



# REEIfication

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Maria Bucur, Acting Director  
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Amy Luck, Editor  
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## Director's Notebook by Maria Bucur

The end of the academic year has been as exciting as the beginning, with a burst of activity in the month of April and exciting developments to look forward to in 2007-2008. A number of intellectually appealing and widely attended events took place this spring.

At the end of March, REEI hosted an international conference entitled, "The Hour of Romania," which brought together scholars from Romania, other European countries, Australia, and all over the United States. The conference discussed the accomplishments of Romanian studies scholars from the past few decades and considered the future of work on the country in an era of growing interest in global and transnational studies. In addition to the interesting presentations and lively discussions, the most rewarding aspect of this event was seeing the results of the globalization of Romanian studies itself: young scholars from across the globe came together, seamlessly sharing intellectual discourses and a passion that is still connected to a physical place, its culture and society, but which is clearly embedded in the broader academic and policy-making debates that reach outside the Romanian borders.

In March we also hosted our annual Roundtables on Post-Communism, with this year's topic public health challenges. Guests focusing on China, Romania, Russia, and a number of former Soviet republics, spoke about developments in the public health sector from both an academic perspective and a policy making vantage point. We were fortunate this year to have three participants who embodied a blend of high quality academic training with commitment to public work through professional organizations, NGOs, and government appointments. The comparisons that emerged in the course of the two days of discussions enabled us to reflect on important legacies--both positive and negative--that remain in this sector from the communist period. Though responses to critical needs are becoming more and more different in these various settings, they share new connections as well, through the growing internationalization of public health discourses, funding, and practices.

In April, Indiana University will also host a major international conference organized by Justyna Beinek and Bill Johnston through the Polish Studies Center, which will bring together an impressive number of scholars working on memory and Polish-German relations in several disciplines. This conference continues a series of annual gatherings--conferences, roundtables, and workshops--organized by Polish Studies.

The most gratifying part of the spring semester has been to work with prospective graduate students who have applied to enter our program in the fall. We have an excellent group shaping up, with students whose interests range from the Baltics to the CIS, and who are interested in everything from history to public policy careers. I have met many in person and look forward to seeing all

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## INSTITUTE STAFF

Maria Bucur, Acting Director  
 Denise Gardiner, Assistant  
 Director/Outreach Coordinator  
 Lance Erickson, Advisor/Assistant  
 Director for Student Services  
 Jessica Hamilton, Administrative  
 Secretary

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Amy Luck, Publications Editor  
 Richard Payne-Holmes, Website  
 Administrator  
 Aimee Dobbs, Outreach Assistant  
 Sarah Fogleman, Library Assistant

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Russian and East European  
 Institute  
 Ballantine Hall 565  
 Indiana University  
 Bloomington, IN 47405-6615  
 Phone: (812) 855-7309  
 Fax: (812) 855-6411  
 Email: reei@indiana.edu  
 www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/

## IU Awards for REEI Alumni

1994 Irene Meister  
 College Distinguished Alumni  
 1998 Stephen Cohen  
 College Distinguished Alumni  
 1999 James F. Collins  
 Honorary Doctorate  
 2004 Richard Miles  
 Distinguished Alumni Service

## REEI Awards

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

1998 Alexander Rabinowitch  
 1988 Charles Gati  
 1995 Gale Stokes  
 2000 Helena Goscilo  
 2002 Howard I. Aronson  
 2002 William Hopkins

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

1988 Theofanis Stavrou  
 1988 Robert F. Byrnes  
 1989 Karen Niggle  
 1996 Robert W. Campbell  
 1997 Charles Jelavich  
 1997 Janet Rabinowitch  
 2000 William B. Edgerton

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of them next year. It has also been a pleasure to see our current graduate students develop academically and make great progress in their professional endeavors, participating at national and international conferences, winning nationally competitive awards, placing high in competitions for professional internships nationally and abroad, and receiving job offers from prestigious academic and public sector institutions.

Since David Ransel will resume his position as Director of REEI in the fall, I also want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff, Denise Gardiner, Lance Erickson, and Jessica Hamilton, as well as the graduate assistants, Aimee Dobbs, Richard Fitzmaurice, Sarah Fogelman, Amy Luck, and Richard Payne-Holmes, for their dedication and professionalism in running the office and serving the needs of our students and faculty. It has been a pleasure working with them.

~Maria Bucur

## 2007 Slavic &amp; East European Career Night

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, more than thirty-five students joined REEI faculty, staff, and alumni for the fourth annual Slavic & East European Career Night. The evening featured professional advice on opportunities available for graduates with Slavic and East European area and language skills, suggestions on how to build a resume and get the most out of summer internships, alumni advice on job searches and building a career, tips on networking, and more.

Professor Jeffrey Holdeman, Slavic Language Coordinator and Undergraduate Advisor, opened the evening with a general introduction and overview of how important language and area studies knowledge is throughout the job sectors. REEI/SPEA alumnus Eric Boyle followed with a discussion of his experience in Ukraine and Central Asia. Eric Boyle is currently the Acting Regional Vice President for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova for the Eurasia Foundation—a privately managed non-profit organization funded by donors such as USAID. Since 1992, the Foundation has supported civil society and private enterprise development in the former Soviet Union through grants and technical assistance.

Other speakers included Beth Kreitl from the IU Career Development Center, who provided an overview of the job resources available through the University, and Lance Erickson, who added information on the career resources available through REEI.

Two current graduate students spoke on their respective experiences in the job search process. Meagan Call is completing a dual degree with REEI and SPEA and will begin a Foreign Service career with the US State Department this summer. Josh Bloom is completing his MA with REEI and teacher certification in Russian and English through the School of Education's "Secondary Transitions to Teaching" program.

