



# REEIfication

NEWS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

Sarah Phillips, Director  
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## Outreach Notes

### Russian Language Contests

On April 16, a passion for the language of Goncharova, Gagarin, and Gena the Crocodile lured dozens of enthusiasts to the School of Global and International Studies for two Russian-language contests: the Indiana ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian and Total Dictation 2016.

The Indiana Olympiada is one of approximately 15 regional pre-college Russian language competitions that take place annually across the United States under the auspices of the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR). It provides pre-college students of Russian with an opportunity to converse with native speakers of the language, meet students and teachers of Russian from other institutions, and demonstrate their prowess and achievements in Russian language study through a competition that focuses on everyday conversation, poetry recitation, and Russian culture. Organized by REEI and co-sponsored by REEI and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the event featured contestants from the Russian School of Indiana, a community-based program that operates on Sundays at University High School in Carmel, and the Indiana Academy of Science, Mathematics, and the Humanities, a public residential school on the campus of Ball State University (Muncie) that draws students from all parts of Indiana. The Slavic Department once more supplied the competition with an expert panel of judges, comprised of doctoral student Elena Doludenko, lecturer Svitlana Melnyk, and doctoral student Veronika Trotter, all of them native speakers and accomplished teachers of Russian as a foreign language. Following the contest proper, Andrew Woodcock, outgoing president of the IU Russian Cultural Association and a graduating major in Russian, led participants on a tour of the IU campus.

Indiana Academy, where Heather Rogers serves as teacher of both Russian and German, turned in a strong performance at the Olympiada as Jessica Fletcher, Jacob Gilley, Caleb Hain, Allison Johnson, Kyrlo Mizernyuk, JianTao Taylor, and Leah Turner took gold medals, while Spencer Shephard and Lauren Stewart left with silver medals. Masha Guseva and Leo Soyfer led the Russian School of Indiana with gold-medal performances, followed by silver medalists David Bishop and Anthony Prostakov.



Mark Trotter, who chairs the Indiana ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian, with ACTR/SLAVA Olympiada Award winners Masha Guseva and Jacob Gilley as they display their book prizes

## Spring 2016

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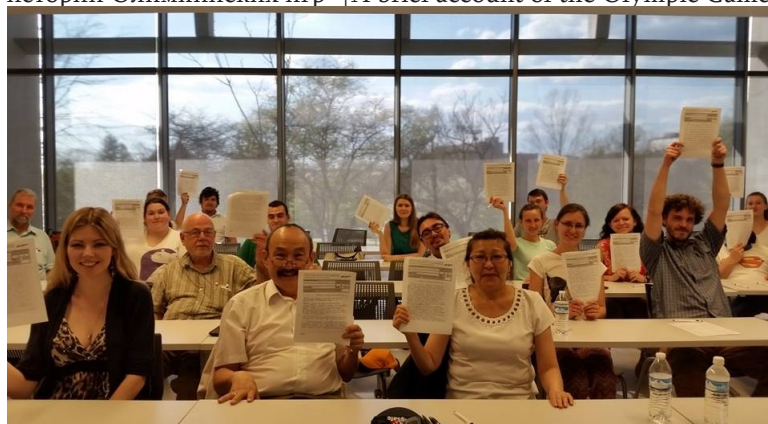
Jacob Gilley and Masha Guseva were recognized with the ACTR/SLAVA Olympiada Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Russian as a testament to their excellent performance at the Olympiada and demonstrated commitment to mastery of the language. Both received a book prize at the conclusion of the competition, and their names and photographs will appear in the ACTR Newsletter.

Within hours of the Olympiada's conclusion, another important Russian-language contest got under way: Total Dictation (Тотальный диктант) 2016, an annual international educational event in which native and non-native speakers all over the world test their knowledge of Russian spelling and punctuation by using pen and paper to reproduce a text written by a leading contemporary Russian author and dictated by a native speaker of Russian. Designed to stimulate and foster interest in the use of proper Russian as exemplified in the works of Russia's most illustrious authors, past and present, the first Total Dictation, held in 2004 in the Russian city of Novosibirsk, drew approximately 200 people. Over the ensuing decade the popularity of the event exceeded all expectations by attracting an ever-increasing number of participants from within and outside of Russia.

