



REELification

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Maria Bucur, Acting Director
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Latvian Libraries: Virtual and Physical States

On November 30, 2006, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$16.2 million grant to the Latvian government for a project to improve access to information and technology through Latvia's libraries. The project will provide almost four thousand new computers to Latvia's public libraries, establish or improve internet connections, build a wireless network throughout the country's library system, and train over eight thousand librarians and employees in internet and computer skills ("Gates foundation donates \$16.2 million to library project," *The Baltic Times*, December 6, 2006). The grant is part of a larger Global Libraries Initiative grant of \$17.5 million, from which \$1.1 million has been allocated to Botswana and \$220,396 to Lithuania. According to the Gates Foundation, this large award was allocated to Latvia because of the country's already established public library system, the government's proven commitment to developing information technology (IT), and the Latvian government's promise to contribute an additional \$21.2 million to the project. The company Microsoft Latvia has also committed \$7.9 million.

Unfortunately, the Latvian government does not have a consistent track record for following through on promises of financial support for ambitious library initiatives. For example, since the late 1980s Latvia's leaders have been promising to rebuild the dilapidated Latvian National Library (LNL) in Riga, which has suffered under years of mold, lime-stained and crumbling walls, little ventilation, and no temperature regulation (MacWilliams, "Stuck in the Past," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, no. 49, August 15, 2003, A41-A42). The LNL building project, named Gaismas Pils after the mythical "Castle of Light" that in Latvian folklore will one day rise out of the Daugava River, has floundered due to a lack of financial support from the government. As Latvia's governments have changed – more than ten times between 1991 and October 2006 – promises for funding have also oscillated. As of December 2006, even with some financial support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the project still had not received sufficient support or funding from the Latvian government to begin construction. (It should be noted that the money from the Gates Foundation grant

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Architect Gunars Birkerts' design of the Latvian National Library building project. The project is named Gaismas Pils after the mythical "Castle of Light" that in Latvian folklore will one day rise out of the Daugava River.

Picture courtesy of www.gunnarbirkerts.com/urrent%20Projects2.htm

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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will not be used for Gaismas Pils.) For the time being, Gaismas Pils and its striking design by the renowned Latvian-American architect Gunars Birkets appears to remain as elusive as the castle of folk legend.

However, the Latvian government has come through on funding for equally important but less ambitious library projects. With the support of the Ministry of Culture, the Latvian Culture Capital Foundation, Latvian State National Archives, the Open Society Institute, and other institutions, the LNL has digitized a number of important historical and cultural collections. Digitization of print or microform materials is expensive but allows free access to collections as well as improved preservation of original materials. Projects at LNL include the digitization of a collection of 90 newspapers published 1866-1956; a collection of hundreds of cultural, artistic, and political posters published between 1899 and 2000; and a collection of pre-1914 portraits and sketches of both influential and otherwise unknown Latvians.

Usually, it is Latvia's neighbor Estonia that is known for progressive Internet and IT capabilities. Over the past few years, articles in the *New York Times* and the BBC online news have praised Estonia's rapid and successful development of IT, citing the rise of Skype as well as extensive wireless access and Internet usage

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In Memoriam: Elizabeth "Libby" Armstrong

For more than twenty-five years REEI has benefited from the generosity of John D. and Elizabeth Armstrong. We recently learned the sad news of the death of Elizabeth "Libby" Armstrong late last year. John and Elizabeth Armstrong lost their son, Daniel Armstrong, in 1979 when he was a young faculty member and administrator in the IU Slavic Department. Dan Armstrong was also a graduate of the IU Slavic Department (PhD 1973). Gifts from John and Elizabeth, as well as from Daniel Armstrong's widow Ann and other family members and friends have long supported the REEI essay prize named in honor of Daniel Armstrong. John and Elizabeth also recently endowed a Daniel Armstrong Memorial scholarship for incoming freshmen. Mr. Armstrong and other surviving family members have

designated the "IU Foundation" (REEI Daniel Armstrong Memorial Essay Fund) to receive memorial contributions in Libby's honor. Please contact REEI for information on making a memorial gift.



Armstrong family pictured with the 1996/97 essay contest winners

Sitting (from left to right): Ann Armstrong, the late Bill Edgerton, and the late Elizabeth Armstrong.

Standing (from left to right): John Armstrong, first and second place essay winners, and Nancy Armstrong.

Nursing New Ambition in the Czech Republic

Nurses can improve things in the Czech Republic,” says Nina¹, a 25-year-old Czech nurse migrant. Since the Velvet Revolution, nursing advocates in the Czech Republic have made small strides towards improving the working conditions and quality of life for the field’s practitioners. Unfortunately, they face a number of obstacles. First, nursing worldwide is a relatively low-paying, low-status profession. Second, and not unconnected to the first, nursing is primarily a female profession. Finally, nurses across the former Soviet Bloc face a legacy of the Soviet style of healthcare and state-run institutions, including low levels of education, few opportunities for professional advancement, and little autonomy in the workplace. However, some Czech nurses are starting to take control of their professional development, following a global trend: nursing abroad.

As in-demand, mobile professionals, Czech nurses have more opportunities than other professionals to migrate for better working conditions and wages. For decades, nations have been recruiting nurses from other countries to fill in their shortages. Since the early 1990s, Czech nurses have been migrating to places such as Saudi Arabia and the United States, while others work for short periods in Germany, Austria, and the UK. Currently there are around 300 Czech medical personnel, including nurses, in Saudi Arabia alone; and Austria claims to have over 40,000 nurses from the former Eastern Bloc working there, albeit illegally. An obvious reason for migrating is financial betterment. Czech nurses can double their annual salary working in Austria and triple it in the United States. However, like many migrant workers, Czech nurses are considering a number of variables when they decide to move. How they make these decisions and their impact on Czech society is the foundation of my dissertation research. Based on preliminary research that I conducted in Prague last summer, my initial analysis indicates that Czech nurses consider issues of identity and belonging in relation to economic benefits when deciding where and why to migrate.

