

REElification

ROBERT F. BYRNES RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN INSTITUTE



DIRECTOR'S GREETING

SARAH D. PHILLIPS, DIRECTOR

As I complete the last weeks of my second and final term as REEI director, a post I have been gratified to hold since January 2015 (excepting a sabbatical during AY 2019-20), I would like to take the opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all the colleagues at IU and beyond who have made this work so fulfilling and rewarding: the REEI affiliate faculty members; graduate and undergraduate students; the amazing REEI staff; colleagues in our "sister" National Resource Centers in the Hamilton Lugar School and nationwide; and everyone at HLS, the College, and IU who ensures smooth operations of all manner of initiatives, from grants and fellowships to curriculum and course paperwork, from payroll operations to building services, from donor relations to admissions and recruitment, and beyond. My time at REEI has taught me so much about university operations, human relations, student services, and personnel management—lessons I will take with me into future endeavors and roles. Most of all, though, as REEI director I have learned about the vital importance of community, collegiality, and "good old generosity, kindness and respect."

These lessons emerged from the challenges we all have faced together since 2015: the integration of REEI into a new School of Global and International Studies (now HLS); the short- and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education in general and daily operations at IU/HLS/REEI specifically; Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in Feb. 2022; and the prolonged absence due to medical leave of REEI's long-time Associate Director in 2022-23, among others. These years have brought opportunities as well, including several new endowments to bolster REEI operations (from the Byrnes family, David and Ann Erne, Katrina vanden Heuvel, and Irene Meister); new faculty hires, including a colleague with 50% FTE in REEI (Clare Griffin in HIST/REEI); continued U.S. Dept. of Education Title VI support for REEI's many initiatives; and the matriculation of a record number of international students into the REEI MA program, among many others. All these opportunities came about as the result of incredible teamwork at all levels. Each of these achievements represents an intricate web of community, collegiality, and "good old generosity, kindness, and respect!"

Special thanks go to REEI Associate Director Mark Trotter, the "heart and soul" of REEI, for his expertise, skill, and most of all—good humor and patience! Student Services Coordinator Elliott Nowacky is also an exemplary team member, gratifying us all with his attention to detail and forward-planning skills. REEI benefits enormously from the selfless service of faculty colleagues who volunteer to staff our various committees, including the executive committee, admissions and fellowships committees, prize committees, and vitally—our REEI students' MA committees. We are indebted to all who have undertaken this time-consuming work year after year for the good of the community, and I thank you heartily!

Lately I've been asked what I'm most proud to have accomplished as REEI director. The better way to pose that question would be to ask about what we as a community have accomplished, because every single successful REEI

Spring 2023

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Director's Greeting cont'd

initiative is a result of extensive teamwork. When I look back, the things that make my heart all mushy—which I guess indicates they mean an awfully lot to me—are the following: the approximately 54 wonderful students who earned their MA degree from REEI since January 2015; the fun and fabulous crowdsourced 65th birthday celebration video for Mark Trotter; the accomplishments of the Russian Studies Workshop, seeded with a Carnegie grant in 2016 and so ably co-led by Tatiana Saburova; and most of all, the IU-Ukraine Nonresidential Scholars Program, which in 2022-23 supported 33 virtual research residencies for scholars in Ukraine, and which will continue in AY 2023-24. The outflow of generosity from IU administrators, faculty members, staff, and students to realize this program has been amazing, and the opportunity to coordinate this targeted support for our academic colleagues in Ukraine—the benefits of which will reverberate for years to come—has been the highlight of my tenure as REEI director.

Thank you to the entire REEI community for trusting me to steer this time-tested ship for the last few years and thank you for all your support and goodwill. I look forward to collaborating with you all as an active REEI affiliate faculty member, as I return to my full-time role as professor of anthropology.

NEW STAFF AT REEI!

ELLIOTT NOWACKY

Clare Angeroth Franks



REEI is thrilled to welcome back Clare Angeroth Franks. Clare is no stranger to REEI. During her time as a graduate student with us, she served as our Librarian GA and Outreach GA. After completing our MA program in 2019 she worked as REEI Curriculum Coordinator and part-time Administrative Assistant for REEI, EURO and IAUNRC, before returning to her native Iowa in the summer of 2021. Clare returned to REEI as Interim Associate Director in the late fall of 2022 and served in that position through early March of this year. She'll continue to work for us on a part-time basis as Program Coordinator.

Heysol Buitrago



REEI is delighted to welcome Heysol Buitrago to our team as a part-time Administrative Assistant for REEI, EURO And IAUNRC. Originally from Colombia, Heysol later relocated to Orange Park, Florida where she graduated from high school. Heysol has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Liberty University and has worked as an ophthalmic assistant and as an analyst in health information services. She has lived in Hawaii, California, Japan, South Carolina, Florida, and now Indiana. Heysol and her husband have two daughters and one son, who just completed his freshman year here at IU.

PRAISE FOR SARAH FROM STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STAFF

A phenomenal director of REEI, Sarah Phillips has promoted its academic and administrative development through such initiatives as the IU Ukrainian Non-Residential Scholar Program, Colloquium in Disability Studies, and Title VI planning and execution. However, I think what the REEI community will miss most about Sarah's adept direction is her ability to make students and colleagues at all levels feel important and supported, as well her regular reminders that we should not take ourselves too seriously!

*Clare Angeroth Franks (MA REEI, 2019), REEI
Project Coordinator*

Sarah was a strong supporter of the library's Slavic and East European collection. She continued allocating a substantial amount of Title VI funds and, more recently, some of the Russian Studies Workshop grant, toward its growth and management. I remember how supportive Sarah was in 2018 for one of my most extensive acquisitions trips to Russia, when most of the colleagues at the central public library (named after Ivan Ivanovich Molchanov-Sibirskii) of Irkutsk Oblast--one of the cultural capitals of Eastern Siberia--heard about Indiana University's Slavic and East European library collection for the first time, more or less. All the best to Sarah!

*Wookjin Cheun, Librarian for Slavic and East
European Studies*

Speaking to my experience of working with Sarah at REEI, I especially appreciated that she made the office a warm and open atmosphere where I could easily bring up all kinds of questions and ideas. I loved the occasional Dolly-themed dance parties in her office, that she opened up her home to students and professors for REEI gatherings, her sensitivity to students' needs and concerns, and her deep care for the work being done at REEI.

*Sarah Fogleman (MLS/MA REEI, 2007),
Coordinator of Cox Scholars Research Program in
the Hutton Honors College and Project Coordinator
for the REEI-based Russian Studies Workshop,
2018-2021*

Dr. Phillips' kindness is a large reason I decided to attend Indiana University for my MA! As I was deciding what program I fit best into I met Dr. Phillips and her curiosity about my work and willingness to answer my questions made me excited about IU.