Regarding the success of the night, Erickson said, "This was easily one of our best Career Nights so far. Thanks to our wonderful panel and the Career Development Center's hospitality, our students were provided with an excellent opportunity to network and prepare for their future career choices. We were also very fortunate to have someone as high profile as Eric Boyle as keynote speaker. Many students commented that his presentation was extremely informative and insightful."

## The Balalaika Orchestra: An Echo of Russia in North America?

by Dan Tam Do

Whether through a Beatles song, the film adaptation of *Doctor Zhivago*, or personal experience, many of us have come to know the balalaika as an emblem of Russianness. As John Scott described in *Behind the Urals*, this triangular, fretted instrument played a central role during a typical evening in industrial workers' barracks. "At about six o'clock a dozen or so young workers, men and women, gathered in the Red Corner with a couple of balalaikas and a guitar....The balalaikas were played very skillfully. I never ceased wondering at the high percentage of Russian workers who could play the balalaika. They learned during the long winter evenings in their village mud huts."

It is possible that the music these workers played, their techniques, and even the tunings and sizes of their instruments have little in common with today's repertoire and balalaikas. This is due in part to the efforts of a nobleman named Vasilii Vasilievich Andreev, who in the late nineteenth century endeavored to make the balalaika stage-worthy. To attain the range in pitch and timbre exhibited by the violin and its relations, Andreev had five sizes of balalaikas built, which are still in standard use today. He also arranged music, wrote original compositions, and regularized strumming and picking techniques for his ensemble. In 1882 the Ensemble of Balalaika Players gave its first performance, and by 1892 it had found favor with Russia's rulers. The eight-piece ensemble eventually grew to include the round, fretted domra and table harp-like *gusli*, and became the Great Russian Imperial Balalaika Orchestra.

Of Andreev, Amy Nelson wrote in her book, *Music for the Revolution*, that his ensemble "capitaliz[ed] on sentimental stereotypes of the peasantry, national pride, and nostalgia for an idealized, bucolic past [by] perform[ing] lush harmonizations of folk songs and classics for attentive urban audiences." Needless to say, this endeavor was not without its detractors: "the 'folklorism' promoted by Andreev...attracted criticism from purists who objected to the 'corruption' of pristine folk music and from those who opposed efforts to romanticize the primitiveness of Russian peasant life."

Despite Andreev's less than illustrious end (he died penniless, of typhoid, in 1918), his concept survived and flourished under the Soviet regime. Folk orchestras were cultivated - with some caution and circumscription - as uniquely "Soviet" institutions. The most illustrious stars of this system included the Osipov State Balalaika Orchestra and the Red Army Chorus, which employed balalaikas and domras in its orchestra in place of the more conventional orchestral stringed instruments.

In addition to being an instrument of the village, then, the balalaika became a concert instrument much like the classical piano or violin. Conservatories offered balalaika training and produced virtuosi during the Soviet period and continuing on to today. Concertos and other pieces showcasing its solo qualities and its abilities to stand out against a large accompanying ensemble have been composed and recorded.

In North America, the balalaika orchestra evolved in several stages, the first of which corresponded roughly with the first wave of emigration from the Soviet Union. In the 1920s, at least a dozen sizable ensembles and orchestras established by émigrés were active in the United States. Unfortunately, most of these had disbanded by the 1940s. Most of the ensembles and orchestras currently performing in, among other cities, Washington, Atlanta, Houston, Victoria, and Toronto, were started after 1970, often by interested musicians

without any kind of Russian background.

Today, what we know of as balalaika orchestras is not in fact composed entirely or even mostly of the various sizes of balalaikas. A section of *domras* and one or two *gusli* (instruments also "standardized" by Andreev); accordions and their Russian cousins, the *baians*; and various wind and percussion instruments provide balance and contrast. There is much in their repertoires that would not fall strictly under the "folk" category, though other genres, such as film songs and popular songs from the World War II era, often draw upon a perceptibly folk-like idiom. These



A 1991 balalaika from luthier Marc Koupfer (Photo courtesy of [www.balalaika.fr/english.html](http://www.balalaika.fr/english.html))

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## The “Hour of Romania” International Conference: A Resounding Success!

by Jeremy Stewart

On March 22, 2007 Americans, Romanians, and even a couple of Australians, descended on Bloomington for the first ever “Hour of Romania” International Conference. As Romania entered the European Union on January 1, 2007, all the world’s eyes shifted to it. With this in mind, the “Hour of Romania” focused on relevant topics in today’s world.

With over twenty-five people in attendance, the conference began with a keynote address by Professor Vladimir Tismaneanu, Chairman of the Presidential Commission to Study the Romanian Communist Dictatorship. During his speech, entitled “Working Through Romania’s Communist Past,” Professor Tismaneanu passionately discussed his experience of working on the commission. Following the address, the audience enjoyed artist Irina Hasnas Pascal’s “Romania Redrawn” exhibition and an opening reception at the Lilly Library that featured Romanian wine, Romanian rare books, and local edibles. During the reception, Dean of International Programs Patrick O’Meara and Chicago’s Romanian Consul General George Predescu welcomed Indiana University’s guests. The reception was generously sponsored by the Consul General’s Office.