Additionally, I discovered two common features in the way that Czech nurses are framing their migration choices and actions. First, none of the nurses are planning to permanently emigrate – they are simply moving abroad for temporary work, which is a common model in migration decision-making. Nina reflects the others’ opinions with

her comment that she doesn’t “want to stay, but to work and study, and return and have a family in the Czech Republic.” Second, usually listing money as the third or fourth benefit, if at all, my informants provided such motivations as gaining knowledge and experience, seeing new places, and bettering themselves in some way.

Czechs, in general, take pride in their traditions of being a highly cultured, highly educated, and democratic nation that supports individual freedom and liberalism. The nurses in this study are no different, except that they are actually embodying these concepts in their work pattern. When I asked why she wanted to go abroad, Soňa, a 24-year-old nurse from Prague, quickly answered “knowledge and experience,” as the benefits to her moving in addition to wanting more responsibility in the workplace. Aneta is looking for a “challenge” and a good feeling about herself. Nina wants to learn how to be responsible for the things that she does. Radka wants to see “another culture.” All are looking to improve their educational and cultural capital, and they are not willing to simply sit back and let the current situation roll over them. They are taking action that many say their parents did not have the opportunity to take, referencing socialist limitations.

When I ask about long-term plans and returning home, the nurses speak of getting a good job in nursing, probably in a private hospital. However, when I ask about using their new knowledge, each responds with some kind of desire

to help improve the system. They are taking the necessary action to help nursing elevate its professional status. I do not suggest that the nurses are going abroad for completely altruistic reasons; they are working to better their own financial and professional situations.

But many questions remain: In a region where feminism is still a four-letter word, what does all of this mean for Czech society? Are these young women serving as an example of what this post-socialist generation of Czechs is thinking and doing? These questions are only the starting point for future research.

Heidi Bludau is a PhD student in Anthropology. She would like to thank the IU Department of Anthropology and REEI for pre-dissertation research awards which have made her research in the Czech Republic possible.



Hospital sign in Olomouc, Czech Republic

¹ All names are pseudonyms.

Surviving with the Memory of the Yugoslav Civil Wars

When I arrived in California some twelve years ago, one of the first things I did was to look for a local Bosnian community. It was 1995, and Bosnians had begun to settle in various parts of the United States as refugees who escaped the Bosnian inferno. I began to frequent Bosnian meetings in San Francisco and San Jose, where I met several survivors of the infamous Omarska camp. I started to pay visits to them and their families, partly because of the warm Bosnian pies I longed for, but also because I was intrigued by the way they lived their lives with the memories of war and imprisonment at Omarska. The long afternoons I spent in their homes often ended with stories from Omarska and Manjaca. At times the stories were unbearable, but other times they were told with a drop of humor.

The first two families introduced me to other survivors. I became part of their network, their lives, and their stories, and because their experiences were always there, it never occurred to me that I should record them. Several things made me change my mind. First, a series of suicides and sudden deaths began to occur amongst survivors in the Bosnian communities. Second, academic analyses of Bosnian events were being produced that did not seem to correspond to survivor memories I had heard. Both made me realize that the stories survivors were telling me were incredibly important—that they deserved attention and preservation. True, the stories were sources of information on life on occupied territory and in the camps, but they were also the stories of survival after the prisoners' release.

With a few incredible individuals, I was able to start an oral history project called the Bosnian Genocide Survivors Project in San Francisco, California. The project became part of Refugee Transitions, a non-profit group that has been instrumental in helping Bosnian refugees to adjust to their new lives in the San Francisco Bay area. The Bosnian Genocide Survivors Project aims to collect survivor testimonies in an archive accessible to scholars, students, educators, mental health professionals, decision-makers, and the general public, for use of interview footage and other materials to conduct presentations at schools, civic organizations, and conferences.

In December of last year we recorded our first five interviews, and five new ones will be conducted in Northern and Southern California this coming summer. All five interviewees currently reside in San Francisco and came from different parts of Bosnia. Each person has a story with details that many of us, who despite being around the survivors, were surprised to learn for the first time.

Several obstacles still continue to hamper the project. Fear amongst survivors is one of the biggest problems we face. Some of the survivors are afraid to talk about their experiences because, as many survivors want to believe, they plan to go back to their homes in the near future, and their stories are a threat to their safe return to Bosnia. Since most of their homes are in Republika Srpska and many of their tormentors are still living there as free men and women, survivors are afraid for possible reprisals against them and their family members.



Sarajevo, Bosnia

Despite these and other obstacles, our team of volunteers continues to work on the project. We are in the process of raising the awareness about the project in different Bosnian communities around the United States and are preparing to publish stories and parts of interviews in *Sabah* (Morning) and *Peta Strana Svijeta* (Fifth Side of the World)—newspapers which are published in Bosnian

communities in the US. Furthermore, we have begun to establish relationships with oral history centers around the country in hopes that they will be able to provide us with further training and guidance related to filming, storage, and distribution of these interviews. Ultimately, our hope is that these interviews will contribute to a better understanding of what took place in Bosnia during early 1990s, and that researchers will incorporate these interviews into their current and future projects.

Ramajana Hidic-Demirovic is a History PhD student and Bosnian war survivor.

Running (in) Macedonia

For me, Spring 2004 seems like a lifetime ago. Three years ago I was a year into my Peace Corps service, living ten kilometers from the Bulgarian border in the town of Delčevo in eastern Macedonia. Despite its isolation—far away from the money flowing in from abroad, the ethnic diversity of the country, and even the capital, Skopje—I had come to love my town. With a little over 12,000 people (mostly Macedonian, but with a small Roma population), Delčevo lies in a valley beneath the small Mt. Golak ('naked/bare'), named so because during Ottoman rule it was set ablaze and the trees burned.

I hiked or ran over Mt. Golak's foothills weekly, an escape from my life as a teacher and, more so, the lone American and celebrity in the town. A 45-minute run up on a clear day gave me an incredible view of the nearly 10,000 foot peaks of the Pirin Mountains over the border in Bulgaria. A look to the west, however, always struck a note of uncertainty in me. Macedonians had happily imparted a joke that I heard many times: "You know you're in trouble when your window to the West is through Albania." But it wasn't Albania which was the problem—it was everything else involved in Macedonia's rough transition from being a small, Yugoslav republic, to an independent country.

