



Spring/Summer 2022

Contents

Director's Greeting	1
Russian Studies Workshop Events, Spring 2022	4
Promotion of Colonel Robert A. McVey	5
Visiting Scholars	6
Student News.....	6
REEl MA Essays Defended in 2021.....	8
Doctoral Dissertations in Russian/East European Studies Defended at IU in 2021...	8
Professor Returns to Ukraine Border.....	9
Faculty/Staff News	11
Recent Scholarly Publications by REEl-Affiliated Faculty	14
Alumni Profile: Jason Vincz and IU's Tetmajer Translation Project	16
Alumni News	18
Gifts to REEl funds in 2021.....	19
In Memoriam	20

Director's Greeting



REEl continues to be horrified by Russia's attack on Ukraine and the unthinkable death, destruction, and massive displacement of people caused by this war. Individuals and units at IUB and surrounding communities have united to protest the war, support its victims, and help educate our community. REEl initiated many events, but we also joined forces with colleagues on campus and beyond who continue to organize in support of Ukraine. The endeavors of faculty members, staff, students, and volunteers from (and in) Ukraine have been heroic. It has been a true showing of solidarity.

Many groups at IUB, including the Ukrainian Studies Organization and the Anthropology Graduate Students Association, have collated resources about how to stay informed, support Ukrainians, and donate to humanitarian aid efforts. REEl compiled much of that information on our [Support Ukraine page on our website](#) and we continually update it. Sections include Resources for Scholars in Danger, Resources for Artists and Culture Workers, information from the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trusted Ways to Help Ukraine, and much more.

CONTACT:

Russian and East European Institute Global and International Studies Building
 355 North Jordan Ave. Bloomington, IN 47405-1105
 Tel: (812) 855-7309

Vigils, protests, fundraiser events—among them a piano concert of Ukrainian composers, a Ukrainian film festival through the Ryder, a fundraiser dinner at the Runcible Spoon, a Ukrainian folk singing workshop, and a pysanky (egg) writing workshop—and other initiatives around Bloomington continue to condemn Russian aggression against Ukraine and raise awareness and financial support for humanitarian aid efforts.



Students, faculty, staff and community members gather at Sample Gates on February 25 to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine (photo: Jeremy Hogan)

PhD students Ani Abrahamyan, Katya Chomitzky, Stanislav Menzelevskiy, Dafna Rachok, Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed, and Iryna Voloshyna have been especially active, along with faculty members Sofiya Asher, Elizabeth Dunn, Svitlana Melnyk, and Russell Valentino, library staff member Veronika Trotter, and community activist Natalka Kravchuk.

Some efforts in support of Ukraine made big headlines; others flew under the radar, despite important impacts. Iryna Voloshyna, PhD student in the IU Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, lobbied the American Folklore Society to provide unlimited cloud space for folklorists, ethnographers, and other scholars in Ukraine to upload their precious field recordings and other research data to protect this precious cultural heritage. The initiative was featured in [a story in Time magazine](#). Anthropology PhD student Dafna Rachok is on the ground in Ukraine running logistics for the territorial defense—she and her partners have raised nearly \$65,000 for the defense effort. REEI drew on our Mellon endowment and other funding sources to provide IU undergraduate and graduate students from Ukraine with summer 2022 fellowships to support living, travel, and research expenses. Senior Lecturer Svitlana Melnyk is offering free Beginning Ukrainian lessons on zoom every Saturday for language learners around the globe. And the list goes on...

REEI decided to collate a few of the Ukraine-focused events that have taken place in Bloomington since February 24. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but it will give readers of REEification a sense of the incredible solidarity and energy around #StandWithUkraine at REEI and IUB and in the Bloomington community.

- On the first day of the war (February 24), REEI organized a zoom panel discussion, [Crisis in Ukraine](#), with seven experts from Indiana University. There were 620 webinar attendees, and the recording has had over 1,200 views.
- Also on February 24, REEI issued a [Statement Condemning Russian Military Attack on Ukraine](#), which garnered 281 signatures. Other institutions and IU regional campuses used our statement as a model.

- On March 1-3, REEI organized a Teach-In on Russia's Attack on Ukraine. Many of the 26 sessions were recorded and are available on [REEI's YouTube channel](#). The effort was supported by four other IU departments and National Resource Centers, and over 2 dozen faculty members and graduate students contributed lectures to the effort.
- On March 3, REEI's Outreach Coordinator Mark Trotter and Vesna Dimitrieska, HLS and IU School of Education Global Education Initiatives Coordinator, organized a [Webinar for K-12 Educators on Russia's Attack on Ukraine](#). Three IU PhD students/alumnae from Ukraine (Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed, Polina Vlasenko, and Iryna Voloshyna) participated in the webinar, which aimed to provide pedagogical tools and strategies to better understand how Russia's assault on Ukraine took place and how it can be discussed in a classroom.
- Over two weekends in late March and early April, IU's Ukrainian Studies Organization (in collaboration with the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) organized the [third annual Taras Shevchenko Conference](#). Keynote speakers were Dr. Myroslav Shkandrij, and Dr. Tamara Hundorova; the hybrid-format conference featured 15 panels and approximately 60 participants and presenters.
- Several sessions at the annual [HLS America's Role in the World conference on April 6-7](#) were devoted to the war in Ukraine, with participation by six IU faculty members and a number of distinguished guests, including Former Ambassador to Ukraine, William B. Taylor.
- Thanks largely to the efforts of Sofiya Asher, the Ryder Magazine and Film Series held a fundraiser, the [Stand with Ukraine Film Festival](#) (April 22 – May 1), which featured seven films from or about Ukraine. Also thanks to Sofiya's initiative, the [April/May 2022 issue of the Ryder Magazine](#) included a special Stand with Ukraine section with eight articles on Ukrainian themes written by IU current and emeriti faculty and graduate students, as well as Bloomington community activists.



Katya Chomitzky, Veronika Trotter and Svitlana Melnyk raise donations for Ukrainian libraries (photo: Natalia Kravchuk)

REEI stands with Ukraine!
Sarah Phillips, Director

REEI STAFF

Sarah Phillips, Director

Mark Trotter, Associate Director

Elliott Nowacky, Student Services Coordinator

Maria Fokina, Russian Studies Workshop Project Coordinator

Lisa Bidwell, Russian Studies Workshop Administrative Assistant

Rachel Kelly, Graduate Assistant for Communications

Bethany Romashov, Graduate Assistant for Outreach

Stepan Serdiukov, Graduate Assistant for Curriculum

Russian Studies Workshop Events, Spring 2022**[Prometheus against Katechon. Contemporary political messianism in Poland and Russia](#)**

Lecture by Alicja Curanovic (University of Warsaw)/February 24

[The Non-Loneliness Train: Internal Inclusion](#)

Online film screening with presenter Jerry Mercury/March 1

["Nonconform" Project Exhibit and Conference](#)

Online exhibition/March 2

[Critical Conversations in Russian Studies: Buddhism and the Uses of History in Russia](#)

Panel discussion with Kathryn Graber (Indiana University), Justine Buck Quijada (Wesleyan University), Nikolai Tsyrempilov (Nazarbayev University)/March 9

