration in the selection process given to natives of Serbia, persons of Serbian heritage, and persons who demonstrate a strong scholarly focus on Serbia. Recipient of the Erne Fellowship for 2023-24 is **Emma Carlson**. The Tucker-Cohen Fellowship memorializes **Robert C. Tucker**, the distinguished political scientist, diplomat, and Stalin biographer who, as a professor of government at Indiana University, played a critical role in the formation of the Russian and East European Institute. It also honors the work of his student, the late **Stephen F. Cohen**, a preeminent scholar of Soviet and Russian political history, who held two degrees from Indiana University. Funds to establish the award were provided by **Katrina vanden Heuvel**, widow of Professor Cohen. The award is made to an incoming student in the Russian and East European M.A. program, or any other M.A. program associated with REEI, who demonstrates a scholarly interest in the history and politics of the Soviet Union and/or Russia and aspires to a career in some field of public service, such as journalism, secondary education, non-profit work, or government. **Victoria Henretty** is the current recipient of the Tucker-Cohen Fellowship. Funded by a generous bequest from the estate of the late Irene W. Meister, an IU alumna who pursued a pathbreaking career as one of the first American businesspersons to engage with the Soviet Union during the Cold War era, the **Irene W. Meister Fellowship** is awarded to an incoming student in the REEI M.A. program who demonstrates both academic promise and financial need. The current recipient of the Irene W. Meister Fellowship is **Elijah Kelsey**.

Finally, Professor Goldberg announced the recipients of the REEI/Mellon Dissertation Write-up Fellowship for 2023-24: **Erin Dusza**, a doctoral student in Art History, for her dissertation entitled "(Re)Constructed Historicism and Nostalgia in Czech National Identity" chaired by Professor Michelle Facos and **Shaun Williams**, a doctoral student in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, for his dissertation entitled "Musical Cosmopolitanism and Romani Cultural Activism in Postsocialist Romania" chaired by Professor Daniel B. Reed.



Grateful students Iryna Voloshyna and Yaroslav Chalyi honor Sarah Phillips for her service as director of REEI in 2015-2023. (photo: Veronika Trotter)

Fall Reception cont'd

Professor Goldberg introduced a number of visiting scholars and distinguished guests, including members of the Armstrong family. Following the formal program guests enjoyed meeting old and making new friends over hors d'oeuvres, potables alcoholic and non-alcoholic, pastries, tea and coffee.

Many thanks to Heysol Buitrago for her exceptional service in organizing this memorable celebration!

Professor Geballe interview cont'd

name. And the original authors would come across their own stories translated into their language with Tolstoy listed as the author. So I guess he could be called a bad translator in the sense that he kept refusing to be a translator, preferring the role of original author instead.

AA: I know that you are interested in translation beyond the Tolstoy project and even teach a course on translation theory that you teach. Maybe you could share your thoughts on why translation is important in the present day?

EG: The course is housed in the Comparative Literature department but joint-listed with the Slavic department, so I am working Slavic texts into it. It deals with history and theory of translation, We consider what movements of translation characterized any given period and why, while seeing which questions come up again and again, but are relabeled or reformulated. As for why translation is important, on one hand there's the practical issue of Americans reading so little literature in translation, and I'm really trying to advertise to the students the presses that publish literature in translation, like Archipelago Books, for example. So, on one hand, it's a very practical desire for Americans to be more open to translated literature, and for scholars to make it a touchstone in their research. But, also, I am very interested in ways that literature imagines processes of transmission. I like reading things metafictionally and thinking, "Is this book already grappling with questions of world literature? Does it want to be spread around the world or is it trying to be insular and resistant to foreign readership?" So at the end of the course we are also reading some fiction and thinking about how fiction can theorize translation, maybe just as well as translation theorists can.

AA: I wonder if Tolstoy did that as a translator...

EG: I think, as a PR stunt, that's what he claimed he wanted to do: to make wisdom literature available to everyone. But his fiction shows a little bit more ambivalence about that question. Right now I am thinking about Boris Melikov in *Hadji Murat*. A key interpreter and translator in the book, he comes to translate Hadji Murat's life for the center of power, the Tsar, but Tolstoy shows Hadji Murat's resistance to that whole endeavor. I think in his fiction Tolstoy realizes that maybe translation isn't the best way for people's stories to be shared. He's a complicated guy.

AA: What about the courses you are currently teaching and courses that you might teach in the future. What are you most excited about?

EG: My favorite undergraduate course is Pushkin to Dostoevsky. When we get to *Crime and Punishment*, the students want to dress up like Raskolnikov, and I think, "How could any class get better than this?" As long as they're dressing up like him and not imitating him!