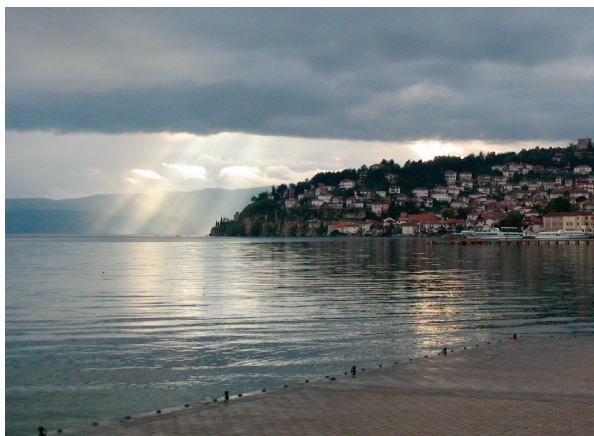
I visited Skopje often during my service and going there was always an adventure. One particular trip in February though fell in the middle of strange weeks and tragic months. January to March 2004 proved depressing and filled with uncertainty. While the Madrid train bombings occurred and the war in Iraq continued, violence a hundred miles away in Kosovo left dozens dead and the region in a state of alert. Macedonia wasn't spared its own drama either.

In late February, after a teachers' strike kept schools closed for several weeks, I returned to teaching just as a prescient earthquake shook Skopje. Two days later, on February 26, 2004, Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski was killed in an accident when his plane crashed in foul weather. Trajkovski had been on his way to a conference in Mostar, Bosnia, while Prime Minister (and current president) Branko Crvenkovski was traveling to Brussels to submit Macedonia's application for entry into the Europ-

ean Union. The submission was delayed, and a period of mourning began.

What followed was not what I expected. In my school, on the morning of the accident, many teachers immediately claimed conspiracy, standing cross-armed, and shaking their heads back and forth. As I recorded that day in my journal, one co-worker said, "Makedonija nema sreka"—"Macedonia has no luck/happiness." Moreover, not all children were told it had happened, and classes went on as usual. This seemed the nature of people in Macedonia: hospitable, practical, yet largely immune to tragedy and always blaming a political entity for it. A history of neighboring countries claiming Macedonia have left people understandably defensive.

Indeed, Macedonia continues to be susceptible to the uncontrollable effects of its neighbors. Greek and Bulgarian nationalism cause a headache for the country, but



Ohrid, Macedonia

Kosovo and its status has by far remained the greatest influence on Macedonia's instability. The 2001 civil war in the northwest part of the country was a mix of several factors, among them inspiration, weapons, and people spilling over from Kosovo. Hundreds of thousands of refugees came in 1999 accompanied by fear, anger, and a greater desire for minority rights. That spring, rebels took up arms in the hills outside of Tetovo and Skopje, and a nearly six month conflict

ensued. Hundreds lost their lives, ethnic tensions escalated, and a peace accord was crafted that delineated power on those lines. The Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) was a wide-sweeping, affirmative-action style contract that gave ethnic Albanians, who make up over a quarter of Macedonia's population, expanded rights and government jobs. In a post-socialist society where many jobs are governmental, these quotas have meant a lot.

Five and a half years later, much has changed. The government has been decentralized, power has shifted hands, and previous government entities have been privatized. As an intern last summer in the political section of the US Embassy in Skopje, I had the chance to see up-close what progress had been made. Particularly, it was a

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Spring Conferences

The Hour of Romania

March 22-24, 2007

The Romanian Studies program at Indiana University announces the conference entitled “*The Hour of Romania*,” to be held March 22-24, 2007, on the IU Bloomington campus. The conference will revisit important US scholarship in various fields of Romanian studies over the past few decades and will feature current trends in scholarship with a focus on Romania or placing Romania in comparative perspective. In a period when “area studies” are undergoing important shifts in many disciplines, and as Romania enters the European Union, discussion will also focus on what the future of Romanian studies looks like.

Romania joined the European Union in 2007. This is a time for celebrating, a time for taking stock of efforts made in the past to make Romania known in the world, and a time for considering what Romanian studies might come to mean in the future. From now on Romania will be situated in a different context politically and internationally. In addition, the study of national structures and cultures is undergoing a significant change in academic disciplines.

This conference gives us an important opportunity for considering these changes. Participants will include Vladimir Tismaneanu, Peter Gross, Keith Hitchins, Charles King, Irina Livezeanu, Mihaela Miroiu, and many others. Roundtable discussions will focus on the social sciences, Romanian language, history, and the humanities, while four panel discussions will address politics with regard to the EU; identity politics; new trends in historical research; and the role of intellectual elites.

Other related events will include an art exhibit entitled “Romania Redrawn,” hosted between March 19 and 25 in the Fine Arts Library Foyer, movies, literary readings, and other cultural events. Further information and registration can be found at the conference website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/events/2007/romania.shtml>.

Polish-German Post/Memory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics

April 19-22, 2007

This April, Indiana University will host “*Polish-German Post/Memory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics*,” an interdisciplinary, international conference addressing how the history of Polish-German relations has been configured over the course of the post-war period. Presentations will focus on the types of narratives that have shaped Polish-German cultural and political relations, with a special emphasis on the exploration of the workings of memory and post-memory in politics and political science, history, ethics, literature, film, performance, and photography.

Scholars from Europe, the US, Canada, and Australia will make presentations for eight panels (*National Identities, Flight and Expulsions, Representing Memory, Reconciliation and the Other, Strategizing Memory, Tourism's Memory, Local Identities, and Spatial Narratives*) and address questions such as, “What traces of these relations/events can be found in the cultural memories of two nations with such complicated pasts?”; “How have cultural memories affected Polish and German self-narratives?”; and “How do the major discursive tropes of presence and absence enter into the memories and post-memories of people, places, and times?”

