

News from Indiana University's Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute

FALL 2021

Director's Greeting

Johanna Mellis Talk	2
Ukrainian Studies Fall Events	5
Siberian Libraries Webinar	7
RSW Film Series	9
Americanists	10
REEI at ASEEES	12
The Hoosier Connection: Indiana's Lithuanian Heritage	16
Carnegie Grant	23
Alex L Grant (Serbia)	24
Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina vanden Heuvel Fund to Support REEI	26
Robert A. McVey Returns to REEI	27
New AV acquisition	28
Student News	30
New REEI MA Students	32
Faculty/Staff News	33
New Books by REEI Faculty	35
REEI's Elliott Nowacký's Award	36
Alumni News	36
Donald Raleigh ASEEES Award	38
Lee Roby REEI Distinguished Alumna	39
Visiting Scholars	41
In Memoriam	43

Director's Greeting



Dear REEI-affiliated colleagues, students, and friends,

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to interfere with our ability to gather in person as a community, we are grateful for the myriad opportunities, connections, and collaborations that all of you have made possible this past semester. In this issue of *REElification* you can read about the many accomplishments of REEI's current faculty, students, and staff; the impressive activities of REEI alumni; the lives and legacies of colleagues we have lost, and much more. Energetic new students have joined the REE Studies fold at IU, bringing with them exciting ideas and diverse passions for study across disciplines. This fall, IU alumni Donald Raleigh and Eve Levin received prestigious recognition from ASEEES and the Association for Women in Slavic Studies, respectively. REEI continues to benefit from the generous financial support of notable donors and foundations, and we are especially excited to

CONTACT:

Russian and East European Institute Global and International Studies Building
355 North Jordan Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47405-1105
Tel: (812) 855-7309
Fax: (812) 855-6411
Email: reei@indiana.edu

announce the creation of a new endowment, the Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina vanden Heuvel fund. None of this would be possible without the energy, expertise, and support that REEI affiliates contribute to the work we do, and we are grateful for the REEI community.

Along with other area studies centers at IU, REEI is gearing up to apply for the next round of US Department of Education Title VI funding to support language fellowships, outreach to the K-16 community, critical programming on the REE area in partnership with colleagues around the US and in the region, and much more. We look forward to building on the successes of ongoing REEI-supported programs to continue to innovate in REE studies and outreach. We will continue to facilitate cutting-edge initiatives with the goal of promoting excellence in Russian and East European Studies for generations to come.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of REEIFication, and if you have suggestions or requests for future newsletter features, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact us at reei@indiana.edu.

Sincerely,
Sarah Phillips, Director

Blood in the Water: Johanna Mellis Casts New Light on an Iconic Episode in Cold War Sports History

By Stepan Serdiukov

A globe-encompassing conflict that forced almost every country to take sides in the confrontation between capitalism and communism, the Cold War unfolded in many arenas, including international athletic competitions. The United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies used the Olympic Games and similar sporting events both to showcase the ample sporting talents of their citizens as well as to demonstrate to the rest of the world the advantages of their political systems and the unity of the camps to which they belonged. Of course, such contests fostered amicable cultural contact and generated citizen exchanges, thereby contributing to the relative peace of the era. But sports still have winners and losers, and East-West athletic rivalries made for engaging propaganda and enduring popular memories.

In an online lecture delivered on November 30, Dr. Johanna Mellis, Assistant Professor of History at Ursinus College, focused on a particularly arresting episode of Cold War-era sport history: the 1956 Melbourne Olympics water polo match between Hungary and the Soviet Union. Played on December 6, the semi-finals game happened against the backdrop of the Hungarian Revolution, ruthlessly suppressed in a Soviet invasion just a month earlier. Hungarian athletes won 4-0 in a brutal contest, as both teams engaged in outright violence.

Towards the end of the match, Hungarian star Ervin Zádor took a heavy punch from a Soviet player. Bleeding profusely from the cut under his eye, Zádor emerged from the pool as the referees rushed to wrap up the game and quell the wrath of the spectators. Many Hungarian immigrants in the stands were already reeling from the crackdown on the revolution in their homeland.



Hungarian player Ervin Zádor at conclusion of the "Blood in the Water" polo match. Photo:
<https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/olympics-2021-scandals-1956-melbourne-blood-in-the-water-politics-050042315.html>

The sight of Zádor's bleeding face almost launched a riot. With one minute left to play, the game was stopped, and Hungary declared the victor, as they already were ahead at that point. The match history as the "Blood in the Water" game. Photos of a stunned and bloodsoaked Zádor appeared on the front pages of newspapers across the world. In a year when *Time* put a composite "Hungarian Freedom Fighter" on its cover as its Man of the Year, the Soviet-Hungarian water polo match turned out to be extremely useful for anticommunist propaganda, and to this day it remains a fixture in the Hungarian nationalist narrative, as a David-and-Goliath-like parable.

Dr. Mellis aimed her talk at critically examining this traditional view of the match and expanding it in a few key ways. First, she discussed the part that the players themselves took in the game's media portrayal. For example, in his memoir, Dezső Gyarmati, the captain of the Hungarian team, revealed that he told Ervin Zádor to flaunt his bleeding face for the reporters. This claim is hard to corroborate (all the players have since passed away) but if true, it suggests that at least some Hungarian team members thought quite purposefully about the Cold War optics and how best to present their cause to the public. Second, Dr. Mellis turned to the defection experiences of Hungarian athletes. While no one disputes that a large number of Hungarian Olympians (Gyarmati and Zádor among them) defied the communist authorities by defecting to the United States at the conclusion of the 1956



Professor Johanna Mellis

Olympic Games, a few factors other than their personal initiative and courage were involved. For instance, in the weeks leading up to the event, the CIA ran Operation Griffin, aimed at persuading more Hungarian athletes to defect and to facilitate the immigration process for them. Upon their settlement in the United States, *Time* and *Sports Illustrated* paid the athletes for the opportunity to show them enjoying their new life in the "land of the free."

After this initial spell, many defectors were left to their own devices. Few spoke good English, and only one was truly fluent. While in Hungary, as in other Eastern Bloc countries then, the Olympians received funding through bogus day jobs (while training full-time), the US did not offer many opportunities for athletes beyond college, while strictly enforcing the amateur rule for its Olympians. Some defectors, like Zádor, were lucky enough to remain with their sport by landing coaching appointments, but most abandoned the sports realm forever. Many struggled with poverty, and about a quarter of all defectors had returned to Hungary by 1958. Their numbers included Gyarmati, who was initially banned from competing internationally but soon was accepted back on the national team in 1960. Taking into account the careers of the defecting players, Dr. Mellis argued, can help us understand how the experiences of Eastern European athletes during the Cold War were often instrumentalized for ideological purposes.

Another important avenue of research into this historic game is its perception in communist Hungary at the time. According to Dr. Mellis, the average Hungarian citizen knew very little about the fateful match apart from its final score and its physicality, which was as much as the papers could publish then. The people in Hungary were never exposed to the sensationalist coverage of the match in the Western press or the striking photos of Ervin Zádor covered in blood—any detail about the game beyond the Hungarian sports community likely spread privately. The nationalist narrative only began to emerge after 1985, when many former defectors were welcomed back into Hungary.

Towards the end of her presentation, Dr. Mellis touched upon the treatment of the match in the 2006 documentary film *Freedom's Fury*. Produced by Quentin Tarantino and Lucy Liu, it was filmed in the early 2000s, with the release timed to the fiftieth anniversary of the 1956 Revolution. The film's interviews with the players reflected not only their determination to act, but also the ambivalence some of them felt about the events of the game. To reenact parts of the match itself, the directors filmed the US men's water polo team. Bizarrely, afterwards, they opted for expensive reshoots to remove the two American black players, Genai Kerr and Omar Amr, from the final footage. Ostensibly a step to preserve historical accuracy, this decision, as Dr. Mellis argued, was emblematic of the long-standing problems with diversity in US aquatic sports. Thus, *Freedom's Fury*'s producers essentially incorporated anti-blackness into their history of a Cold War episode, thus influencing viewers' mental image of it. Since no other major documentary treatment of the game has been attempted, *Freedom's Fury*, dominated by American decision-makers, retains special authority in its depiction.

In her concluding remarks, Dr. Mellis stressed the importance of avoiding long-standing Cold War-era tropes and binaries and including the full extent of Hungarian perspectives (from dissenters to cooperators) to produce nuanced and perceptive accounts of the 1956 match.

Stepan Serdiukov is a doctoral student in History at IU.

An Event-Filled Fall 2021 with the IU Ukrainian Studies Organization

By Bethany Romashov

Pandemic conditions have compelled the Ukrainian Studies Organization (UkrSO) to forego (temporarily!) such mainstays as the traditional *pysanky* workshop and popular *varenyky*-making jamboree. Nonetheless, the organization has continued to organize a broad array of engaging events and activities. Indeed, UkrSO president Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed points out that several recent initiatives have been directly inspired by the shift to virtual life in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UkrSO launched the academic year on September 18 at a public meeting with Myroslav Marynovich, author of *The Universe Behind Barbed Wire: Memoirs of a Soviet Ukrainian Dissident* (University of Rochester Press, 2021), which vividly depicts his experiences with the repressive state apparatus and years in the Soviet Gulag after being arrested and tried for his human rights advocacy. Marynovich founded the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (1976) as well as the first Amnesty International group to exist inside the USSR (1991). Days later, on September 23, the organization held “Ukraine’s Independence: 30 Years,” a hybrid online/in-person conference that featured such distinguished speakers as Paul D’Anieri (Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of California, Riverside), Hanna Shelest (Director of Security Programs for the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”), and Yuriy Kostenko (leader of the Ukrainian People’s Party, former Minister of Environmental Protection, and author of Ukraine’s Nuclear Disarmament: A History). And, for the first time in two years, Ukrainian Independence Day Picnic took place on September 25 at Winslow Woods Park, providing attendees with a smorgasbord of Ukrainian and East European food, an opportunity to sing traditional Ukrainian songs, and the chance to rub shoulders after many months of COVID-imposed isolation.

On October 30, the newly established Ukrainian Book Club attracted participants from around the globe at its inaugural meeting, a spirited discussion of “I am (romance),” Mykola Khvylov’s 1924 about the internal struggle of a “Ukrainian Bolshevik” in the 1920s. The club will meet again in January to share views of Serhiy Zhadan’s *Orphanage* (2017), a novel that addresses on-the-ground realities of the current warfare in Donbas. Shpylova-Saeed characterizes the decision to discuss a range of Ukrainian works (both fiction and non-fiction) in English as “strategic” since a primary goal of all UkrSO activity is to “put Ukraine on the global map” and to create a dual focus on Ukraine in local and international contexts.

A well-attended virtual undertaking in both 2020 and 2021 has been the UkrSO’s commemoration of the Holodomor manmade famine of 1932-1933.



This year's hybrid ceremony took place on November 12 in the President's Room of the IMU University Club with a Zoom link for those that could not attend in person. In her keynote address, Myroslava Antonovych, Doctor of Law and Head of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy's Center for International Human Rights, discussed the Holodomor as a crime of genocide. Her remarks were followed by a meditative piano performance on the part of Yevanhelina But (Carthage College), who contributed a program of Ukrainian folk songs and works by Ukrainian composers, and an in-person reception.

Throughout the fall, UkrSO organized and sponsored a number of engaging online talks (currently delivered via Zoom): "The Crimea Platform and Ukraine's Independence in Russian Media" by Oleksandr Yaroshchuk (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy) on October 8, "30 Years of Religious Pluralism in Ukraine" by Tymofii Brik (Kyiv School of Economics) on October 29, "Thirty Years of the Ukrainian Language Revival" by Natalia Kudriavtseva (Kherson University) on November 5, and "Ukraine's Coal-Steel Nexus: Power, Politics and Global Markets" by Margarita Balmaceda (Seton Hall University) on December 3.