The following day, the conference sessions commenced with a packed schedule of roundtable and panel discussions on politics, history, and Romanian language and culture. The first day took on a mostly political orientation as professors Peter Gross (Journalism, University of Tennessee), Mihaela Miroiu (Political Science, SNSPA, Bucharest), and Vladimir Tismaneanu (Government and Politics, University of Maryland—College Park) discussed contemporary Romanian politics and media issues while scholars Jennifer Cash (Russian & East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh),



Romanian professor Christina Zarifopol-Illias and Romanian Consul General George Predescu. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)



Keynote address speaker and panelist Professor Vladimir Tismaneanu with conference director Maria Bucur. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)

Sorin Gog (Sociology and Social Work, Babes-Boylai University, Cluj), and Laszlo Peter (Sociology, Babes-Boylai University, Cluj) gave papers on the panel entitled, “Identity Politics in the Post-

communist World.” In the afternoon, guests were also treated to a roundtable discussion in which professors Marina Cap-Bun (Romanian Literature, Ovidius University), Mona Momescu (Romanian, Columbia University), and our own Christina Zarifopol-Illias (Romanian, Indiana University) avidly discussed Romanian language instruction and its future, and junior scholars Oana-Valentina Suciu (Political Science, University of Bucharest), Katalin Gal (Sociology, Babes-Boylai University, Cluj), and John Gledhill (Government, Georgetown University) presented their papers in panel discussions on “Post-Communist Politics and the EU.” That evening, after hours of insightful and enthusiastic discussion, the documentary *Diamonds in the Dark* was screened for guests, and many of our participants joined the paper and roundtable presenters for a delightful dinner at Le Petit Café.

The next day proved to be as exciting as the first, as six more papers were presented in conjunction with a roundtable on history and the humanities. Professors Keith Hitchins (History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Charles King (Government, Georgetown University), Irina Livezeanu (History, University of Pittsburgh) and Christian Moraru (English, University of North Carolina, Greensboro) discussed their views on Romanian history, historiography, and the humanities more broadly, while junior scholars Roland Clark (History, University of Pittsburgh), Ion Matei Costinescu (History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), and Voichita Nachescu (Gender Studies, Rice University) presented

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their papers on new trends in historical research. The conference finished on a high note with three more papers by Victor Rizescu (Political Science, University of Bucharest), Theodora-Eliza Vacarescu (Gender Studies, CEU, Budapest), and Mihaela Czobor-Lupp (Government, Georgetown University) presented on a panel discussion on intellectual elites. Following some closing remarks by conference director Maria Bucur, guests were invited to the screening of the award winning film, *Moartea Domnului Lazarescu*. Finally, as the sun set, guests gathered at

Professor Bucur's home for a farewell reception, the conclusion of a successful and exciting conference.

For titles, abstracts, provocations and responses of the "Hour of Romania" conference's invited participants, please visit: <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/events/2007/romania.shtml>

*Jeremy Stewart is a graduate student in REEI.*

## A Birdseye View: Scenes From the "Hour of Romania" International Conference



Students, faculty, staff, and conference participants listen to the keynote address given by Vladimir Tismaneanu. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)



Irina Hasnas-Pascal introduces her exhibit entitled, "Romania Redrawn," a collection of Romanian photography and art. Hasnas-Pascal and a colleague salvaged the pieces of art from a dumpster outside the Romanian consulate in New York. The exhibit was available for public viewing March 19 through 25. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)



Past, present, and future REEI students enjoy a meal at La Petit Cafe in downtown Bloomington. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)



Oana-Valentina Suciuc of the University of Bucharest gives her paper entitled, "Political Representation of Ethnic Minorities in Central and East Europe in the Light of the EU Integration." (Photo courtesy of REEI.)

## Faculty Profile: Regina Smyth

interview by Maren Payne-Holmes

A native of LaGrangeville, NY, Regina Smyth is an assistant professor of Political Science at IUB. She received her PhD from Duke University and has been awarded numerous grants from organizations such as the National Science Foundation. She has taught classes in Russian and Soviet Politics, Democracy and Elections, Comparative Democratic Institutions, Comparative Parties and Party Systems, Voter Turnout, Post-Soviet Politics and West European Politics. In the following interview, Professor Smyth discusses the origins of her interest in Soviet politics, trading jeans in Red Square, and how to write a winning grant proposal.

*What first attracted you to politics in the former Soviet Union?*

When I started studying post-Soviet politics, it was still the Soviet Union and part of the draw was the nature of the US-Soviet superpower rivalry. I had the chance to study Russian in seventh grade. It was a unique program that has actually produced a number of post-Soviet specialists, including Professor Nina Rathbun, who also recently joined the faculty at IU. I chose Russian when Nixon had just gone to China, *ostpolitik* looked successful, and US cooperation with the Soviet Union looked possible. My favorite teacher made the argument that the Cold War would soon be over and there would be tremendous opportunities for Russian speakers. We were a little optimistic! I continued language training through high school and traveled to the Soviet Union in 1979 with my class. It was my first trip abroad and an amazing experience that included finding bugs in our hotel room and trading jeans in Red Square. Merging my love of studying politics with language training seemed inevitable in college.

*What is the most interesting trend or element you see in post-Soviet politics?*

In the early 1990s my scholarly focus shifted from political economy to studying the interaction between elections and democratic development. At that point, our shared understanding was that elections would inevitably lead to democratic consolidation. In 1993, I had a chance to travel to Saratov to study the first elections in the Russian Federation. It was a tremendous experience. I interviewed candidates throughout the region, visited party headquarters, and went to campaign rallies and speeches. I spent late nights in the basement of the former higher party school listening to Yabloko's party leaders trying to figure out who their con-



(Photo courtesy of Regina Smyth.)