The conference is a result of close cooperation between five scholars from four institutions: Profs. Justyna Beinek (the conference chair) and Bill Johnston (both IU), Prof. Joanna Nizynska (Harvard University), Prof. Kristin Kopp (University of Missouri), and Prof. Heidi Hein-Kircher (Herder Institute in Marburg, Germany). The event is co-sponsored by the Polish Studies Center, REEI, West European Studies, the Office of International Programs, the College Arts & Humanities Institute, and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research: New Frontiers in the Arts & Humanities. More information, including panel specifics, can be found at the Polish Studies Center website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/calendar.html>

Latvian Libraries

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throughout the country. The Estonian National Library has also supported digitization projects similar to those of the LNL. Estonia's successes may be spurring a bit of neighborly competition. According to the *Baltic Times* article, Latvia's Minister of Culture, Helēna Demakova, did note that with the help of the Gates grant, Latvia's library information project will proceed "much faster than in neighboring Estonia."

Regardless of regional competition, Latvia's leaders have expressed an interest in promoting the development of information technology, providing public access to the internet, and making library collections accessible to the public—goals that bode well for Latvia's democratic and economic growth. In October 2006, Latvia made headlines for avoiding government turnover in a parliamentary election for the first time since 1991, and the IMF has commented on the tremendous growth in Latvia's economy especially since 2004. In light of such progress, the government and economy will hopefully remain stable and strong enough to follow through on the commitments to the Gates Foundation grant, the LNL's digitization projects, and Gaismas Pils. Such promising signs bring to mind the message of the legend of Gaismas Pils, as a metaphor of a better, brighter future.

Sarah Fogleman is a dual MA/MLS student in REEI and the School of Library Science.

For more information...

...on the Latvian and Estonian digital library projects, visit the following sites:

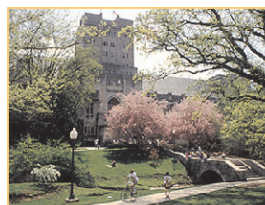
Latvia:

http://www.lnb.lv/digitala_biblioteka/index_anglu.htm

Estonia:

<http://dea.nlib.ee> and <http://www.nlib.ee/17535>

For information on Russian and Eastern European projects, see "Inventory of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Digital Projects" hosted by University of Illinois at Chicago:
<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/inventory/Search.htm>



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Master of Arts in Russian and East European Studies

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2006 Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Fellowship Fund Contributors

We would like to thank all of those who contributed in 2006 to the Robert F. Byrnes Memorial Graduate Student Fellowship Fund. This fund is named in honor of Robert F. Byrnes, a founder, and for many years the director, of REEI. Bob Byrnes believed strongly in the importance of preparing qualified area specialists. Students of REEI continue to benefit from the legacy of Byrnes' leadership while the nation as a whole benefits from the number of REEI graduates employed in government and non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian, educational, and aid missions in Russia, Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Eleanor Byrnes and her children are the principal contributors, but many others help as well. The following individuals donated to the fund in 2006: Joseph Augustyn, Eric and Yulia Boyle, Patricia and E. Willis Brooks, John and Kristine Bushnell, James P. and Laura Byrnes, Matei and Adriana Calinescu, Robert and Laura Campbell, Mary and Thomas Conroy, Jean and Donna Creek, Charles Gati, Philip and Andrea Henson, Robin Huntington, Roger and Denise Kangas, Sarah A. Kent, Michael and Lilia Lally, David and Sharon Mason, Norma Noonan, David and Theresa Ransel, Theo and Freda Stavrou, Elizabeth Taylor, Rolf and Norma Theen, Paul H. Vivian, Paul and Cynthia Wackerbarth, and Louis Wagner.

Promoting Inter-Ethnic Harmony in the North Caucasus

Of all the post-Soviet republics in the North Caucasus, the three titular Circassian republics of Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, and Adygeia have managed to avoid much of the violence and instability that has plagued their neighbors, Chechnya and Dagestan, in recent years. It is not too surprising then that Vladimir Putin is planning to highlight the theme of peaceful inter-ethnic coexistence in the North Caucasus by reinstating the Soviet-era tradition of celebrating their “voluntary entry” into the Russian state. On September 9, 2006, Putin signed three presidential decrees calling for the republics to make preparations for the 450th anniversary of this event. This celebration seems like an ideal opportunity to recognize the unity and historic bonds of all the Russian (Rossiiskii) people at a time when the future viability of a multi-ethnic Russian Federation has often come under question.

In the midst of these preparations, one must pause and consider the context of the Russian Federation of 2007, rather than the Soviet Union of 1957 (the last time such celebrations were held). Although it is difficult to call modern Russia a full democracy, one can claim with relative confidence that much democratization has taken place in the area of nationalities policy. In contrast, in 1957, Soviet experts on the history of the North Caucasus had to stick to an inaccurate party line that claimed all of the region’s people had voluntarily joined the Russian state for protection from the aggression of the Ottomans.

Since the late 1980s, however, historiography has taken a more comprehensive approach to the complexities of the area; the different tribes, confederations, and their relations with surrounding empires and nationalities have been taken into consideration. One of the outcomes of a more inclusive scholarship is the popularization of a revised past. Essentially, the newer rendition points out that, while Kabardinian Prince Temriuk declared an oath of allegiance to Russia in 1557 in exchange for protection from the Ottomans, the majority of local tribes remained at odds with the Russian Empire. As a result, the Russians pursued genocidal policies against the Circassians during much of the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth, the vast majority of people being deported to Ottoman lands or

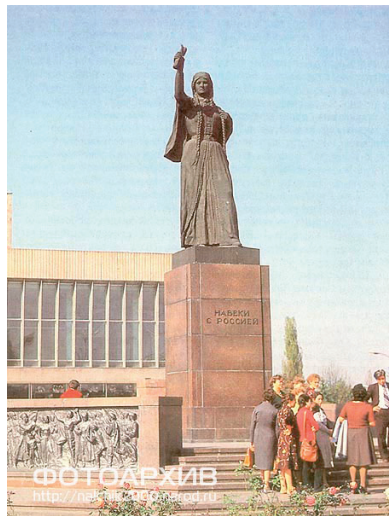
exterminated by the Russians. This is a clear reversal of Soviet historiography. Although a balanced history of Russian-Circassian relations probably lies somewhere between the equally politicized Soviet-era and Circassian revisionist historiographies, one cannot fault the population for wanting to bring attention to the overlooked tragedies perpetrated against them over the last three centuries.