Interview concluded on p. 17

STUDENT NEWS

George Andrei (History) has published “‘I Am a Poor Man with a Family’: Rangers, Social Welfare, and Monitor Networks in the Forests of Interwar Zlatna, Romania” in *Journal of Romanian Studies*. Over the summer, he presented “A wild country! Miasmas, climate, and health and the emergence of forestry in Romania, 1886-1910” in Oslo at the Ecologies of Health and Disease in Eurasia: New Perspectives in the Medical-Environmental Humanities and History Workshop. He has also been named Rosenberry Graduate Fellow by the Forest History Society and received a Title VIII Dissertation Completion Grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research. He recently convened the Environmental Humanities Workshop Series at IU. Interested graduate students and faculty may contact him at gandre@iu.edu to be added to the Workshop’s canvas page. George currently serves as Future Faculty Teaching Fellow at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Emma Carlson (MA, REEI) presented “A Peace Treaty that Endorses Division: The Legacy of the Dayton Accords” in November at the Central Slavic Conference in St. Louis.

Eliza Frenkel (Anthropology) presented “What Was Brought? What Was Left? The Values And Meanings Of Post-Soviet Refugees’ Objects In The Wxile” at the conference of the American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society in November in Toronto.

Lindsey Grutchfield (MA, REEI) received a 2023 Middle East Institute Title VIII Black Sea Research Fellowship, which provided her with funds to investigate societal resilience and community leadership in Moldova this summer. In September, she presented her research at the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington, DC at a panel discussion in an article on the MEI website under the title Navigating development in Moldova: The role and challenges of foreign donor organizations on the MEI website. In addition, she presented at “I’m Looking for a Moldovan Woman to Make Me Breakfast:” Gender, Ethnicity, and the Functions of Moldovan and Kyrgyz Online Migrant Communities in Turkey” at the conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society in October.

David Harris (History/International Studies) presented “A Case Study on the Differing Perspectives of the Zaporizhzia Oblast Within the 18th and 19th Centuries” in November at the Central Slavic Conference in St. Louis.



Oleksandr Turner presenting at the Central Slavic Conference

Elijah Kelsey (REEI) presented “Ecosystem of Refugee Response in Krakow amid Changing Circumstances” in November at the Central Slavic Conference in St. Louis.

Aaron Kennet (Public Affairs) served as both chair and panelist at the roundtable Decentralization, Education, and Information Security: The Keys to a Successful Reconstruction of Ukraine in November at the Central Slavic Conference in St. Louis.

Grace Pechianu (Musicology) presented “Echoes of Exile and the Kingdom: Radio Free Europe’s Early Music Programming for the Socialist Republic of Romania” at the panel Literature and Music in Central Europe, which she also chaired, in November at the Central Slavic Conference in St. Louis.

Dafna Rachok (Anthropology) chaired and participated in the roundtable Precariousness in Times of Uncertainty: Thinking Vulnerability and Violence after a Year of the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine at the conference of the American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society, held in Toronto in November.

John C Stanko (Political Science) Presented a paper on higher education and foreign policy in Kazakhstan at ASEES in November 2022. He participated in the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) in June and conducted fieldwork in Slovenia and Hungary with funding from an REEI/Mellon Summer Pre-dissertation travel grant in August.

Oleksandr Turner (History, REEI minor w language certification) presented “Monuments in Modern Ukraine: What Survives, What Doesn’t, and Why?” in November at the Central Slavic Conference in St. Louis.

Nikolina Zenovic (Anthropology) presented “Smart and Sustainable: Language Ideologies in Astypalaia’s Transition into a ‘Sustainable’ Island” at the conference of the American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society, held in Toronto in November

Professor Geballe interview cont’d

The two course sequence comprised of Pushkin to Dostoevsky and Tolstoy to Solzhenitsyn, is where I most often meet and teach REEI students. Even if they say that they aren’t literature scholars, many of them have read the novels at least once prior to enrolling in the class. I think the undergraduates look up to them as leaders whether they want to be thought so or not. I want them to think of themselves as collaborating with me in the teaching experiment a little bit. That means assigning them presentations that are more in-depth than what the undergraduates have to do. Invariably, it’s been a really helpful, enjoyable, and entertaining experience of having a diversity of viewpoints in the class. I also am excited to keep teaching the translation class and having it be a joint Slavic-Comparative Literature tradition that is taught every few semesters. East European thinkers contributed a lot to translation theory, so it makes sense, but, also, bringing the graduate students from these two departments makes me really happy. In terms of future courses, I’d love to do a Tolstoy seminar for graduates. And I always think that I’ll come back to illness in literature and maybe do a class on tubercular authors and characters.

AA: Some light reading there!

EG: There’s something about tuberculosis that gets thematized in wonderful ways in literature.

AA: You mentioned earlier the efforts to teach more indigenous authors in Slavic studies. Could you tell us more about the course on Siberian literature that you are preparing?

EG: I’ll be teaching it for the first time in Spring 2025. The interest started arose when I studied abroad in Irkutsk and had a little taste of taking classes at the local Russian university and reading not the canon for the first time. At that point I realized that there’s such a rich tradition around Baikal as a topic and region of study. The course will be a combination of myth, history, maybe even making some connections with other Arctic literatures, or thinking about Russian-Alaskan relations. I’m working on inviting some guest speakers who aren’t necessarily literary scholars but regional scholars. It’ll be a little bit of everything until I see what works.