### BACKGROUND BRIEF:

- \* Undergraduate degree: BA State University of New York at Albany
- \* Graduate degrees: MA, PhD Duke University
- \* Honors: 2006 National Science Foundation  
2000 Smith Richardson Foundation  
1999 National Science Foundation  
1998 National Science Foundation Award, POWRE Program  
1998 National Council for Soviet and East European Research  
1997 Faculty Recognition Award Penn State University  
1997 National Council for Soviet and East European Research
- \* Past positions: Assistant Professor, Penn State University;  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Harvard University; Instructor, Penn State University
- \* Current status: Assistant Professor of Political Science
- \* Research interests: Democratic development and electoral competition focusing on candidates, political parties, and party systems in post-Communist states
- \* Courses taught: Russian and Soviet Politics, Democracy and Elections, Comparative Democratic Institutions, Comparative Parties and Party Systems, Voter Turnout, Post-Soviet Politics, and West European Politics.

stituency was and how they might reach them. Part of my role as participant observer was to bring along food and vodka when I visited. What struck me was that almost all of the candidates I met were politically savvy and very bright. Most were committed to the electoral process. Yet, as one candidate scolded me, "these elections are not about issues or representation—they are about power." On the flight home, I met a deputy to the sitting governor who made it clear that the "right" candidates had won and their success was not a coincidence. Based on that experience, it became clear that

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## Smyth Profile

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the link between electoral competition and democratic development was much more complex than we thought. That thesis became the central theme of my dissertation, and finally, after three more elections cycles, my book, *Candidate Strategies and Electoral Competition in the Russian Federation: Democracy Without Foundation*, came out. I've extended that work to explore the successful emergence of United Russia as a hegemonic party—a rare event in world politics. The lessons of Russia should inform our understanding of the effects of electoral competition on democratic development in other difficult cases such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and even Venezuela, but somehow the insights that have emerged out of a lot of good work on the post-Soviet cases have not traveled as widely as they should.

*What is your prediction for the upcoming presidential election in Russia?*

United Russia's candidate will win.

*Why are institutions such a crucial part of nation-building?*

Institutions are critical to understanding politics because they provide the incentives for individuals to cooperate in pursuit of common political goals. Sometimes these goals support democracy and sometimes they do not. There is a lot of evidence of the effects of different types of institutions on political behavior. In the Russian case, the set of institutions—a strong presidency, dual-track legislature, federalism and mixed electoral rules—work against cooperation among like-minded politicians and fragmented the political opposition to the Kremlin. At the same time, the post-Soviet cases illustrate that it is very difficult to engineer political outcomes through institutional change. Institutions interact with the legacy of authoritarian rule, resources available to engage in political activity, and society's beliefs and international aid to shape politicians' responses to institutional incentives.

*As a former employee of the Social Science Research Council and successful applicant for numerous grants, what advice would you give young scholars applying for grants?*

I do believe that there is a link between my experience at the SSRC and my success in obtaining grants. I learned a great deal from reading lots of proposals and observing the deliberation of SSRC panels. I have three pieces of advice that I give to all students. The first is that 50 percent of the effort of getting a grant is responding directly to the application instructions. Agencies and foundations have very different goals and these goals are always articulated in the application materials. Applicants must convince reviewers of the merit of the project as it applies to those goals. My second piece of advice is that you should write the application as if you are writing so that your mother or best friend could understand it. That is, avoid jargon, shorthand references to abstract theories and insider references to literature or debates. You must make your project compelling and clear to people who might not work in your discipline, subfield, or region, all in three, five or ten pages. Having said that, I think that the grant business is increasingly competitive, placing a greater burden on the applicant to convey a well thought out research design, a feasible project, and strong theoretic insights. For example, in political science, it is no longer enough to say that you will conduct a survey. You must also identify the sampling strategy, include a sample survey or a sense of the questions you will ask, indicate who and how you will complete the coding and so on. In some cases, you will need to specify the mode of analysis you will use once you secure the data. In other words, writing successful grants takes months, not weeks, and rests on a strong foundation of training and experience.

*What do you enjoy about being a professor?*

I love the research process. The research design portion is my favorite part of the process. I like identifying compelling political puzzles and thinking about the best way to solve them. I also very much enjoy the fieldwork and the discovery of data analysis. Writing up my research findings is the most challenging portion of the research process for me but it is getting easier with experience; and the sometimes grueling review process really does work to make you a better scholar. I really feel that my research makes me a better teacher, and I try very hard to give my students the tools they need to identify and answer important questions for themselves. I try to teach the science and not just the politics.

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## Faculty News and Publications

**Charles J. Halperin** (Visiting Scholar, REEI) has published, "The Russian and Slavonic Languages in Sixteenth-Century Russia," *Slavonic and East European Review* 85.1 (January 2007): 1-24.

**Jeffrey D. Holdeman** (Slavic) was recently invited to give the lecture, "The Russian Old Believers of Detroit," at the Wayne State University series Celebrating Slavic Cultures. He also presented a paper entitled, "What Do You Want on Your Tombstone?: The Correlation Between Informational Weight and Language Choice in Russian Old Believer Gravestone Inscriptions in the Eastern United States," at the AATSEEL National Convention this past December.

**Mark Hooker** (Visiting Scholar, REEI) made a presentation on the Russian reaction to J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* to a group of students at Edgewood High School in Ellettsville, IN, as a part of the school's program for National Reading Week (February 26-March 2). There are nine Russian translations of *The Lord of the Rings* which were not officially published in Russia until after the fall of Communism, almost 40 years after being out of print. *The Lord of the Rings* circulated in *samizdat* (on the black market) in the 1960s and 1970s, and Mr. Hooker has some of the original manuscripts in his library.

**Owen Johnson** (Journalism) contributed the introductory chapter, "Shadows in the Searchlight: An Introduction to American Media Coverage of Czechoslovakia," to Gregory C. Ference, ed., *The Portrayal of Czechoslovakia in the American Print Media, 1938-1989* (2006). Ference received his PhD in East European history from IU; another contributor to the book, James W. Peterson, received a PhD in political science from IU.

**Hiroaki Kuromiya** (History) has been selected to receive a New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Traveling Fellowship from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research for his project "Divine Laws versus Soviet Laws." His new book, *The Voices of the Dead*, is being published this year by Yale University Press.

**Sarah Phillips** (Anthropology) published an article entitled, "Parallel Worlds" in the December 2, 2006 issue of *Korrespondent*, a Russian weekly news magazine.