With this in mind, the main objective of many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the republican, national, and international levels is to have the Russian government recognize the genocide committed in the eighteenth century. Because of the sensitivity surrounding national history and identity, when news of the planned “voluntary entry” celebrations reached several NGOs, declarations of disagreement were issued. Specifically, two organizations-- Cherkesskii Kongress and Adyge Khase-- proposed boycotts and protests against the event.

Clearly, Putin’s plan to promote a non-violent Russian-Circassian past may not yield the picture of peaceful multi-ethnic coexistence so desired by the administration. Rather, if the planned protests and boycotts proceed, the result may be further destabilization and exacerbation of inter-ethnic relations in the North Caucasus. However, upon examining the demands and interests of both the Russian government and Circassian NGOs, a possible solution acceptable to both parties is beginning to emerge.

After its proposal for recognizing the genocide was rejected by the Russian State Duma in 2005, the Cherkesskii Kongress sent an appeal to Dimitrii Kozak, the

presidential plenipotentiary for Russia’s Southern Federal District. The appeal asked for President Putin to directly recognize the event, but Kozak’s response was that he was “not competent to rule on such matters.” He subsequently requested that the regional branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences give its evaluation on the issue. The Academy, however, had already issued a statement on the genocide in 2005, which has been kept classified. As doubtful as it may seem, if this appeal is passed, the government will have assuaged the most pressing grievance of many Circassian activists.



Monument to the Kabardian princesses Maria Temriukevna. Her marriage to Ivan Grozny (the Terrible) helped strengthen relations between Muscovy and Kabarda

IU's Own Orange Revolution

It was a cold Friday morning last January when the seeds were planted to create the Ukrainian Studies Organization at Indiana University. There were only four of us present: REEI Assistant Director for Student Services, Lance Erickson; Professor Sarah D. Phillips of Anthropology; and students Zora Rush (Linguistics) and Joe Crescente (REEI). The idea for a club had come about as a result of a growing interest in Ukraine, which had culminated in several meetings in the fall of 2005 to gauge the interest of the IU community as a whole. The club's initial purpose was to foster the development of a Ukrainian studies program at IU and to identify and arouse interest in Ukrainian affairs and culture through lectures, weekly meetings, and cultural events.

The club began meeting last spring at Bloomington's Encore Café on a weekly basis, and initially, participation was small. The first few meetings typically attracted five or six people, but the current membership includes over twenty active participants, 12-13 who regularly meet weekly at Mother Bear's Pizzeria. Our members are not only students, but also faculty, staff, and local residents. In the beginning, our group used Ukrainian words sparingly but now, with the addition of Ukrainian language instruction at IU, our meetings are primarily conducted in Ukrainian.

Last summer in June and July, three active club members (Joe Crescente, Richard Payne-Holmes, and Zora Rush) took things a step further and went to Ukraine to study the language at Ivan Franko National University in L'viv (in coordination with Kansas University). The university, one of the most prestigious in Ukraine, is a bastion of Ukrainian language and culture. L'viv is considered by many to be the cultural capital of western Ukraine and a hot-bed of Ukrainian nationalism. The program required hours of rigorous daily language study complimented by trips to museums, historical sites, and other culturally significant places. These trips, along with their lodgings with local Ukrainian families, allowed the students to sample Ukrainian culture and develop their speaking and listening skills. Altogether, the students

participated in 150 contact hours of language instruction in six weeks and enjoyed trips to the capital, Kyiv, and Carpathian Mountains, as well as other shorter visits to cities such as Uzhhorod and Mukacheve.

In addition to being exposed to Ukraine's natural beauties and urban landscapes, the students enjoyed an introduction to academia in Ukraine. The students took part in weekly lectures from expert university faculty on history, politics, journalism, geography, and economics. By the end of their six-week stay in Ukraine, the students felt well-versed in Ukrainian history and politics, and confident in their speaking abilities. All three students have capitalized on their experience in L'viv: while in the country, Joe Crescente conducted research he will use to write his Master's thesis; Richard Payne-Holmes used the experience to secure an internship at the US Embassy in

Kyiv this coming summer; and Zora Rush gained insights toward refining her thesis topic which will focus on linguistic issues in contemporary Ukraine.

This past October, the spirit of Ukrainian democracy took hold, a constitution was authored, and Joe Crescente, Richard Payne-Holmes (REEI/SPEA) and Kelly Ragle (Kelley School of Business) were elected to the posts of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, respectively.

Olena Chernishenko, instructor of Russian and Ukrainian, was selected as the group's academic

advisor.

Spring 2007 promises to be busy. We have already held several cultural celebrations, including an Old New Year party—Starii Novii Rik—and there will be one major event every month of the semester. In February, we hosted a Maslennitsa celebration; in March, we are inviting a prominent guest speaker to IU; and in April, we will host an Orthodox Easter celebration by painting eggs and feasting in traditional orthodox fashion. Through these events (the weekly meetings, film screenings, and parties), we are attempting to enlarge the profile of Ukrainian studies on campus and in the wider community. We hope to see you at our events. Ласкаво Просимо! (Welcome!)



Ukrainian instructor Olena Chernishenko and student Brooke Swafford enjoy a Ukrainian Club event

Joe Crescente is an REEI MA student; and Richard Payne-Holmes is an REEI/SPEA MA student.

Upcoming Events

March

26-27 February: Daniel Mahoney, Professor of Political Science at Assumption College, on Monday will speak on "Solzhenitsyn's Importance in the History of 20th-century Communism" in Professor Craiutu's class; on Tuesday he will also give a public lecture "Solzhenitsyn's political thought." In cooperation with the IU Department of Political Science.