Victoria Henretty, current MA student at REEI

Sarah has been very kind and helpful with all her guidance and support as Director of REEI ever since I was admitted to IU. She made especially sure that international students were comfortable at IU Bloomington. I send her best wishes on her new journey and congratulate her for being such a hard-working and humble REEI Director.

*Jeta Loshaj, who completed an MA at REEI in
Spring, 2023*

Sarah, you have proved yourself an inspiring leader in times of crisis. You set the bar high. Thank you for your hard work for all of us and congratulations on your accomplishments!

*Joanna Niżyńska, Associate Professor of Polish
Literature and Culture*

I joined REEI as an adjunct faculty member the same year that Sarah became the institute's director. I therefore worked with Sarah on revising and teaching the R600 pro seminar for new master's students in that year and every year thereafter through 2022, which was always a pleasure. Since then and up to the present, Sarah has provided her insight and a positive direction, guiding the course and the institute to a better place. In particular, she held strong throughout the tumultuous period of the pandemic, continuing to recruit top students, many of whom I've had the pleasure to teach and work with. Sarah's exceptionally charismatic and tenacious leadership has placed REEI on solid ground and a promising path into the future. She will be missed, and I wish her the best as she returns to her solely academic role!

*Justin Otten (MA REEI, 2007), Senior Assistant to
the Dean and Director of Strategic Initiatives in the
School of Public Health*

Praise for Sarah cont'd

Thanks for your great leadership!

K. Andrea Rusnock, Professor of Art History at IU South Bend

Sarah is by far the most gifted, visionary, and inspirational leader that I have known over the course of some 40 plus years in Russian and East European area studies. Remarkably self-effacing, despite her pathbreaking scholarship and stellar record as a teacher, Sarah consistently cedes the limelight to others as an enthusiastic champion of her students, staff, and colleagues. Many daunting challenges befell REEI during her multi-year tenure at its helm, but Sarah faced them head on. Thanks to her creativity, vigor, good humor and aplomb in doing so, REEI currently stands out among its peers as a model of strength and dynamism. And she has been enormously fun to work with!

Mark Trotter, Associate Director of REEI

We're all going to miss your steady hand, creativity, and perseverance, Sarah!

Russell Scott Valentino, Professor of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures

All the best, Sarah!

Bronislava Volkova, Professor Emerita of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures

RECOUNTING DIRECTOR PHILLIPS' TIME AT REEI

DANIEL SCHUMICK

This year REEI says goodbye and thank you to Director Sarah Phillips. For the last eight and a half years Director Phillips has led REEI through some of the most dynamic and challenging times in the institute's history. She steps down from the directorship to return to teaching, mentoring, researching and writing in the Department of Anthropology at IU.

Director Phillips first stepped up to lead REEI in 2015. She was drawn to the director role by a desire to give back to the unit that had first attracted her to IU (REEI seeded the tenure track position in Anthropology Phillips was hired into in 2003) and played a huge role in her career. Throughout her time at REEI, Director Phillips focused on retaining and expanding REEI's robust Title VI Department of Education funding, increasing diversity at REEI, and developing Ukrainian studies at REEI by way of curriculum development, programing, and other Ukraine-focused events and initiatives. She also helped grow Russian Studies at IU in her leadership role at the Russian Studies Workshop housed at REEI and supported by funds from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Hamilton Lugar School, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs.

Looking back at her time at REEI, Director Phillips noted that working with the students of R601 (the capstone seminar for REEI MA students preparing their MA theses and preparing to graduate) and establishing the IU-Ukraine Non-residential Scholars program were among the most memorable experiences. Each Spring semester, Director Phillips had the joy of working with REEI's MA candidates as they prepared their MA essays and prepped for their defenses. She introduced the REEI MA poster competition in 2017 as a valuable professionalization opportunity for students. Additionally, this

year REEI launched the IU-Ukraine Nonresidential Scholars program, which supported the work of over 30 Ukrainian academics. The program was such a success that thanks to the IU Provost and other supporting IUB campus units, the program will be extended and renewed for the 2023-24 academic year.

Moving ahead, Director Phillips is looking forward to putting time and effort into refreshing her anthropology courses and undertaking multiple research and writing projects. She will be teaching courses for ANTH and REEI on the anthropology of Russia and Eastern Europe from a decolonizing perspective, and a brand-new course called "Who cares? Social science perspectives on care" for the Human Biology Program. When she is not teaching, Director Phillips looks forward to continuing work on her book about Indiana author Kurt Vonnegut's popularity in the USSR, several research projects on Ukraine (on gender, disability, migration and the war), and convening a weekly dissertation writing group for PhD students in anthropology and adjacent disciplines.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF INDIANA RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN NETWORK

CLARE ANGEROTH-FRANKS

As a Title VI National Resource Center, REEI is an innovative hub of expertise on Russia and Eastern Europe that provides opportunities for growth in knowledge of languages, cultures, and politics of the Russian/East European (REE) region to students, scholars, and the larger community. As part of that mission, REEI established the Indiana Russian and East European Network (IREEN), an association of faculty that pursue REE area studies at one or another of the 14 public institutions of higher education across the state. Since its inception in 2018, IREEN has endeavored to showcase best practices in teaching REE content in various disciplines, to promote idea exchange, and to facilitate collaborations in research, teaching, and training.

In its initial stages, IREEN focused on expanding student engagement with REE area studies through a series of course development grants that enabled faculty at Purdue University, IU Northwest, IU Southeast, Ball State University, and Ivy Tech Community College (Indianapolis) to create courses with substantial REE content or to expand the presence of REE content in already established courses. The courses in question covered a broad spectrum of disciplines that included art history, film studies, education, geography, history, Russian, and sociology.

After years of planning that included a long delay occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, REEI held IREEN's inaugural two-day meeting in early April of 2023, when faculty from Ball State University, IU Bloomington, IU Southeast, Ivy Tech Community College (Indianapolis), Purdue University, and University of Southern Indiana gathered on the IU Bloomington campus to network and to present papers on their research and teaching. The event kicked off on Thursday, April 6 with an IAUNRC- REEI co-sponsored book talk featuring author Togzhan Kassenova (Senior Fellow with the Project on International Security, Commerce, and Economic Statecraft at the Center for Policy Research, SUNY-Albany and a Non-resident Fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), who presented her *Atomic Steppe: How Kazakhstan Gave Up the Bomb* (Stanford University Press/2022). The presentation was followed by an opening reception in the Global Lounge of the Global and International Studies Building, where REEI Director Sarah Phillips welcomed IREEN faculty and the Indiana Slavic Choir performed.