Shpylova-Saeed encourages those who would like to plug in to the diversity of topics covered, approaches adopted, and perspectives shared within Ukrainian Studies at IU to join the UkrSO's listserv (email request to nshpylov@iu.edu or aniabra@iu.edu), visit its Facebook page, and access recorded lectures on its YouTube channel. She also invites anyone with an interest in Ukraine to attend the III Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Studies Conference, which will held in online and in-person formats IU on March 25-27, 2022.

Bethany Romashov (PhD, Slavics, 2015; MA, Slavics, 2008) is currently pursuing an MS Ed. in Counseling Education and Counselor Education.



Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed, a doctoral student in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, who serves as president of the IU Ukrainian Studies Organization

Regional Treasures: Siberian Libraries Showcase Research Resources

By Stepan Serdiukov

This October, researchers with an interest in Russia received a helpful reminder that it's effectively impossible to study a country without taking a few steps beyond its central archives. A two-part webinar featuring the staff members of six Siberian libraries with the support of the ASEES Committee on Libraries and Information Resources (CLIR) and REEI, led attendees through the wealth of primary and secondary sources available to scholars in Tomsk, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Tyumen, Krasnoyarsk, and Ulan-Ude. Organized and moderated by Veronika Trotter (MLS, 2018; MA, Slavic, 2011), Senior Collections Reference Assistant for Area Studies at IU Libraries, the two sessions took place on October 8 and October 22. Anna Arays (MLS, 2014; MA, REEI, 2014), Librarian for Slavic and East European Studies at Yale University, provided technical assistance. Both Arays and Trotter sit on the Education & Access Subcommittee of CLIR, which Arays also serves as chair.

All of the Siberian participants did their best to highlight ease of access to the collections of their libraries, so by the end of the two-part webinar, it was hard to imagine the attendees (particularly the American ones) being even in the least intimidated by the prospect of exploring Siberian libraries. The city of Novosibirsk was represented by the State Public Scientific and Technological Library of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences ([SPSTL SB RAS](#)). Known for its research on scientometrics and book history, SPSTL is one of the largest libraries in Russia. Its Patent Information Services center houses millions of patents issued in pre-revolutionary, Soviet, and modern Russia, an extremely valuable resource to historians of science and technology.

The rare books department offers online access to early modern Russian manuscripts, many of them unique to Siberian collections. Those interested in local indigenous cultures may refer to the [Scholarly Siberia](#) bibliographic database, which covers not only ethnographic and historical literature, but also environmental and scientific studies.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES OF SIBERIA (2-PART WEBINAR)

Librarians from six Siberian cities will introduce their unique collections (including electronic collections), discuss interesting projects and international collaborations at their libraries, and field questions from those in attendance.

Friday, October 8 at 10 am EDT Presenters:



Evgeniya Pshenichnaya,
State Public Scientific and
Technological Library of the
Siberian Branch of the Russian
Academy of Sciences
(Novosibirsk)

Valeria Esipova and Kirill
Konev, Research Library of
Tomsk State University
(Tomsk)

Konstantin Kokarev, Library
and Museum of Tyumen State
University (Tyumen')

The webinar is open to anyone with an interest in the region.

[Click here for registration](#)

Friday, October 22 at 10 am EDT Presenters:



Elena Kasyanchuk,
Scientific Library of
Siberian Federal University
(Krasnoyarsk)

Maksim Kudelya,
Molchanov-Sibirskiy Irkutsk
Regional State Universal
Scientific Library (Irkutsk)

Valentina Davagshin, National
Library of the Republic of
Buryatia, Regional Center of the
Yeltsin Presidential Library of the
Republic of Buryatia (Ulan-Ude)

Send questions to Veronika Trotter: veboikov@indiana.edu

Organized by the Education and Access Subcommittee of Committee on Libraries and Information Resources of the American Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEES CLIR) with the support of the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute (REEI) of Indiana University.

The [Research Library of Tomsk State University](#) (TSU) similarly boasts an extensive incunabula and manuscript collection dating back to the twelfth century, with digital access for many items, including Old Believer birch bark documents and seventeenth-century local Orthodox Church clerical records. A library resources aggregator, [PRO Siberia](#) puts these, as well as an enormous collection of imperial and early Soviet periodicals, at the researchers' fingertips.

Oral history collections from various Siberian peoples are available from the TSU's [V. M. Florinsky Museum of Siberian Archaeology and Ethnography](#) (unfortunately, these currently lack search aids). Tyumen' State University's [Library and Museum](#) deftly combines exhibition space with research facilities and runs a [digital project](#) on the history of Tyumen' from Neolithic times up to 2012. [The Library and Publishing Complex](#) of Siberian Federal University (SFU) in Krasnoyarsk holds a significant number of books on the environment of the Russian Far North and the impact that the major local industries have on it. In collaboration with the State Archives for the Krasnoyarsk Territory, this library is working on digitizing the archival collections on local history (unfortunately, so far these are only available on-site). Historians and sociologists of science might also be interested in SFU's open repository of published work and conference proceedings of the Yenisei River basin universities: SFU, Tuvan State University in Kyzyl, and Khakassia State University in Abakan.

Any researcher studying minority languages of Russia from a historical perspective would find themselves at home in Ulan-Ude, where the [National Library of the Republic of Buryatia](#) keeps a collection of 19th and 20th century rare Buddhist manuscripts and woodcut prints in the Buryat and Old Mongolian languages, as well as materials from Christian missions active in the region in the tsarist era, early Soviet newspapers in Russian and Buryat, and sheet music. The last presentation in the series came from the staff of the [Molchanov-Sibirskii Universal Research Library](#) in Irkutsk, touting, in particular, the *Priangarie Chronicles*, their electronic local history [database](#)—which, for example, includes the almost full run of a newspaper published by the now-defunct Baikal Cellulose Factory, once a major polluter of the nearby Lake Baikal, and archives of other local publications with many issues dating from before 1917. Scholars of visual culture and journalism would also appreciate the 26,000 photographs from Edgar Bryukhanenko, an Eastern Siberian TASS bureau photographer, documenting daily life of people and institutions in the Soviet era.

Recordings of the sessions can be found online: see [PartOne](#) and [PartTwo](#). The slide presentation of the Irkutsk Regional State Universal Research Library can be found on YouTube [here](#). The other slide presentations are available for download at [SiberianlibrariesPPT](#). Overall, the webinar demonstrated that Siberian libraries are thriving in the digital age as they provide constantly expanding opportunities for remote research, something that COVID-era scholars benefit from like never before.

Stepan Serdiukov is a doctoral candidate in History at Indiana University.

Power, Poetics, and Play: Documenting Soviet Legacies—RSW Film Series Continues

by Bethany Romashov

Power, Poetics, and Play: Documenting Soviet Legacies, a documentary film series that brings a critical lens to better our understanding of Russia and its neighbors, commenced in Spring 2021 as a special project of REEI's Russian Studies Workshop. The popular series, which features screenings followed by critical discussions by faculty experts (and the filmmakers themselves sometimes), continued in Fall 2021 with a program of three films, each of which was selected as part of IU's Themester program and its theme of "Resilience." In contrast to the exclusively online format of the film series during Spring 2021, in the fall semester all screenings took place in person in the Shreve Auditorium in IU's Global and International Studies Building. On September 23, a screening of Vitaly Mansky's *Truba [Pipeline]* (2013), a documentary travelogue that casts a spotlight on the various communities situated along the pipeline transporting gas from Siberia to Western Europe, drew dozens of interested viewers. Professor Margarita Balmaceda (Seton Hall University, author of *Russian Energy Chains*) ZOOM-ed in from Budapest to provide commentary and respond to questions in a bookend conversation moderated by IU's Professor Michael De Groot (International Studies). In *Kolyma: Road of Bones* (2017), screened on October 14, director Stanislaw Mucha juxtaposes the atrocities of the GULAG (in part through the poignant observations of writer and Kolyma GULAG survivor Varlam Shalamov) with the lives of local people now living along the 1200-mile "road of bones" that stretches from Magadan to Yakutsk—indigenous, newcomers, those with family histories connected to the labor camps, and those who, somehow, have never heard of the camps.



Scene from Vitaly Mansky's *Truba [Pipeline]*

Professor Tyler Kirk (University of Alaska Fairbanks) joined RSW faculty virtually to introduce and answer audience questions about the film, which won Best Documentary Film at the Achtung Berlin Film Festival 2018.

The series concluded on November 4 when Ukrainian-born writer-director Sergei Loznitsa joined the audience virtually for a Q&A session following the screening of his *State Funeral* (2019), which pieces together original footage of Stalin's funeral and dramatically reframes it in documenting without any additional narration the four days leading up to to the momentous state funeral.

Loznitsa offers clear, stark images of the massive ceremony in all its mind-numbing pageantry as well as the propaganda and cult of personality that surrounded the leader in life and in death. Stay tuned for more RSW film screenings in fall 2022!

For more information about the series and the individual films it features, see [RSW Film Series](#).

Bethany Romashov (PhD, Slavics, 2015; MA, Slavics, 2008) is currently pursuing an MS Ed. in Counseling Education and Counselor Education.

“The Americanists” Series Resumes at IU

By Bethany Romashov

Three years ago, REEI established “The Americanists,” a lecture series aimed at exploring the rich heritage of scholarship by specialists in American Studies based in Russia.

In March of 2019, Ivan Kurilla (European University, St. Petersburg) delivered the inaugural lecture under the title “Frenemies: US-Russian Relations from a Historical Perspective.” Retracing several chapters in the history of Russian-American relations across three centuries, Kurilla showed how both the US and Russia have repeatedly used each other as a “constitutive Other” against which to measure and define themselves (video recording available [here](#)). In October of the same year, Igor Kuznetsov (Kuban State University) presented in Russian “The Red Decade in the History of collaboration between Russian and American Anthropologists” ([watch here](#)), a talk that explored the Soviet experiences of American anthropologist Archie Phinney (a member of the Nez Perce tribe) and the American experience of Soviet ethnographer Iuliia Averkieva, participants in a little-known scholarly exchange that took place in the 1930s. Both lectures, in different ways, highlighted the ongoing significance of Native Americans in the history of Soviet-American exchange.



Olga Panova

The outbreak of the COVID epidemic put the series on hold for three semesters but it resumed in September of this year when Professor Olga Panova, who teaches in the Department of Foreign Literature at Moscow State University, delivered an online presentation entitled “The Reception of African American Literature in the Soviet Union and Russia” ([video recording](#)). Panova offered an absorbing evaluation of developments in the record of “mutual attraction between the Soviet Union and Afro-America,” including the quest in Soviet literary criticism for a Black champion of class consciousness,

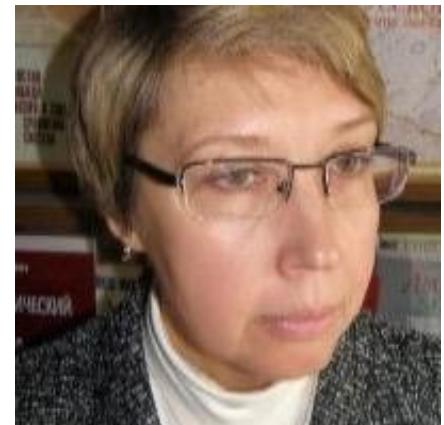
short-lived romances between Soviet cultural authorities and such Marxist Black authors as Claude McKay and Richard Wright, poet Langston Hughes' involvement in events to mark the centenary of Pushkin's death, and the strange relegation of Ralph Ellison—a passionate devotee of Russian literature—and his *Invisible Man* to relative oblivion in Russia's literary consciousness.