**William Alex Pridemore** (Criminal Justice) recently published several articles about Russia: (with A. Stickley) "The Social Structural Correlates of Homicide in Late Tsarist Russia," *British Journal of Criminology* 47: 80-99; "Change and Stability in the Characteristics of Homicide Victims, Offenders, and Incidents During Rapid Social Change," forthcoming in *British Journal of Criminology* 47: 331-345; (with M.B. Chamlin & J.K. Cochran) "An Interrupted Time Series Analysis of Durkheim's Social Deregulation Thesis: The Case of the Russian Federation," in the next issue of *Justice Quarterly*; (with S. W. Kim) "Negative Socioeconomic Change and Crime in a Transitional Society," in the next issue of *The Sociological Quarterly*. This semester he is teaching, for the first time, a course on law, crime, and justice in Russia (see page \_\_ for a description of the course).

**Jean Robinson** (Political Science) presented, "Theorizing Gender in Transition," at the *Gender in Transition: Women in Europe Workshop* at New York University in February. The workshop was sponsored by the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies and the Network of East-West Women. This April, she will be receiving a Distinguished Faculty Award from Indiana University.

**Robert Rohrschneider** (Political Science) co-authored the article, "Do Expert Surveys Produce Consistent Estimates of Party Stances on European Integration? Comparing Expert Surveys in the Difficult Case of Central and Eastern Europe," in *Electoral Studies* 26: 50-61.

**Martin Spechler** (Economics, IUPUI) published two articles, "Economic Reform in Authoritarian Uzbekistan," in *History and Society in Central and Inner Asia*, M. Gervers, U. Bulag, and G. Long, eds. *Toronto Studies in Central and Inner Asia* 8 (2007): 209-227; and the chapter, "Trade, Energy, and Security in the Central Asian Arena," (with Dina R. Spechler, Political Science) in *Strategic Asia 2006-07: Trade, Interdependence, and Security* (2006).

**Charles Wise** (SPEA), Director of the Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine, received a large grant from the Eurasia Foundation to coordinate a strategic

## Student News

*Patrick Burlingame* (REEI/Kelley School of Business) has accepted an ECLP (Experienced Commercial Leadership Program) summer internship with GE Money, the consumer financial division of the General Electric Corporation. Patrick will most likely be based in Toronto at GE Money's Canadian headquarters for the duration of the summer. Among his duties, he will assist with the launch of a new credit product with the Hudson Bay Company (HBC), a Canadian retailer. He hopes to enter GE Money's full time commercial leadership program with assignments in both the Americas and Eastern Europe upon graduation.

*Jennifer Evans* (REEI) will spend the summer as an intern for the US State Department in St. Petersburg, Russia.

*Ian Lanzillotti* (REEI) has received a FLAS award from Duke University to study advanced Russian in St. Petersburg, Russia this summer. Ian also hopes to take this time

to visit the Republic of Adygea in southern Russia to examine potential research sites.

*Amy Luck* (REEI) will spend five weeks this summer studying Romanian in Targu-Mures, Romania, and volunteering for the non-profit organization Livada Orphan Care. Amy also plans to take a course on issues of European Union integration at Lund University, Sweden, in August.

*Jill Massino* (History) has accepted a one-year visiting position in Central East European history with Oberlin College.

*Anna Muller* (History) recently received the Mikal Lynn Sousa Award for Excellence and published the article, "The Bim-Bom Theatre: Cultural De-Stalinization of the Polish People's Republic" in the Fall 2006 issue of *Slavic and East European Performance*.

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## Student Graduations: BA Minors/MA and PhD Defenses

The following students graduated with REEI BA minors during the fall of the 2006 school year:

*Ryan Goffinet* and *Nikolas Gonzales*

The following REEI student recently defended an MA essay:

*Sarah Fogleman* (MA REEI/MA SLIS) "Education in Transition: The Challenge of Reforming Latvia's School System, 1991-2006"; Taivo Raun (CEUS) chaired her committee.

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## Alumni News

*Melissa Caldwell* (MA REEI 1993) has been promoted to Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She also received the Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence from the social sciences division at UCSC.

*Peter Holquist* (BA Slavic/BA History/REEI certificate 1986) is Associate Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. He recently presented a lecture entitled, "The Rules of War and the Reality of Occupation: Imperial

Russia at the 1899 Hague Conference and as Occupying Power during the 1900 Boxer Rebellion," at the Kennan Institute U.S. Alumni Series in Washington, DC.

*Brian Johnson* (BA History/REEI minor 2004) recently received a fellowship to work with the Department of Defense as an historian for the POW/Missing Personnel Office. He will research US military losses in Europe during the Second World War.

## Between East and West: East Germany's Place in Europe

by Colin Dietch

What is the place of the former German Democratic Republic "East Germany" in the study of post-communist societies in Eastern Europe almost two decades after the fall of communism? It is perhaps tempting to simply assign a unified Germany to Western Europe; after all, West Germany was a founding member of the European Union, and until recently most scholars placed Germany squarely in modern Western Europe. We tend to consider transitions away from communism on a state-by-state basis, and since there is no longer a Democratic German Republic (GDR), may one rightfully count Germany among the post-communist states of Eastern Europe? I submit that one may, and should. It would be hasty indeed to discount the value of the German experience when evaluating East European transitions.

Between 1945 and 1989, East Germany shared with the Soviet bloc the brutal experience of communism. An ideological split and a fence along the border neatly separated East from West. After the collapse of communism and the re-establishment of a single Germany with a single government, NATO aircraft patrolled East German skies and citizens of the former GDR became citizens of the European Economic Community long before the citizens of Hungary or Poland. Yet, the ongoing transition in this region of Germany has much in common with the post-communist transitions in other states more frequently designated "East European."