AA: That is very exciting! Thank you for taking the time to talk about your research and teaching.



Poster for *20 Days in Mariupol* that was shown across six screenings from September 15th-24th at the IU Radio & Television Theater.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Ani Abrahamyan is a doctoral student in the Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures Program.

Kirby Fleitz is the Graduate Assistant for Outreach at REEI in 20223-24. She is pursuing an MA at REEI as part of the August 2023 cohort.

Elizabeth Geballe is an Assistant Professor in the Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures Department.

Halina Goldberg is REEI Director since June 30, 2023 and a Professor of Musicology at the Jacobs School of Music.

Rubble Kazi is a REEI graduate student in the August 2023 cohort.

Aaron Kennet is a MA student of Public Affairs at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Elliott Nowacky is Student Services Coordinator for REEI and Military Relations Coordinator for the Hamilton-Lugar School of Global and International Studies.

Dorotea Sotirovska is a graduate student in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.

Sophia Trinkle is an undergraduate major in French/Slavic and East European Languages & Cultures.

Mark Trotter is Associate Director/Outreach Coordinator at REEI.

IU AND UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD STUDENTS/FACULTY EXPLORE CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY IN THE US SOUTH

Last May, Alex Lichtenstein, Professor of History and a member of REEI's affiliate faculty, led 27 students and 4 faculty members in Freedom Journey: History and Memory in the Civil Rights South, a week-long study tour of the US South with the goal of starting a transnational dialogue about the role of history and memory in relation to racial or ethnic conflict in the US and the Balkans. Participants included 18 students and as well as faculty Sabina Halupka-Rešetar, Miroslav Pavlović, and Đorđe Đurić from the University of Novi Sad in Serbia as well as 9 IU students and IU Professor of Germanic Studies Ben Robinson.



Professor Lichtenstein met up with the Serbian contingent upon its arrival in Washington, D.C., where the group took in the African American Museum of History and Culture before travelling to Memphis, Tennessee, to join their IU counterparts. A visit to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis preceded an extensive tour of museums, monuments, and landmarks connected with the civil rights movement in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

After visiting the courthouse where Emmet Till's murderers were acquitted in Sumner, Mississippi, the students and faculty met with members of a group that conducts memory work in the area. In Montgomery, Alabama, the group visited the [Legacy Museum](#), built "on the site of a cotton warehouse where enslaved Black people were forced to labor in bondage" to tell "the story of slavery in America and its legacy through interactive media, first-person narratives, world-class art, and data-rich exhibits" The students and faculty also visited the adjoining the [National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#), which commemorates the "more than 4,400 Black people killed in racial terror lynchings between 1877 and 1950."

In September Professor Lichtenstein discussed the tour with two of the Serbian student participants, Anastasija Bijelić and Vukašin Marić, for an installment of European Encounters, a virtual meetup series that brings together IU faculty and colleagues in Europe, under the coordination of the IU Europe Gateway in Berlin. Bijelić cited as vivid memories of the tour the handcuffs for children on display at the National Museum of African American History, a video of a woman speaking about her experiences of imprisonment for trying to register to vote, and the courthouse in Sumner. Occupying the seat of a juror at the trial for Emmett Till's murderers, she realized that as a white person she was sitting in the same place that someone like her used to decide someone's fate. According to Marić and Professor Lichtenstein, a highlight of the tour was listening to the four African American women from IU as they related their experiences with race as IU students. One of them later reported to Vukašin that it was the most she had ever expressed of her experiences in a public setting. For Vukašin, it was meaningful to share comments with Americans in the museums and to learn of the reaction of Americans on their first tour of the American South. Anastasija remarked that she enjoyed learning about the perspective of Serbia from young Americans. Professor Lichtenstein expressed a hope that the tour might in some measure dispel the "amnesia" in Serbia over the Balkan wars of the 1990s, which remain largely unmemorialized, and indicated that planning is under way for a similar kind of tour in Serbia.

The program was made possible by means of a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the US Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia as well as a donation of \$50,000 on the part of David and Ann Erne, who also support REEI through a graduate fellowship that focuses on Serbia. "This is an important opportunity to solidify and strengthen IU's partnerships with universities in Serbia through direct ties between faculty and students from both sides," said Sarah Phillips, who served as REEI director for over seven years until stepping down from the position at the end of June. "We are very grateful to the Ernes for their continued support of Serbian studies at IU."

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Sofiya Asher (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) recently launched the [Global Russians Project](#), which provides fuller access to open-source resources for Russian-language training tools through language samples of non-standard Russian. Intended to promote more authentic language learning, the Global Russian Language project is supported by the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute and by the IUB Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.