In October, in a lecture titled “‘Corn Diplomacy’ in US-Russia Relations” ([watch here](#)), Victoria Zhuravleva, Professor of History and International Relations and Chair of the Department of

American Studies at the Moscow-based Russian State University for the Humanities, shared her research on the genuine person-to-person diplomacy and dialogue that, in her view, superseded “value-based approaches” to foreign relations, both in the popular humanitarian campaign to feed Russian peasants with American corn during the Russian famine of 1891-92 and in Khrushchev’s collaboration with Roswell Garst, an Iowa businessman-farmer, to introduce corn hybrid production technologies into Soviet agriculture.

Despite the playfulness of its title, “The Americanists” reflects a serious interest in examining the ideological undercurrents and competing impulses of opposition and attraction that have shaped—and surely continue to shape—Russian-American mutual perceptions and cultural exchange.

Bethany Romashov (PhD, Slavics, 2015; MA, Slavics, 2008) is currently pursuing an MS Ed. in Counseling Education and Counselor Education.



Victoria Zhuravleva

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

Hasmitha Bhetalam, Graduate Assistant for Communications

Bethany Romashov, Graduate Assistant for Outreach

Stepan Serdiukov, Graduate Assistant for Curriculum

Indiana University at 53d Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

The 53d Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), was held in New Orleans, LA on November 18-21, 2021 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside and in virtual format on December 1-3. A total of 31 IU faculty, staff, and students presented papers and serve as chairs, session managers, or discussants at 37 panels and roundtables, many of which addressed the convention theme: Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity. REEI was honored to serve as a Silver Sponsor of the convention.

IU stood out in the Exhibition Hall at booths for REEI and Slavica Publishers. REEI, the Russian Studies Workshop, and the Language Workshop co-hosted the Indiana University Alumni Reception, a perennial highlight at ASEEES, on Friday, November 19 from 8 pm to 10 pm. Generously co-sponsored by the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, IU Press, Slavica Publishers, the Polish Studies Center, and the College of Arts and Science Alumni Association, the festive event brought together old friends and new friends for conviviality and camaraderie over cheese and charcuterie, desserts, wine and other beverages as well as a small formal program, led by REEI Director Sarah Phillips and featuring the presentation of the REEI Distinguished Alumni Award to Elizabeth Lee Roby (see related story on pg.40 of this issue).



Elena Doludenko (PhD, Slavic, 2017) and Kevin Hoeper (BA, History/Political Science, 2015) at the IU Alumni Reception (photo: Maria Fokina)

IU and other IN public university/college participants at 2021 ASEEES Annual Convention

Faculty/Staff Papers

Michael Alexeev (Economics): The Fiscal Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Russian Regions (with Andrey Yushkov)

Maria Bucur (History): When the Invalids Came Home: Disability in Romania after World War I

Michael Benjamin de Groot (International Studies): A Cold Blizzard of Insolvency: The Soviet Umbrella and the Debt Crisis of the Early 1980s

Ronald Feldstein (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures, Emeritus): Accentological Implications of Jakobson's Morphological Observations on Slavic Declension

Elizabeth Frances Geballe (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures): ‘Bring the Interpreter’: Tolstoy’s Fictional Translators

Joshua Malitsky (Cinema and Media Studies): Socialist Newsreel Beyond Limits

K. Andrea Rusnock (Art History, Women’s and Gender Studies/IU South Bend): Partisans in Pictures: Soviet Female Guerrillas during World War Two

Tatiana Saburova (History): Seeing Turkestan from Siberia: Semirech’e between Past and Future in Photographs of Vasilii Sapozhnikov

Student Papers

Ani Abrahamyan (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures): Between Ethnography and Fiction: Pavel Yakushkin’s Influence on Leskov’s Early Prose

Samuel Fajerstein (History): Transnational Artifacts and Agricultural Technologies: Agricultural Transfer between the US and USSR, 1973-1980

Kathleen Ann Gergely (Political Science): Assessing the Strength of South Caucasian Strategic Triangles: The Russia-Armenia-Iran and Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan Triangles

Alisha Kirchoff (Sociology): Notorious Notarius?: Media, Public Attitudes, and the Reputation of Russia’s Notaries

Szabolcs László (History): Transnational Genealogies: How Uralic and Altaic Studies Traveled from Hungary to the U.S., the 1950s-70s

Nataliya Shpylova-Saeed (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures): Publishing Book Reviews on H-Ukraine

John Stanko (Political Science): Kazakhstan’s Ambassadorial Corps: Toward an Independent Foreign Policy or Stuck in the Russian Track?

Jessica Ruth Storey-Nagy (Central Eurasian Studies, Anthropology): The Socialist Plant: Materiality, Meaning-Making, and Memory in Contemporary Hungary

Andrey Yushkov (O’Neill School): The Fiscal Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Russian Regions (with Michael Alexeev)

Leah Valtin-Erwin (History): Transnational Intermediaries and the Making of Poland’s First Supermarket After 1989

Nikolina Zenovic (Anthropology): Differing 'Mentalities' and Diasporic Erasures: Language Ideologies of Serbian Identities in Chicago

Panel Discussants

Wookjin Cheun (IUB Libraries): The Koryo-saram Diaspora: Experiencing “Korean-ness” in the Soviet Union and Post-Soviet World

Ben Eklof (History): Late Soviet Ruralism I: Rural Youth of Northwestern Russia and Soviet Minorities, the 1950s-1980s

Joshua Malitsky (Cinema and Media Studies): Transnational Cinematic Collaborations: Konchalovsky, Mészáros, and Grlić

Joanna Niżyńska (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures): Engaged Cinema: Investigating (Catholic) Church, Religion, and Ethnicity in Polish Film

Mark Trotter (Russian and East European Institute): In Pursuit of a Modus Vivendi: National Mythmaking in the Soviet Bloc

Panel/Roundtable Chairs and Session Managers

Marina Antic (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures): Socialism or Barbarism III: Antifascist Art and Culture

Ben Eklof (History): Painting and Photographing Imperial Russia: Visual Histories of Time and Space

Debra Friedman (Second Language Studies): Clashing Ideologies: Language, Identity and Politics in Ukraine and Kazakhstan

Katherine Graber (Central Eurasian Studies, Anthropology): Howard U Undergraduate Think Tank Professional Development I: Funding and Support

Padraic J. Kenney (History): East-Central Europe in the Sixties: Intersections of Culture and Mentalities

Patrick Lally Michelson (Religious Studies): The Past, Present, and Future of Russian Orthodox Studies

Tatiana Saburova (History): Searching for Siberia: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Transnational Perspectives

Jessica Ruth Storey-Nagy (Central Eurasian Studies, Anthropology): Contested Space for Minority Narratives

Mark Trotter (Russian and East European Institute): Addressing Diverse Identities and Perspectives of the Russophone World: Report from Russian Language Classrooms at the Secondary and Postsecondary Levels

Roundtable Members

Michael V. Alexeev (Economics): The Russian Economy and Economic Politics: What after COVID-19?

Wookjin Cheun (IU Libraries): Great Collectors of Slavica and East Europeana at University Libraries in Canada, California, and the Midwest (USA)

Padraig J. Kenney (History): Writing Communist History: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gender and Inequality in the Academy

Sarah Drue Phillips (Anthropology): Book Discussion: “Survival as Victory: Ukrainian Women in the Gulag,” by Oksana Kis

Veronika Trotter (IU Libraries): Wikimedia Projects in Russian and Eastern European Studies

Russell Scott Valentino (Slavic/East European Languages & Cultures): Searching for Siberia: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Transnational Perspectives

Participants from other Indiana-based public universities (apart from IU)

Francine Friedman (Ball State U): Roundtable Chair for The Collapse of Yugoslavia: Is it Over Yet and Was it Historically Relevant?

Amina Gabrielova (Purdue U): Sharov and Krzizhanovsky on Theater and Life/Roundtable Member for The Oeuvre of Vladimir Sharov: Beyond History

Rebekah Klein-Pejsova (Purdue U): Book Discussion Chair and Member for “The Fiume Crisis: Life in the Wake of the Habsburg Empire,” by Dominique Kirchner Reill/Panel Chair for Refugees in Search of Each Other after WWII

Hubert Izienicki (Purdue U): Roundtable Member for Gender and Sexuality in Polish/Polish American Studies: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

Olga Lyanda-Geller (Purdue U): Conversations with Socrates: The Image of Socrates in Russian Philosophical Literature/Panel Chair for The Reception of Ancient Philosophy in Early Twentieth-Century Russia

Barbara J. Skinner (Indiana State U): Unia as the New Old Belief? Discussant for Solidarity Contested II: Religious, Ethnic, and National Solidarities and Indifference in Russia's Western Borderlands, the 1830s-1930s



Right to left: IU faculty Russell Valentino (Slavic), Tatiana Saburova (History) with Nicholas Brenton Breyfogle (Ohio State University), Olga Povoroznyuk (University of Vienna), and Peter Schweitzer (University of Vienna) at conclusion of roundtable Searching for Siberia: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Transnational Perspectives (photo: Maria Fokina)

The Hoosier Connection: Lithuanian Diaspora in Northern Indiana and its Cultural Footprint

By Stepan Serdiukov

Every year, the Friendship Botanic Gardens in Michigan City, Indiana plays host to the Lithuanian Festival, an event that draws revelers who come to hear Lithuanian music, watch folk ensemble performances, and enjoy traditional Lithuanian food. The festival honors the values which led to the park's establishment in 1936, when it comprised sections for 14 different ethnicities, so that members of each can promote their culture and learn about others. The annual Lithuanian Festival is just one of many ways in which the Lithuanian diaspora has graced the cultural landscape of Indiana since the beginning of the twentieth century. While at one time almost a million Lithuanians lived in the United States, the community has receded in visibility.

However, Lithuanian landmarks in the Hoosier State remind us of an era when European immigrants created many new centers of cultural and political life in North America, through the formation of neighborhood enclaves and the establishment of churches, monuments, and social clubs. These ethnic hubs began to appear in the late nineteenth century during an explosion of national consciousness in Europe, when subject ethnicities of various empires increasingly aspired for statehood. Immigrant neighborhoods and institutions in the United States served as bases for pro-independence movements in opposition to the European empires that denied self-determination to Lithuanians, Poles, Finns, Czechs, and many other ethnicities. When the First World War and subsequent revolutions swept the old monarchies off the map--to be replaced, in many cases, by new republican nation-states (including Lithuania)--the importance of the European diasporas declined. In just a few decades, though, their political significance reemerged when the US welcomed refugees from the post-World War II settlement that left much of Eastern Europe under communist control. The new arrivals gladly took advantage of the old immigrant networks, and Lithuanians were no exception. But Lithuanians and other immigrants participated in diaspora institutions like churches, mutual aid societies, business associations and parochial schools for more than explicitly nationalist reasons. Community fixtures provided companionship and a modest social safety net, benefits of especial importance before the New Deal programs and mass unionization.

Material traces of Indiana's Lithuanian heritage embrace two facets of immigrant ethnic identity: the first celebrated Lithuanian statehood, the second the Roman Catholic faith, shared by most Lithuanians. A good representation of the first tendency can be found in the Friendship Botanic Gardens, in which a Lithuanian section was dedicated in October 1941. Its centerpiece is a memorial with three stelae in honor of the three presidents who served Lithuania between the proclamation of the republic

In 1918 and the Soviet occupation in 1940. One of them commemorates Antanas Smetona, President of Lithuania in 1919-1920 and 1926-1940, who planted a pine tree at the dedication ceremony for the Lithuanian section. By then a political exile, Smetona had been living in the nearby Benton Harbor, Michigan. He kept himself busy by planning a lecture tour, learning to golf, and publicly admiring the American standard of living, particularly the household conveniences and the state of the roads.¹ Benton



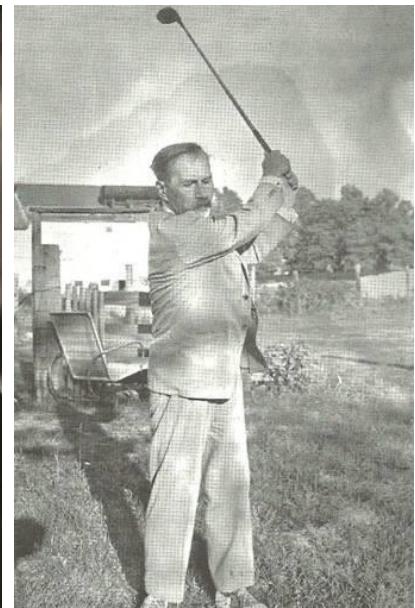
Lithuanian Presidents' Memorial at Friendship Botanic Gardens, Michigan City, IN (image credit: Augustinas Žemaitis, global.truelithuania.com)

¹ "Exiled Head of Lithuania in Michigan," *The Kokomo Tribune*, August 8, 1941.