Sergei Zhuk, Professor of History at Ball State University, and his wife Iryna with IU faculty Svitlana Melnyk (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) on left and IU PhD student Irvna Voloshyna (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) on right at the opening reception

IREEN cont'd

Friday, April 7 featured a two-session mini-conference. The morning session addressed teaching and included the following presenters and topics: Oana Armeanu (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Southern Indiana) with “The Life of a Russian Politics Course at a Regional University”; Jennifer Erickson (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Ball State University) with “Teaching Urban Ethnography in Bosnia-Herzegovina”; James Hollenbeck (Professor of Science Education, IU Southeast) with “The Digitalization and Integration of STEM Education to High-Needs Areas for Economic Development and Inclusion”; and Olga Lyanda-Geller (Assistant Professor of Russian, Purdue University) with “Learning Russian and Russian Culture in Turbulent Times.” Francine Friedman (Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Ball State University) and Tatiana Saburova (Lecturer in History at IU Bloomington) served as chair and discussant, respectively. Following the session, Saburova facilitated a workshop for IREEN faculty on course module development over lunch.

Research was the focus of the afternoon session, which featured Amy Grove (Adjunct Instructor of Art History, Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis) with “Creating in Hell: Rightful Ownership of Artworks Produced in Nazi Concentration Camps”; Oana Popescu-Sandu (Associate Professor of English, University of Southern Indiana) with “From Area Studies to World Literature: The Genre of Prison Life Writing”; and Sergei Zhuk (Professor of History, Ball State University) with “The Origin of ‘Filtration Camps’: KGB Operations against the Displaced Persons after WWII and Putin’s War against Ukraine.” Barbara Skinner (Professor of History at Indiana State University) chaired the session and Padraic Kenney (Professor of History and International Studies at IU) served as discussant.

Following the afternoon session, participants shared ideas for future projects and initiatives at a follow-up meeting led by REEI Associate Director Mark Trotter. Participants engaged in further networking at a celebratory dinner in the IMU Federal Room with REEI staff and faculty.

For their indispensable contributions to the success of this historic event, special thanks and kudos to Clare Angeroth Franks, REEI Project Coordinator, who served as principal organizer, and Heysol Buitrago, Administrative Assistant for REEI/EURO/IAUNRC, who assisted with financials and logistics.



Jennifer Erickson, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Ball State University, delivers her presentation at the morning session. Other panelists (left to right): Oana, Armeanu, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Southern Indiana; Olga Lyanda-Geller, Assistant Professor of Russian at Purdue University; Francine Friedman, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Ball State University; James Hollenbeck, Professor of Science Education at IU Southeast

THE RYDER PRESENTS THE 2023 SLAVIC FILM FESTIVAL

TIFFANY DANG

Providing Bloomington with the best in international, independent, and classic American films for over forty years, [The Ryder](#) recently partnered with IU's [Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures](#) (Slavic Department) to present the [2023 Slavic Film Series](#), featuring six films that were screened on Sundays in February through April at the IU Fine Arts Theater and the IU Radio and Television Theater.

The series kicked off on February 2nd with the screening of *Murina* (2021), directed by Antoneta Alamat Kusijanović. Filmed in Croatia, *Murina* follows the teenage Julija, as she struggles to break free of her controlling father. [Crack Magazine](#) praised the film as a “compelling psychological drama which elegantly illustrates the difficulties of women trying to assert their independence in a patriarchal environment.” *Murina* was followed by a screening of Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski's *EO* (2022), devoted to the joys and travails of a circus donkey at the whims of fate, on February 12th. On February 26th, the series continued with *The Other Side of Everything* (2017), a documentary in which Serbian director Mila Turajlic explores multiple generations of her family's history in the turbulent political context of the former Yugoslavia from the end of the Second World War to the aftermath of its breakup. A screening of Czech director Jan Švankmajer's *Lunacy* (2005), loosely based on Edgar Allan Poe's “The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether” and “The Premature Burial,” took place on March 5. Petrov's *Flu* (2021), a crime comedy-drama by Russian director Kirill Serebrennikov, was screened on March 26. The series concluded with *Olga* (2021), French-born Swiss director Elie Grappe's sports drama about an aspiring Olympic gymnast, in exile from her native Ukraine, as she trains against the background of the Euromaidan revolt that rocked her homeland in 2013-14.

Apart from the Slavic Department and the Ryder, REEI served as a co-sponsor of this unique and engaging film series.



REEI would like to congratulate our MA students who completed their coursework and presented their master's essay posters in April! From left: Ryan Letourneau, Rachel Kelly, Minja Petrovic, Marie Rider, Daniel Schumick, Jeta Loshaj, and Shan Karemani (Photo: Lindsey Grutchfield)

4TH ANNUAL TARAS SHEVCHENKO CONFERENCE

DANIEL SCHUMICK

The IU Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute, and the IU Ukrainian Studies Organization collaborated to present the 4th Annual Taras Shevchenko Conference on March 23-25. Established in 2019 as an interdisciplinary conference that focuses on research in Ukrainian Studies, this year's iteration took place in online format and showcased projects undertaken by participants in the [IU-Ukraine Nonresidential Scholars Program](#). The conference included eight panels encompassing a broad array of topics and disciplines and featured keynote addresses by Mykola Riabchuk, Institute of Political and Nationalities Studies in the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and Vitaly Chernetsky, University of Kansas. The conference program can be found below, and recordings of the conference, in both English and Ukrainian, can be accessed on REEI's YouTube page at [Shevchenko Conference 2023](#):

Panel 1: Memory Policy in Ukraine in the Context of Post-communist Transformation and During Wartime.

Yevhen Rachkov (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Revision of the Cultural Heritage of Ukraine during the Russo-Ukrainian War: Challenges and Prospects

Tetiana Hrachak (V.I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine), Struggle for National Memory: Political Myths in the Library Space

Nadiia Honcharenko (Institute of Culturology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), Attempts of redefinition of the Soviet propaganda monument: analysis of academic and exhibition activities during 2014 – 2022 in the National Museum of History of Ukraine in Second World War

Andriy Posunko (D.I. Iavornyts'kyi Historical Museum, Dnipro), A Hero for the City without Heroes: Alexander Pol' and the Making of Dnipro Local Elites' Identity

Panel 2: WWII In Ukraine—New Testimonies, New Research

Petro Dolhanov (Rivne Regional Institute of Post-graduate Pedagogical Education), "Everyone was connected to the Holocaust, either through family or some other means:" Testimonies of Ukrainian Witnesses About the Holocaust in Volhynia

Yuriy Skira (Ukrainian Catholic University), Jewish Women Rescued by the Sisters of the Studite Rule During the Holocaust