[Rehabilitating Khans and Khanates: History as Dissent in Soviet Tatarstan during and after the Thaw](#)

Lecture by John Romero (University of North Georgia)/March 23

[Critical Conversations in Russian Studies: Russia's Geopolitical Humor: The Kremlin's Media, Diplomacy, and Comedy](#)

Panel discussion with Stanislav Budnitsky (Indiana University), Precious Chatterjee-Doody (Open University), Dmitry Chernobrov (University of Sheffield), Julie Hemment (University of Massachusetts Amherst)/March 28

[What Isn't Forbidden Is Allowed: Nonconformist Art Between Leningrad and St. Petersburg](#)

Lecture by Anastasia Patsey (Museum of Nonconformist Art)/March 29

[Combatting Misinformation/Disinformation about the War in Ukraine](#)

Panel discussion with Evelyn Berry (Artech Consulting L.L.C.), Ginny Badanes (Microsoft), John Alexander Bryden (Observatory on Social Media), Olena Churanova (StopFake in Ukraine), Oleksandr Yaroshchuk (StopFake in Ukraine), Scott Shackelford (Indiana University)/March 30

[On Making Populations Available For Injury: Debilitation, Austerity, and Violence in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia](#)

Lecture by Svetlana Borodina (Columbia University), March 30

[Butter, Trees, and Timber: Contested Spaces of the Global Economy and Colonization](#)

Sponsored panel at Midwest Slavic Conference with Tatiana Saburova (Indiana University), Maria Fedorova (Macalester College), David Darrow (University of Dayton), Liudmila Listrovaya (University of Oregon)/April 2

[Critical Conversations in Russian Studies: We All Live on Permafrost](#)

Panel discussion with [Pey-Yi Chu](#) (Pomona College), Susan Crate (George Mason University), Angelina Davydova (Office of Environmental Information, St. Petersburg), Charlotte Wrigley (Higher School of Economics)/April 20

Promotion of Colonel Robert A. McVey

By Elliott Nowacky

Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. McVey Jr., REEI's AY '21-'22 Strategic Russian and East European Fellow, was promoted to the rank of Colonel (Col.) on February 4th, 2022 in Shreve Auditorium. McVey is REEI's third US Army War College (USAWC) Fellow and one of approximately 80 senior US Army Officers who are currently fulfilling their USAWC academic requirements at numerous institutions of higher education across the United States. He succeeds previously REEI hosted Strategic Fellows [Colonel Steven J. Lacy](#) and [Lieutenant Colonel Angela Reber](#).

Despite the university setting, Col. McVey's promotion ceremony adhered to the traditions of US Army military promotions. Major General (retired) John Gronski, one of Col. McVey's past supervisors and mentors, presided and administered the oath of office. In addition to Col. McVey's family and other invited guests, longtime friend and fellow Army officer Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Alex Vindman also attended. IU's Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Giordano, Professor of Military Science at IU, served as narrator, while four Army ROTC Cadets performed color guard duties.



Colonel Robert A. McVey at his promotion ceremony

Col. McVey, who completed the REEI Master of Arts program in 2011, rejoined REEI in June, 2021. In addition to auditing courses taught by REEI affiliate faculty during the academic year, he conducted quantitative and qualitative research on Russian Federation interests in the Arctic and US Army strategy in the area. Along with a number of REEI affiliate faculty experts, Col. McVey also served as a featured panelist at [Crisis in Ukraine](#), an online discussion that took place on the first day of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Following completion of his assignment at REEI in May, Col. McVey and his family will transition to his next duty assignment at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, where he will serve on the US Army Central staff.

Elliott Nowacky is REEI Coordinator for Student Services and HLS Military Relations Coordinator.

Visiting Scholars



and the US Department of Defense.

Magdalena Cabaj is Researcher for the Literary Culture of Minorities Research Unit in the Institute of Polish Literature at the University of Warsaw. In 2021-22 she was a Kosciuszko Foundation Teaching Fellow and a visiting lecturer of Polish language and culture in the Department of Slavic Languages and Cultures, where she taught Intermediate Polish (SLAV-P 201) and co-led with Dr. Łukasz Siciński co-curricular activities to enhance the department's Polish program. In January, she taught a Polish language course to the US Army V Corps in connection with a cooperative arrangement between the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies



Eranuhi Manukyan heads the Scientific Policy Department at Yerevan State University, where she also serves as Lecturer in the Department of Social Philosophy, Ethics, and Aesthetics. In February she spent three weeks on the IU Bloomington campus as the guest of REEI in connection with her appointment as a fellow of the IREX University Administration Support Program (UASP), consulting with a broad array of IUB faculty and staff on questions of research management, research ethics, and academic integrity.



Magdalena Zdrodowska is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Audiovisual Arts of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. As a visiting scholar at REEI and the Polish Studies Center in April, she conducted research for her current research project on "The Deaf History of Cinema," and delivered a talk entitled "Deaf History of Cinema and Independent Deaf Filmmaking in Poland and the U.S.," and presented her recently published *Telefon, kino i cyborgi. Wzajemne relacje niesłyszenia i techniki* [*Telephones, cinema, and cyborgs. Entangled relations between deafness and technology*] (Jagiellonian University Press, 2021) to the IU Libraries.

Student News

Ani Abrahamyan (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has been awarded the Neatrou Edgerton Fellowship from the Slavic Department. The award honors the memory of both Elizabeth Neatrou and the late William B. Edgerton (1915-2004), her IU mentor.

George Andrei (History) has published "Whose Nature Is It? Contesting Forest Regulation and Land Reform in Interwar Transylvania" (<https://doi.org/10.4000/balkanologie.3289>) in *Balkanologie*.

Thomas Brenberg (REEI/O'Neill) has been selected as a fellow of the Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia 2022. He has also been awarded a US Department of State Title VIII Fellowship to support his participation in the 2022 Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Becky Craft (REEI/Luddy) has been awarded a US Department of State Title VIII Fellowship to support her participation in the 2022 Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia at the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this summer.

Jordan Hussey-Anderson (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) is recipient of the Jerzy Kolodziej Excellence in Teaching Award for 2021-22 from the Slavic Department.

Szabolcs László (History) delivered a presentation about his dissertation research on Hungarian-American scholarly interactions at an event organized for young researchers by the Centre for Social Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in February. In April, he presented “Ambassadors of the Kodály-method: The International Promotional Activities of Hungarian Women Music Educators during the Cold War” at the international workshop Women and Gender in Art Music of the Eastern Bloc: Current Perspectives, Future Directions. He is also author of „Az új kalandozások kora: A Kulturális Kapcsolatok Intézetének működése az 1960–70-es években” [The Age of New Adventures: The Institute of Cultural Relations in the 1960s-1970s], a chapter that appears in *Felsőoktatási intézményeinkkülsőkapcsolatai a 20. Században* (2021), a collected volume, edited by historian István Lengvári, that examines the international relations of Hungarian research institutions and universities during the state socialist period.

Alexander Messejnikov (Comparative Literature) presented “Her Image Would Grow Immortal: Hyperreality and Visual Media in ‘The Return of Chorb’” at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia in February.