Harbor once formed part of the “Lithuanian Riviera”—a stretch of Indiana and Michigan lakeshore towns popular with Lithuanian Americans as holiday and retirement destinations from the 1930s on. The Riviera, however, never formed the core of Indiana’s Lithuanian community. That honor belonged to the cities of East Chicago and Gary, which lured many workers away from Chicago (the original Lithuanian population hub in the Midwest) to the newly built steel plants in the 1910s and 1920s.

After World War II, two more stelae, dedicated to Presidents Aleksandras Stulginskis and Kazys Grinius, appeared in the Lithuanian garden. There was more than a touch of irony to this. In 1926, both Grinius and Stulginskis resigned the presidency one after another, deposed in a military coup led by none other than Antanas Smetona. He would remain in power until the Soviet troops removed him in 1940. Now, however, all three are commemorated equally. The monument’s meaning has changed since 1990. Before Lithuania regained its independence, the stelae served as a cenotaph to the statehood lost during Soviet domination. Now, it simply commemorates the first republican era and its political contingencies.

The Stulginskis and Grinius park stelae owed their existence in part to the post-World War II generation of Lithuanian migrants. They came to the United States from displaced persons’ camps spread across Europe, having refused to return to Soviet-ruled Lithuania. The Lithuanians from this group called themselves *dipukai*—a moniker derived from the acronym DP, a reflection of the years spent in the camps, where they had built tightly-knit communities singularly focused on the preservation of Lithuanian language and identity in exile. Those who found their way to Indiana helped to rejuvenate the state’s Lithuanian enclaves. Church congregations had already started to trend older, as more second-generation immigrants were moving out to the suburbs.



Left: Antanas Smetona, President of Lithuania (1919-1920, 1926-1940) Right: Smetona golfing near Lake Michigan in 1941 during his exile (image credit: vilnews.com)

Michigan City, Oct. 9 (AP) — Antona Smetona, refugee president of Soviet-conquered Lithuania, will dedicate a garden of the International Friendship gardens a mile and a half east of Michigan City on U. S. Highway 12. J. V. Stauffer, executive director of the gardens, said he expected many of the almost 100,000 Lithuanians around Chicago to attend.

The Rushville Republican (Rushville, IN), October 9, 1941.

Former teachers and intellectuals from the *dipukai* ranks founded Lithuanian Saturday schools to teach diaspora children the language of their parents. These institutions replaced the old parochial schools, originally founded in the 1910s by the Catholic orders ministering to Lithuanians and now facing closure with many of their parishes.

This *dipukai* activity presaged what historian Matthew Frye Jacobson called “white ethnic revival.” Following the peak of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, more descendants of European immigrants began to take an active interest in their family histories. They claimed their ancestors’ migrant experience as evidence of their own “true” Americanism, and expressed unabashed pride in it—in contrast to the first generation, which often sought to downplay immigrant origins in a struggle to assimilate.

LITHUANIAN OCEAN FLIERS KILLED; POST LEAVES MOSCOW FOR SIBERIA

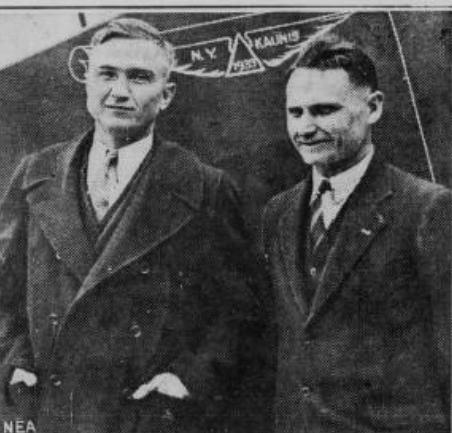
BANKER FREE FROM ILLINOIS KIDNAP TRAP

Lair of Abductors Near Collinsville Believed Found by Sheriff.

By United Press
ALTON, Ill., July 17.—Discovery of a “cold, concrete underground cell,” led investigators to believe today they were close on the trail of the abductors of August Luer, 77-year-old retired financier, who was liberated early Sunday on the “Bluff road” one mile west of Collinsville.

Sheriff Peter Fitzgerald, who with department of justice agents assumed charge of the investigation, announced he had found a subcellar to a garage in the rear of a home which fitted Luer’s own description of the kidnappers’ lair.

NEAR GOAL WHEN HALTED BY TRAGEDY



Captain Stephen Darius (left) and Stanley Girenas, whose bodies were found today in their wrecked plane in Germany after a crash on their attempted New York-to-Lithuania flight.

Oklahoman Far Ahead of Record in Attempt to Set New Time Mark in Daring Dash Around World.

KOVNO PLANE CRASHES IN GERMANY

Apparently Becomes Lost During Night in Darkness Near Berlin After Success in Hop Over Atlantic.

By United Press
While Wiley Post, Oklahoma aviator, sped on his record attempt flight around the world, tragedy overtook two other airmen who attempted a flight from New York to Kovno, Lithuania.

The bodies of Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas, Lithuanians, were found in their wrecked plane near Soldin, Germany. They had flown the Atlantic, but apparently were lost during the night in the darkness around Berlin, and cracked up in the woods near Soldin, about sixty-five miles northeast of Berlin.

Post was flying toward Novosibirsk, Siberia, from Moscow, on the third leg of his round-the-world flight.

The Indianapolis Times report on the Lituanica crash, July 17, 1933

Bearing that in mind, it is hardly surprising that in 1968 the Indiana Lithuanians created another monument symbolically connecting the diaspora and the homeland. A park in the Lithuanian Riviera town of Beverly Shores was opened to commemorate the ill-fated transatlantic flight of the *Lituanica*. Piloted by Lithuanian-Americans Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas, the Kaunas-bound *Lituanica* took off from New York on July 15, 1933. Darius and Girenas wanted both to make aviation history by flying the single-engine rotary plane across one of the most treacherous air routes of the time and to inspire young Lithuanians all over the world by their feat. They had raised money for the flight by staging air shows and collecting donations from the diaspora.

Thirty-seven hours after takeoff, on July 17, 1933, the *Lituanica* crashed in Germany, only 404 miles short of its destination. The precise reason for the accident has yet to be determined--the pilots had a lot of experience and the plane was properly outfitted for the long-haul flight. Lithuania observed a month of national mourning, giving Girenas and Darius a state funeral with full military honors.

The park in Beverly Shores that commemorates the flight of the *Lituanica* came about through the collective efforts of the Indiana Lithuanian community, which likely included both recent immigrants and the descendants of the first-wave arrivals from the Russian Empire. However, its particular look and feel resulted from the work of two *dipukai*. The first of them, Erdvilas Masiulis, had left Lithuania in 1944 and studied architecture in Stuttgart before leaving for Australia. He came to the US in 1955, settling in Beverly Shores, where he designed homes for families moving out to the Lithuanian Riviera. Masiulis planned the layout of the seven-acre park and chaired its executive committee, while another displaced artist, sculptor Juozas Bakis, constructed the park's centerpiece—a 25-foot-tall steel statue representing the wreck of the *Lituanica*, entitled "Broken Wing" and erected in 1971.

The symbolism of Lituanica Park was doubly somber at the time of its groundbreaking in 1968, as it not only commemorated not the tragic flight but also marked the 50th anniversary of Lithuanian independence which then had been lost for almost a generation. However, as a permanent landmark on Indiana's soil that showcased the diaspora's creative vitality, the park's very existence doubtlessly provided hope for the Beverly Shores Lithuanian community.

In 1970, the American-Lithuanian Citizens Club of Beverly Shores found money for ambitious alterations to Saint Ann of the Dunes, a local Catholic church originally built in the early 1950s. Erdvilas Masiulis designed the temple's new wings and added a glass wall behind the altar, so that the parishioners could admire the trees just outside during worship. Lithuanian artists donated a *Rūpintojėlis*—a statue of pensive Christ often encountered in Lithuanian roadside shrines. They also installed stained-glass windows and procured a new altar cross made of amber, a material widely used in traditional Lithuanian arts and crafts. While Saint Ann of the Dunes was not founded as a parish specifically for Lithuanian Catholics, the alterations of 1970 essentially turned it into another diaspora space. It became a new dot on the ethnic map of Indiana during the period when the parishes of older Lithuanian churches in the region began to dwindle in number. Many of those churches would soon face closure and even demolition.



The "Broken Wing" memorial in Lituanica Park, Beverly Shores, IN
(image credit: Augustinas Zemaitis, global.true lithuania.com)

One example is Saint Francis Lithuanian Catholic Church in East Chicago. Since 1913 it had functioned as a hub of Lithuanian culture in the city, but in the late twentieth century it fell victim to the rapid deindustrialization of the area.

Between 1970 and 1990, East Chicago lost over a quarter of its population as a result of steel plant layoffs, and the parish ceased to be viable. The church was closed in 1987 and torn down two years later despite the pleas of the congregation. A spokesman for the diocese at the time tartly referred to the building as a “fire trap” that was “held together by the Band-Aid approach” and “had to go.” A *Chicago Tribune* reporter witnessed bereaved parishioners as they scoured the condemned building for artifacts to salvage and donate to another church.² For a city that in the 1920s boasted multiple Lithuanian restaurants, taverns, bakeries, a tailor shop, and even a printing house, the demolition of Saint Francis was but the final stage in the fraying of the once taut fabric of diaspora institutions.



Altar wall in St. Ann of the Dunes Catholic Church, Beverly Shores, IN (image credit: Augustinas Zemaitis, global.truelithuania.com)



Left: St. Francis of Assisi Lithuanian Church in East Chicago, undated (image credit: Global.truelithuania.com) Right: Demolition of St. Francis in February 1989 (image credit: Maryanne Prashina, former parishioner)

Another major cultural center of the Calumet region Lithuanians, Saint Casimir’s Church in Gary, also saw its fortunes rise and fall with the steel industry. Founded in 1917, just eleven years after the city itself, it closed in 1998 when the diocese refused to relocate the parish to the suburbs. However, both the school and the church building survive to this day, even if the interior decorations that once clearly marked them as Lithuanian do not. These had included stained-glass windows by Adolfas Valeška, an artist who had helped refurbish Saint Ann of the Dunes. Now, the evangelical Power and Light Church of Gary owns both buildings and holds regular services there.

² Laurie Goering, “Lithuanian Church Running Out of Time,” *Chicago Tribune*, February 20, 1989, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1989-02-20-8903060838-story.html>.