Nataliia Zaliatok (Ukrainian Research Institute of Ar-

chival Affairs and Record Keeping), Women's service in the armed forces during World War II in British and Soviet publications of the 1940s

Panel 3: The Long View—Social and Political Dynamics and Societal Shifts Since 1991

Petro Kuzyk (Ivan Franko National University), The problem with the idea of Ukraine's East-West divide

Vitaly Chernoiivanenko (V.I Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine), Ukraine's LGBTQIA+ in dynamics, 1991-2023

Krystyna Semeryn (National University of Ostroh Academy), Mapping of Memory About the 2013–2014 Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine

Tetiana Yasinska (National University L'viv Polytechnic), Foreign direct investment vs. export: the choice of how to conquer foreign markets by an international enterprise

Panel 4: New Themes and New Challenges in Ukrainian Education

Hanna Bondarenko (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Problems of integration of foreign students into Ukrainian society

Roman Borysov (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Educational trajectories of Ukrainian refugee students: factors, barriers, opportunities

Oleksandr Zubarev (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), The peculiarities of preparation and teaching of the interfaculty course "Body and sexuality in the changing world"

Taras Shevchenko Conference cont'd

Olha Maliarchuk (Vadim Hetman Kyiv National Economic University), Entrepreneurship education in Ukraine: challenges of the post-war period

Keynote 1: Mykola Riabchuk (Institute of Political and Nationalities Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), Mapping a “Nowhere Nation”: Imperial Knowledge and Challenges of Decolonization (+ Q&A)

Panel 5: What is Ukrainian about Ukrainian Literature?

Ol'ga Yablons'ka (Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University), Ukrainian Ethnopsychology in the Methodology of National Literature

Maria Zubrytska (Ivan Franko National University): Feeling the Spirit of Space: Symbolic Landscapes and Place Names as Identity Markers in Taras Shevchenko's Poetry

Snizhana Zhygun (Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University): Herstory of the current war in modern Ukrainian Literature

Panel 6: Art, Symbol, and Media: Ukrainian Resilience and Resistance in Wartime

Mykola Homanyuk (Kherson State University), Russian symbolic policy and Ukrainian resistance in the occupied territories of Ukraine

Iryna Baltaziuk (National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture), Artists at War. A new connotation of an artistic symbol in Ukrainian art

Nataliia Prykhodkina (University of Education Management, National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine), Current Problems of Media Literacy and Combating Disinformation about the War in Ukraine

Maksym Yablonskyi (Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University), Ecojournalism in modern conditions of the war in Ukraine

Panel 7: Ukrainian Language in Linguistic Context

Larysa Kysliuk (Institute of Ukrainian Language, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) and Svitlana Melnyk (Indiana University), The impact of the war on the language activities of the Ukrainian commu-

nity and the Ukrainian language system

Ivanna Tsar (Institute of Ukrainian Language, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), Transformation of the linguistic behavior of Ukrainian youth in the context of a full-scale war

Oksana Sukhovii (Taras Shevchenko National University) and Miriam Shrager (Indiana University), The structure of nouns denoting people with disabilities in Ukrainian and its neighboring languages

Keynote 2: Vitaly Chernetsky (University of Kansas), Recognizing and Addressing Epistemic Injustice: Russia's War against Ukraine and a Paradigm Shift in Slavic and East European Studies (+ Q&A)

Panel 8: The Longest Year, Close-up—Consequences of War on Everyday Life

Olena Muradyan (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University), Food Insecurity in Ukraine: Local Reflections during Wartime

Kateryna Dovhopola, Tetiana Kostenko, and Olha Nabochenko (M. Yarmachenka Institute of Special Psychology and Pedagogy, National Academy of Pedagogy of Ukraine), Psychological support of Ukraine's children in wartime

Tetiana Tsuvina (Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University), Civil Proceedings in Ukraine in the Time of War: Challenges and Prospects

Larysa Yakymova (Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University), Managing corruption risks in humanitarian aid in Ukraine

Final Roundtable: Ukraine After Victory—Discussion by [Victoria Amelina](#), [David Williams](#) (Indiana University), [Olena Stiazhkina](#), [Nastya Melnychenko](#) (Princeton University)

STUDENT NEWS

Ani Abrahamyan (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has received an Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2023–2024. In February, she was honored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian, which presented her with a Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Student Instructors.

George Andrei (History) presented “‘Our Struggle for Existence’: The Many Faces of Socioecological Vulnerability in Rural Interwar Transylvania” for the Rural Voices International Workshop at the New Europe College Institute for Advanced Studies in Bucharest in November 2022. Workshop papers will appear later this year in a special issue of the *Journal of Romanian Studies*. In June, he will present “A wild country! Miasmas, climate, and health and the emergence of forestry in Romania, 1886-1910” in Oslo at the Ecologies of Health and Disease in Eurasia: New Perspectives in the Medical-Environmental Humanities and History Workshop. He has been awarded a Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship for the 2023-2024, during which he will serve as a visiting teaching fellow at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Lu Berta (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Victoria Henretty (REEL) presented “Vlast’ i Vlist’ Power and Influence: LGBT Violence in Chechnya and Activist Responses” at the REECAS Northwest Conference in April.

Jordan Hussey-Anderson (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has received a Neatrour-Edgerton Dissertation Fellowship which will support one semester of uninterrupted research in 2023-24.

Brandon Kem (International Studies/Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Ashley Morford (International Studies/Political Science/Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Natalia Matskevich-Levin (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) has been honored with the Jerzy Kolodziej Award (for excellence in teaching by a graduate student). She is also recipient of a Neatrour-Edgerton Dissertation Fellowship which will support one semester of uninterrupted research in 2023-24.

Kyle Tucker (International Studies/Slavic and East European Language and Cultures) has been awarded a prestigious [Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship](#). The fellowship offers recipients the opportunity to work at leading think tanks in Washington, D.C. As a Scoville Fellow, Kyle, who is currently completing his Russian Flagship Capstone year in Almaty, Kazakhstan, will relocate to Washington, D.C. in the fall to spend nine months in research on nuclear nonproliferation and arms control issues.