In 2016, the Total Dictation counted over 145,000 participants in 732 cities of 68 different countries. Bloomington, Indiana took its place alongside Boston, Chicago, Denver, New York, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Washington DC and others as one of 16 US cities to hold a Total Dictation. Veronika Trotter organized and presided at the event, which was co-sponsored by REEI and the IU Russian Cultural Association. This year's Total Dictation text, "Вкратце об истории Олимпийских игр" [A brief account of the Olympic Games], by popular children's writer Andrei Usachev was dictated by visiting scholar Aleksei Vdovin (see p.11) of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. The 22 native and non-native users of Russian who attempted to replicate the text exceeded by 50% the turnout for last year's Bloomington premiere of the event. Following the dictation itself, participants celebrated over tea and Russian sweets.



Like mother, like daughter: Maria Eitinguina (right) and Sopha Romasheva at Total Dictation



Triumphant contestants at conclusion of Total Dictation

Congratulations to all who took part in these Russian language contests! We look forward to seeing many more members of the REEI community at Olympiada and Total Dictation in 2017!

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## Faculty Profile: Kathryn Graber

by Joey Cleveland



Professor Kathryn  
Graber

Dr. Graber is currently an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Central Eurasian Studies. As a linguistic and sociocultural anthropologist, she specializes in media, minority languages, multilingualism, and semiotics in Russia and Mongolia. Her current book project, *Mixed Messages: Language, Media, and Belonging in Asian Russia*, examines ethnonational politics in Buryatia.

As Dr. Graber's advisee, I was excited to learn more about her upcoming research project. In two of her recent CEUS seminars, Property in Central Eurasia and Language and Identity in Central Eurasia, she introduced students to some of the theoretical frameworks guiding her research. She recently sat down to tell us about the intersection of property regimes and semiotics in the Mongolian cashmere industry.

**JC:** You were recently awarded two grants. Can you tell us a little bit about those grants and your current research project?

**KG:** I received two grants for the 2016-2017 school year, one internal and one external. The internal grant is a College Arts and Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship which provides course releases so that faculty members can pursue major research projects – usually writing projects. I'm going to be revising my book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Mixed Messages: Language, Media, and Belonging in Asian Russia*. I'm working through how to conceive of this vast territory that is Siberia and Russia's Far East in a way that doesn't recapitulate these notions of the 'rest of Russia' as opposed to Moscow and St. Petersburg. Instead of conceiving of it as a periphery, I'm trying to place it in the center and point out that it's not incidental to Europe.

The other grant is from the Social Science Research Council; it's a Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship InterAsian Contexts and Connections. The InterAsia program of the SSRC is designed to emphasize historical, political, economical, and social connections between Asian polities and nation-states. I received this grant in order to conduct six months of fieldwork in Mongolia in 2017, which will be the core of my new project on the Mongolian cashmere industry.

**JC:** Most of us know you as a linguistic anthropologist and as a scholar of language and media. Do you see your work on cashmere as a natural progression of your work on language and media?

**KG:** I know it seems it's disconnected, or maybe even totally random, but a lot of work on language in the last few decades has been attempting to reinsert materiality into processes of representation and semiotic activity. For instance, the work of Charles Sanders Peirce has become really important again and it has cropped back up in a lot of linguistic anthropology as we look for new ways of talking about language and other semiotic behavior. Although semiosis might seem distant from cashmere, cashmere turns out to be this wonderful place to look at the nexus between material and immaterial value. I'm particularly interested in reinserting materiality into language, and I was thinking about intellectual property along these lines. How do we make discourse and language into something concrete and thing-y? One way we do it is through property regimes, acting like stretches of discourse are things to be bought and sold, traded, commodified, and owned.

**JC:** Are there any new methodologies or skills that you had to acquire in order to carry out your research?

**KG:** I've needed to turn my Buryat, which I learned primarily in educational and media contexts, into Khalkha Mongol, which is spoken by herders. That has meant learning Khalkha Mongolian here at IU with Tserenchunt Legend. Fortunately, IU offers four years of Mongolian language instruction. I'm really lucky in that I wanted to do this project and I was already at IU, where I could learn Khalkha. Buryat and Khalkha are different enough that it would have been difficult for me to undertake this project without learning standard Khalkha.