Maria Bucur (History) together with Margareta Matache, Director of the Harvard University center for Roma studies, has initiated the virtual series titled “Deconstructing Romanian Studies: Anti-Racist, Intersectional, and Decolonial Perspectives.” Monthly presentations and discussions will center on historical and contemporary aspects of Romanian society. The first meeting took place October 25th and featured Bucur, with a presentation about disability and ableist epistemology titled “Dizabilitatea în interbelicul românesc: O perspectivă intersecțională. In September, she presented *The Nation’s Gratitude. World War I and Citizenship in Interwar Romania* (Taylor & Francis, 2021) at a virtual event hosted by the History Department at Carnegie Mellon University.

Wookjin Cheun (Slavic Librarian of Record) published [Murlin Croucher, the Slavic Librarian of Indiana University-Bloomington 1980-2005](#) in Slavic & East European Information Resources on October 5, 2023.



Part of the image sequence used by the Global Russians Project to elicit narrations from contributors.

Faculty/Staff News cont'd

Vesna Dimitrieska (Education) gave a keynote address titled “Language Learning: Privilege or Right?” at the University of Southern Indiana’s Teaching Journey Conference for world language teachers. She also lectured on “Second Language Learning and ELT- trends, challenges, and opportunities” at the International Balkan University in Macedonia. At the 2023 convention of the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages Convention she was presented with the Leo Benardo Award for Innovation in K-12 Language Education.

Elizabeth Dunn (Geography) was recently named the Jean Monnet Chair of Migration and Refugee Studies.

Jacob Emery (Comparative Literature) recently published a study of aesthetic totality entitled *The Vortex That Unites Us: Versions of Totality in Russian Literature* (Cornell/Northern Illinois University Press). He delivered the keynote address at Rutgers University’s conference on “The Weird Russian Nineteenth Century” in April 2023. His article on “Contemporary Russian Literature” is scheduled to appear in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of the Russian Novel.

Steven Franks (Emeritus Slavic) is an invited speaker at the annual Formal Description of Slavic Languages conference, giving a talk called “On the PF-Side” at a workshop on Information Structure, Prosody and Phase Theory in Slavic to take place in Graz, Austria, in December.

Debra Friedman (Second Language Studies) and Natalia Kudriavtseva (Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University, Ukraine) have co-edited a special issue of Ideology and Politics Journal, under the title “[Critical Perspectives on Language and Power in Ukraine and Kazakhstan](#)”.

Halina Goldberg (REEI/Musicology) has stepped down as Chair of the Department of Musicology and assumed the directorship of REEI. She is co-editor, together with Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers University), of an interdisciplinary collection entitled *Polish Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery* (Rutgers University Press, 2023).

Kate Graber (Anthropology) presented “Cashmerlon, Cashmilon, and Other Fuzzy Extensions: Commensurability in the Cashmere Commodity Chain,” took part in the roundtable Signs in Circulation: Infrastructure, Logistics, Storage, and served as organizer for the panel Reassessing Matters: Semiotic Approaches to Value and Commensurability, Part 2 at the conference of the American Anthropological Association/Canadian Anthropology Society held in Toronto in November.

Clare Griffin (History) was elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society in May 2023 in recognition of her contributions to historical scholarship, and particularly her first book, *Mixing Medicines: The Global Drug Trade and Early Modern Russia* (McGill-Queens Press, 2022). In June and July, she conducted research on wounded soldiers and Russian Imperialism, the topic of her second book project, as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

Hiroaki Kuromiya (Emeritus History) published “Russia’s undue influence of Western scholars and scholarship” in the Forum for Ukrainian Studies on June 30th of this year. The forum is hosted by the Contemporary Ukraine Studies Program at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta. A link can be found [here](#).

Svitlana Melnyk (Slavic) has published “[Pen and Sword: Tracing the Ideological Dimension of Ukraine’s Language Education Policy in Wartime](#)” in Ideology and Politics Journal. In September, she presented “Impact of the War on Communication and Word-Formation in Ukrainian in 2022-23” at the West Point Conference on Language, Culture, and Military.

Faculty/Staff News cont'd

Sarah Phillips (Anthropology) has been named a 2023-24 Kovener Teaching Fellow through the Office of Diversity + Inclusion in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her recent publications include: “Women’s agency and resistance in Russia’s war on Ukraine: From victim of the war to prominent force”(co-authored with T. Martsenyuk) in *Women’s Studies International Forum* 98 (May-June 2023): “Women with disabilities, and communities of care in wartime Ukraine: Conversations with disability and women’s rights activists about feminist and disability solidarities”(co-authors T. Herasymova and U. Pcholkina) in *Women’s Studies International Forum* 98 (May-June 2023); and “Moral Economies of Care and Women Who Use Drugs in Ukraine” (co-authors J. Owczarzak, A. Allen, P. Alpatova, T. Zub, A. Mazhnaya, and O. Filippova) in *Contemporary Drug Problems*, Vol. 1- 21. In November, at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association and the Canadian Association for Social and Cultural Anthropology in Toronto, she delivered a paper entitled “Citizenship Regimes in a Post-War Ukraine: Inspirations from Illinois Anthropology” and participated in a roundtable on “Precariousness in times of uncertainty: thinking vulnerability and violence after a year of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.” She also co-edited with Dr. Elena Iarskaia-Smirnova a special issue of *Children and Youth Services Review* on “Inclusive Childhoods in Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.”