2022 MA ESSAY SUBMISSIONS

Thomas Brenberg (Chair: Michael De Groot, Committee Members: David Henry and Dina Spechler): *Russian Foreign Policy towards Afghanistan: Strategic Culture, the Taliban Government, and the Kremlin’s Quest for Regional Security in Central Asia*

Daniel O’Rourke (Chair: Dina Spechler, Committee Members: Andrew Bell and Michael De Groot): *Balancing Capabilities with Strategy: The Evolution of the Role of Nuclear Versus Conventional Weapons in Post-Soviet Russian Military Thought*

Luke Parra (Chair: Hiro Kuromiya, Committee Members: Michael Alexeev and Toivo Raun): *Between the Cossack Hetmanate and Stolypin: Pavlo Skoropadskyi’s Agrarian Reforms*

Scout Polizzotti (Chair: Dina Spechler, Committee Members: Michael De Groot and Regina Smyth): *A Really Cold War: Examining the Evolution of Russia’s Arctic Strategy through Russian Reactions to NATO involvement in the Far North, 2007-2022*

Alexandra Stott (Chair: Patrick Michelson, Committee Members: Valeria Varga and Sarah Phillips): *Witchcraft and Enlightenment Ideals in 18th and 19th Century Russia and Hungary*

Emma Strenski (Chair: Tim Waters, Committee Members: Andrew Bell, Asim Mujkic and Justin Otten): *Conflict Prevention vs. Atrocity Prevention: The UN Security Council’s Policy Dilemma and Failed Response to the War in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Olga Zavarotnaya (Chair: Michael De Groot, Committee Members: Regina Smyth and Justyna Zajac): *Belarusian Post-Election Protests: Why Hasn’t There Been a Successful Color Revolution?*

ALUMNI NEWS

Knar Abrahamyan (MM Music Theory, 2015) recently completed a PhD in Music Theory at Yale University and currently serves as Assistant Professor in Music Theory and Race in the Department of Music at Columbia University. Her current book project, *Opera as Statecraft in Soviet Armenia and Kazakhstan*, re-envisioning Soviet music history by analyzing the power dynamics between the state and its ethnic and racial Others in the context of opera as a contested imperial space through which the Soviet state pursued colonial subjugation under the guise of cultural modernization. Her work on Soviet music and politics has appeared in the *DSCH Journal* and a collected volume, *Analytical Approaches to 20th-Century Russian Music* (Routledge, 2021). With the support of grants from the Tufenkian Foundation and Yale's Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking, she founded and directed the Hadrut Educational Summer Camp in her native Nagorno-Karabakh region. She discussed her work with the camp in an interview that appears on the webpage of Environmental Humanities Program at Yale University. She has been awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship, the Metropolitan Opera Education Department Fellowship (sponsored by the Yale Graduate Impact Fellowship Program), and the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus Research Fellowship.

DeAnna Beckner (BA Political Science/Criminal Justice, 2010) was a speaker at the The HCCH Conference on Commercial, Digital and Financial Law Across Borders (CODIFI).

Elena Doludenko Carmichael (PhD Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, 2018) received the Cecil Woods Memorial Teaching Award from the University of Oklahoma, where she continues to serve as Lecturer in Russian.

Alexandra (Sasha) Clark (BA Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2012) is now First Officer with Delta Airlines. She invites former classmates to “look for me on your next international flight on the Airbus A330! “

Bora Chung (PhD/MA Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2009/2005) currently teaches Russian language and literature and science fiction studies at Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea), while also translating modern literary works from Russian and Polish into Korean. In addition, she is the author of three novels and three short story collections, the most recent of which, *Cursed Bunny* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill/2022, English translation by Anton Hill), was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In a review for the New York Times, Violet Kuipersmith praised the work as a “a marvelous tasting platter of genres: classic ghost stories, fairy tales, mythic fantasy, science fiction, dark fables, the surreal and unclassifiable horror-adjacent” ([Cursed Bunny NYT Review](#)). In December, Bora spoke about *Cursed Bunny* in an interview for NPR's Weekend Edition ([NPR interview with Bora Chung](#)).



Alexandra (Sasha) Clark at Detroit International Airport with the aircraft that she piloted on her first flight for Delta Airlines in March. (Photo: Alexandra Clark)

Emily Collins (BA History/Political Science, 2004) was recently recognized as a Relatively AI Visionary--an early adopter of artificial intelligence who actively explores, promotes, and experiments with this new technology.

Geoff Durham (MA REEI, 2016) will begin a tenure-track position in Fall 2023 as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he will be teaching courses on the Russian empire, including introductory surveys and a course on empires in the Caucasus and Central Asia. He is also teaching a seminar devoted to a comparative and global history of unfree labor regimes in the nineteenth century.

Alumni News cont'd

Alexandra Hall (BA Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2010), a visual artist based in Fort Wayne, IN, was recently interviewed about her public work on the PBS News Hour in a feature entitled [How an Indiana City's Investment in Public Art Mirrors its Overall Turnaround](#).

Marie Harf (BA Political Science, 2003) is in her second year serving as the Executive Director of External Relations at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Szabolcs László (PhD History, 2022) gave an interview about his dissertation research to Civil Radio, an independent Hungarian radio station as part an ongoing series that focuses on the history of Hungarian-American relations. His article that explores the involvement of celebrated Hungarian poet Ágnes Nemes Nagy (1922-1991) with the International Writing Program in Iowa City, appeared in *Újkor.hu*, a prominent Hungarian journal of public history. He recently joined the Institute of History, one of the main branches of the Research Centre for the Humanities in Budapest, where he will work on turning his dissertation into a monograph and also serve as a co-editor of the upcoming *Routledge Handbook of Hungarian History*.

Jeta Loshaj (MA REEI, 2023) has recently published her first article in *Prishtina Insight*, a Kosovo-based digital magazine, which publishes op-eds and news on political, social, and economic developments. The magazine is part of BIRN Kosovo, an independent, non-governmental organization. The article she wrote compares the historical and contemporary similarities between Kosovo and Ukraine. [Here](#) is the link to the article. Jeta was also featured in [Jeta Loshaj analyzes Kosovo. Albania aspirations for unification](#), an HLS blog post that appeared on May 31.

Anne Pyzocha (BA Russian/Political Science, 2010) is now working as Senior Manager of Adult Education for the City of Philadelphia

Matthew Slaboch (PhD Political Science, 2016) is an assistant professor in the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, Arizona State University (ASU) and a faculty affiliate of ASU's Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies.

Katie Stewart (PhD Political Science, 2017) has received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Knox College.

Jessica Storey-Nagy (PhD CEUS/Anthropology, 2022) is Regional Expertise and Culture Instructor for the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Ft. Carson in Colorado for IU's language training center. In December, she was elected as Vice-President/President Elect of the Hungarian Studies Association.

Ksenia Zanon (PhD Slavic Language and Literatures, 2015) delivered an invited talk under the title "'Expletive Negation' revisited: On some properties of negated polar interrogatives in Russian" at the 32nd Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics Conference in May at IU Bloomington.