Dafna Rachok (Anthropology) is recipient of the Susan Aitel Outstanding Advanced Anthropology Student Scholarship from IU’s Department of Anthropology as well as the Helen Darcovich Memorial Doctoral Fellowship in Education, History, Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, and Library Sciences from the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies.

Natasha Rubanova (Comparative Literature) presented “Challenging the ‘New Normal’ in Hanna Krall’s Story ‘The Chair’” at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia in February.

Daniel Schumick (REEI/Maurer) has been awarded a Graduate Pathways Fellowship by the College of Arts and Sciences and the University Graduate School to pursue an internship during summer 2022.

Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) presented “Memory Studies Boom in Slavic Studies: Ukraine and Russia” at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia in February. In August, she will take up the position of Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Russian and Eurasian Studies at Colgate University.

Kyle Tucker (International Studies/Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) will study nuclear affairs and Russia as a Summer Undergraduate Nonproliferation Fellow at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, CA. In 2022-23, he will participate in the Russian Flagship Capstone Year in Almaty, Kazakhstan, undertaking intensive Russian language study at al-Farabi Kazakh National University throughout the year as well as an internship in the spring.

Leah Valtin-Erwin (History) has been awarded a 2022-23 College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Her article “Ukraina – Jesteśmy z wami!: War in Ukraine and Warsaw Transformed “ appeared in the [May 2022 issue of ASEES NewsNet](#).

Iryna Voloshyna (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) has published [Folk Arts as Resistance: Stories from Ukrainian Americans](#) in *Folklife*, the Smithsonian Institution's online periodical. The article profiles Laryssa Czebiniak of Johnston City (New York) and Bloomington's own Natalie Kravchuk, both Ukrainian-Americans who actively promote Ukrainian folk culture in their communities and further afield, especially through workshops that focus on the craft of *psyanky*, decorative Easter eggs. Iryna is also recipient of four awards from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology: Distinguished Service Award (for her service as President of the Folklore Student Association), the Folklore Fellowship Award (acknowledging excellence in research), the Student Service Award, and the Henry Glassie Award (recognizing excellence in teaching as Associate Instructor in F101 - Introduction to Folklore).

Spencer Warren (Political Science) presented "Security, Prestige, and Power: Understanding the Determinants of Russian Strategic Nuclear Modernization under Vladimir Putin" at the Midwest Slavic Conference in Columbus (OH) in April.

Andrey Yushkov (O'Neill) is co-author (with Craig L. Johnson) of [On the determinants of regional debt in Russia](#) in *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. The article was posted in February.

REEI MA Essays Defended in 2021

Gregory Aimaro: Genocide by Any Other Name: A Reexamination of the Wehrmacht's Punitive Policies Towards Ethnic Ukrainians in Chernihiv Oblast Ukraine 1941-43. Chair: Lazslo Borhi/Committee Members: Hiro Kuromiya and Mark Roseman.

Dexter Blackwell: Ukraine, Moldova, and the United States: The Diffusion of the Russian Model of Disinformation and Crafting a Response through Media Literacy. Chair: Regina Smyth/Committee Members: Stanislav Budnitsky and Svitlana Melnyk.

Anna Bloom: *Lilla Weneda* and Juliusz Słowacki's Imagined Community. Chair: Bill Johnston/Committee Members: Halina Goldberg and Jacob Emery.

Griffin Edwards: Grand Prince Putin: How and Why Today's Russian State Reminds Us of its Pre-modern Past. Chair: Gardner Bovingdon/Committee Members: Donna Davis and Tatiana Saburova.

Wondy Joseph: Understanding Maternal Mortality in Russia during 1990-2000. Chair: Marianne Kamp/Committee Members: Andrew Bell and Michael De Groot.

Claudia Lahr: "Boiling with Gold": Mangazeia And Kiakhta As Siberian Boom Towns. Chair: Tatiana Saburova/Committee Members: Gardner Bovingdon and Kate Graber.

Kait Lee: Herderian Nationalism in the 19th Century: A Story about Croatia, Serbia, and a Future Yugoslavia. Chair: Marina Antic/Committee Members: Katherine Graber and Teuta Ozcelik.

Rachel Myers: Defining De Facto in Interstate Relations: Case Study of the Donetsk People's Republic and Lugansk People's Republic on the Territory of Eastern Ukraine. Chair: Shruti Rana/Committee Members: Emma Gilligan, Tim Waters.

Doctoral Dissertations in Russian/East European Studies Defended at IU in 2021

Samuel Hamilton Bass (History/Central Eurasian Studies): The Bound Steppe: Slavery, State, and Family in Qing Mongolia. Advisors: Christopher P. Atwood, Jonathan Schlesinger/Committee Members: Kathryn E. Graber, Pedro Machado.

Charles Barrett Bonds (History): 'Without Reason, Without Calculation:' The Repression of Ukraine's Yiddish Writers and Academics, 1944-1956. Advisor: Hiroaki Kuromiya/Committee Members: Mark Roseman, Dov-Ber Kerler, Tatiana Saburova, Jeffrey Veidlinger.

Greer Gerni (Theatre and Drama): Anton Chekhov's Texts on the Twenty-First Century Russian Stage. Advisors: Jennifer Goodlander, Ronald Wainscott/Committee Members: Eleanor Owicki, Tatiana Saburova.

Julia Ellen Moineau Riegel (History): Catastrophe and Continuity: Musical Life in the Warsaw Ghetto. Advisor: Mark Roseman/Committee Members: Halina Goldberg; Padraic Kenney; Roberta Pergher.

Hosung Shim (Central Eurasian Studies): The State Formation of the Zunghar Principality: A Political History of the Last Centralized State of the Eurasian Steppe. Advisor: Ron Sela/Committee Members: Christopher Atwood, Devin DeWeese, György Kara, Jonathan Schlesinger.

Polina Vlasenko (Anthropology): Global Circuits of Fertility: The Political Economy of the Ukrainian Ova Market. Advisor: Sarah D. Phillips/Committee Members: Andrea Wiley, Sara L. Friedman, Lessie Jo Frazier.

Professor Returns to Ukraine Border

By Teresa Mackin



Elizabeth Cullen Dunn

When the war in Ukraine started in February, REEI faculty-affiliate Elizabeth Cullen Dunn knew she had to get there. In March, 10 days after the war started, she went to the Poland/Ukrainian border to help with the refugee response.

"My life's work is to help refugees and to help create a system that works better for them, instead of trapping them in uncertainty," said Dunn, Professor of Geography and Director of the Center for Refugee Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at IU Bloomington. "My research is focused on international humanitarian aid for refugees and displaced people, and I learn by doing, by being there and volunteering.

"We need to know what help is needed, and what help actually helps. I worked in Poland for years and speak Polish, so I felt I could be of help at that border."

The initial Ukraine refugee crisis response was unlike any Dunn had ever seen. Overwhelmingly, she said, it was private and not governmental. People were crowdsourcing, going to borders to help with their cars, bringing their supplies, organizing to send supplies into Ukraine. In later weeks and months, the Polish government was more involved.

"We saw 3 million refugees pass over that border in just the first six weeks of the war," remarked Dunn. "Waiting to greet them were all self-organized volunteers. A group of people from the United Kingdom had come to offer Indian street food, there was a man from Texas who'd spent three weeks flipping pancakes for children, others were offering clothes and homemade sandwiches. The Ukrainians who passed through saw an enormous amount of support and hope."