**JC:** What about the methodological side?

**KG:** Something that might be unusual about this research project is that, on the face of it, it looks like a commodity study. I'm studying cashmere as it is produced, marketed, traded, and circulated in the world. But because I'm a linguistic anthropologist by training I'm especially interested in sites of interaction, where humans come together in personal interaction to suss out what they consider the value of cashmere. The methodological innovation is applying linguistic analysis to something that appears to belong more in economic anthropology.

**Joey Cleveland** is an MA student in CEUS and a PhD student in Anthropology



## REEI Graduating MA Student Poster Exhibition

by Lina Meilus



REEI students at the Poster Exhibition

On April 14th, graduating REEI students Elizabeth Tomlinson, Zach Suhr, Stephanie Morris, Lina Meilus, Kyle Norweg, Rebecca Mueller, Geoff Durham, and Bryan Holyfield had the opportunity to showcase their MA Essay research in REEI's first-ever poster exhibition. The event was conceived by Sarah Phillips, Director of REEI, as a professionalization exercise that allowed REEI students to experience a conference-style poster session, complete with a jury panel. The jurors consisted of faculty Marina Antic (Slavic), Jacob Emery (Slavic), and Martha Nyikos (Education). Students were given three minutes to walk the jurors through their posters and answer their questions. Posters were judged on meeting the following

criteria: overall appearance, text and graphic balance, text size, organization and flow, author identification, research objective, main points, and summary. The presentations were judged according to poise and delivery of presentation, information on the poster, and the ability to engage with the jurors in a question and answer session. Rebecca Mueller was declared the winner with her poster "Mental Health Reform in Albania." Bryan Holyfield was the first runner up with his poster "Secondary Education and School Culture in Imperial Russia" and Lina Meilus was second runner up with "Class and Nationalism: Political Identity in Lithuania."

The exhibition took place in the atrium of the Global and International Studies Building, where the open layout and communal space enabled an audience of SGIS students, staff, and faculty from various departments to attend the session and interact with the presenters. REEI hopes to continue the Poster Exhibition next spring and invite the other SGIS area studies departments to participate.

As a student, I found the poster exhibition to be a useful exercise in that it forced me to distill my research into a more easily digestible format. Having to explain my project in front of an audience enabled me to really get to the core of my MA Essay and pull out the most vital and significant findings. The jury and other audience members provided useful feedback and critiques which I hope to incorporate into my final draft. All in all, I consider the first REEI Poster Exhibition to be a resounding success and I hope it will become a regular occurrence so that future cohorts of REEI students may also benefit from this experience.



Poster Exhibition winner Rebecca Mueller with her poster "Mental Health Reform in Albania"

**Lina Meilus** is an MA student in REEI

## Global Legacies of Chernobyl

by Geoff Durham

On April 22, 2016—just four days shy of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster—an interdisciplinary group of scholars from IU and elsewhere convened to discuss the event and its impact at "Global Legacies of Chernobyl," a symposium sponsored by REEI and the departments of Physics, Biology, Anthropology, and Political Science.

Kate Brown, Professor of History at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, spoke first, delivering a presentation entitled "Blinkered Science: The Checkered History of Coming to Understand the Chernobyl Health Consequences," which addressed concerted international attempts to minimize the detrimental effects of radiation exposure from the Chernobyl reactor. She was followed by Paul Josephson, Professor of History at Colby College, who spoke about the Soviet and post-Soviet nuclear power industries in "The Peaceful Atom in Russia and Ukraine Thirty Years after Chernobyl." Memory, literature, and translation figured prominently in the next presentation, "The Literature of Svetlana Alexeevich and the 2015 Nobel Prize" by Russell Valentino, Professor of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures and Associate Dean for International Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at IU. His IU colleague Sarah Phillips, Professor of Anthropology and Director of REEI, then spoke on "The Chernobyl Disaster's Global Cultural Fallout," addressing representations of the disaster in several material cultural media, from graffiti to video games. Members of the audience engaged with the presenters in a lively question and answer session to conclude the symposium.