Left: Former building of St. Casimir Church in Gary, IN (image credit: Augustinas Zemaitis, Global.truelithuania.com) Right: Former church school building of St. Casimir's (image credit: Augustinas Zemaitis, Global.truelithuania.com)

The cultural footprint of Lithuanian immigrants in Indiana is in many ways similar to that of other European immigrant groups around the country. It formed during the booming in American manufacturing and the waning of European empires with the concomitant mass exodus of those ready to take up the multitude of arduous and hazardous, but still comparatively well-paid jobs available overseas. Living in American urban enclaves gave Lithuanians an opportunity to maintain their culture and language while sustaining ethnically marked sacred spaces such as churches at a time when similar efforts in the homeland were met with the suspicion and hostility of imperial authorities. The post-World War II influx of committed pro-independence migrants from the European DP camps gave a boost to this work, but it could not entirely protect the old Lithuanian neighborhoods from the all-consuming processes of suburbanization and deindustrialization, which furthered the dispersion of the immigrant community. In a way, the dipukai's successes in creating alternative diaspora spaces in the Indiana lakeshore towns have actually hastened the demise of the Lithuanian enclaves in cities such as Gary and East Chicago, which had already been losing population. The restoration of Lithuanian independence in 1990 practically ensured the return of some former exiles to the home country. In turn, Lithuania's accession to the European Union in 2004 opened to its citizens a large labor market right next door, further cutting potential migration to the United States. While these developments leave the Lithuanian landmarks in Indiana with an uncertain future, quite a few survive, as a reminder of an era that nurtured many immigrant nationalisms on the American soil.

Stepan Serdiukov is a doctoral candidate in History at Indiana University.

Interested in supporting REEI's programs and students?

See our [GIVING OPPORTUNITIES](#) page.

Renewed Support from the Carnegie Corporation Secures New Opportunities for Russian Studies at IU

By Maria Fokina

The R. F. Byrnes Russian East European Institute (REEI) has received a \$600,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) to fund new and ongoing opportunities for development of Russian Studies at Indiana University. The award maintains CCNY's support of REEI initiatives, a collaboration that dates to the establishment of the [Russian Studies Workshop \(RSW\)](#) under the auspices of REEI in 2016.



Arising from the need to reinvigorate interest in Russian Studies at US institutions following the end of the Cold War, the initial \$1 million grant enabled RSW to become a hub of collaborative opportunities for Russianists in the United States, Russia, and Europe. RSW's early successes led to a second grant of \$700,000 from CCNY in 2019-2021.

"With CCNY's support, the RSW has become an effective platform for international cooperation in Russian Studies and one that bridges social sciences and humanities," comments Tatiana Saburova, RSW Academic Co-Director.

Since its inception, RSW has played a critical role in

- Development of research clusters—cross-disciplinary teams that organize research, training, and public activities
- Institutional partnerships that connect scholars across national and disciplinary borders
- Expansion of IU curricular offerings to elevate student enrollment in Russia-centered courses
- Funding of research opportunities and conferences for visiting scholars, students, and faculty

RSW's future centers on expansion and sustainability. In this final grant phase, RSW will enrich IU Russian Studies by means of a tenure-track faculty hire as well as further development of research clusters and institutional relationships with other CCNY-funded programs, in particular the Wisconsin-Russia project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As the RSW continues to build the strength of IU in Russian Studies, plans are taking shape to ensure its future.

According to REEI Director Sarah Phillips, REEI is looking for additional support options to enhance RSW's long-term security: "We are building a sustainable program that will live long beyond the tenure of the generous Carnegie grants."

Maria Fokina is Project Coordinator for the Russian Studies Workshop.

Alex Lichtenstein to lead IU and Serbian students on civil rights tour with support of new grant

Adapted from article by Kirk Johannsen that appeared in News at IU Bloomington on October 27, 2021 at <https://news.iu.edu/stories/2021/10/iub/27-history-professor-serbian-students-civil-rights-tour.html>.

How do people reckon with their country's troubled history regarding racism? An IU professor wants students from the Bloomington campus to consider that fundamental question when they participate in a civil rights tour with college students from Serbia.

In 2022 and 2023, Professor [Alex Lichtenstein](#), an REEI faculty affiliate in History and American Studies, will lead tours of US civil rights memorials in the South that will involve about a half-dozen IU students and 10 from the University of Novi Sad.

The first tour will take place in late May 2022, starting in Washington, D.C. at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It will include visits to the Emmett Till Memorial in Mississippi, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama, and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. While slavery, segregation and racial violence are part of United States history, Lichtenstein said, the civil rights tour offers a similar connection for the Serbian students, whose country has a barely acknowledged past marked by ethnic cleansing during the Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s.

"As a historian, I believe a democratic future rests on an honest reckoning with the past," Lichtenstein said. "Americans are arguing about how best to come terms with racism. We want the Serbians to join us in this journey of reckoning with a troubled past."

The US Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, is making this program possible through a \$100,000 grant to IU's College of Arts and Sciences. Carolyn Lantz, who serves as Director of International Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences, explained that the US Embassy wanted to support the creation and nurturing of university partnerships between the US and Serbia. The partnership program between the US and Serbia is part of a larger US foreign policy initiative to help countries develop democratic practices and learn about the US, on the one hand, and to help US students learn about those countries and support a mutual understanding, on the other.



University of Novi Sad (Photo:
https://www.reddit.com/r/brutalism/comments/gotc98/university_of_novi_sad_serbia_faculty_of/)

"On an individual level, we want both the Serbian and IU students to spend some time thinking about how we characterize the past and how we acknowledge it," said Lantz, who assisted Lichtenstein in preparing the grant application. "A lot of Serbians still need to work through the fact that maybe they were not in the right in the 1990s and need to acknowledge that and the pain."

To promote good relations among Serbians and Americans, the project is also supported by a \$50,000 donation from David and Ann Erne through the [Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute](#) at IU's Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies.

"This is an important opportunity to solidify and strengthen IU's partnerships with universities in Serbia through direct ties between faculty and students from both sides," said Sarah D. Phillips, director of the Russian and East European Institute. "We are very grateful to the Ernes for their continued support of Serbian studies at IU."

Lichtenstein is partnering with Aleksandra Izgarjan, Professor of English at the University of Novi Sad and President of the Association for American Studies in South East Europe. The University of Novi Sad seeks to build a partnership with IU while improving its American studies curriculum, said Lichtenstein said.

After the trip, Lichtenstein will travel to Novi Sad for consultations with students and professors as well as a workshop that he will convene at Serbia's Centre for Public History to discuss the use of public memorials to prompt honest discussion of painful historical events like ethnic cleansing, lynching and genocide. On an institutional level, Lantz expects some University of Novi Sad faculty to incorporate some of what they see into their history and American studies classes. The hope, she added, is that the lessons IU and Serbian students learn will have a long-term impact in promoting dialogue about how to commemorate the past.

Lichtenstein said he wanted to seize this opportunity after partnering with South Africa's University of Pretoria in fall 2019 to bring five students on a civil rights and memory tour in the US. He took the South African students and five students from IU's Global Living-Learning Community to sites in Mississippi and Alabama, including the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.



Alex Lichtenstein, kneeling, with students from IU and South Africa on a civil rights tour in 2019. (Photo courtesy of Alex Lichtenstein)

"That was the showcase, to bring memories of racial violence to the forefront," Lichtenstein said. "There was a connection to South Africa, obviously, because of their reckoning with the history of apartheid and the connection to the struggle against racism."

Similar trips are a possibility for the future. "I can imagine us doing this again with other people that are struggling with issues of racial conflicts," Lichtenstein said.

Newly Created Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina vanden Heuvel Fund to Support REEI

The Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute (REEI) is delighted to announce the creation of a new fund to support its activities and constituents: the Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina vanden Heuvel Fund. We are grateful to the late Professor Cohen's wife, Katrina vanden Heuvel, for this generous gift, which commemorates his life and legacy as well as the role that REEI played in his scholarly formation.

A preeminent historian of the Soviet Union and Russia, Stephen F. Cohen received two degrees at IU: a BS in Business Economics and Public Policy (1960), and an MA in Government (1962).

This new endowment will provide approximately \$22K per year to support some of the greatest needs of REEI by covering expenses related to travel, research, conferences, recruitment of graduate students, guest lectures, hospitality, instructional staffing, and critical programming.

The Stephen F. Cohen and Katrina vanden Heuvel fund supplements the existing Tucker-Cohen Fellowship for MA students at IU who demonstrate a scholarly interest in the history and politics of the Soviet Union and/or Russia and intend to pursue a career in some field of public service, such as journalism, secondary education, non-profit work, or government. Established in 2012 through the generosity of Ms. vanden Heuvel and Professor Cohen, the Tucker-Cohen Fellowship is awarded every other year.



From left: Katrina vanden Heuvel, Stephen F. Cohen, Alexander Rabinowitz, Janet Rabinowitz at IU in October, 2019

Since his death in September 2020, remembrances of Professor Cohen have appeared in numerous scholarly and popular outlets. An especially poignant and thorough "[In Memoriam](#)" piece was published in the journal *Kritika* (Volume 22, Number 2/Spring 2021) by IU's own Dr. Alexander Rabinowitch, Professor Emeritus of History and former REEI director.

LTC Robert A. McVey Returns to REEI as US Army War College Fellow in 2021-22

REEI alumnus Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert A. McVey Jr. will be in residence at REEI in 2021-22 as its Strategic Russian and East European US Army War College (USAWC) Fellow. The Hamilton Lugar School is one of a select number of institutions with the privilege to host fellows from the US Army War College Program, which helps Army leaders sharpen their skills and broaden their outlook as strategic thinkers.

LTC McVey is the third USAWC Fellow that HLS has hosted since 2019-20. He comes to us from Vilnius, Lithuania, where he served as the Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché at the US Embassy. LTC McVey holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Loyola University in Chicago, a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida



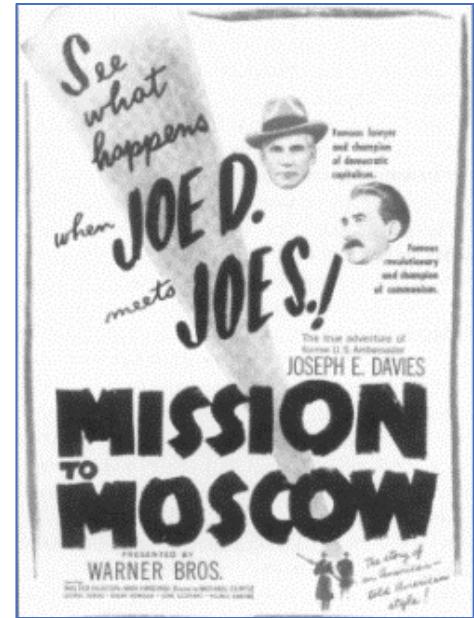
Institute of Technology and a Master of Arts in Russian and East European Studies from REEI (2011). His formal military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Officer Captain Career Course, Russian Basic Course - Defense Language Institute, Command and General Staff College, Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management, Joint Forces Staff College, and the Joint Military Attaché School. He has served at a wide variety of locations here in the United States and abroad including Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Monterey, California; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Riga, Latvia; Kiev, Ukraine; and Washington DC.

In addition to auditing four Russian and East European focused courses per semester LTC McVey will be researching and writing about the Russian Federation's strategic interests in the Arctic to fulfill his USAWC academic requirements. Welcome back to Bloomington, Robert!