As the war goes on, according to Dunn, there is still a huge need, and the need has changed. Over a million Ukrainians have gone back after fleeing the country, she said. Some are going back to their homes if they

haven't been destroyed. Many families can't stay in Poland because they haven't found housing. A lot of elderly people couldn't leave Ukraine, so their family members are going back to take care of them. Millions are now displaced inside Ukraine.

"Things are much harder for refugees today. They're older, sicker, poorer, and they're coming from places like Mariupol or Kharkiv, where they're dramatically more traumatized from what they've been through. There is a huge need still there to help; this is going to be an issue for years.

"The war is not over. It has been pulled back to the east, and what is happening there is brutal. 'People to people' aid chains are the lifelines keeping people alive. So we can't give up now."

On her way back to the border in late May, Dunn elaborated upon her future plans.



Volunteers from Poland and around the world sorted, packed, and distributed mountains of clothes, diapers, and medical supplies sent to refugee shelters. (Photo: Elizabeth Cullen Dunn)

"We will collect interviews with those who helped (amazing stories of those who gave millions in aid and volunteered their time), to talk about how it worked and what conditions were needed to get help across the border and into Ukraine," she said. "Turns out, one of those things is local knowledge and funding streams.

"You need to have someone who knows how to move money and move goods. If you don't have designated recipients, much of the help you provide is not going to be useful. You have to know exactly where that aid is going and what that person needs it for."

Dunn's research shows that donations without a designated recipient often go to waste. She said many of the donated clothing items in Korczowa, Poland, were left unused.

Dunn is working through the Center for Refugee Studies at IU to develop a model of volunteer-led aid, calling it "Distributed Humanitarianism." She's also developing tools to help people help others.

"These will be tools that individual volunteers can use to organize aid — things like virtual warehouses, where people who need things could place requests and fill them; or virtual transport centers, where people can post what they need and those who can get it to them can help. We want to look at the ways internet mediation can make things faster and safer."

Dunn has also worked with refugees from Syria, the Republic of Georgia, and other places. But she wasn't always focused on refugee studies. A phone call on her way to the airport changed her life.

"I was focused on food and agriculture when I got a Fulbright to the Republic of Georgia. On my way to the

airport, the phone rang. The U.S. Department of State was on the other line, telling me to get off the airplane if I was on one — that the Russians had invaded the Republic of Georgia and bombed the airport.

“That was August 8, 2008. If I’d gone there one day before, I would have been there that day.

“Three months later, I did make it to the Republic of Georgia, and spent 16 months in a camp for internally displaced people, just across the dividing line from the Russian 58th Army. It was shocking and terrifying.

Sometimes the tanks were so close my tent would shake at night. But people in the camps were numb. They were not sure where to move, because the world was so uncertain for them. The Ukraine war now has brought this all back for them.”



Many of the Ukrainian refugees in the transit shelter in Korczowa, Poland evacuated with their pets. Volunteers provided animal food and veterinarian care. (Photo: Elizabeth Cullen Dunn)

How to help

Dunn said people can help Ukrainians by donating money to local Polish NGOs, the [Kyiv School of Economics](#), which is organizing donor funds, or the Organization For Peace. And they also can simply start by being kind to others, right here at home.

“Simple kindness matters. People who’ve arrived here as refugees in the United States, wherever they’re from, have been through something intensely traumatic. It affects them and shapes them for the rest of their lives. Putting out a neighborly welcome to them changes everything.

“Person-to-person outreach, even spending time with someone whose English isn’t perfect — those things are tremendously helpful for someone who’s experienced things we can’t even imagine.”

Teresa Mackin is Communications Consultant for Indiana University Studios. This article is a slightly edited version of an article that first appeared in “IU Bloomington Today” on May 16, 2022 (<https://today.iu.edu/live/news/1735-professor-returns-to-ukraine-border-developing>).

Faculty/Staff News

Maria Bucur (History) co-hosted and participated in a trans-Atlantic book discussion entitled “From Hidden Manuscript to Publication: *Stories about Cadmav*” in February. A recording of the event can be found [here](#). She also authored “Europe and Russia” for the newly released *Routledge Global History of Feminism*, eds. Nova Robinson and Bonnie Smith. In addition, her article [Care for the care takers: the refugee crisis as opportunity for change](#) has been published in *Women’s History Review*. She has won a collaborative research grant for 2022-23 from the IU Institute of Advanced Study for the project “Towards a History of Disability in

Eastern Europe and Russia.” Her newly published *The Nation’s Gratitude: World War I and Citizenship Rights in Interwar Romania* (Routledge, 2022) was the subject of an extended interview on the New Books Network: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-nations-gratitude>.

Stanislav Budnitsky (REEI) has published [A Relational Approach to Digital Sovereignty: e-Estonia Between Russia and the West](#) in the *International Journal of Communication*.

Dan Caner (MELC) is the author of *The Rich and the Pure: Philanthropy and the Making of Christian Society in Early Byzantium* (UC Press, 2021), which was featured in a February issue of the New York Review of Books: <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2022/02/10/the-other-rome-peter-brown/>.

Malgorzata Cavar (Linguistics/Slavic) has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Judah Cohen (Jacobs/Jewish Studies) has been appointed Associate Vice-Provost.

Elizabeth Dunn (Geography) will be a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in American Studies at the University of Warsaw from February to June, 2023. While in Poland, she will teach a course on the politics of humanitarian aid and continue to conduct research on the Polish volunteer-led response to the 3.5 million Ukrainian refugees who entered in February-March 2022.

Jacob Emery (Slavic) presented “Superimposed Time in the Contemporary Russian Novel” in February at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia.

Kathryn Graber (Anthropology/CEUS) has been awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in support of her next book project, provisionally titled to "Textures of Value: Embodiment and Experience in the Mongolian Cashmere Industry."

Lee Feinstein (International Studies) and Mariana Bujeryn of the Harvard Kennedy School published [Ukraine got a signed commitment in 1994 to ensure its security – but can the US and allies stop Putin’s aggression now?](#) in *The Conversation* in January.

Svitlana Melnyk (Slavic) is co-author (with Veronika Trotter) of “Rectifying Wikipedia Bias in a Russian Language Classroom,” an article that appeared in *Russian Language Journal* (: Vol. 71: Issue 3/2021: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rlij/vol71/iss3/4>).

Joanna Niżyńska (Slavic) has been selected as a Fulbright Foreign Scholar for academic year 2022-2023 in Poland. She plans to continue work on her current book project that addresses the culture of memory in contemporary Poland. In Fall 2021, she held a residential fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies at IU. She has published “Translating Memory: The Reception of Miron Białoszewski’s *A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising* in North America” in *The Routledge World Companion to Polish Literature*, eds. Tomasz Bilczewski, Stanley Bill, and Magdalena Popiel (London: Routledge, 2022). She served as discussant for “The Idiomatic and The Institutional. Polish Studies and the Modern Subjectivity,” a roundtable at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia in February, and was a panelist for "Nowe historie literatury w obiegu światowym" (New histories of Polish literature in a global circulation) at the 7th World Congress in Polish Studies (online). In addition, she delivered a keynote address entitled "Polish-Jewish Memory Fifty Years after March '68: A Challenge Map" at the 2022 Wisconsin Slavic

Conference in March at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Sarah Phillips (Anthropology/REI) published "[Refusal to Die](#)," about people with disabilities and the war in Ukraine, in *Cultural Anthropology*. She presented "'Kurt Vonnegut is one of us': The social life of Vonnegut in translation in the Soviet 1970s" in February at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia. In March, Phillips hosted a workshop "Mapping Disability Studies in Eastern Europe" for the new research platform at Jagiellonian University, Disability Studies in Eastern Europe: Reconfigurations.