**Geoff Durham** is an MA student in REEI

## 2016 McCloskey Fellow: Zoran Vučkovac

by Kyle Norweg

Zoran Vučkovac, this year's McCloskey Fellow, was selected out of a field of candidates from various universities and NGOs in the former Yugoslavia. He earned his bachelor's degree in 2012 in English Language and Literature from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Banja Luka, located in his hometown in Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). That same year, Vučkovac entered the University of Alberta (UA) in Edmonton (Canada), where he completed his MA in English and Film Studies in 2014.

As a student, Vučkovac focused primarily on discursive realities and social practices in the post-colonial Balkan context. As time passed, his interests shifted to contemporary Bosnian politics of memory and the consequences of war, as well as transitional politics. Vučkovac is interested in alternative forms of organization in the social dimensions of society, whether it is co-ops, communes, or collectives that experiment with horizontal decision-making and social enterprises that seek non-exploitative ways to organize production. Similarly, his current research interests reflect the Yugoslav self-management experiment and its potential in the future. Vučkovac's studies were supported by various research grants and assistantships, including the Milan Jelic fund for post-graduate studies. He was also influenced by various art theory collectives, readings, and activist groups. Additionally, he has numerous publications in English, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, and Slovenian, including "Populistični diskurz v Bosni i Hercegovini: Obravnava dveh primerov," "Koliko vrijedi zemlja s kostima?" "Of

struggles, protests and plenums in Bosnia and Herzegovina," "From Dayton to Brussels via Tuzla: Post-2014 Economic Restructuring as Europeanization Discourse/Practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina," and "Rethinking Bosnian Postcoloniality: Challenges of the Europeanization Discourse."

Vučkovac is concurrently working to establish the Banja Luka Social Center (BASOC) for disenfranchised populations in his native city as well as applying for doctoral programs.

As a McCloskey Fellow, Vučkovac researched non-hierarchical forms of organization that started mushrooming in the past eight to ten years in the Balkan region, particularly in the post-Yugoslav states. He worked closely with Marina Antić (Slavic), whom he lauded as incredibly supportive and very resourceful for his research, especially with respect to her insightful comments and thorough knowledge of conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Vučkovac also met with with

Maria Bucur (History), Elizabeth Dunn (Geography), Joseph Varga (Labor), Lynn Dugan (Labor), and others to discuss his project. Moreover, he was able to pursue his interests in activism while in Bloomington by volunteering at the Shalom Community Center, assisting Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign with voter registration, and working with John Lacny to promote the raising of Indiana's minimum wage. He attended lectures both on and off the IU Bloomington campus. At IU he delivered a talk entitled "Articulating Direct Democracy on the European Periphery: Politics of Taking Back Public Space." He gave a similar talk at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, as well.

In addition to the trip to Florida, Vučkovac enjoyed traveling around south-central Indiana with his partner, Danijela Majstorović, and their three-year-old son, Vuk. Majstorović is an Associate Professor of Cultural Studies and Linguistics in the English Department at the University of Banja Luka. She also presented lectures at both IU and UF. Their son managed to absorb lots of English phrases while in the United States, but these words mostly pertained to sweets, toys, and especially dinosaurs. Vučkovac and his family enjoyed their time at IU, and they hope to return in the future.



McCloskey Fellow Zoran Vučkovac



A community gathering at the Banja Lunka Social Center (BASOC)

**Kyle Norweg** is an MA student in REEI



## Romanian Studies Conference

by Shaun Williams

On March 25 and 26, the IU Romanian Studies Organization at Indiana University held its ninth annual Romanian Studies Conference at the Indiana Memorial Union. The only event of its kind in North America, the conference brought together presenters from around the globe and from a wide range of disciplines, including history, political science, linguistics, anthropology, ethnomusicology, gender studies, and journalism. Political scientist Dr. Lavinia Stan of St. Francis Xavier University (Nova Scotia, Canada) delivered this year's keynote address, entitled "The Good and the Bad: Civil Society Input in Romanian Transitional Justice." Special guest speakers included U.S. Ambassador to Romania and IU alum Hans Klemm (BA, History and Economics, 1981) and Sandra Pralong, special advisor to Romanian President Klaus Iohannis.