Tatiana Saburova (History) delivered a virtual presentation on “‘Siberian Switzerland’ to Tian-Shan in the Exploration of Glaciers at the Turn of the 20th century” in August at the conference of the European Society for Environmental History. In May 2023, she led Cold War in Berlin, a study abroad program in which ten IU undergraduate students explored museums and historical sites of the Cold War in Berlin. Students completed the program by creating digital Story Maps to present their findings, map Cold War history and reflect on their experience of studying the Cold War while in Berlin.

Jessica Storey-Nagy (REEI/Anthropology) delivered the keynote address under the title “Disinformation without Borders: The Value of a ‘Global Education” at the 28th Annual Conference of the Midwest Institute for International-Intercultural Education, held at Illinois Valley Community College (Oglesby, IL) in October.

Mark Trotter (REEI) delivered “A Life in Russian,” a presentation on the role that the Russian language has played in his life and career, in October as part of the Research and Language Learning Series, co-sponsored by the Slavic Reference Service; the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center at the University of Illinois; the Language Workshop at Indiana University; American Councils; and the Melikian Center at Arizona State University with the support of the Title VIII grant program.

Russell Valentino (Slavic) “Morlach’s Blood in Fiume’s Mensa: D’Annunzio and the Intimate Adriatic” was published in *Gabriele D’Annunzio and World Literature: Multilingualism, Translation, Reception* (eds. Elisa Segnini and Michael Subialka) by Edinburgh University Press. His essay “[Loving Russia](#)” was published in the Summer 2023 issue of the *Massachusetts Review* and his article “When Dragons Show Themselves: Research, Constructing Knowledge, and the Practice of Translation” appeared in the Fall 2023 issue of *Know: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge*. He was one of eight translators featured in the [Hopscotch Summer 2023 Translators Forum: AI&I](#). In February, he participated in the “Presidential roundtable on the ethics of teaching Russian literature during the war” at the annual AATSEEL conference. In August, he presented “Framing Sense in Dostoevsky’s Demons” at the International Dostoevsky Society conference in Nagoya, Japan. He has received a Fulbright Scholar award to the University of Zadar, Croatia for 2024-2025 for work on his book *Sea of Intimacy*, which explores the intersection of nature and culture in the Adriatic.

ALUMNI NEWS

Barbara Allen (PhD History, 2001) was recently promoted to Professor of History at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A paperback edition of her book, *The Workers’ Opposition in the Russian Communist Party: Documents, 1919-30*, was published by Haymarket Books in 2022.

Suzanne Ament (PhD History, 1996), professor of History at Radford University, recently published a review of “Simon Morrison’s *Bolshoi Confidential: Secrets of the Russian Ballet from the Rule of the Tsars to Today*” . . in the *European Historical Quarterly* Vol. 53, No. 1, January 2023. For those who might remember Suzanne, who is blind, she is working with her fifth dog guide, a female black lab named Beacon

Heidi Bludau (PhD Anthropology with REEI minor, 2012) is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine, Health, and Society at Vanderbilt University as of Fall 2022.

Melissa Chakars (PhD/MA History/REEI, 2008/2000) presented “The Cooperation of Lamas and Lay Leaders in Introducing, Expanding, and Protecting Buddhism among the Buryats, Kalmyks, and Tuvans” at Buryat Studies: New Perspectives, a workshop organized by the Jordan Center of New York University in October.

Geoffrey Durham (MA REEI, 2016) was recently appointed Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin.

Bob Fleisch (BA SLAV/History w REEI certificate, 1980) celebrated his 71st birthday this year and wishes the best to all.

Robert Fradkin (PhD Slavic, 1985) moved with his wife (they met as neighbors at MGU on his IREX year) to her native Antwerp in spring 2020. He sings in a Russian folk choir, take Polish and Turkish in evening school, participates in a Yiddish reading circle at the University of Antwerp, and informally teaches two friends in Hebrew. In spring 2023 he published an article on a one-stem system for Latin conjugation and the publishing journal requested a podcast based on the article.

Jess Gibson (BA Political Science with International Studies and REEI minors, 2003) started a wine import and distribution company, Triglav Wines, focusing solely on wines from Eastern Europe, especially wines from Slovenia and Croatia, in 2022. The company works with small family producers that farm organically. Currently operating in Wisconsin, Triglav Wines hopes to find distributors in other states in 2024.

Allan Grafman (BA Slavic, 1975) recently joined the Phi Beta Kappa Board of NY.