Mark Roseman (History/Jewish Studies) published "A Journey to Izbica and Sobibor" in Irene Kacandes (ed.), *On being adjacent to historical violence*, (DeGruyter, Berlin 2021) and "[Murder's moving target: The postwar struggle to define mass extermination](#)" a review of A. Dirk Moses, *The Problems of Genocide. Permanent security and the language of transgression*, in the *Times Literary Supplement*, February 25, 2002, Nr 6204. In February, he delivered an online public lecture under the title "Lives Reclaimed. A hidden history of helping Jews in Nazi Germany," at Upstanders and Bystanders, the Project Witness annual conference for 2022.

Tatiana Saburova (History) presented "From Siberia to Semirechie: Natural Environment and Colonization in Writings and Photographs of Vasilli Sapozhnikov" at the British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies, held in April in Cambridge, UK. In April she also presented "The Last of the Mohicans': Semirechie in the Micro- and Macro-Optic of Botany in Writings and Photographs of Vasilii Sapozhnikov" at the Midwest Slavic Conference, held at Ohio State University in Columbus, OH.

Kaya Şahin (History) has received an IU Presidential Arts and Humanities Production award for his project, "Peerless among Princes: The Life and Times of Sultan Süleyman."

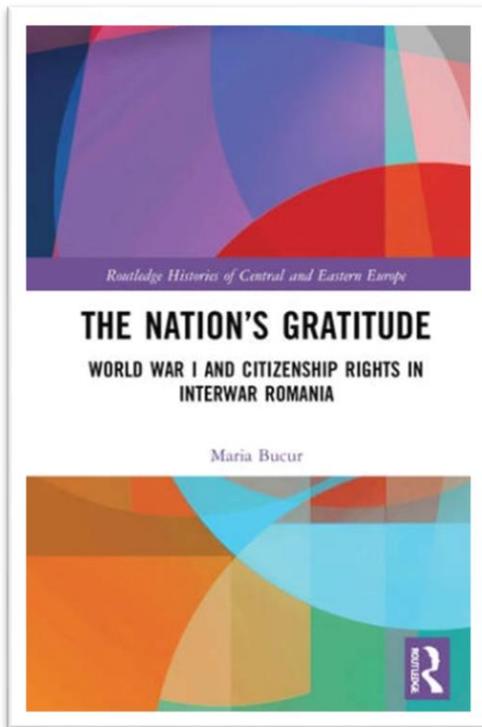
Maria Shardakova (Slavic) organized and chaired "Programmatic Articulation of Tutoring," a roundtable that took place in February at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages in Philadelphia. At the same conference she also served as discussant for the roundtable "Увези меня с собою в облака! Virtual sojourns in lieu of study abroad" and chaired the panel "Intercultural Competences in Teaching Russian."

Regina Smyth (Political Science) published [A year after Navalny's return, Putin remains atop a changed Russia](#) in *The Conversation* in January.

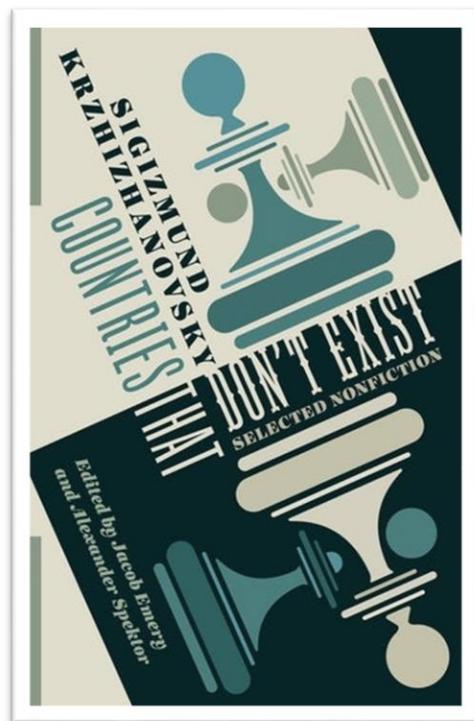
Mark Trotter (REI) has completed the 30-credit Business Foundations Certificate Program in the Kelley School of Business.

Veronika Trotter (Libraries) is co-author (with Svitlana Melnyk) of "Rectifying Wikipedia Bias in a Russian Language Classroom," an article that appeared in *Russian Language Journal* (: Vol. 71: Issue 3/2021: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rli/vol71/iss3/4>).

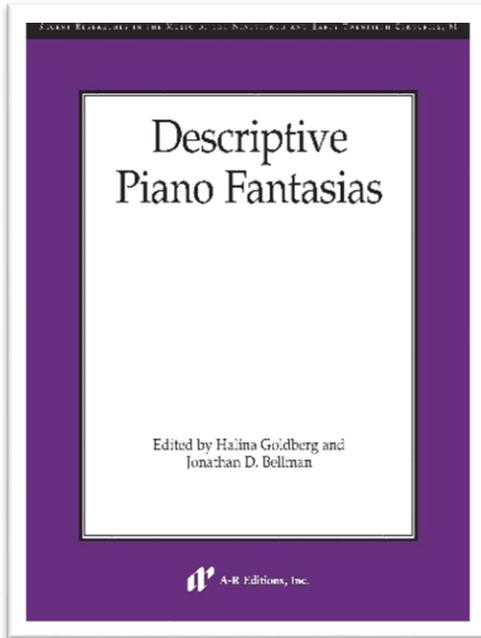
Tim Waters (Maurer) published [Why not try a different path to defend Ukraine?](#) in *The Hill* on February 10.