The conference followed related events that took place earlier in the week. On Wednesday, March 23, Dr. Oana Băluță, Associate Professor of Journalism at the University of Bucharest, lectured on policies and civic activism surrounding domestic violence in Romania. On Thursday, March 24, IU Ethnomusicology PhD student Shaun Williams screened his documentary film "Zakarpattia," which explores the lives of wedding musicians near the Ukraine-Romania border. And on Friday, March 25, Ambassador Klemm gave a presentation on careers in the Foreign Service at the School of Global and International Studies. The formal opening of the conference took place later that day, with brief introductory speeches by special guests Sandra Pralong and Ambassador Hans Klemm, followed by the keynote address by Dr. Lavinia Stan.

Conference panels were led by IU faculty Aurelian Crăiuțu (Political Science), Cristina Zarifopol-Illias (Slavic), Maria Bucur-Deckard (History), and Jeffrey Isaac (Political Science), with presentations on the following diverse topics: Romanian interwar history, Romani cultural politics, Communist-era collectivization, civic participation and urban renewal, education in 19th-century Romania, women's political representation, gender and modernization, popular music, and the role of magic in political discourse. Overall, the conference was a tremendous success, reaffirming IU's role as a worldwide hub for Romanian Studies.

For more information about the Romanian Studies Organization at IU, visit <http://www.facebook.com/romanianstudies>.



Special Guest Speaker U.S. Ambassador to Romania and IU alum Hans Klemm (BA, History and Economics, 1981) delivering his introductory address

**Shaun Williams** is a PhD Candidate in Ethnomusicology and an REEI minor

## Film Review: *Inside Afghanistan* and *The Black Tulip*

by Geoff Durham

Shot in 1987, *Inside Afghanistan* and *The Black Tulip* offer complementary treatments of the Soviet Union's intervention in the Afghan Civil War from 1979 to 1989. *Inside Afghanistan* focuses on the various indigenous stakeholders—the government in Kabul, scattered Mujahedeen supporters, villagers caught between the two rival forces, as well as a group of Afghan children sent to receive an education in the Soviet Union—while *The Black Tulip* considers the conflict from the perspectives of the Soviet soldiers themselves as well as their loved ones back in the USSR. Offered on one disc by Ethnoscope Film & Video (<http://www.docfilm.com>), these two documentaries are the work of award-winning director and producer Bruce “Pacho” Lane, who has taught documentary film production at the University of New Mexico, the University of Texas, and the Rochester Institute of Technology and served as cinematographer on Werner Herzog's *Fitzcarraldo*.

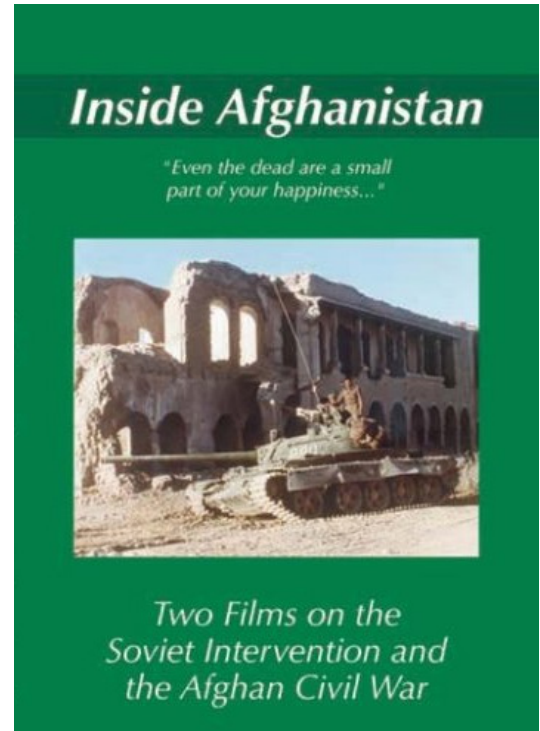
Each work relies predominantly on interviews to serve up a highly intimate account of the conflict with virtually no narration from the producers. In most of the footage, interviewees simply recall the past ten years of their lives, but there is an occasional cut to scenes of military operations, most notably a Soviet helicopter shot down over the desert as well as a barrage of Mujahedeen artillery razing a small village. The films lend a human face to the conflict and provide a balanced treatment of the various parties involved. Ultimately, no individual or group is vilified, though there is certainly plenty of blame doled out by those interviewed. Perhaps the only shred of judgment to be found in the films emerges in *Black Tulip* through the juxtaposition of the teary-eyed testimony of a Russian mother who lost her son and a quote from Gorbachev betraying his own regrets regarding the Afghan intervention. The mother compares the worthy sacrifices of WWII with the senselessness of Soviet intervention in a foreign conflict. Each documentary condemns the war itself, without being prejudiced to any one side. In the end, everyone bears the burden of the war.