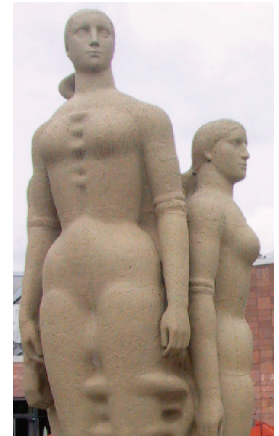


Marx watches transition in Chemnitz. (Photo courtesy of author.)

The economic consequences of communism have proved expensive and enduring, and the more prosperous West has poured billions of marks and euros into revamping the East's floundering economy. Unemployment remains a serious problem, and the legacies of communist-directed industrialization are omnipresent. Like many post-communist states in Eastern Europe, the former East Germany continues to

suffer the dire environmental consequences of inefficient and polluting enterprises. Any student of Eastern Europe would immediately recognize Stalin's architectural fingerprints on Leipzig's Gewandhaus or the industrial suburbs of Dresden.

The social legacies of communism are also evident in East Germany, where accusations of cooperation with the Stasi (the secret police) cropped up during the 2005 election. East Germany, like the rest of the former communist states of Eastern Europe, continues the



Socialist statues look East and West. (Photo courtesy of author.)

long process of coming to terms with the past, summed up in the appropriately daunting term *vergangenheitsbewältigung*. East Germany's past continues to separate it from West Germany, and this painful encounter with Cold War history has as much in common with Czechoslovak lustration or Romania's Presidential Commission for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship as with the West German process of denazification.

The eastward growth of Europe, like German unification before it, has blurred the admittedly arbitrary division between East and West. Yet, as students of the post-communist experience, it would be unfortunate to ignore the unique case of East Germany. Though the German Democratic Republic disappeared and its territory became part of the new German Republic, the process of reunification, integration, and the lingering shadows of communism should be included in our East European discourse.

Colin Dietch is a graduate student in REEI.



Hungarian Chair Symposium  
*Strategies of Identity Construction: Ethnic Politics, Minorities, and  
 European Integration in Transylvania*  
 April 14-15, 2007

The 27<sup>th</sup> György Ránki Hungarian Chair Symposium focused on one of the three main historic regions of modern Romania—Transylvania. With a rich multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-cultural past and present, Transylvania provides an excellent field for inter-ethnic studies. Its population of over 7 million consists of a Romanian majority (75%), a shrinking but still considerable Hungarian minority (20%), and several other sizeable ethnicities such as Roma, Germans, and others. Dynamics of power-relations as well as local majority and minority relations offer a great variety of examples of inter-ethnic cooperation and conflict. Recent demographic trends, ongoing processes of “intra” and “inter” migration, and assimilation have been continuously refiguring ethnic patterns, while also outlining certain permanent trends such as the diasporization of certain ethnicities. In the seventeen years since the fall of the Ceausescu regime, dynamic economic and social changes have taken place both in the cities and in the countryside. Scholars of various disciplines (anthropology, ethnography, history, human geography, political science, sociology, etc.) who started to study the transition process and its preceding decades have examined the collapse of the socialist economic system; the processes of privatization, rapid capitalization, and globalization; the emergence of new institutions of political life and civil society; transnational processes; shifting identities; forms of national(istic) narratives and rhetoric; and politics of the regional and local communities. Easier border crossing and relaxation of earlier administrative barriers have made both archival research and anthropologic fieldwork much less difficult. Since the 1990s, taboo topics have started to be discussed. Scholars from both within the countries of transition and abroad have started to make use of the new research opportunities. On the other hand, there are still aspects of 20<sup>th</sup> century Romanian-Hungarian history which have been highlighted only recently and need further analysis. In the year in which Romania has become a new member of the European Union, the annual Hungarian Chair Conference of 2007 aims to initiate a trans-disciplinary discourse by offering a forum on the strategies of identity construction in the region.

The keynote address at this year’s symposium was given by Gyorgy Schopflin, current member of the European Parliament for Hungary, and featured four panel discussions: Andrew C. Janos (Political Science, University of California, Berkeley), Levente Salat (Political Science, Babes-Boylai University, Cluj), and Garbiel Andreescu (Political Science, SNSPA, Bucharest) gave papers on the topic of “Ethnic Politics, Minorities, and Regionalism in the EU context;” Karoly Kocsis (Human Geography, Geographical Research Institute of Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Agnes Fulemle (CEUS, IUB), Margit Feischmidt (Research Fellow, Hungarian Academy of Sciences), and David A. Kideckel (Cultural Anthropology, Central Connecticut State University) spoke regarding the panel on “Majority-Minority Relations-- Ethnicity in Everyday Life;” and Zoltan Palfy (Political Science, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj), Andrew Ludanyi (Political Science, Ohio Northern University), Keith Hitchens (History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Maria Bucur (History, IUB), Balazs Balogh (Visiting Scholar, IUB), and Victor Neumann (History, University of West, Timisoara) all discussed “Historical Memory, Conceptions of Identity, and Multiethnic Realities.”

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## Balalaika Orchestras

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orchestras sometimes accompany vocal soloists, choruses, and dance groups, and many supplement their repertoires with arrangements of classical pieces by Russian composers such as Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Modest Mussorgsky, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

From humble worker gatherings to professional orchestras, balalaika performance, and the instrument itself, has gone through a journey of change. But whether played by Russian nationals or by musical admirers abroad, the balalaika and its music will continue to be appreciated by people all over the world.