Recent Scholarly Publications by REEI-Affiliated Faculty

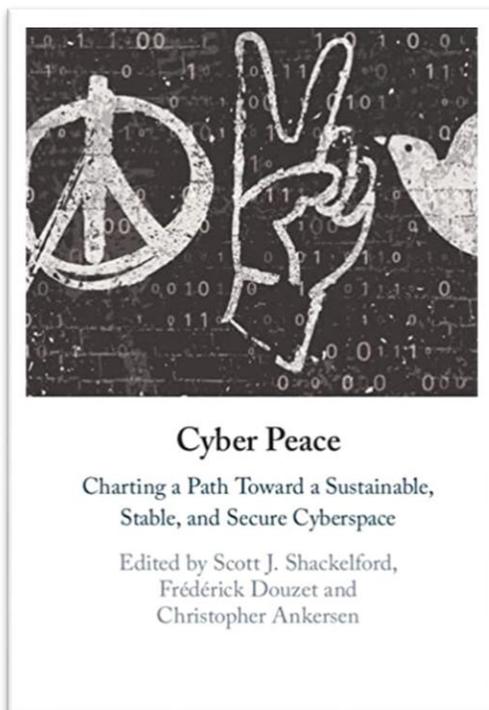
The Nation's Gratitude: World War I and Citizenship Rights in Interwar Romania (Routledge, 2021) by **Maria Bucur** (History) focuses on laws and state policies that addressed the unprecedented human losses of World War I, emphasizing how ordinary citizens educated themselves about state institutions and used them in ways that reflected class, ethnic, religious and gender norms. A pioneering work on the history of veterans' rights in Romania, *The Nation's Gratitude* shows that disability as a personal reality for many veterans emerged as a prominent factor in policymaking. In postwar Europe, citizenship was shaped by both government policies and their interpretation by a large and diverse group of beneficiaries, as the book demonstrates in an analysis providing insights for scholars and examples of engaged citizenship for undergraduate and non-specialist audiences.



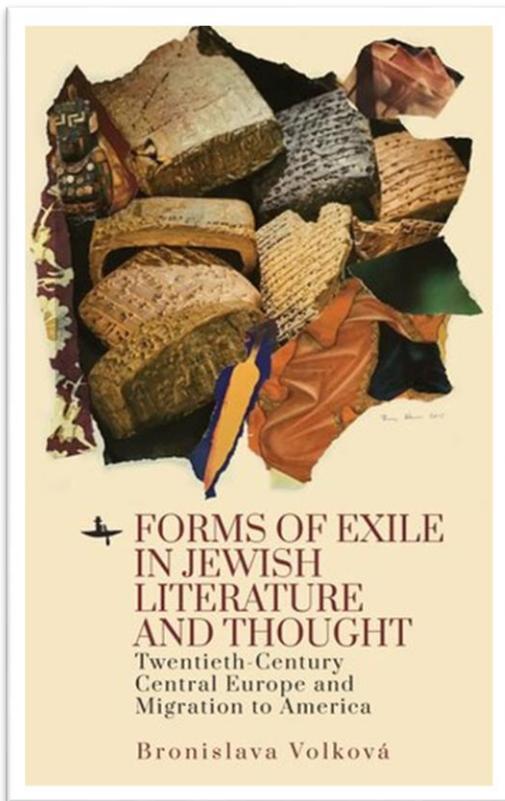
Countries That Don't Exist: Selected Nonfiction by Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky (Columbia University Press, 2022), edited and translated by **Jacob Emery** (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) and Alexander Spektor, showcases Krzhizhanovsky's exceptional nonfiction. Playful fantasies dwelling in the borderlands between essay and fable, metaphysical conversations and probing literary criticism, philosophical essays and wartime memoirs—in all these modes, Krzhizhanovsky's writing bristles with idiosyncratic erudition and a starkly original vision of literary creation. The work also features critical commentary that places these texts in the context of Krzhizhanovsky's other writings and illuminates their relationship to the philosophical and aesthetic ferment of Russian and European modernism.



Descriptive Piano Fantasias (A-R Editions), edited by **Halina Goldberg** (Jacobs School of Music) and Jonathan D. Bellham, is a volume of works that span the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries to reflect the breadth of the piano fantasia, a highly popular genre in Europe and the United States conceived and produced for the musical tastes and technical capabilities of amateur pianists. Reflecting cultural preoccupations, fantasias were often based on historical or fictional events and assumed particular importance in Poland, where national upheaval and political marginalization provided fertile ground for musical representation and catharsis. The fantasias cross generic boundaries and interact in unexpected ways with the canon, offering insights into the musical artistry of such composers as Fryderyk Chopin, Franz Liszt, and Johannes Brahms.



Cyber Peace: Charting a Path Toward a Sustainable, Stable, and Secure Cyberspace (Cambridge University Press, 2022), edited by **Scott Shackelford** (Kelley School of Business), Frédérick Douzet, and Christopher Ankersen analyzes the history and evolution of cyber peace and reviews recent international efforts aimed at promoting it, providing recommendations for students, practitioners and policymakers seeking an understanding of the complexity of international law and international relations involved in cyber peace. It addresses such questions as what we can hope for in terms of 'peace' on the Internet, and how to get there, while identifying the long-term implications for pervasive cyber insecurity across the public and private sectors, and how they can be curtailed. The work is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.



Forms of Exile in Jewish Literature and Thought: Twentieth-Century Central Europe and Migration to America (Academic Studies Press, 2021) by **Bronislava Volková** (Emeritus/Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures), deals with the concept of exile on many levels—from the literal to the metaphorical. It combines analyses of predominantly Jewish authors of Central Europe of the twentieth century who are not usually connected, including Kafka, Kraus, Levi, Lustig, Wiesel, and Frankl. It follows the typical routes that exiled writers took, from East to West and later often as far as America. The concept and forms of exile are analyzed from many different points of view and great attention *Podoby Exilu v židovské literatuře a myšlení (Střední Evropa ve dvacátém století a přesun do Ameriky)* (Pavel Mervart, 2022).

Alumni Profile: Jason Vincz and IU's Tetmajer Translation Project

By Jessica Storey-Nagy

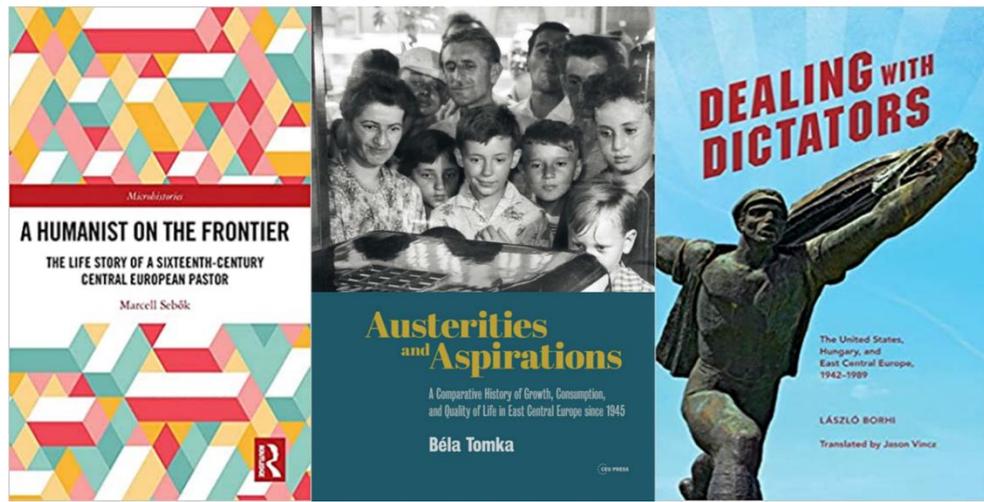


Jason Vincz

Finding an audience beyond the Hungarian-speaking academy is a perennial challenge for scholars who publish in Hungarian. Scholarship written in the Hungarian language, a member of the Finno-Ugric family, is for the most part inaccessible to researchers in Hungary's close neighboring countries, where Germanic, Romance, and Slavic languages predominate and knowledge of Hungarian is a rarity. However, the Tetmajer Translation Project at IU's Department of Central Eurasian Studies addresses this problem head on by funding translations of notable Hungarian-language works into English, the principal language of international scholarly communication. Supported through an endowment from the late Laszlo Tetmajer, a Hungarian émigré who lived for many years in Montana, the Tetmajer Project thus makes scholarship from Hungary widely accessible to scholars throughout Europe and the wider world.