Despite the gravity of the subject, there are some moments in both films that highlight positive connections between Soviet and Afghan citizens. In addition to the aforementioned Afghan children sent to school in Tashkent, we meet a team of female Afghan doctors and nurses who received training in the Soviet Union—something that would have been impossible in Afghanistan at the time. Additionally, viewers are invited into the home of an Afghan soldier and his Russian wife; we meet their two bilingual sons who interestingly give conflicting answers to the question of whether they would prefer to live in the Soviet Union or Afghanistan when they grow up. Lastly, viewers encounter a team of Soviet experts helping villagers dig wells to find water in the desert. Despite the war, there was certainly a substantial bond forged in the relationships of peaceful civilians.

The greatest shortcoming of the two documentaries is the lack of historical and political context. The producers assume a substantial degree of familiarity with the conflict on the part of the viewer. There is little background information given about the Afghan Civil War or about the Soviet Union's decision to intervene militarily. There are two interviews that touch upon the revolution that inaugurated the conflict, but they do not appear side-by-side to allow for comparison, nor do they come at the beginning of the film to set the stage for the documentary.

Nevertheless, despite these organizational blemishes, *Inside Afghanistan* and *The Black Tulip* present the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in an intimate and poignant manner that simultaneously illuminates both the good intentions that underpinned the conflict along with the brutality that conflicting visions of a future Afghanistan engendered.

These films, as well as many others, can be borrowed from the REEI Film Collection. For more information, go to <http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/resources/collections.shtml>



## China, Russia, and the World: Focus on the EU

by Geoff Durham

While much of Bloomington was gearing up for the women's Little 500 on the morning of Friday, April 15, a large contingent of IU students and faculty, as well as members of the community at large, gathered in the Indiana Memorial Union Dogwood Room for REEI's annual symposium "China, Russia, and the World." This year's iteration focused on the European Union and featured three panelists who each brought a unique disciplinary and geopolitical perspective to the discussion: Raquel Freire, a researcher at the University of Coimbra in Portugal; Philippe LeCorre, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and a lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University; and Thomas Wolfe, Professor of History and Anthropology at the University of Minnesota. IU's own Ke-Chin Hsia, Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History, and Joyce Man, Associate Professor in SPEA, served as discussants, while Sarah Phillips, Professor of Anthropology and Director of REEI, and Timothy Hellwig, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for European Studies, moderated the event, which was sponsored by the Russian and East European Institute, the East Asian Studies Center, and the Institute for European Studies.

In opening remarks, Phillips took a moment to remember Heidi Ross, former director of the East Asian Studies Center and Professor of Education, who passed away in late February of this year. Dedicating the symposium to Ross, Professor Phillips framed the event by citing the late professor's words on the importance of collaboration and interdisciplinary approaches in paving new paths for research and teaching. In the first half of the symposium, each panelist addressed their topic in a 20-minute presentation. Freire spoke first, cycling through the EU's numerous integration efforts in Eastern Europe via its Neighborhood Policy as well as its Strategic Partnership with Russia. She specifically emphasized how the present crisis in Ukraine has challenged the viability of the EU's approaches to its Eastern European policies. LeCorre transitioned to a discussion of economic and financial cooperation between China and the EU. LeCorre expects China's accession to Market Economy Status and the EU-China Bilateral Investment Treaty to emerge as dominant issues in the near future. Wolfe shifted gears by approaching the symposium's theme in the long durée. He discussed the collapse of nineteenth-century multinational empires, the salience of socialism/communism and capitalism as competing civilizational ideologies, the formation and decay of nation-states, as well as the mechanics of "experimental polities" like the Soviet Union and the EU.