Janet Johnson (PhD/MA Political Science, 2001/1997) has published “[Authoritarian Gender Equality Policy Making: The Politics of Domestic Violence in Russia](#)” in *Politics & Gender* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) and “[Unpacking ‘Traditional Values’ in Russia’s Conservative Turn: Gender, Sexuality and the Soviet Legacy](#)” (with co-authors Alexandra Novitskaya, former REEI Russian Studies Workshop post-doctoral fellow, Valerie Sperling, and Lisa McIntosh Sandstrom) in *Europe-Asia Studies* (published online: 13 July 2023).

Szabolcs László (PhD History, 2022) published “[Trans-systemic Mobility, Travel Reports, and Knowledge Acquisition in Cold War Hungary \(1960s-70s\)](#)” in *European Review of History / Revue européenne d’histoire*, a contribution to the special issue on “[Knowledge production and dissemination in state socialist Eastern Europe](#)”. László also delivered a lecture on the transnational promotion of the Kodály Method during the Cold War at the workshop Dis-/Connecting the World: Subjectivities, Networks and Transcultural Encounters across Cold War Boundaries, organized by Bielefeld University.

Alumni News cont'd

Jeta Loshaj (MA REEI, 2013) is serving as a consultant on international security and gender justice at the Kosova Office of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), a German political foundation that has been operating in Kosova since 1999. Together with a colleague from the FES Southeast Europe Office in Sarejevo, Loshaj has recently been drafting a policy brief that addresses Russian influence in the Western Balkans, with a particular focus on security challenges in the region since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. On November 23, Loshaj presented the findings in a public discussion, a recording of which can be accessed [here](#).

Dima Kortukov (PhD Political Science, 2022) has been appointed Assistant Professor of Political Science at University of Alabama. His recent publications include “The Politics of Pseudoscience: Power and Knowledge in Contemporary Russia” in *Problems of Post-Communism* (2023).

Vladimir Kozlov (MA Journalism, 1999), a Byelorussian/Russian author and filmmaker has been living in exile in Germany since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. His recently published novel *Vavilonia* (Podsnezhnik, 2023) explores the state of Russian society in the months leading up to the war. An excerpt (in Russian) can be found at <http://www.vladimir-kozlov.com/Vavilonia.htm>.

Roger Marietta (MA Political Science, 1984) completed 31 years of teaching at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia. He has also served for 12 years as an Albany City Commissioner.

Charles Mixon (MA REEI, 1994) is still very much an amateur historian, despite not pursuing a career in academia.

Rebecca Pasini (PhD Political Science, 1996) was recently appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Valery Perry (MA REEI, 1994) has been serving as a volunteer in Sarajevo to set up the Ex-Yu Rock Centar, which honors rock legends of the former Yugoslavia by creatively and professionally presenting their music and legacy to visitors from the region and across the world. Although relatively unknown outside of the Balkan region, the Yugoslav rock scene was one of the world’s most innovative and musically diverse, with more than a thousand bands and artists from all parts of Yugoslavia. Inspired by the success of the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland Ohio, through rare memorabilia and engaging audio/video and IT components, the Ex-Yu Rock Centar aims to present this rich cultural heritage of the region while also inspiring a new generation of musicians and artists in Sarajevo and beyond. More information about this project can be found at: <https://ex-yurock.com/>.

Elizabeth Plantan (MA REEI, 2012) delivered a lecture entitled “Opportunities and Constraints for Russian Activists-in-Exile after Russia’s 2022 Invasion of Ukraine” at the Elliot School of International Affairs of George Washington University in October.

Thomas Sakmyster (PhD/MA History w REEI certificate, 1971/1967) had a revised edition of his biography of Admiral Miklos Horthy published recently via the Helena History Press under the title *Hungary’s Admiral on Horseback: Miklos Horthy 1918-1944*.

Daniel Schumick (JD & REEI MA, 2023) recently passed the Ohio bar with a score that qualifies him for all UBE states.

Antonina Semivolos (MA REEI/JD, 2014) has published [The Advent of Facial Recognition and the Erosion of the Rule of Law in “Moscow Smart City”](#) in the *Cardozo Journal of Equal Rights and Social Justice* (Vol. 20/Issue II). At the recently convened Central Slavic Conference in Saint Louis, she presented “Choosing between Prison or Exile: Russian Activists Abroad after the 2022 Invasion of Ukraine” and “‘Your Face Is Big Data’: The Administrative and Legal Agendas Leading the Adaptation of Facial Recognition in Moscow the Smart City,”

Alumni News cont'd

Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed (PhD/MA Slavic with REEI minor, 2022) was recently appointed as a Faculty Associate at Harvard University’s Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, where she serves as Preceptor in Ukrainian.

Katie Stewart (PhD Political Science, 2017) served as a panelist on Russian Activism and State-society Relations Before and After February 2022 at the Elliot School of International Affairs of George Washington University in October.

Daniel Stone (PhD History, 1972) recently presented “Holocaust Awareness in Winnipeg, 1945-1980” to the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada where he is Past-President and Chair of the Programs and Exhibits Committee. He continues to write historical vignettes for the newsletter on varied topics such as the Black Wedding of 1918, Jewish cattle dealers, and Winnipeg-born cello virtuoso Zara Nelsova. He has also contributed an entry on B.B. Dubiński, a noted Polish-Canada community leader, for the current exhibit at Ognio, the Polish Museum in Winnipeg.