According to REEI alumnus (MA, 2012) Jason Vincz, who serves as proofreader, editor, and translator for the Tetmajer Project, it addresses a critical need. "For some Hungarian scholars, this is the only way for their work to get international exposure," he explains. "It can be career-changing." Vincz has translated *Dealing with Dictators: The United States, Hungary, and East Central Europe, 1942-1989* (IU Press, 2016) by László Borhi, Peter A. Kadas Chair and Associate Professor of Central Eurasian Studies at IU, *A Humanist on the Frontier: The Life Story a Sixteenth-century Central European Pastor* (Routledge, 2021) by Marcell Sebők, *Austerities and*

Aspirations: A Comparative History of Growth, Consumption, and Quality of Life in East Central Europe since 1945 (CEU Press, 2020) by Béla Tomka, and other works for the Project.



Some of Vincz's translations for the Tetmajer Project

Vincz's training, experience, and talents are uniquely suited to the Tetmajer Project. He has translated numerous works for the Research Center for the Humanities at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and publishers such as Routledge, Palgrave, and Central European University Press. As an MA student at REEI, he pursued advanced study in Hungarian and focused on early twentieth-century Transylvanian literature. He entered the program with a BA in English and American Language and Literature from Harvard College, an MFA with poetry specialization from the Iowa Writers' Workshop at University of Iowa, where he also taught creative writing, and experience as a freelance writer for the *Village Voice*. His background as a reader, writer, and analyst of the English language in a myriad of different genres and eras distinctly qualifies him to translate academic (and especially historical) works. In other words, Vincz can offer his clients not only translation but *transduction*. If a poem is transduced, for example, it is not only translated, but also stylized and voiced as the original author intended in a new, target language. This skill is not one all translators can offer. For example, Vincz often capitalizes on his knowledge of Elizabethan English when translating works from 16th century Hungary. Among his favorite translation projects is Csaba Dupcsik's yet unpublished history of Hungarian scholarship on the subject of the country's Roma population. Vincz works comfortably in a broad array of disciplines that include fine arts, economics, and sociology.

The Tetmajer Project subjects scholarly works to a rigorous selection, translation, and editing process that harnesses the energies of multiple contributors. Borhi, Valéria Varga, Senior Lecturer in Central Eurasian Studies, and Toivo Raun, Professor of Central Eurasian Studies, comprise the committee that chooses works for translation. In addition to Vincz, the project has also utilized IU alumni Sean Lambert (MA, CEUS, 2004) and Thomas Cooper (PhD, CEUS, 2003; MA, CEUS, 2000) as translators. IU faculty Borhi, Varga, and Péter Nemes, Senior Lecturer in International Studies, often edit the works. Interested readers can learn more about the ongoing project at the dedicated [Tetmajer webpage](#). Jason Vincz has thus far translated 16 books and has more forthcoming. For more on Jason, visit his website at [Vincz Philology](#) where, in addition to translation, he offers writing, proofreading, editing, teaching and communication consulting services in English, Hungarian, and Romanian.

Jessica Storey-Nagy defended her doctoral dissertation in Central Eurasian Studies in May, 2022.

Alumni News

Choi Chatterjee (PhD, History, 1995) has published *Russia in World History: A Transnational Approach* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2022). Employing a comparative framework to understand Russian history in a global context, the book challenges the idea of Russia as an outlier of European civilization by examining select themes in modern Russian history alongside cases drawn from the history of the British Empire.

Major Nicole Hash (MA, REEI, 2018) has been accepted into the PhD program in Emerging Media Studies at Boston University, where she will begin to study Russian soft power projection through Latin American media and social media in September, 2022. Her enrollment in the program is in conjunction with the Army's Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program (ASP3), which prepares field grade officers for strategy positions in the US Army.

Maren Payne-Holmes (MA, REEI, 2008) and Richard Payne-Holmes (MA/MPA, REEI/SPEA, 2008) continue their careers as Foreign Service Officers with the U.S. Department of State and will transfer to Vienna, Austria this summer. Rich will serve as Senior Advisor to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Chairperson-in-Office and Maren will be the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Mission to the OSCE.

James Joeriman (MA/MPA, REEI/SPEA, 2012) was interviewed by ABC News on February 15 following evacuation of his family to Warsaw from L'viv, where he has worked as a translator and businessperson for almost a decade (story accessible here). James serves as President of L'viv International Rotary which has been providing assistance to Ukrainian refugees in Poland and those who remain in Kyiv, as James recounted in an interview with New York Rotary on March 8 and in a subsequent Facebook post in April.

Kris Mitchell (MA, REEI, 2012) has taken up the position of Chief of the International Military Student Office at the Maneuver Center of Excellence in Fort Benning, GA.

Valery Perry (MA, REEI, 1994) announces that her documentary film "Looking for Dayton" is now available for online viewing at <https://lookingfordayton.org/>. She encourages people to use the film in any teaching or outreach activities that address peace processes. A supportive educational module will be added in the next few months.

Elizabeth Lee Roby (MA, Slavic, 1996) continues to teach Russian at Friends School of Baltimore (FSB), where her students raised \$9,392 to support Ukrainian refugees, organized a medical supplies donation drive, a War in Ukraine Current Events discussion series, and two peace rallies, the second of which was conducted in the spirit of the Singing Revolution in the Baltic States (1987-1991). Holding handmade posters and singing the Ukrainian national anthem, FSB Russian students led 200+ FSB community members and students from three neighboring schools in peaceful protest of Putin's war in Ukraine. The event was covered in local media (see news coverage). Currently five FSB students are tutoring Ukrainian refugees in English. In April, Lee presented "Students Address the War in Ukraine: Engaging the Communities World-Readiness Standard with Elements from PBLL and CBLL" at Russian Outside the Classroom: Community-Based Teaching, a webinar organized by the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

Gifts to REEI funds in 2021

The Russian and East European Institute gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the many individuals and organizations who provided gifts to REEI in 2021.



Russian and East European Institute Fund:

Frederick J. Aalto and Linda L. Aalto, Michael V. Alexeev and Nina G. Alexeev, Lois E. Beekey, Mark J. Belding and Mary E. Belding, Nancy L. S. Bidlack and Richard H. Bidlack, Naomi F. Collins and James F. Collins, Zita Dabars, Kathleen A. Dehm, Jacob M. Emery, Robert L. Fleisch and Frances J. Fleisch, Kathleen R. Frazee, Allen M. Gerber, Philip C. Hart and Lisa B. Hart, John T. Hartman and Bonnie Hartman, Craig D. Hesselberg, Karissa M. Jackson, Roger D. Kangas and Denise Kangas, Hannah J. Kay, Padraic J. Kenney and Izabela M. Ziolkowska-Kenney, Andrew T. Maxson and Claire B. Maxson, Katherine McKinin, Randal H. Munsen and Patricia J. Munsen, Melvyn O. Quinones, Alexander Rabinowitch and Janet Rabinowitch, Elizabeth A. Raible, Gordon B. Smith and Doak J. Wolfe, Veronika Trotter and Mark Trotter, Richard Ulrych and Bogumila A. Ulrych, Eleanor J. Valentine.