New Additions to the REEI AV Library Treat USSR on the Eve and in the Aftermath of World War II

By Bethany Romashov

It's 1943 and you are an ordinary American out to see a Hollywood flick which you have heard is all about contemporary Russia—neither the anachronistic mélange of savagery and splendor you might have seen in movies as a child, nor the more recent “happy ending” dramas tailored to the Western palate, but purportedly a record of contemporary life in the Soviet Union. Like many, you are circumspect, so when Joseph E. Davies, US Ambassador to the USSR from 1936-1938, appeals directly to your discernment as a viewer and assures you that the film to follow will present only the “hardboiled” facts, good and bad, witnessed firsthand by an unbiased observer, your hopes soar. You are both puzzled and intrigued as Davies goes on to describe the Soviet government as “misrepresented and misunderstood.” Produced and distributed by Warner Brothers, *Mission to Moscow* was the first pro-Soviet Hollywood film of the World War II era, soon to be followed by Samuel Goldwyn's *The North Star* (1943, available for loan from REEI), MGM's *Song of Russia* (1944, available for loan from REEI), United Artists' *Three Russian Girls* (1943), and Columbia's *The Boy from Stalingrad* (1943, available for loan from REEI) and *Counter-Attack* (1945). Based on Davies' best-selling book of the same name, an account of his years in the USSR, the film enjoyed the support of FDR himself, who even met with Davies on a number of occasions to discuss its production. As the *Mission to Moscow* opens, the new US ambassador to the USSR (played by Walter Huston) cuts short a family vacation to accept his “mission”—meeting with Soviet leaders to determine whose side the USSR will take in the impending war with Germany. He sweeps his wife and grown daughter off on a grand tour of the USSR that offers the film audience a strange brew. There are many cultural clichés (perhaps intended to show that some things haven't really changed in Russia), displays of Soviet strength and innovation meant to evoke confidence in a Soviet-American alliance, and appeals to shared aspirations and ideals (sometimes self-contradictory, juxtaposing for instance Russia's new elite culture with the low “bourgeois” morals of corrupt officials). The dramatic focus on Stalin's purge of “traitorous” Trotskyite elements (i.e., Party figures formerly hailed as heroes of the Revolution) telescopes the Moscow Trials (1936-1938) into a single conclusive hearing whose final pronouncement of guilt is backed by a dizzying web of international intrigue. Could an average American Joe, in 1943, distinguish aspects of Davies' narrative that were problematic or downright contrary to



fact? Did *Mission to Moscow* earn, as Davies so solemnly promised, the respect of an audience interested in truth? What ideological players shaped its filming and production? Does its approach differ in important respects from, say, *One-Story America* (1937), Ilf and Petrov's literary travelogue of the United States—an entertaining and educational reportage served up to the Soviet public with a healthy helping of state propaganda? To what extent is *Mission to Moscow* an echo of competing voices and values of the day? Fortunately, today we can answer these questions by watching the film and reviewing the storm of controversy that followed its release fourscore years ago.

Can having a child heal one's trauma, one's loneliness? How might the experience of war change the terms of love, or even alter its definition? And what is the price of hope in a society reduced to shards? These are some of the many difficult questions posed by Russian film director Kantemir Balagov in his 2019 historical drama *Beanpole* [*Dylda*], which received the Best Director Award and the FIPRESCI Prize for Best Film in the Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival and was short listed for Best International Feature Film at the

92nd Academy Awards. The film follows the tumultuous relationship between Iya (Viktoria Miroshnichenko) and Masha (Vasilisa Perelygina), two young women who return to Leningrad from the front at the end of the Second World War. Iya, a tall thin blonde whom the hospital ward nurses call "Beanpole," assists the chief physician in relieving the distress of maimed soldiers, sometimes with simple good cheer and sometimes, we learn, by means of illicit lethal injections. Subject to spells of trembling and immobility following a traumatic brain injury on the front, Iya accidentally suffocates Masha's malnourished son Pashka (Timofey Glazkov) during a round of affectionate play while babysitting him. Met with silence upon her return, Masha guesses the truth; her numb reaction becomes comprehensible only as the nature of her own wartime traumas is gradually revealed. Soon, an ailing Masha decides to replace her lost child—despite all odds, and at any cost—and enlists Iya's reluctant help. Intense moments of brilliance and light saturated with the color green (symbolizing sensations of hope and renewal) alternate with shadowy scenes tinted with red (as though all were steeped in blood and decay) to visually underscore the internal conflict that pervades the protagonists' post-war experience. As Masha and Iya are enmeshed in strange relational triangles reflecting each woman's broken attempt to embody her private hopes and dreams, the riddle of their relationship gains sharper focus, causing us to ponder—whether genuine intimacy is possible in the wake of incomparable loss, whether compassion can prevail over desperation, whether



Vasilisa Perelygina (left) and Viktoria Miroshnichenko in *Beanpole*

life can be rebuilt *with* someone else, or only at another's expense. Balagov and fellow writer Aleksandr Terekhov pull no punches, offer no solutions—the film's unyielding narrative honesty is perhaps the greatest badge of honor one can offer its intrepid heroines.

We encourage readers of *REEIification* to check out *Mission to Moscow*, *Beanpole* or other of the many films for free from REEI's ever expanding AV library ([catalogs here](#)). Email your request to our Outreach GA at reei@iu.edu.

Bethany Romashov (PhD, Slavics, 2015; MA, Slavics, 2008) is currently pursuing an MS Ed. in Counseling Education and Counselor Education.

Student News

George Andrei (History) recently published the piece "Between Sustainability and Development in Romania," as part of the initiative for public engagement developed by NYU's Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. You can read the piece [here](#).

Erin Dusza (Art History) has relocated to Brno, Czech Republic to conduct doctoral dissertation research on Czech art and the role of nostalgia in national identity creation in the nineteenth century. Supported by a Fulbright research grant (deferred from 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic), Erin's nine-month sojourn in Brno will enable her to exploit the resources of Masaryk University and the Moravian Library.

Maria Fokina (Musicology) has accepted a position as the Project Coordinator for the [Russian Studies Workshop](#) at REEI.

Alisha Kirchoff (Sociology) is Visiting Instructor in the Department of Sociology at Macalester College.

Szabolcs László (History) published ["Six Appraisals of the Illiberal Mind,"](#) a piece that compares the illiberal populist regimes in Hungary and Poland, in *Democracy Seminar* in July. During the summer, he delivered online presentations based on his dissertation research about the globalization of the Hungarian Kodály Method during the Cold War at the 27th International Conference of Europeanists and the 10th World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies. In October, he presented “Interlocking Truth Regimes. Internationally Mobile Scholars as Targets of Cold War Agendas” at a workshop organized by the Blinken Open Society Archives in Budapest and “Small State Orientalism and Imperial History: Hungarian Explorations and Instrumentalizations of Central Asia,” at a workshop organized by the Munich Centre for Global History.

Filip Mitricevic (History) published his latest op-ed in the Serbian daily *Danas (Today)* on November 4 under the title "How My Friend Joined the Ruling Party." A rumination on Czeslaw

Milosz's "*The Captive Mind*, the piece treats the everyday personal choices of Serbs in 2021 in the face of what the opposition and some foreign thinkers are labeling a dictatorial regime.

Dafna Rachok (Anthropology) was awarded two major grants from the National Science Foundation and the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research in support of her dissertation research in Ukraine, where she will spend the next 18 months investigating access to health care, and HIV prevention and treatment in particular, for vulnerable populations such as commercial sex workers.

Nataliya Shpylova Saeed (Slavic) presented "Entangled Past-Contested Memory" at International Scientific Conference "30 years: How we write and create the history of contemporary Ukraine" in Kharkiv (Ukraine) in September, "'Mnemonic Entanglements and Contested Identities: Palimpsests of Contestations in Ukraine'" at the Memory Studies Association Annual Conference in Warsaw in July, and "Contested Memory: Premises and Repercussions" at the 2nd Annual Taras Shevchenko Conference, held at IU Bloomington in March. She is the recipient of a EURO Graduate Student Grant. The Department of Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures presented her with the Jerzy Kolodziej Excellence in Teaching Award in Spring 2021 and has awarded her the Neatrour-Edgerton Fellowship Spring 2022.

John C. Stanko (Political Science) was named runner-up in the NYU Jordan Center's second annual Graduate Student Essay Competition for his "[Bigger Nets Mean More Goals: Russian Cultural Diplomacy and the KH.](#)"

Jessica Storey-Nagy (CEUS) has published "Creating Truths in Orbán's Hungary" in *Anthropology News* (November-December 2021: <https://www.anthropology-news.org/>).

Leah Valtin-Erwin (History) is currently conducting research in Bucharest under the auspices of the Fulbright-Hays program. Her article, "A Bag for All Systems: Historicizing Shopping Bags in Eastern European Consumer Culture, 1980–2000," an earlier version of which won the 2019 Daniel Armstrong Memorial Research Paper Award, was published in the *Journal of Contemporary History* in November 2021. In Fall 2021, she was a visiting fellow at the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History (ZZF) in Potsdam, Germany.

Nikolina Zenovic (Anthropology) presented "Papa Smurf and 'Sviće Zora': Citing Cartoons and Folklore in Protests Against the 2019 Montenegrin Law on Freedom of Religion" at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Baltimore in November.

New REEI MA Students

REEI was delighted to welcome the following students to our MA program in August 2021:

Shan Karemani studied political science and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at Stetson University. After studying abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia and completing his thesis on nationalism in Kosovo and Central Asia, Shan graduated magna cum laude and became a Peace Corps volunteer in Kosovo, where he taught English to elementary and middle school students. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and looks forward to improving his Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian skills as a FLAS Fellow. Shan's research interests include ethnic politics, nationalism, Islamophobia, and Orientalism.

Rachel Kelly graduated cum laude with a BA in History from Oklahoma State University. With a minor in Russian Language & Literature as well as a summer at the IU Language Workshop under her belt, she looks forward to further studying both the languages and cultures of Eurasia in her time with REEI. When she is not intently scrutinizing the complexities of Russian grammar, she is likely exploring her interest in the relationship between Russia and the broader region of Central Asia or preparing new pieces to perform with the professional ensemble New American Voices.

Ryan Letourneau graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 2021 with a BA double major in History and Russian Studies. Originally from Windham, NH, Ryan is pursuing a MA at REEI. Ryan is a member of both the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society and the Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society. He has completed two 8-week intensive sessions of the Middlebury Language School Russian Immersion Program and looks forward to further developing his Russian language skills. Ryan's research interests include Russia's relations with the West, national defense, and the Russian military industry. His ultimate goal is to pursue a career within the Federal Government.

Born and raised in a small town in Kosovo, **Jeta Loshaj** finished her undergraduate studies at Rochester Institute of Technology- Kosovo with a major in Public Policy and Management, and a minor in International Relations. She has completed many internships in international non-governmental and governmental organizations, including UNDP Kosovo and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She has also interned at the German Parliament in Berlin, and until recently had been working as a project coordinator at the German political foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung office in Pristina. In her studies at REEI, she aims to learn more about the language, culture, and history of Russia, as well its foreign policy and influence in the Western Balkans.

Minja Petrovic graduated from the University of Kragujevac in Serbia with a major in elementary education. During her BA studies, her academic achievements as an undergraduate helped her to secure an ERASMUS + scholarship which enabled her to study for

one semester in Hungary, where she developed an interest in the impact of politics on education in different countries.

Marie Rider graduated from Baylor University in the spring of 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in Russian and International Studies. As an incoming Master's student in the REEI program, she hopes to research the political, economic, cultural, and social connections that Russia and Kazakhstan share.

Olga Zavarotnaya hails from Vitebsk, Belarus. She received a Bachelor's degree in International Studies with a minor in Russian and Eastern European Studies from Indiana University. She is interested in Russian and Belarusian political and economic development, as well as Russia's Eastern European foreign policy. Her professional objective is to work for an international business company or an NGO which focuses on Russian and Eastern European relations, political economy or policymaking.

Faculty/Staff News

David B. Audretsch (O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs) was named a Clarivate Citation Laureate, an international honor reserved for researchers whose work is deemed to be "of Nobel class" as demonstrated by analysis carried out by the Institute for Scientific Information. A fuller account of the award can be found [here](#).

Maria Bucur (History) has published revised versions of "How banning abortion will transform America" (with Kristen R. Ghodsee) in [Public Seminar](#), and "Gender and Religiosity in Communist Romania: Continuity and Change, 1945-1989" in Ina Merdjanova, ed., *Women in Orthodox Christianity* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2020). Her "Between Regional and Transnational Contexts" is the lead article in the *Handbook for Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia* (New York: Routledge, 2021). In September, Bucur presented "When the Invalids Came Home: Disability in Romania after WWI" at *Gender and Materiality in Central and Eastern Europe in the XXth Century*, a conference hosted by the Sciences Po Centre d'histoire in Paris.