Leah Valtin-Erwin (PhD History with REEI minor, 2023) has recently been appointed Grants & Program Coordinator for the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) and editor of ASEEES NewsNet

Austin Wilson (MA REEI, 2019) worked with the American Councils for International Education (ACIE) Future Leaders Exchange scholarship program as a Participant Recruiter from 2019 to 2022 in Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. In summer of 2022 he participated in the ACIE English-Speaking Nation: English Summer Excellence Training program as a Teacher Consultant in Angren, Uzbekistan.

Katie “Katya” Yegorov-Crate (BA Slavic, 2018) recently published [Sakha Traditional Clothing: How to Dress in the Coldest Place on Earth](#) in *Folkways Today*.



Katie “Katya” Yegorov-Crate photographed during one of the Sakha Republic’s immensely cold winters.

ARTHUR BENOIT (BEN) EKLOF, 1946-2023: IN MEMORIAM

IU Professor of History Arthur Benoit (Ben) Eklof passed away peacefully, in the company of family and loved ones, on October 24, 2023 at the age of 77.

From 1977 until his retirement in 2020, at least two generations of students benefitted from Ben's skillful and inspiring pedagogy in Russian history, which was recognized with a Trustees' Teaching Award in 2010. A prolific scholar with numerous books and articles to his credit, Ben was a Senior Fellow at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center in 1987-88 and received three Fulbright Fellowships as well as fellowships from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) during his career. In the course of frequent and extended research visits to both Soviet and post-Soviet Russia, he witnessed the country's transition from the stagnation of the Brezhnev regime through the exhilaration and chaos of perestroika and on up to the authoritarian capitalism that has solidified under the rule of Vladimir Putin.

Like many of his generation, Ben first encountered Russia through its literature. After devouring translations of the classic works of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky while in high school, Ben took up Russian at Middlebury College, where he received his BA in 1968. While a graduate student in History at Princeton University, he conducted research in the Soviet Union as a Fulbright and IREX scholar based at Moscow State University in 1972-73, extending his stay for another two years to work as a translator at Progress Publishers and occasional freelance consultant for CBS.

Over the duration of this multi-year sojourn, Ben travelled widely through the Soviet Union and cultivated acquaintances with many of its citizens, developing friendships with some that lasted until his death. Such a prolonged exposure to Soviet life, something almost unprecedented for an American during the Cold War era, engendered in Ben a deep and nuanced understanding of Russian culture as well as an abiding love of the Russian language that imbued the decades-long teaching and scholarship that commenced upon his return to the United States and the completion of his PhD studies in 1977. "It was anything but boring for a young American to live in Moscow, and the reality I experienced had little in common with what Western scholars were writing about 'totalitarian' regimes," Ben has reflected about the experience. "Under the surface of monolithic uniformity was a fascinating society teeming with contradictions and rich in art and the life of the mind. Ever since that experience I have belonged to two worlds: Russia and the United States." During the late-Soviet era, Ben closely observed the changes engendered by perestroika, particularly in the area of education, as a consultant to the late Edward Dneprov, the first Minister of Education in post-Soviet Russia as well as a close friend and collaborator of Ben's.

Ben visited Russia even more frequently in the post-Soviet era, undertaking lengthy research trips to Moscow as well as to more provincial locales, like Kirov (Vyatka), that rarely see Americans or other foreigners.



Professor Ben Eklof

In Memoriam cont'd

Early in his career at IU, Ben established himself as a leading specialist in the history of Russian education. His first book publication, the classic *Russian Peasant Schools: Officialdom, Village Culture and Popular Pedagogy, 1861-1914* (Berkeley, 1986) elicited a broad range of glowing reviews. Among others, Alfred J Rieber, an eminent American historian of Russia, deemed it "the definitive history of literacy and schooling among the vast majority of the Russian population between the emancipation and the outbreak of World War I." Ben's scholarship expanded to include such diverse but related areas as village life in Imperial Russia, reform movements and policies from the time of the Great Reforms to the perestroika era, and Russian populism. Ben's subsequent books included *Soviet Briefing: Gorbachev and the Reform Period* (Westview Press, 1990) and *Дружба, семья, революция; Николай Чарушин и поколение народников 1870-х годов* [Friendship, family, revolution: Nikolai Charushin and the generation of the populists of the 1870s], co-authored with Tatiana Saburova, Ben's faculty colleague in History; as well as a reworked English-language version of the latter work, also co-authored with Tatiana, *A Generation of Revolutionaries: Nikolai Charushin and Populism in Russia from the Great Reforms to Perestroika* (Bloomington, 2017). Ben and Tatiana's work on Charushin also garnered numerous accolades. Sarah Badcock, a British historian of revolutionary Russia, praised its "multi-faceted treatment of Charushin and his milieu" that provides "a rich picture of the 1870's Populist movement, of their life and work in prison and Siberian exile, and the vibrant civil society that emerged in late imperial Russia," adding that the book is a good read in its own right and an invaluable addition to undergraduate and graduate curricula." Agrarian historian David Darrow described the book as "a powerful piece of scholarship that will stand for a long time" and. "demonstrates how biography can open doors to so much more than the life of a single individual."