*Dan Tam Do is a graduate student in the REEI and SLIS MA/MLS programs.*

## IU Students Enjoy Ukrainian *Pysanky*

by Richard Payne-Holmes

On Thursday April 4, 2007 Slavic connoisseurs and Easter enthusiasts alike gathered in Ballantine Hall for a Ukrainian Easter celebration and to engage in the traditional Ukrainian art of *pysanky*. *Pysanky*, or Ukrainian eggs, are an age-old tradition. Ukrainians and other Orthodox Christians paint them every year around Easter time. *Pysanky* were first created in Ukraine in pre-Christian times and are believed to have been symbolic of nature's rebirth. With the advent of Christianity in the tenth century, however, the egg's meaning was adapted to symbolize the rebirth of man in a spiritual sense. The eggs are rife with symbolism as each color and image means something different. Under the instruction of our local *pysanky* artisan Natalie Kravchuk,



Traditional Ukrainian cookies, bread, and cheese were part of the *pysanky* festivities. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)

this year's *pysanky* participants learned to paint eggs in the Ukrainian style, creating colorful keepsakes and memories. "It was a little scary at first, but I was surprised at how easy and

fun it was to paint the eggs," said Denise Mishiwiwec, an REEI/SPEA student. Some of the participants also took part in an American tradition: an Easter egg hunt. Prizes, including Ukrainian chocolate and Ukrainian themed t-shirts, were given to those who collected the most eggs. The event was sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Organization, a group of approximately twenty members, including students, faculty, and staff of Indiana University, along with members of the Bloomington community who meet weekly to converse in Ukrainian and host activities such as this *Pysanky* celebration, the *Maslennitsa*, and an "Old" New Year's party. For more information about the Ukrainian Studies Organization or to find out about upcoming events, contact Joe Crescente at [jjcresce@indiana.edu](mailto:jjcresce@indiana.edu).



Undergraduates Ania Nieznanka and Ellie Taylor participate in the IU Ukrainian Club's *pysanky* celebration. (Photo courtesy of REEI.)

Richard Payne-Holmes is a graduate student in the REEI and SPEA MA programs.

## A User's Guide to *Pysanky*

*Pysanky* eggs are more than just bright, eye-pleasing folk art. The designs have specific associations in Ukrainian tradition. The following list details the meanings of various colors and images.

### Colors:

White = Purity  
Yellow = Sun, moon, warmth  
Orange = everlasting sun, ambition

Red = happiness, hope, fire  
Blue = sky, air, good health, truth  
Green = spring, wealth  
Purple = faith, trust, patience  
Brown = earth, generosity  
Black = eternity

### Symbols:

Birds = fertility, wishes fulfilled  
Flowers = beauty, elegance  
Fish = Christianity

Oak leaves = strength  
Wheat = prosperity  
Spiders = patience, perseverance  
Water = harmony, abundance  
Diamonds = immortality  
Triangles = man, woman, child  
Baskets = knowledge  
Butterflies = rebirth, resurrection  
Dots: stars and constellations

Source: [www.yevshan.com](http://www.yevshan.com)

## Roundtable on Post-Communism Focuses on Public Health

by Heidi Bludau

The 2007 Indiana Roundtable on Post-Communism was held on March 29-30 in the Indiana Memorial Union. Under the large umbrella of Public Health, presentations and discussions ranged from HIV/AIDS and mental health to the impact of infrastructure and the development on healthcare in post-socialist countries. In her provocation statement, Dr. Sarah D. Phillips (IU Department of Anthropology) invited panelists Dr. Sandra Hyde (McGill University), Dr. Mircea Miclea (Babes-Bolyai University), and Dr. Kate Schecter (American International Health Alliance) to “consider broadly the nature of public health in late- and post-socialism.”

During Thursday’s gathering, each presenter addressed the provocation and opened the floor for stimulating discussion and commentary. Dr. Schecter started with a discussion on the infrastructure and development business in the former Soviet Union and the need to work more with local residents in the area of development. Dr. Hyde focused her comments on financing public health and HIV/AIDS as the foundation for a single issue health policy in China and the increase in NGOs and joint health ventures in the country. Dr. Miclea discussed how the socialist past still has an effect on the mental health system and is symptomatic of the entire Romanian healthcare system.

In response to the three panelists, Dr. Natalia Rekhter, (School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI)

tied the three panelists’ comments together through a discussion of healthcare management’s relationship to public policy and political motivations. She stated that the practices of under the table payments or “gray cash,” as well as “development-by-design,” exacerbate the problem at multiple levels by undermining the local needs of the people. Dr. Rekhter opened the conversation to the public

and panel members, commenting that the EU is having a large influence in Eastern Europe, including non-EU states.

When the group reconvened on Friday morning, the setting was less formal and graduate students were given the lead in asking questions. Topics of discussion included education reform and EU influences in the region, the place of alternative medicine, and the impact of NGOs on the local communities. The overall theme of Friday morning’s discussion was that cultural processes are at work at

both the institutional and healing levels of the healthcare system. Overall, the conference provided a useful forum to discuss not only public health, but also other current events and circumstances in the post- and late socialist area.



Roundtable participants (left to right) Sandra Hyde, Mircea Miclea, Natalia Rekhter, Kate Schecter, and Sarah Phillips. (Photo courtesy of REEL.)

*Heidi Bludau is a PhD student in Anthropology.*

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### Faculty News

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from the Eurasia Foundation to coordinate a strategic assessment of public administration education and training in Ukraine. The assessment was conducted by a team of international and Ukrainian experts, led by Dr. Wise, in July-December 2006. Their research included in-depth interviews with officials and administrative personnel in three Ukrainian cities (Kyiv, Zhytomyr and Odessa), as well as two mail surveys of oblast and local self-government officials across Ukraine. The resulting report includes analysis of the results, as well as strategic recommendations for future reforms.



## Mellon Endowment Awards

### Faculty

*Justyna Beinek* (Slavic) received a Grant-in-Aid of research to support the revision of her essay on the representation of the female body in Polish poetry of the 1920s.