1 March: Barry Eichengreen, Professor of Economics at University of California Berkeley, "Coordinated Capitalism: The Past and Future of the European Model," 4:30 p.m., Ballantine Hall 006. Hosted by the IU European Union Center of Excellence.

5 March: Slavic Career Night, time and location to be determined. In cooperation with the IU Career Development Center, Arts & Sciences Career Services.

6 March: Henry Hale, Assistant Professor of Political Science at George Washington University, "The Russian Presidency: The influence of the balance of power on politics in Russia," 5:45 p.m., Sycamore Hall Room 103. In cooperation with the IU Department of Criminal Justice.

7 March: Hungarian Independence Day celebration, 5:30 p.m., IMU University Club. Sponsored by the IU Hungarian Cultural Association.

20 March: Robert Rosenstone, Professor of History at the California Institute of Technology, reading from the novel *The Man Who Swam Into History*, a book about the history of three generations (Rosenstone is of Russian and Romanian background). In cooperation with IU History, Jewish Studies, Communication and Culture, and Cultural Studies.

22 March: Debra Javeline, Assistant Professor of Political Science University of Notre Dame, "Political Responses to Violence: Citizen Participation After the Moscow Theater and Beslan School Hostagetakings," 12:00 noon, IMU Oak Room.

22-24 March: The Hour of Romania conference. See page 6 for more information.

24 March: Tenth Annual Navruz Festival, organized by the Navruz Student Association, IU Department of Central Eurasian Studies.

26 March: Fritz Stern, Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, "The Second Thirty Years War: Europe 1914-1945," 7:15 p.m., Rawles Hall Room 100. IU Patten Lecture.

29-30 March: Indiana Roundtables in Post-Communism: Public Health. The three speakers are Sandra Hyde (Anthropology, McGill University), Kate Schecter (American International Health Alliance), and Mircea Miclea (Psychology, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania). See page 15 for more information.

30 March: Brian Taylor, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, "Police reform in Russia," 3:30pm, Sycamore 103. In cooperation with the IU Department of Criminal Justice.

April

2 April: Oxana Shevel, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Purdue University, "The Politics of Citizenship in the Post-Soviet States," 12:00 noon, IMU Oak Room.

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

16-17 April: Milada Vachudova, Assistant Professor of Political Science at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, will visit the IU European Union Center of Excellence to give a public lecture; title, exact date and time to be determined.

19 April: Adam Michnik will give a public lecture, time and place to be determined.

19-22 April: The Polish-German Post/Memory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics conference. See page 6 for more information.

Alumni News

Michael Auslin (MA REEI 1991) is an associate professor of Japanese history at Yale University and was named to the Forum of Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum this year.

Alexander Karagiannis (PhD History/REEI certificate 1981) is Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria. He was previously Director of the Office for UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Ireland Affairs at the US Department of State (2002-2005) and Counselor for Political Affairs in the US Embassies London (2000-2002) and Athens (1997-2000).

Louise McReynolds (MA History/REEI certificate 1977) joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill after more than twenty years of teaching at the University of Hawaii—Honolulu. She is the author of two books, *Russia at Play: Leisure Activities at the End of the Tsarist Era* (2002) and *The News under Russia's Old Regime: the Development of the Mass Circulation Press* (1991).

Lenell Nussbaum (BA REEI/Political Science 1977) will spend two weeks this March teaching about the United States Constitution at Petrozavodsk State University in Petrozavodsk, Karelia, Russia. Ms. Nussbaum is a criminal defense lawyer in Seattle, Washington, and a volunteer for this project with the Center for International Legal Studies of Salzburg, Austria.

Melinda Richards (MPA SPEA 2006) works with Firefly Children's Network in Washington, DC. Firefly is a non-profit organization aiding with the de-institutionalization of orphans and the development of foster care (especially for children with disabilities) in Russia.

Ivan Shidlovsky (MA REEI 1999) recently returned from a one year tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq, with the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

Doyle Stevick (PhD Education 2006) is an assistant professor of Educational Leadership and Policies at the University of South Carolina. He has published a new book, *Reimagining Civic Education: How Diverse Societies Form Democratic Citizens*, with co-editor Bradley Levinson of Indiana University. Professor Stevick's chapter, "The Politics of the Holocaust in Estonia," demonstrates that the international effort to advance understanding about the Holocaust and to bring Nazi war criminals to justice simultaneously exacerbates the tensions between Estonia's ethnic Estonians and ethnic Russians, who generally fought on opposing sides during the Second World War.

Annis Wanat (MA REEI/MPA SPEA 2002) is the Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin field director for the ONE Campaign.

Student News

Joe Crescente (REEI) will present the paper "Performing Post-Sovietness: Verka Serdiuchka and the Hybridization of Post-Soviet Identity in Ukraine," at the Soyuz annual conference entitled, "Locating 'Eurasia' in post-socialist Studies: The Geopolitics of Naming," April 27-29, 2007 at Princeton University.

Elizabeth Raible (REEI/SPEA) will intern at the US Embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia this coming summer.

Josh Ruegsegger (REEI) will be working in the Political/Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, Belarus, for eleven weeks during the spring '07 semester.

Faculty News and Publications

Justyna Beinek (Slavic/Linguistics) delivered a lecture, "The Idea of the 'West' in Russian and Polish Cultures," at the Hawaii International Conference of Arts and Humanities in Honolulu in January 2007. She won a New Frontiers Exploration traveling grant and a conference travel grant from The Polish Studies Center for her trip. Beinek is currently involved in organizing an international conference at IU, "Polish-German Post/Memory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics," which will take place on April 19-22, 2007 (see page 6 for more information). She and Professor Bill Johnston were awarded two competitive IU grants for the project: one from the College of Arts and Humanities Institute and one from the New Frontiers in Arts and Humanities (New Perspectives) program.