The panelists' remarks were followed by commentary on the part of Hsia and Man, after which the audience posed questions to the panelists and the roundtable entered into a more open and informal conversation that touched upon the themes addressed throughout the morning.



From left to right:  
Raquel Freire, Ke Chin Hsia, Tim Hellwig, Sarah Drue Phillips, Philippe LeCorre, and Thomas Wolfe

**Geoff Durham** is an MA student in REEI

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### Student News

**Catalin Cristoloveanu** (History) has been awarded a 2016-2017 Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Tonya Semivolos** (REEI MA/JD 2014) is a current PhD student in Telecommunications at The Media School. Her paper, "Changing Meanings of Privacy in the Age of Internet: Will Privacy Eventually Become a Luxury Only Few Can Afford," received the 2015 Frances G. Wilhoit Research Paper Award in The Media School, in the category Best Graduate Paper by a Single Author: Doctoral Student.

**Alex Tipei** (History) presented "A New Kind of Conquest: French Liberals, Soft Power, and Post-Napoleonic Europe" at the Society for French Historical Studies Conference in Nashville, TN. In March she served as a panelist via Skype at Drew University's "Crossroads: The Future of History Graduate Education Conference" together with instructors and students from the Indiana Women's Prison post-graduate (MA) program. She also delivered a lecture on "A Tale of Two Debts: Modern Greece and Europe" at the Elmhurst Public Library in Elmhurst, Illinois in April.



## Faculty/Staff News

**Gardner Bovington** (International Studies/CEUS) was honored with a University Trustees Teaching Award for 2016.

**Maria Bucur** (History) presented “Women and the Peace Movement during the Cold War: International Encounters,” at “Iron Curtain Crossings: Eastern Europe and the Global Cold War” a workshop held at the Ohio State University.

**Wookjin Cheun** (Library) was the subject of a recent “Day in the Life” feature on the IU School of Informatics and Computing website, currently accessible at: <http://www.soic.indiana.edu/news/story.html?story=Day-Life-Wookjin-Cheun-Librarian-Slavic-East-European-Studies>.

**Ben Eklof** (History) has received a College of Arts and Humanities Institute Research Travel Grant to return to Russia for work on the English-language version of his volume, co-authored with Tatiana Saburova (History), entitled “Friendship, Family and Revolution: Nikolai Charushin and Populist Networks in Russia, 1851-1937.” Eklof has also been selected to participate in the faculty exchange between IU and the Higher School of Economics in Moscow next Winter, for work on a collaborative volume on the comparative history of education in Russia.

**Ke-chin Hsia** (History) presented “The Growing Shadow of the State: Employment Services for Austrian Disabled Veterans from the Late Monarchy to the Early Republic” at “99 Jahre Arbeitsmarktverwaltung: Ein Internationaler Vergleich” in Vienna at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Consumer Protection in February. He also received a Central European History Society Travel and Research Grant for research in Austria in preparation for his manuscript, *Victims' State: War and Welfare in Austria, 1868-1925*.

**Bill Johnston** (Comparative Literature) has received the prestigious 2016 Found in Translation Award from the Polish Cultural Institute in New York for his translation of *Twelve Stations* by Tomasz Różycki. The English translation of *Twelve Stations* (published by Zephyr Press) was launched at the IU Polish Studies Center on April 13, 2015 with a bilingual reading by Tomasz Różycki and Bill Johnston, followed by a series of events celebrating the accomplished author and his translator. This is the second time Johnston has claimed the award, as he was the recipient of the first Found in Translation Award in 2008 for his translation of Tadeusz Różewicz's *New Poems* (Archipelago Press, 2007).

**Owen V. Johnson** (Journalism, Emeritus) presented “Creating a National Media: Slovakia, 1938-45” in April at the Czech History Workshop in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**Hiro Kuromiya** (History) has published a review of Pavel Gubarev's *Torch of Novorossia* (Факел Новороссии, Saint Petersburg, 2016) which is available in English at: <http://historians.in.ua/index.php/en/avtorska-kolonka/1839-hiroaki-kuromiya-pavel-gubarev-as-a-little-russian> and in Ukrainian at: <http://historians.in.ua/index.php/en/avtorska-kolonka/1838-hiroaki-kuromiia-paviel-hubariev-iak-maloros>.