Dan Armstrong Memorial Essay Fund:

Thomas Armstrong.

Robert F. Byrnes/REEI Fellowship Fund:

Lois E. Beekey, Helen M. Benford and Benjamin L. Benford, E. W. Brooks and Patricia P. Brooks, Zita Dabars, Kathleen R. Frazee, Charles Gati and Toby Gati, Mark Jelavich, Roger D. Kangas and Denise Kangas, Hannah J. Kay, David S. Mason and Sharon A. Mason, Christy J. McCormick and Bryan P. McCormick, Judith A. McKinney and Scott G. McKinney, Norma C. Noonan, Edward J. O'Day Jr. and Patricia A. O'Day, Elizabeth A. Taylor, Dana L. Trier, David J. Stira, Paul H. Vivian and Victoria L. Bard Vivian.

McCloskey Fund:

Debra J. Byars and Frederick Teitgen, John R. Goss and Tonya A. Galbraith, C. C. Sautter and Harriet A. Lipkin, The Honorable Ellen K. Thomas, Annisa M. Wanat.

Robert F. Byrnes REEI Fund:

Jill F. Byrnes and Shaun M. Byrnes.

Ann and David Erne Fellowship Fund:

David A. Erne and Ann Erne.

Robert C. Tucker and Stephen F. Cohen Fellowship Fund

Barry M. Schutz and Johanna K. Lee.

To make a gift to any of these funds and to learn more about the activities they support, please go to: <https://reei.indiana.edu/alumni-giving/giving-opportunities/index.html>.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we share the news that on June 20, 2022, we lost our friend and colleague **Aida Huseynova**. Aida was in Istanbul when she passed away following a long illness.

A native of Baku, Azerbaijan, Aida was trained as a musicologist. Her professional training included a master's (1987) and doctorate (1992) from the Baku State Conservatory and the St. Petersburg Conservatory, respectively. During her years as associate and then full professor of musicology in Baku, she came to Bloomington three times as visiting scholar (2000, 2001-2002, and 2007-2008). Following the third visit, on a Fulbright, Aida was invited to teach at IU, first as adjunct lecturer, and from 2017 until her passing as lecturer in Music in General Studies at IU's Jacobs School.



IU Professors Emeriti, Mary Goetze and William Fierman, sent their thoughts upon Aida's passing: "Aida's brilliance, charm, enthusiasm, and warmth enriched all those whose lives she touched. Aida was a distinguished researcher who authored numerous books and articles. Many of her works—especially the monograph *Music of Azerbaijan: From Mugham to Opera*—lovingly introduced English readers to the music of her homeland. Aida was a key link in bringing Azerbaijani culture to widespread live audiences throughout the world—from Sydney, Qatar, and London to Stanford, UC Berkeley, and New York—cooperating with such artists as Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble and with the Mark Morrison Dance Group. Although the audiences saw Aida only during her notes presented just prior to performances with these groups, she was working far in advance as the cultural bridge between Azerbaijani artists and those preparing the American productions.

Although the music of Azerbaijan was at the heart of Aida's professional life, she was extraordinarily versatile. An REEI-affiliated faculty member for many years, she researched and wrote about Shostakovich, and after her return from her first stay at IU she gave lectures to Azerbaijani audiences about jazz. She was a frequent participant in outreach activities with Inner Asian and Uralic National Research Center, as well as other campus units. She often served as resident artist with the International Vocal Ensemble in IU's Jacobs School of Music. The IAUNRC produced a CD entitled 'Sing around Turkey' featuring Aida accompanying tenor Omer Turkmenoglu; in addition she authored a DVD, 'Music and Culture of Azerbaijan,' and co-authored 'Music and Culture of Kyrgyzstan.' At IU Aida performed in many recitals, festivals, and ceremonies, and with a wide variety of local groups, including as soloist and member of the Bloomington-based Silk Road Ensemble and East-West Music Group. Aida took great pride in her teaching. Besides her classes 'Music of the Silk Road,' 'East-West Encounters in Music,' 'Popular Music of Europe and Asia,' and 'Music of Russia,' she also taught music theory. It is no wonder that her classes were always full, with long waiting lists of students still eager to enroll: her vibrant instruction was alive with musical examples she would insert to the delight of her students, and even in large classes she found ways to encourage broad participation.

We will profoundly miss the frequent manifestations of Aida's talent, grace, energy, wit, integrity and generosity, but will find beauty in the memories of the days when our paths crossed and merged in Bloomington."

This is a slightly reworked version of the memorial piece that first appeared on the website of IU's Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center (<https://iaunrc.indiana.edu/news-events/news/remembering-aida.html>).



György Kara, Professor of Central Eurasian Studies and an REEI-affiliated faculty member of many years, passed away on April 16, 2022 in Bloomington, Indiana. A highly decorated scholar and preeminent leader in the study of the languages, cultures, and religious beliefs of Mongolia and Inner Asia, Professor Kara published more than 400 works in 10 languages. His many books and articles are considered to have laid the groundwork for Mongolian Studies.

Kara earned a PhD from Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest, Hungary) in 1961 and a doctorate in philology from Leningrad State University in 1975. He was a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica, member of The Order of the Polar Star of the Republic of Mongolia (1998), member of the Order of Labor Merit of the Republic of Mongolia (2005), awardee of the Indiana University Prize for Altaic Studies (2011), holder of a Diploma of Honor from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (2015), and recipient of the Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize (1999). In 2001, he was named to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2001) in recognition of his outstanding scholarly contributions. At the 54th Annual Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC), he received the PIAC gold medal in honor of his lifetime scholarly achievement.

“I feel very fortunate that, last spring, I was able to audit his course 'Old Turkic',” commented Öner Özçelik, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Central Eurasian Studies. “Truly devoted to his field, he could have hours of discussion about the origins of a single word, and in doing so, he could take you on a trip from one end of the world to another. He cared a lot about his students . . . and even tried to continue his three classes this semester even through hospital stays, in heroic Professor Kara fashion. Beyond his scholarship and teaching [and] despite his deep knowledge about the field, he was a very humble person and always added some humor to his conversations. He will be truly missed.”

“While I was chair of the department, every summer he would visit Hungary for research,” recalled Jamsheed K. Choksy, Distinguished Professor of Central Eurasian Studies. “He would always ask me if there was anything he could do to further IU or the department while in Hungary. He always placed the students first, right to the end. Professor Kara’s knowledge will be impossible to replace.”

“A life can’t be summed up in the printed word, but my teacher ... could be captured in his voice,” said Christopher Atwood, Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at University of Pennsylvania “That slight frown, that quiet laugh, that distinctive accent, that eccentric vocabulary full of amusing witticisms and insights — that was him. No one who learned from Professor Kara would ever denigrate precise and exact knowledge ... but remembering his living voice, I know its limits.”

This is a slightly reworked version of the obituary that appeared on the website of the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Affairs on April 18, 2022.