Jack Bielasiak (Political Science) has published "Regime Diversity and Electoral Systems in Post-Communism," *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* 22.4 (December 2006): 407-430.

Maria Bucur (History/REEI) was recently elected Vice-President (2007-2009)/President Elect (2009-2011) of the Association of Women in Slavic Studies, an organization affiliated with the AAASS. Her essay "Between Liberal and Republican Citizenship. Feminism and Nationalism in Romania, 1859-1918," is forthcoming in March in *Aspasia* 1 (2007).

Steven Franks (Slavic/Linguistics) traveled to Zagreb, Croatia, this past November to present a paper entitled, "Splitting in Croatian," at Zagreb University.

Charles J. Halperin (REEI Visiting Scholar) has published "The Place of Rus' in the Golden Horde," *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* 14 (2005): 21-30; (co-author with Ann Kleimola), "Visual Evidence of the Cult of St. Vladimir," *Die Welt Der Slaven* 51:2 (2006), pp. 253-274; "Rus', Russia and National Identity," *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 48:1-2 (2006):157-166, 173-174; and "Administrative Discretion in Ivan IV's Muscovy," *Russian History* 33: 2-4 (Summer-Fall-Winter, "Norman Ingham Festschrift", 2006): 429-446.

Christina Illias (Slavic/Classics) has published "23 Palade Street: A Memoir" in *Bucharest Stories* (2006).

Dodona Kiziria (Slavic) was contributing editor to the February 2007 issue (volume 23, number 6) of *Faces: People, Places, and Culture*, a children's magazine published by Cobblestone Publications. The February issue focused on Georgia, and it includes articles and activities appropriate for upper elementary or middle school students. Teachers may order the publication at www.cobblestonepub.com

Sarah Phillips (Anthropology) spent six weeks during fall 2006 completing research for her book, *Mobile Citizens: Disability, Citizenship, and Civil Society in Ukraine*; currently, her book with IU Press, *Women's Social Activism in the New Ukraine*, is in production and due out early next year. She also recently completed several articles including, "Disability, Sexuality, and Masculinity in Post-Soviet Ukraine," "Implications of EU Accession and Candidacy for Disability Rights in Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia," and "Prove it to Me: The Life of a Jewish Social Activist in Ukraine."

William Alex Pridemore (Criminal Justice) presented three Russian-related papers at the American Society of Criminology conference in Los Angeles: (with K. Eckhardt) "A Comparison of the Characteristics of Alcohol- and Non-alcohol-related Homicides in Russia," "An Interrupted Time-series Analysis of Durkheim's Social Deregulation Hypothesis: The Case of Russia," and "The Impact of Political and Economic Transition on Interpersonal Violence: Lessons from Russia."

David Ransel (REEI/History) gave a talk at Stanford University on January 25 on the topic of "Honor, Credit, and Self-Presentation in an Eighteenth-Century Town."

Jean Robinson (Political Science) has been selected to receive a Distinguished Service Award for the Bloomington campus for the 2006-07 academic year. The award recognizes her leadership and dedication within the university, within the discipline, and in the community.

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Student News

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Jeremy Stewart (REEI) will spend the summer as an intern in the political section of the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania.

The following students graduated with REEI MA degrees in December 2006 and January 2007:

Janel Anderson Causey--“Russian Relics, Remembrance and Reevaluation: The Sale of Alaska and the Legacy of Russian America in Alaska Today”; David Ransel chaired her committee. Janel is an international strategy communications consultant for the PBN Company. She focuses on energy, resources, and financial services for clients including Gazprom and Lukoil.

Richard Fitzmaurice-- “Nonprofit Sector Development in Postcommunist Countries: The Cases of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan”; Leslie Lenkowsky was the chair of his committee. Richard is a junior officer for the U.S. State Department Foreign Service in the political career track.

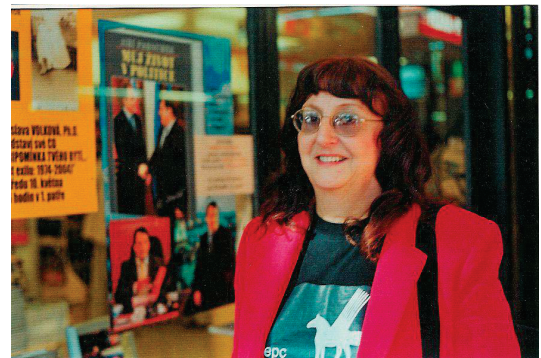
Courtney Ranson-- “Russia and the Color Revolutions”; Dina Spechler was the chair of her committee.

Joseph Roberts--“Islamic Radicalism in Central Asia”; Edward Lazzerini was the chair of his committee.

Faculty News

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Bronislava Volkova (Slavic/Linguistics) published an article in *Ceska literatura* (a journal of the Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic) and poems in *Listopad* (a yearly collection of literature and literary criticism in the Czech Republic). She was invited to present a lecture at Brown University, Providence, in October 2006, and Charles University, Prague, in November 2006. Volkova gave a poetry reading from her new CD, *The Slightest Reminder of Your Being... (Three Decades of Exile: 2004-2006)*, at the Indiana University College of Arts and Humanities Institute. She was subsequently awarded a grant from for publication of her books and CDs and further invited to do two radio programs of her poetry on WFIU’s “Linen of Words,” Nov. 19 and Dec 10, 2006. Volkova also traveled to San Francisco and Prague to do research for an anthology of 20th century Czech Poetry in Translation and to Washington for the Board of Directors meeting of CET International exchange program.



Bronislava Volkova after a poetry reading in the Czech Republic

Charles Wise (SPEA), Director of the Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine, delivered the final report to the Eurasia Foundation, "Assessment of Government Training System in Ukraine" in February. Dr. Wise and his staff were awarded a grant from the foundation to assess the current training programs for public employees at all levels of government in Ukraine. The report described and analyzed the training needs of public employees, finding that a complete overhaul of the training system is needed; the project team then presented three options for reform of the training system.