Judah Cohen (Jewish Studies/Music/Folklore and Ethnomusicology) received the William H. Wiggins Faculty Award in Support of Teaching and Mentoring from the IUB African American and African Diaspora Studies Department in recognition of the launch of the JSP AAADS Blackness and Jewishness Project.

Lee Feinstein (International Studies) authored "Language is a crucial link in the foreign policy supply chain," an op-ed that ran in the *Chicago Tribune* on November 1.

Halina Goldberg (Musicology) has won the 2021 H. Colin Slim Award from the American Musicological Society (AMS). The award recognizes an outstanding musicological article of

"exceptional merit published during the previous year." Goldberg's award-winning article, "Chopin's Album Leaves and the Aesthetics of Musical Album Inscription," was published in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society* (73:3) and is available [here](#). See the full commendation of the award [here](#).

Kathryn Gruber (Anthropology/CEUS) has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Her *Mixed Messages: Mediating Native Belonging in Asian Russia* (Cornell University Press, 2020) received Honorable Mention for the ASEEES Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies for outstanding monograph on Russia, Eurasia, or Eastern Europe in anthropology, political science, sociology, or geography.

Ke-Chin Hsia (History) has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor.

Alex Lichtenstein (History) along with IUB American Studies faculty Phoebe Wolfskill and Rasul Mowatt has received a grant from the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation for \$80,000 in support of their project, "Unmasked: The 1935 Antilynching Exhibits and Community Remembrance in Indiana." Another grant that Lichtenstein has received is featured in the story on p. 24 of this issue.s

Sarah Phillips (Anthropology/REEI) presented the paper "'Cat's Cradle has been the guidebook for my life:' Soviet Youth and the American Writer Kurt Vonnegut" at the international conference *Socialism, Capitalism and Childhood* at Georgia State University in October.

Mark Roseman (History/Jewish Studies) presented "Rescue from Memory – the postwar metamorphosis of the experience of rescue" at the annual conference of the International Memory Studies Association in Warsaw in July. In the same month, he presented at the concluding round table of *Integrating Holocaust Studies*, a virtual conference jointly organized by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Hebrew University. In October, he organized and participated at a virtual roundtable on Monica Black's *A Demon-Haunted Land: Witches, Wonder Doctors, and the Ghosts of the Past in Post-WWII Germany* at the Annual German Studies Association Conference in Indianapolis. Also in October, he delivered the keynote lecture under the title "'Ordinary monsters:' Victims, historians and an 'integrated history' of the perpetrators" for the Vanderbilt Holocaust Lecture Series 2021-2022.

Kaya Sahin (History) is co-author with Julia Schleck and Justin Stearns of a book review essay entitled "Orientalism Revisited: A Conversation across Disciplines" that appeared in *Exemplaria* (Volume 33, 2021 - Issue 2). In November, he convened the panel "What Would an Ottoman Renaissance Look Like?" for *Tomorrow's Renaissance*, a symposium organized by the Renaissance Society of America and dedicated to exploring new directions in scholarship for the period 1300–1700.

Łukasz Siciński (SLAV) has published “Beyond a Zero-Sum Game: Visual Perception in Miron Białoszewski’s Prose” in *Slavic and East European Journal* (Volume 65, Number 1/Spring 2021).

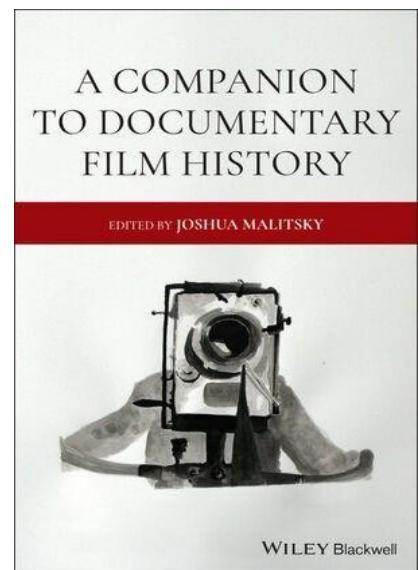
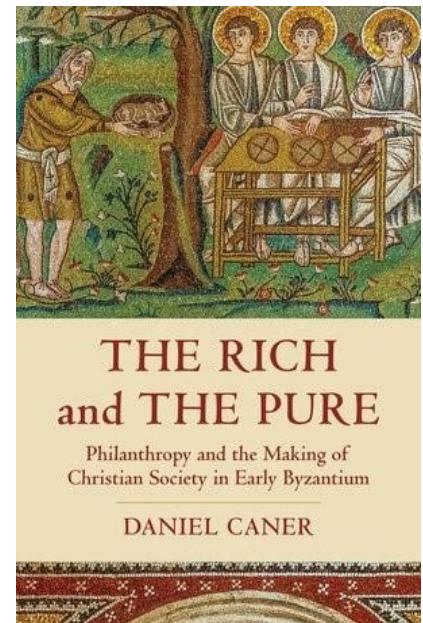
Timothy Waters (Maurer School of Law) published “Bosnia’s endless crisis could be solved by letting it break apart peacefully” in *The Conversation* in December. The article can be found [here](#).

Justyna Zajac (International Studies) has been appointed Director of the Polish Studies Center at IU.

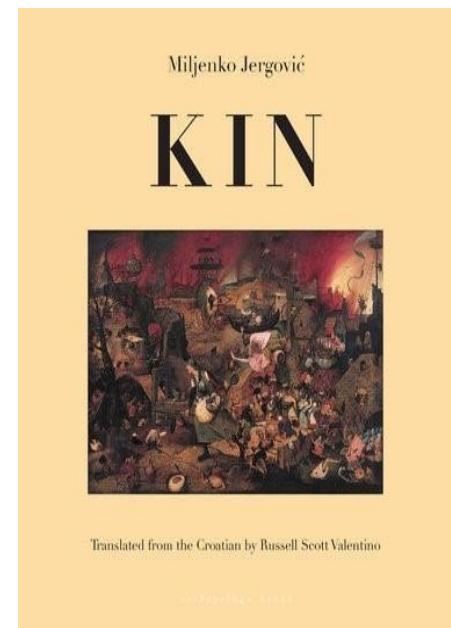
New Books by REEI Affiliate Faculty

Dan Caner (Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures) has published [The Rich and the Pure: Philanthropy and the Making of Christian Society in Early Byzantium](#) (Transformation of the Classical Heritage 62; University of California Press, 2021), a social and cultural history of Christian philanthropy and sacred wealth in the eastern Roman Empire before the rise of Islam. The book examines how the ancient ideal of *philanthrōpia* underwent Christianization and served to unite the diverse and numerous peoples of Byzantium, “history’s first truly affluent, multifaceted Christian society.” It also “brings to the fore the concerns of the peoples of Early Byzantium, from the countryside to the lower levels of urban society to the imperial elites, as well as the hierarchical relationships that arose among them.” Some formatting corrections need to be done to take care of this wrapping text in each entry.

Josh Malitsky (Media School) is the editor of [A Companion to Documentary Film History](#) (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021), a volume of twenty original essays by leading film historians that “challenge prevalent conceptions of what documentary is and was, and explore its growth, development, and function over time.” Intended to serve a broad array of readers, including undergraduates, graduate students, and scholars in the field of film and media studies, the work offers “fresh insights on the mode’s reception, geographies, authorship, multimedia contexts, and movements,” while treating its “many aesthetic, industrial, historiographical, and social dimensions.”



Russell Valentino (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has translated from the Croatian the novel [Kin](#) by Miljenko Jergović (Penguin Random House, 2021). Described as “a dazzling family epic from one of Croatia’s most prized writers,” the novel encompasses the entirety of the twentieth century. “The work is ultimately an ode to Yugoslavia – Jergović sees his country through the devastation of the First World War, the Second, the Cold, then the Bosnian war of the 90s; through its changing street names and borders, shifting seasons, through its social rituals at graveyards, operas, weddings, markets – rendering it all in loving, vivid detail.” Writing about the publication for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, Sarah McEachern praises Valentino’s work as “[a] superb English translation.”



Translated from the Croatian by Russell Scott Valentino

REEI's Elliott Nowacky Named HLS Outstanding Staff Person for 2020-21

Elliott Nowacky, REEI Student Services Coordinator and Military Relations Coordinator at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies (HLS), was presented with the HLS Outstanding Staff Person Award for 2020–21 at the HLS Staff Appreciation Celebration in June 2021. The award attests to “his keen attention to detail as well as his ability to help students see several steps ahead for the long- term and short-term, and plan accordingly” in addition to his excellence as a “mentor and role model for all HLS students” who “has brought this same experience and energy to his role as a career cohort coach at the school” (go here [for complete citation and more on other HLS staff awards](#)). Warmest congratulations on this honor and heartfelt thanks for your service, Elliott!



Alumni News

Barbara Allen (PhD, History, 2001; MA, History, 1992) is editor and translator of [*The Workers' Opposition in the Russian Communist Party: Documents, 1919-30*](#) (Leiden: Brill, 2001).

Malika Bahovadinova (PhD, Anthropology, 2016) is European Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Amsterdam.

Elena Doludenko Carmichael (PhD, Slavic, 2021) has published "Developing Russian Oral Skills in the Online Environment" in *Russian Language Journal* (Vol. 71 : Iss. 2/2021; available [here](#)). She is currently Lecturer in Russian at the University of Oklahoma.

Melissa Chakars (PhD, History, 2008; MA, REEI, 2000) is currently Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of History at Saint Joseph's University. In November, she presented an online lecture under the title "[Lamas, Leaders, and Lay Believers: A History of Buddhists in Russia.](#)" The event was sponsored by the New York University Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia.

Devlin Cook-Hines (BA, International Studies/Russian, 2021) has accepted an appointment as just accepted a position as Russian Instructor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, CA.

Greer Gerni (PhD, Theatre and Drama, 2021) is Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance at IU Bloomington.

Janet Elise Johnson (PhD, Political Science, 2001; MA, Political Science, 1997) is co-editor, along with Katalin Fábián and Mara Lazda, of [the Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central Eastern Europe and Eurasia \(2021\).](#)

Mara Lazda (PhD, History, 2005; MA, History, 1997) is co-editor, along with Katalin Fábián and Janet Elise Johnson, of [the Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central Eastern Europe and Eurasia \(2021\).](#)

Kaitlyn Lee (MA, REEI, 2021) is a Title VIII Fellow with the Transatlantic Leadership program at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), where her research focuses on the successes and failures of NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina in promoting democracy. Her co-written (with Leon Hartwell) "Bosnia: A Sea of Red Flags" appeared on the CEPA website in November (available [here](#)).

Eve Levin (PhD, History, 1983; MA, History, 1976) is recipient of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies Outstanding Achievement Award for 2021. The award recognizes the work of a scholar in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies who has also served as a mentor to female students/colleagues in this field.

Jill Massino (PhD, History, 2007) is the author of "Gender and the ambiguities of economic transition in Romania," an essay that appears in the [Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central Eastern Europe and Eurasia \(2021\).](#)

Leone Musgrave (PhD, History, 2017) is currently Instructor in the Strategy and Policy Department of the U.S. Naval War College.

Elena Popa (PhD, Anthropology, 2020) is Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Akron.

Julia Riegel (PhD, History, 2021) is Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern European History at Hollins University.

Polina Vlasenko (PhD, Anthropology, 2021) is Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Akron.

IU Alumnus Donald J. Raleigh Honored with Prestigious Award

The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) selected IU alumnus Donald J. Raleigh as recipient of the Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award for 2021. The prestigious award honors eminent members of the profession who have made major contributions to the field through scholarship of the highest quality, mentoring, leadership, and/or service.