IU-UKRAINE NONRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



LARYSA YAKYMOVA

I am a Doctor of Sciences in Economics, Professor of the Department of Economic and Mathematical Modeling at the Yuriy Fedkovich Chernivtsi National University (before the Russian occupation of Donbass, I taught at the Donbass State Technical University). The IU-Ukraine Nonresidential Scholars Program provided me with the opportunity to develop and apply my research skills to address important issues facing Ukraine. Now the international community is providing unprecedented humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, but at the same time, its delivery to people in need is associated with numerous risks, including corruption. To find ways to address these challenges, we are conducting research with [Owen Wu](#) (Associate Professor and Grant Thornton Scholar in the Kelley School of Business) and [Paola Martin](#) (Acting Assistant Professor in the Kelley School). We presented the first findings to the academic community in the [open access](#) and at [conferences](#) and hope that they will be useful to both international donors and humanitarian aid managers in Ukraine.



Outreach at REEI! REEI's table at the annual Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar. (From left) Andrew Carringer, Nicholas Siambekos, and Lindsey Grutchfield helped local students and their families make martisors, a token of spring popular in various forms across Southeastern Europe.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Clare Angeroth Franks is Program Coordinator at REEI. She received an MA at REEI in 2019.

Tiffany Dang completed an MA in International Studies in Spring 2023.

Masha Fokina serves as Project Coordinator for the REEI-based Russian Studies Workshop. She is a doctoral candidate in Musicology at the Jacobs School of Music.

Lindsey Grutchfield is Graduate Assistant for Outreach at REEI in 2022-23. She is pursuing an MA at REEI

Seth Morrison is pursuing an MA in Central Eurasian Studies and an MPA with the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Elliott Nowacky is Student Services Coordinator for REEI and Military Relations Coordinator for the Hamilton-Lugar School of Global and International Studies.

Sarah Phillips is REEI Director through June 30, 2023 and Professor of Anthropology

Daniel Schumick served as Graduate Assistant for Communications at REEI in 2022-23. He completed a JD at the Maurer School of Law and an MA at REEI in Spring 2023.

Mark Trotter is Associate Director/Outreach Coordinator at REEI.

INTRODUCING DR. ALEXANDRA NOVITSKAYA

MASHA FOKINA

Dr. Alexandra Novitskaya is the Russian Studies Workshop Postdoctoral Scholar for the 2022–2023 academic year. A specialist in post-Soviet gender and sexuality politics, Dr. Novitskaya is currently researching intersections between Russian and American sexual geopolitics, and LGBTQ migrations.

To that end, Dr. Novitskaya current book project centers on queer migrants and asylum-seekers from Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, exploring how their experiences before and after migration influence their politics, identities, and survival strategies. The book addresses some topical concerns. “As we live in a time of growing polarization around LGBTQ rights,” comments Dr. Novitskaya, “more and more queer people are forced to leave because of their vulnerability to homo- and transphobic violence and discrimination. The infamous ‘gay propaganda’ law in Russia not only saw manifold increases in anti-LGBTQ hate crimes domestically, but also had a spillover effect onto the entire region.” Despite the large numbers of international migrants from post-Soviet countries lack representation in scholarship, she adds. “Queer migrants are even less visible, so I seek to change that with my work.”



Prior to her post-doctoral fellowship at IU, she held visiting research appointments at New York University’s Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia and the Summer and Virtual Research Labs at the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Center of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has published articles and book chapters on post-Soviet LGBTQ migration and homophobia in Russia as well as on gender in Russian politics in *NORMA: International Journal of Masculinity Studies*, *Russian Review*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, and the *Routledge Handbook of Gender in Central Eastern Europe and Eurasia*. Together with Janet Elise Johnson, Lisa McIntosh-Sundstrom and Valerie Sperling she has also contributed essays to the *Washington Post*’s Monkey Cage blog and *The Conversation*.

Dr. Novitskaya’s engaging research has informed her Spring 2023 class, an undergraduate/graduate seminar entitled “Gender, Sexuality, and Political Dissent in the Global Perspective.” In the course design, she invited her students to contemplate the connections between individual identity and politics, while considering key questions: Why do feminists like to say that the personal is political? Is the “personal” also “political” everywhere in the world? Why are gender identity and sexuality—seemingly private areas of one’s life—not just sites of political struggle but often central concerns to the matters of life and death? “Addressing these questions together with the wonderfully smart and engaged students in my class has been incredibly fun!” she exclaims.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Novitskaya has enjoyed the diversity of resources on offer and the richness of the campus calendar. She commented that “it’s almost annoying that I cannot attend every exciting talk, workshop, or exhibition taking place here, because there is so much going on here, all the time!” Another highlight of her post-doctoral fellowship has been facilitating meetings of RSW’s Kruzchok, a research and writing workshop for graduate students studying Russia. A transplant from New York City, she has also developed a fondness for Bloomington’s small-town charms—the wildlife constituency (“Shout out to all the cute Bloomington rabbits!”) and the vegan donuts from Rainbow Bakery.

INTRODUCING DR. ILIA UTEKHIN

SETH MORRISON

A specialist in visual anthropology, anthropology of technology, and ethnography of communication, Dr. Ilya Utekhin is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute through the end of 2023.

From 1996 to 2022, Utekhin taught in the Department of Anthropology at European University in Saint Petersburg. He is co-curator of the Virtual Museum of Soviet Everyday Life: Communal Living in Russia, which houses ethnographic materials on Soviet and post-Soviet urban housing, a subject also explored in his monograph *Очерки коммунального быта* [Sketches of communal everyday life] (Moscow, 2001 and 2004). In 2017, Utekhin founded a news aggregator service that juxtaposes official Russian media and independent media, and served as its CEO until 2020. His work also includes a number of documentary films.



Ethnographic film lies at the center of Utekhin's current research. Work on his *Что такое визуальная антропология. Путеводитель по классике этнографического кино* [Visual anthropology: a guide to the classics of ethnographic cinema] (Saint Petersburg, 2018) set him on the path that led to IU. In 2022, he held an appointment as Visiting Scholar at Boston University (BU) with affiliation in African American and Black Diaspora Studies. At BU, he pursued an investigation of Ukraine-born Maya Deren, a multi-talented and prominent figure in the American avant-garde of the 1930s and 1940s. The subject of his interest were 16mm films of voodoo religious rituals that Deren made in the 1940s and 1950s, currently archived in the Maya Deren Collection of BU's Howard Gotlieb Archival Center. His research on Deren continues at IU. "I wanted to include [in my book] a chapter on Maya Deren, who is a founding figure in the history of American experimental cinema, but I did not have enough materials," Utekhin explained. "She made a contribution to visual anthropology that is underestimated and in her time was not appreciated at all by academic anthropology because she was not an anthropologist."