**Edward Lazzerini** (CEUS) is the recipient of a 2016 IU New Frontiers grant for his project “No Laughing Matter? The Satirical Cartoons from the Azerbaijani Periodical *Molla Nəsrəddin*, 1906-1918.”

**Emily Liverman** (REEl) published “Examining REEl networks: How REEl is creating community for its graduate students” in *Academic Advising Today* Vol. 39 (2). The article can be found on line at: <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Examining-REEl-Networks-How-REEl-is-Creating-Community-for-its-Graduate-Students-.aspx>.

**Joshua Malitsky** (Media School) has received an IAS conference Award to support the conference “Documentary and the Legacies of Colonialism: Images, Institutions, and Economies,” to be held mid-September 2016.

**Tatiana Saburova** (History) gave a talk entitled “Photographing People and Landscape: Political Exiles and Visual Representations of Siberia in Late Imperial Russia” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on March 10.

**Tim Waters** (Law) published an op-ed piece on the Karadzic trial in the LA Times, March 2 entitled “The little genocide: A Karadzic conviction in The Hague that will satisfy no one.” The piece can be accessed at: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-0327-waters-karadzic-genocide-20160325-story.html>.

## Alumni News

**Robert Birkenes** (PhD, Economics, 1996/REEI Minor, MA, Economics, 1990) is currently serving in Thailand as Program Officer for USAID/Regional Development Mission to Asia and as an Expert for the Asia Development Dialogue. He recently met with IU officials on a trip to Thailand. His experience is in substantial nation-building in Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Caribbean.

**Robert Montgomery** (PhD, History, 1995) published “Vopros o buriatskoi pis’mennosti v pis’me Mikhail Nikolaevicha Bogdanova” [The Question of Buryat Writing in a Letter of Mikhail Nikolaevich Bogdanov] in *Vestnik Buriatskogo nauchnogo tsentra SO RAN* [Bulletin of the Buryat Scientific Center of the Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences], No. 4 (20) in November 2015; “Buryat Modernization and Gender in the Early Twentieth Century: Rudnev’s Obituary of Dulgar (Varvara) Vampilova, 1888-1914” in *Mongol Survey* No. 30 in August 2015; “Recent Scholarship from the Buryat Mongols of Siberia” in *ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts*, Vol. 20, No. 1 in Fall 2012; and reviews of *Tunguso-man’chzhurskie etnosy v novom stoletii* [The Tungus-Manchu Peoples in the New Century], ed. E. F. Afanas’eva and L. D. Radnaeva, in *Northern Notes* (International Arctic Social Sciences Association), Issue 44 (Autumn/Winter 2015) and with Craig Campbell, *Agitating Images: Photography against History in Indigenous Siberia* in *Russian Review*, Vol. 74, No. 3 (July 2015).

**Elizabeth Plantan** (MA, REEI, 2012) is making significant progress in her PhD program in Government at Cornell University. After advancing to candidacy last summer (“in no small part due to the support of REEI and IU’s wonderful library system,” she reports), she devoted the past academic year to fieldwork at the Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Moscow and Tsinghua University in Beijing. Over the summer, she plans a return to HSE for a few more months of fieldwork in Russia.

## Visiting Scholars



**Aleksei Vdovin** is Associate Professor in the Philological Faculty of Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Moscow. In March and April he conducted research into nineteenth-century Russian intellectual history on the IU Bloomington campus as a participant in the IU-HSE faculty exchange.



**Zoran Vučkovic** is currently working on BASOC: Banja Luka Social Center, a project focused on memory politics, workers’ rights, social justice, and gender/LGBTQ politics in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In March and April he visited the IU campus to conduct research on grassroots political mobilization from below, especially with respect to marginalized groups, and community diversity as the 2016 McCloskey Fellow. He is the subject of a profile that appears on page 5 of this issue.

## Gifts in 2015

The Russian and East European Institute gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the many individuals and organizations who provided gifts to REEI in 2015.

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