Ben also edited co-edited a number of major scholarly collections: *The World of the Russian Peasant: Post-Emancipation Culture and Society* with Stephen P Frank (Unwin Hyman, 1990); *Democracy in the Russian School: The Reform Movement in Education Since 1984* with Edward Dneprov; *Russia's Great Reforms, 1855-1881* with John Bushnell and Larisa Georgievna Zakharova (IU Press, 1994); and *Educational Reform in Post-Soviet Russia: Legacies and Prospects* with Larry E Holmes and Vera Kaplan. He also oversaw the English translation of Boris Mironov's magisterial work on the social history of Imperial Russia that appeared in two volumes as *A Social History of Imperial Russia, 1700-1917* (Westview Press, 1999 and 2000).

An enormously dedicated, thoughtful, and charismatic teacher, Ben guided hundreds of IU undergraduate and graduate students through the thickets of Russian history in such courses as Empire of the Tsars, the Gorbachev Revolution, Heroes and Villains in Russian History (Biography and Mythmaking), and Colloquium in Imperial Russia.

Prof. Eklof's greatest quality, I think, is his passion for engaging his students," observed Griffin Edwards (MA REEL, 2020), a student in Colloquium in East European History in Spring 2020, when Ben taught the course for the last time. "He's never afraid to work through a tough topic with students in discussion or to encourage debate with and among them." Ben served as chair or committee member for dozens of dissertations and REEL master's essays. "No one has had a greater impact on my intellectual and professional development than Ben Eklof," recalls Colleen Moore (PhD History, 2013), who completed her dissertation under Ben's direction and is currently Assistant Professor at James Madison University. "He introduced me to the wonderful world of peasant studies; encouraged me to read broadly, outside the narrow confines of my dissertation topic and field of expertise; and inspired me to take a holistic approach to Russian history that includes immersing myself in the language and culture. Through his H601 course, he imparted a foundation in historical methodology, a passion for teaching, and an graduate students."

In Memoriam cont'd

indelible camaraderie to an entire generation of history graduate students." Ben's reputation as a mentor extended beyond IU to the further reaches of Russia, something very much in evidence in September, 2018 when Ben represented IU at the XI Baikal International Workshop in Irkutsk and Olkhon, Russia. Throughout the weeklong series of seminars, master classes, and research presentations, young scholars from the capitals and the Russian provinces as well as France, Armenia, and Ukraine constantly sought out Ben for his counsel on their research projects, counsel that Ben cheerfully and abundantly shared both in individual discussions and in the heavily attended master class on translation that he conducted.



Ben Eklof conducting a seminar for Russian students on Olkhon Island in Lake Baikal (September 2018).

Alongside his schedule of research and teaching, Ben contributed generously to the REEI community and to the community of Russianists in the US and across the world in various service activities. He assisted REEI on an almost annual basis as a member of one or another faculty committee, reviewing admissions and fellowship applications, meeting with outside evaluators, and providing guidance for the REEI director and staff. He regularly played an outsize role in organizing the annual Midwest History Workshop and served as chair or discussant on countless panels at the ASEES annual convention and other conferences (in addition to presenting his own research in such venues).

In his retirement, Ben continued to serve as Chief Research Fellow at the Poletayev Institute for Theoretical and Historical Studies in the Humanities, a division of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. He also enjoyed prolonged visits with his daughters and grandchildren on the East Coast, extensive stays at his dacha in Maine, and marathon cycling through the hills and hollows of Southern Indiana, a passion of many years that led to many friendships. Ben will always be remembered for his kind heart, gentle spirit, and infectious smile. He touched the lives of many people and was loved and respected. He and Nadya Peterson raised two daughters, Emma Victoria Eklof and Tamara Louise Eklof-Parks. Their stepmom, Edith Sarra, remained one of Ben's closest, most devoted friends, as did Ben's departmental colleague Tatiana Saburova.

Ben is survived by his daughters Emma Victoria Eklof and Tamara Louise Eklof-Parks; grandchildren Henzly, Keaton, Quinn, and Norah; two former wives, Nadya Peterson and Edith Sarra; sisters Elaine Eklof and Essie Eklof; brother Peter Eklof and sister-in-law Clare in Ireland; and many nieces and nephews. Celebrations of Ben's life have already been held in Cape Cod and Maine. At the recent ASEES annual convention in Philadelphia, Ben's colleagues gathered to reminisce about him at a roundtable in his honor. A celebration of life in Bloomington is planned for January or February.

In lieu of flowers, Ben asked that donations be made to Doctors Without Borders.