The Jay Richard Judson Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Raleigh completed a PhD and MA in History at IU in 1978 and 1973. The citation (full version here) lauds his scholarship “for its attention to the reverberations of global events through local histories and individual lives” and his “legendary . . . reputation” as an outstanding teacher and mentor. REEI warmly congratulates Don on this well-deserved honor!



Lee Roby Honored as REEI Distinguished Alumna

Elizabeth Lee Roby is recipient of the 2021 REEI Distinguished Alumni Award. Established in 1988, the award recognizes IU alumni for outstanding contributions to the field of Russian and East European Studies. Lee is the eleventh recipient and the first pre-college teacher to be so honored.

As a graduate student in the Department of Slavic and East European Language and Cultures, Elizabeth Lee Roby received an MA in Russian Literature in 1996 and was admitted to Ph.D candidacy in 1999. In 2002, she discontinued her graduate studies to take up a position as a teacher of Russian language at Friends School of Baltimore (FSB), home to one of the oldest pre-college Russian programs in the United States. Throughout her nearly two decades of service as a teacher of Russian, Lee



Lee Roby (center) with Sarah Phillips and Mark Trotter at the IU alumni reception in November (ASEEES Convention, New Orleans)

has trained hundreds of students, and many have attained high distinction in their study of the language under her guidance, including more than 40 US State Department National Security Language Initiative for Youth participants (summer in-country study of Russian program), six American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Olympiada of Spoken Russian finalist participants in study trips to Vladimir (Russia), five International Russian Olympiada participants (four of whom secured top honors at the event in Moscow), and numerous participants in summer intensive Russian study programs throughout the US (Beloit, IU, Bryn Mawr, U of Wisconsin).

She regularly coordinates, oversees curriculum, and chaperones 18-day spring break intensive homestay/study trips to Saint Petersburg for juniors and seniors and has introduced numerous extracurricular enhancements to the Russian program at her school: Russian for Fun, an after-school exploratory Russian language and culture program for FSB and Tunbridge Elementary School fourth and fifth graders (enrollment feeder and community outreach program) in which her students serve as assistant teachers; monthly Russian film viewings and discussions; a weekly Russian lunch table; as well as enrichment and service projects that engage her students with the local Russophone community. In addition to Russian, she has

also served FSB as a teacher of Russian literature and French. Lee's manifold contributions to FSB in an administrative and leadership capacity include service as Chair of the Upper School Language Department from 2020 to the present and as Peer Group Leader for STRIDE (Strategic Transition to Remote Instruction Designed for Excellence, an eight-week professional development program) in summer 2020. She also spearheaded the Upper School Modern Language Department curriculum review and development to seek greater alignment with American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines in 2011-2015.

Apart from her stellar accomplishments at FSB, Lee's career has been distinguished by her steady rise to prominence among her pre-college Russian teacher peers across the United States. She has co-chaired the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian for Maryland since 2006 and has sat on the ACTR Board of Directors since 2014, serving on numerous committees and the editorial board of Russian Language Journal.

REEI Distinguished Alumni Award

- 1988 Alexander Rabinowitch
- 1988 Charles Gati
- 1995 Gale Stokes
- 1995 Helena Goscilo
- 2002 Howard I. Aronson
- 2002 William Hopkins
- 2009 Donald Raleigh
- 2011 Stephen F. Cohen
- 2013 Victor Jackovich
- 2018 Paul Richardson
- 2021 Elizabeth Lee Roby

She currently sits on the Executive Council of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) as Vice-President for Pre-College Russian. She regularly shares her insights and experiences as a Russian-language educator on panels at the AATSEEL national convention, as a presenter at ACTR webinars, and in articles for Russian Language Journal, ACTR Newsletter, and other publications.

Since 2019, Lee has assumed a key role in REEI's engagement with the pre-college Russian community, a mainstay of REEI's outreach effort as a Title VI National Resource Center for Russian and Eastern Europe. In the summer of 2019, she co-designed and co-executed an REEI-sponsored three-day professional development workshop for pre-college teachers, the first phase in REEI's multi-year project to diversify pre-college Russian curriculum while providing state-of-the-art training in teaching for proficiency. As a follow-up to that engagement, Lee has conceived a new initiative, the AATSEEL K-12 Teaching Excellence Program, a two-year sequence of professional development activities for in-service pre-college teachers of Russian to be launched this year under her co-directorship with the logistical and funding support of REEI (as well as its counterpart Title VI NRCs at U of Pittsburgh, U of Wisconsin, and Ohio State University).

REEI Director Sarah Phillips and REEI Associate Director Mark Trotter presented Lee with the award at the IU Alumni Reception during the ASEES Annual Convention in New Orleans in November. In accepting the award, Lee expressed gratitude to REEI for its prominent role in her development as a teacher of Russian, from her days as a graduate student instructor of Russian in the Language Workshop (formerly SWSEEL) up till the present: "I am profoundly aware of the fact that if it were not for the REEI's initiative in taking a leading role in the field in the ground-breaking work of promoting and supporting the development of instructional language materials intended to expand and diversify cultural representations of the Russophone world, I myself, would not have found my way to this needed work this quickly. I thank the REEI for its 'push' in this direction for both myself and the field and for the support that it continues to provide me."

Visiting Scholars

Zurab Abramishvili spent three weeks on the IU Bloomington campus as the guest of REEI in connection with his appointment as a fellow of the IREX University Administration Support Program (UASP). An economist based at the International School of Economics of Tbilisi State University (Georgia), where he holds the positions of Head of Undergraduate Studies and Regional Mentor of The Teaching Fellowship Program, Dr. Abramishvili consulted with a broad array of IUB faculty and staff to conceive a plan for upgrading research management at his home university.



Călin Cotoi was a Fulbright Research Scholar in residence at IU Bloomington in Fall 2021 under the auspices of the Department of Geography. A professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Bucharest, at IUB he conducted research in two areas: 1) the reimagining of socialist, post-socialist and capitalist ruins in Eastern European cities as protected nature/wilderness; 2) the emergence of the social in 19th century Romania in connection with epidemics, transnational and imperial networks, and radical political perspectives. In addition, he delivered a public lecture under the title "Anarchism and the 'Social Question' in 19th Century Romania" in October.



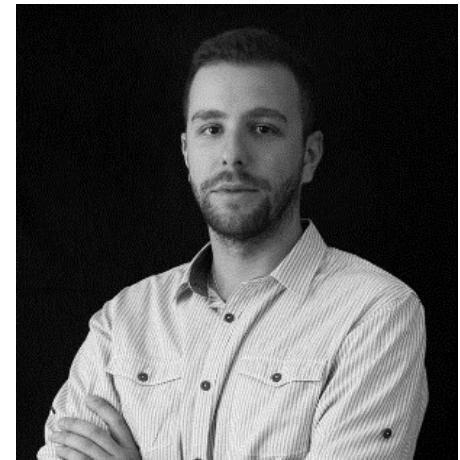
Bartłomiej Czaplicki, Associate Professor in the English Language Institute at the University of Warsaw, is in residence on the IU Bloomington campus from October through January as the recipient of a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship. While at IU, he and Paula Orzechowska, another Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship recipient (see below) has collaborated with Małgorzata Cavar (Linguistics/Slavic) and Steven Lulich (Speech and Hearing) on an investigation of consonantal clusters in Polish and Ukrainian.



Árpád Hornják is Fulbright Visiting Professor in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies for academic year 2021-22. A professor in the Department of History at University of Pécs, he specializes in the history of Hungarian diplomacy and history of the Balkans. He taught the courses “Contemporary Hungarian Foreign Policy in a Regional Context” and “The Balkans and Central Europe” in Fall 2021. In Spring 2022, he will teach “Central Europe and the Balkans in International Affairs,” and “Contemporary Hungary: Politics and Society.”



Ethem Mandić is currently a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Philosophy in the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Zagreb. A native of Podgorica, he is a teaching associate at the Faculty for Montenegrin Language and Literature at the University of Montenegro in Cetinje, where he previously served as Vice Dean for Science and International Exchange. He was in residence at IU during Fall 2021 as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. In November he presented a public lecture under the title “The Intercultural Political Novel.”



Paula Orzechowska, Professor in the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań is in residence on the IU Bloomington campus from October through January as the recipient of a Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship. While at IU, she and Bartolomiej Czaplicki, another Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship recipient (see above) have collaborated with Małgorzata Cavar (Linguistics/Slavic) and Steven Lulich (Speech and Hearing) on an investigation of consonantal clusters in Polish and Ukrainian.



Oleksandr Yaroshchuk, Senior Lecturer in the School of Journalism at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, is in residence at the IU Media School as recipient of a Fulbright Research Fellowship. His dissertation addresses investigative journalism and its place in Ukraine's media system. In October, he delivered an online talk through the IU Ukrainian Studies Organization under the title “The Crimea Platform and Ukraine's Independence in Russian Media.”



In Memoriam

REEI joins the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures in mourning the deaths of Zita Dabars, Christina Illias, and, Shelley Scott each of whom was closely associated with the Slavic Department over many years.

IU Slavic Department alumna **Zita Dabars** (PhD, 1971) passed away on November 10, 2021. A major figure in US teaching of Russian at the pre-college level, she taught the language for many years at Friends School in Baltimore. Her lengthy service to the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) included a term as its Secretary and two terms as elected President, the first pre-college instructor to hold that office. She co-authored a number of important textbooks specifically designed to meet the needs of pre-college teachers and students of Russian. She played an instrumental role in the establishment of the ACTR



National Russian Essay Contest, a long-running competition for both pre-college and post-secondary students. Zita's career garnered her numerous awards, including the ACTR Service Award and the A. S. Pushkin Medal from the International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature (Международная ассоциация преподавателей русского языка и литературы). A loyal supporter of both the Slavic Department and REEI, Zita was a frequent presence at the IU Alumni Reception held at annual AAASS/AEEES conventions. A detailed appreciation of Zita's life and service, written by her long-time colleague Jane Shuffleton, appeared in The Fall 2021 *ACTR Newsletter* featured a [tribute to Zita](#) by her long-time colleague Jane Shuffleton.

Professor Christina Ioana Illias passed away in Bloomington, Indiana at the age of 77 on October 15, 2021. For nearly 30 years a mainstay of the Department of Classical Studies and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the two IU units which were fortunate enough to share her many talents, her dedication to teaching was legendary. REEI will remember her as the heart and soul of Romanian language studies at Indiana University. Appointed at a time of growing US interest in Eastern Europe and expanding opportunities for research and study in the area, Christina successfully guided numerous IU undergraduate and graduate students in their quest for proficiency in the Romanian language and culture of Romania. In the early 2000s, she took a leading role in developing links between IU and Romania, an effort that yielded many achievements, notably the creation of a



Romanian Studies fellowship for IU graduate students with the financial support of the Romanian government. Author of several published works and literary translations and recipient of multiple “excellence in teaching” awards, Christina was also recognized with the Romanian National Order for “Faithful Service” in 2000 for her ongoing contributions to Romanian language, history and culture. More on her life can be found at this [obituary](#) and an [article](#) by IU faculty Maria Bucur (History) and Matt Christ (Classics) that appeared upon her retirement in the newsletter of the Department of Classical Studies.

Shelley Scott passed away at the Hospice House in Bloomington, Indiana on May 11, 2021. A graduate of both Bloomington High School and Indiana University (BS in Elementary Education), she worked on the Bloomington campus of Indiana University for more than 30 years, most of them in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, where she served as the department’s financial manager. Enormously devoted to the faculty and students of the department, for each of whom she always had a kind word, Shelley will also be remembered for the legendary departmental celebrations that she so cheerfully arranged. An online obituary can be found here. [here](#).