No stranger to IU, Utekhin presented a paper at the REEI-organized workshop on Everyday Life in Russia Past and the Soviet Union (Spring 2010) and contributed an essay to *Everyday Life in Russia Past and Present* (IU Press, 2015), the collection that followed. In 2020, a presentation of his work on the Virus Chronicle Project, a collection of short video diaries kept by Russian speakers around the world as the global COVID pandemic unfolded, inaugurated [Covid-19/po-russki](#), a series run by the IU Russian Studies Workshop (RSW)

Alongside his research agenda, Utekhin has made valuable contributions to the intellectual life of REEI and the campus at large. In February, he provided the introduction and presided at the follow-up Q & A session for *to of his Volunteers*, a documentary film, authored by Anna Klepikova, that investigates the daily life of the volunteers at two Russian institutions for people with disabilities. In March, he moderated a [Where Do Russians Get the News: The Russian Media Sphere Today](#), a panel discussion in the RSW series Critical Conversations in Russian Studies.

There are many aspects of Indiana University that Dr. Utekhin finds appealing and useful for his research. He is quite pleased with the huge library as well as the numerous research centers on campus. In particular, he is impressed by the work of the Black Film Center & Archive, and scholars such as Elena Guzman of the African American and African Diaspora Studies and Anthropology Departments, who teaches visual anthropology and its feminine aspects.

In Fall 2023, Dr. Utekhin will teach ANTH-A 208 Topics in The Anthropology of the Arts and Expressive Behavior.

Welcome, Dr. Utekhin!

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

László Borhi (History/CEUS) was interviewed in the BBC series The Forum for [When money died: The world's worst inflation](#), a program that ran in January, 2023 and dealt with the Hungarian economic crisis of 1946.

Maria Bucur (History) has published "The Vanishing Invalid: Visual Representations of Disabled Veterans in Interwar Romania" in *Romanian Studies Journal*. She also presented "The Little Entente of Women: Transnational Feminism and Ethnonationalism in Interwar Romania" at the Gender Equity Symposium, Faculty of Letters, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, and the plenary "Eugenics and the Gender Dimensions of Disability in Interwar Romania" at the international conference Eugenics and Biopolitics in Twentieth Century Europe, hosted in Cluj. She is the recipient of grants from OVPIA, CAHI, the Institute of Advanced Study, and REEI as the organizer of the conference "Towards a History of Disability in Eastern Europe," which will take place in Berlin, 30 June-2 July. On January 7th she presented "Gender dimensions of eugenics discourses about disability in interwar Romania," at the MLA annual meeting in San Francisco. Her article [World War II in Eastern Europe: Many Lands, Many Memories](#) recently appeared in *Current Events in Historical Perspective*.

Michael De Groot (International Studies) is a recipient of the IU Trustees Teaching Award for 2023. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and honors faculty who have had a positive impact on student learning, especially that of undergraduates.

Vesna Dimitrieska (School of Education) published "Language Learning in the United States: Privilege or Right" in *Proceedings of the ESIDRP* [English Studies at the Interface of Disciplines: Research and Practice] International Conference (2022, She also presented "Foreign Language Learning: Privilege or Right?" at the 2022 American Council for Teaching of Foreign Languages Convention in Boston, MA. Her role in promoting global and international education at the K-12 level was the subject of an interview with her that ran on the website of the Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President under the title [A global guide: 5 questions with . . . Vesna Dimitrieska](#) in Spring 2023.

Ben Eklof (Emeritus, History) published "How Was Russia Governed Locally? Teachers' Complaints and Institutional Disarray in the Kazan Region, 1895-1908" in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*.

Debra Friedman (Second Language Studies) presented "'The Future is Ukrainian, Russian is the Past': Ideologies of Language and Identity after Euromaidan" with Natalia Kudriavtseva of Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University at the American Association of Applied Linguistics conference in Portland, Oregon.

Halina Goldberg (Jacobs School of Music) co-edited (with Nancy Sinkoff and Natalia Aleksion) *Polish Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery*, which will be published in September 2023, and participated in The Bloomington Symposia: The Book in Hand at the IU Institute for Advanced Study. Her other presentations this year include "The Piano Virtuosa at Home and Away: Transnational Salon Networks of Maria Szymanowska, Maria Kalergis-Muchanoff, and Marcelina Czartoryska" at Michigan State University; "The Jewish Inn in the Polish National Ballet" at the Oxford Music Faculty Graduate Colloquium at the University of Oxford, a seminar in musicology at Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music in Riga, Latvia; "Wygynani mistrzowie i panteon w cieniu: rozważania nad miejscem Żydów w historiografii muzyki polskiej" (The Banished Masters and the Shadow Legion of 'Greats': Contemplating the Place of Jews in the Historiography of Polish Music) at the International Conference Reconsidering the Tradition of the Second Polish Republic. The Legacy of 1918-1939 in Poland after 1989 at Jagiellonian University in Krakow; and "The Piano Virtuosa at Home and Away: Transnational Salon Networks of Maria Szymanowska, Maria Kalergis-Muchanoff, and Marcelina Czartoryska." at IU's Musicology Colloquium. She also co-moderated a panel discussion and meet-the-artists, "An Exploration of the Opera Anne Frank."

Jeff Holdeman (Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) was awarded a 2023 IU Trustees Teaching Award.

Faculty/Staff News cont'd

Bill Johnston (Comparative Literature) was named the inaugural Michael Henry Heim Chair in Central and East European Letters at Indiana University for an initial three-year term to begin in Fall 2023. As the Heim Chair, he will organize workshops, symposia, and other programming in collaboration with faculty in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures.

Padriac Kenney (History) delivered the 20th annual Thomas C. Fiddick Memorial Lecture at the University of Evansville under the title “Why Hopeless Resistance Matters: Lessons from Eastern Europe” in October. He also participated in “Expanding Access for Underrepresented Students in graduate Education” a panel discussion that took place at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Philadelphia in January.

Alex Lichtenstein (History) led a workshop at Martin University on “Anti-Racism and Community Memory Work.” He also delivered the keynote address for “The 95 at Five” at the Black History Month commemoration of the Sugar Land 95, in Sugar Land, TX.

Patrick Michelson (Religious Studies) published “Eine kurze Geschichte des ‘unverhohlenen Satanismus’ in Russlands Krieg gegen den Westen” on the website of Nachrichtendienst Östliche Kirchen. The article examines criticisms of the West as “satanic” as a longstanding trend in Russian Orthodox discourse, recently evidenced by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who on September 30, 2022 at the ceremony to mark his illegal annexation of four parts of Ukraine declared that those “Western elites” who defended transgender and same-sex rights were promoting “a religion in reverse—pure Satanism.”