*Steven Franks* (Slavic) received a Grant-in-Aid for international travel to the Formal Descriptions of Slavic Linguistics conference which took place in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, in December of 2006.

*Beate Sissenich* (Political Science) received a Grant-in-Aid of research to support the publication of her book, *Building States without Society: The Transfer of European Union Social Policy to Poland and Hungary*, which was recently released by Rowman & Littlefield.

### Students

*Bora Chung* (Slavic) received Grant-in-Aid of travel to the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies convention to present her paper, "The Image of Shop in *The Doll* and *Cinnamon Shops*." The conference took place in Washington, D.C. in November of 2006.

*Joseph Crescente* (REEI) received a Grant-in-Aid of travel to the 2007 SOYUZ conference to present his paper, "Performing Post-Sovietness: Verka Serdiuchka and the Hybridization of Identity in Post-Soviet Ukraine." The conference took place in April at Princeton University.

*Piibi-Kai Kivik* (Second Language Studies) received a Grant-in-Aid of travel to the Language Contact in Times of Globalization conference to present her paper, "Estonian in the United States: Pronoun Form Variation in Different Speaker Groups." The conference was held at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, in September of 2006.

*Richard Payne-Holmes* (REEI/SPEA) received a Grant-in-Aid of research to support his travel to Ukraine this summer to serve as an intern at the US Embassy in Kyiv.

*Miriam Shrager* (Slavic) received a Grant-in-Aid for travel to the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages conference to present her paper, "Plural Accentuation of the Masculine Nouns in Pskov Dialects." The conference took place in Philadelphia in December of 2006.

*Jeremy Stewart* (REEI) received a Grant-in-Aid of research to support his travel to Romania this summer to serve as an intern at the US Embassy in Bucharest.

### Alumni News

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*Pauls Raudsepps* (MA History/REEI certificate 1998) spoke in February in Paris at a conference, "New Media: The Press Freedom Dimension--Challenges and Opportunities of New Media for Press Freedom." The conference was jointly organized by the UNESCO and the World Press freedom Committee. Mr. Raudsepps, who is editorial page editor of the daily *Diena* in Riga, Latvia, discussed new media in the Baltics.

## New Courses Offered for Spring and Summer 2007

Three new courses have been introduced during Spring and Summer with a Russian and/or East European emphasis:

The Slavic Languages and Literatures Department is offering “*Modern Czech History and Literature through Film*,” a class taught by Bronislava Volkova. The course covers the World War II and Communist time periods in Czechoslovakia through the reading of historical and political literature and novels. To supplement readings, students watch and discuss previously forbidden documentary films and film adaptations from novelists such as Lustig, Hrabal, and Kundera by filmmakers like Menzel, Jirěš and Němec.

The Criminal Justice Department is offering “*Law, Crime, and Justice in Russia*,” an interdisciplinary class taught by William Pridemore. The course provides students with an understanding of law, crime, and justice in post-Soviet Russia, beginning by examining how the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government are being influenced by and influencing the forces of transition. Included in this are discussions of the continuing dominance of the Russian presidency, the legislative battle over the welfare system, and the creation of the new Russian Criminal Procedure Code. Students also look at crime in Russia, including ties between the political and criminal elite, patterns and causes of interpersonal violence, violence against women, human trafficking, and drug use. Additionally, a focus on the Russian criminal justice system, including juvenile justice, policing, the condition of Russian prisons, and tensions between public health and criminal justice actors in the context of the AIDS epidemic in the country is included.

The IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs is offering a joint study trip to Russia (open to IUB students) “*Topics in Health Services Administration*,” by Natalia Rekhter. The summer class will focus on political, institutional, economic, epidemiological, and ideological forces in the field of international healthcare. An emphasis will be put on comparative analysis of countries with private healthcare delivery (USA) to countries with social healthcare delivery and uniform access to care (Russia). A range of issues examined includes, but is not limited to, demographic profiles and the distribution of diseases, the social determinants of health, cultural and political aspects of healthcare delivery, healthcare financing, and health reforms. Students will spend two weeks in Ivanovo, Russia, a city 200 miles north-east from Moscow. During the two weeks in Russia students will visit a rural community hospital, a tertiary care facility/regional hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a private clinic, a federal Center for Maternal and Child Health, Regional Fund for Compulsory Medical Insurance, Social Insurance Fund, childrens’ health camp, rehabilitation outpatient facility for drug and alcohol addicts, and a rehabilitation inpatient clinic for drug and alcoholic dependent children and adolescents. Students will also interact with medical personnel, students, and faculty, spend weekends with families, and take part in various cultural activities.

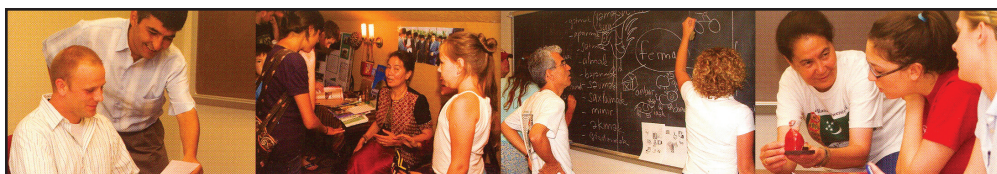
### Smyth Profile

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*What are you working on now?*

I’m working on a cross-national project that explores when political parties become relevant to explain electoral outcomes (winners and losers) and legislative policy decisions. Again, our understanding of democratic development in the 1990s was that electoral competition would inevitably produce stable political parties that structure politics. The variation in political development in the post-Communist cases showed that this was not the case. There were parties everywhere but often they did not influence political outcomes. This project explores the emergence of parties as independent political actors in both democratic and semi-authoritarian regimes.

*Maren Payne-Holmes is a graduate student in REEL.*



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