Macedonia

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monumental year because of the “free and fair” parliamentary elections. While quite a bit of an uproar was caused when former rebel leader-turned-politician, Ali Ahmeti, declared that it may once again be the “time for kalashnikovs,” (in response to the making of a coalition to ensure objectivity), common sense and international pressure to strive for higher standards kept violence at bay. Having received candidate status for EU entry in December 2005, Macedonia is well on its way to NATO membership—important for ensuring the inviolability of its borders—within the next couple of years, and EU entry along with Croatia and Montenegro in the next decade. The challenge of running Macedonia is a test of endurance, but one which I believe will bring with it great rewards.

Justin Otten is an REEI MA student.

North Caucasus

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In light of a possible Russian recognition of the genocide, celebrating the “voluntary entry” of Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkesia, and Adygeia into the structure of the Russian state will prove contradictory. As Alii Tlial, a representative of Adyge Khase, has suggested, perhaps the title of the celebration would need to be changed to something like, “the Anniversary of the Formation of Friendly Relations [between Circassians and Russians].”

If such a chain of events occurs and a revised celebration is held, the Russian government and the Circassian people will have benefited: the most urgent demand of activists will have been met; the Russian government will be able to hold a celebration honoring friendly relations; and peaceful coexistence between Russians and the residents of Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkesia and Adygeia, will have been spared from the possible instability that mass protests could cause.

Ian Lanzillotti is an REEI MA student.

Russian Thriving in Indiana High Schools

Slavic department language coordinator Jeffrey Holdeman and outreach coordinator Denise Gardiner had another successful road trip to northwest Indiana. On Friday, February 9, Holdeman led back-to-back sing-a-longs for the high school Russian classes at Merrillville High School (teacher Mr. Al Stoner) and Andean High School (teacher Mrs. Becky Goins). The students enjoyed singing such classics as Kalinka, Dolina, and Katyusha (the Tetris song), and learning some of the vocabulary and grammar contained in the songs. After singing, the IU visitors treated the students to refreshments purchased at the Russian deli. Mr. Stoner reports he was especially encouraged that most of his ten students signed up to receive more information about studying Russian in college (at IU or elsewhere).



Jeffrey Holdeman plays classic Russian songs such for a high school Russian class in northern Indiana.

Visiting Lecturer Position in Russian & Ukrainian Languages

Spring 2008 (1/1/08) through Spring 2009 (5/31/09)

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Indiana University, Bloomington, announces an opening for a visiting lecturer's position for three semesters, in the Russian and Ukrainian languages, starting in Spring, 2008 (early January, 2008) and ending in Spring, 2009 (May, 2009). The candidate should have native or near-native Russian and Ukrainian and be able to teach upper-level Russian courses plus elementary and intermediate levels of Ukrainian; fluent English and experience teaching Russian and Ukrainian to English-speaking students are essential. Candidates should be practitioners of modern methods of foreign language pedagogy and should hold the M.A. degree or higher, in a field related to the teaching of Russian and Ukrainian languages. Familiarity with the American university system and culture is required. Planned course load is three courses per semester. We are seeking an enthusiastic teacher of Russian and Ukrainian, who is committed to promoting the language and culture in our extracurricular activities and outreach programs, which include language tables and student interest clubs. The ideal candidate will also show an interest in helping us promote and expand our current offerings in Russian and Ukrainian.

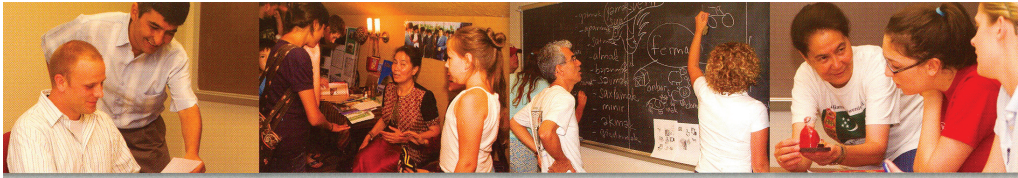
Send curriculum vitae, letter of interest, and three letters of recommendation to: Search Committee, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Indiana University, BH 502, Bloomington, IN 47405-7103. Applications can also be submitted electronically, to: iuslavic@indiana.edu, subject line: Russian-Ukrainian visiting position. If available, please send copies of your syllabi for fourth- and fifth-year Russian and first-year Ukrainian. Applications should be received by March 1, 2007. Indiana University is an Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer; Indiana University encourages applications from women and minorities.

2007 Indiana University Roundtable on Post-Communism:

Public Health

March 29-30, 2007

The theme of the 2007 Indiana University Roundtable on Post-Communism is "Public Health." The sometimes dramatic changes in public health indicators in the region during the last two decades, the shifts (and continuities) in public health policies, and the restructuring of medical education and health care provision and management--all of which vary across the late- and post-socialist states--make this a fruitful topic to examine in comparative perspective. In particular, we want to create a space for discussing the challenges and opportunities in this important realm of public action posed by shifts away from communism and towards other ideological and institutional options. We wish to present three case studies in international comparative perspective. The three speakers are Sandra Hyde (Anthropology, McGill University), Kate Schecter (American International Health Alliance), and Mircea Miclea (Psychology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania). The speakers will consider broadly the nature of public health in late- and post-socialism--what is interesting and revealing about public health, health policies, and their transformation at this historical juncture? Within these broad discussions, the roundtable participant will pursue the following questions: What are the major public health challenges in your country or region of specialization? What specific health care reforms have been debated and instituted in your country or region of specialization? Today, mental health could be considered one of the most significant indexes of progress for public health systems in the region. What transformations have occurred in your country of region of specialization in terms of public awareness and attitudes, diagnosis and treatment, and others? HIV/AIDS is one of the fastest-growing and serious emerging public health challenges in the region. What are governments doing about it? Overall, what role have international donors played in addressing public health problems in the country/region? In a context of downward demographic trends in Russia and other countries, much attention has been paid to family planning and reproductive health. Have we seen progress in these areas in the last 15 years? What pro-natalist policies, if any, have been enacted, and what has been the impact on maternal and child health?



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