Mark Roseman (History/Jewish Studies) published “‘Alles erstirbt in Angst’ Deutsche Juden im ersten Jahr der NS-Herrschaft” (‘Everyone cringes with fear’ German Jews in the first year of Nazi rule) for the journal *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 2023, Nr 4, pp.26-31 (online [here](#)). In January, he also conducted a guest class on the Holocaust, for an Open Society University Network online graduate course “Cultures of Hate and Oppression: Connecting the Conversations about Antisemitism, Holocaust, Gender and Colonialism.” In November, he delivered (online) “A Meeting About Mass Murder: Making Sense of the Wannsee Conference,” a public lecture co-organized by UC San Diego and the Pacific Office of the German Historical Institute Washington. In December, he gave the (virtual) public lecture “Ordinary Monsters. The Holocaust and the puzzle of perpetration” at the Annual 1939 Society Lecture in Holocaust Studies, UCLA (accessible [here](#)).

K. Andrea Rusnock (IU South Bend, Women’s and Gender Studies) received an IU Presidential Arts and Travel Grant and presented “Postal Politics: Soviet Stamps of World War Two,” at the Twelfth Blount Postal History Symposium at the Smithsonian Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

Tatiana Saburova (History) presented “Mountains and Glaciers: Exploration of the Altai in the Late Russian Empire” at the 29th Annual Conference for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS Northwest) at the University of Washington, Seattle. In April, she served as a participant in the roundtable “How is the War in Ukraine Changing our Field” at the Midwest Russian History Workshop, hosted by the Ohio State University, and presented “Rivers of the Empire and Land of the Rivers: Waterscape of Semirechie (Zhetysu) in the Russian Exploration and Colonization” at the annual convention of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies in Glasgow, Scotland.

Kaya Sahin (History) has recently published [Peerless among Princes: The Life and Times of Sultan Süleyman with Oxford University Press](#). He has also been selected to serve a three-year term (2024-2026) on the editorial board of *Renaissance Quarterly*.

Mark Trotter (REEl) was presented with the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Special Service Award “in recognition of outstanding leadership and commitment to the Russian profession” at the annual ACTR membership meeting in February.

Faculty News cont'd

Veronika Trotter (Libraries) is recipient of the 2023 Libraries Non-Exempt Staff Award for her “combination of competence, positive attitude, and helpfulness in the Indiana University Libraries.”

Bronislava Volkova (Emerita, Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures) published the Czech edition of her book *Podoby Exilu v židovské literatuře a myšlení* (Forms of Exile in Jewish Literature and Thought), as well as her book of poetry, *Where Everyone Leaves Never to Return / Kde všichni odcházejí a už se nevrací*. She also had individual poetry contributions in several journals and anthologies, including *Литературный Альманах «Наше близкое Дальнее Зарубежье»*, *Эмигрантская лира: Литературно-публицистический журнал*, *Almanach Básně z cest, Au nom de qui*, an anthology of poems in French and Ukrainian language, *Al'manax miražistov Illuzii ljubvi*, and *Literaturnyj Al'manax Vojna XXI veka*. She also received an award, *Diplom imeni Atanasa Vančeva* for High Literary Mastery, presented by the committee of the “Sozvezdie duxovnosti” competition in Kyiv. Finally, she did an author reading on the topic *Journeys and Forms of Exile*, which was produced by Prague 6 for the Festival Den poezie and conducted a series of readings and discussion at the invitation of the Rijeka Literary Association, in Rijeka, Croatia. In April, she presented “Forms of Exile in Jewish Literature and Thought (20th Century Central Europe and Migration to America)” at the Faculty-Graduate Workshops of the IU Borns Jewish Studies Program.

Timothy William Waters (Maurer School of Law) recent publications include: “The Map Makes the People: The Territorial Nature of Self-determination” in the *Routledge Handbook of Self-Determination and Secession*; “Digressing towards Justice: International Criminal Law’s Narrative of Moral Transit through Violence” in *International Law and Time, Narratives and Techniques*; and “How to Move Borders without a War” in *The Atlantic*. His recent presentations include: “Changing Ukraine’s Borders the Wrong and Right Way” at the Association for Borderland Studies 3rd World Conference at Ben Gurion University of the Negev – Eilat, Israel; “Changing Borders after Ukraine: The Justice and Utility of Secession,” at the London School of Economics and Political Science; “The Question of Self-Determination: A Workshop with International Scholars” at the Lichtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, European Parliament in Brussels; “International Special Tribunal for Ukraine: Discussion of Legal and Practical Issues” at Jagiellonian University in Krakow; “No Exit? Justifying Secession and New Borders in a Global Order” at the 5th London International Boundary Conference; and “Precarious Order: International Law after Ukraine,” at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies 54th Annual Convention in Chicago.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRICE

ELLIOTT NOWACKY

LTC Dan Brice, our AY '22 – '23 US Army War College Fellow (USAWC) is nearing the completion of his time with us. In addition to auditing academic/language courses and fulfilling USAWC writing requirements, he conducted extensive outreach with academic and greater Bloomington professional communities. This included briefing the Political Science Department on the New START Treaty, a presentation to the Indianapolis Rotary Club on the Ukraine War, a talk to the local American Legion where he spoke about NATO and Ukraine and at a meeting of the Alexander Hamilton Society, a IU student organization where he spoke about the New START Treaty, Ukraine and other national security related topics. He also mentored many students about Department of Defense employment opportunities. LTC Brice will return to the active duty Army this summer. His next assignment will be at the US Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan where he will serve as the Defense Attaché. We are grateful for his contributions during his time with us this year.



OUTREACH NOTES

AATSEEL TEACHER EXCELLENCE PROGRAM PROMOTES PRE-COLLEGE TEACHING OF RUSSIAN

In Fall 2021, the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) reached out to REEI for its assistance in the creation of a professional engagement program to recognize and support excellence in the teaching of Russian at the K-12 level. Together, the two organizations established the AATSEEL Teacher Excellence Program (TEP), which “graduated” its first cohort of teachers at the end of 2022-23.

TEP addresses multiple goals: recognition of K-12 excellence in the teaching of Russian, creation and sustenance of a professional network for K-12 teachers of Russian, expansion of K-12 teacher involvement in AATSEEL and promotion of their leadership within the organization, professional development for K-12 teachers of Russian, and cultivation of robust, mutually beneficial engagement of K-12 and post-secondary teachers of Russian. The TEP administrative team includes William (Bill) Comer, Professor of Russian and Director of the Russian Flagship Center at Portland State University, Lee Roby (MA Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, 1996), Russian Teacher at Friends School of Baltimore, and Mark Trotter, REEI Associate Director. Roby and Comer serve the program as mentors and workshop presenters, while Trotter is responsible for its overall coordination.



Bill Comer (standing) with (counterclockwise) TEP participants Josh McDermott, Katya Cooke, and Tommy Tabatowski at workshop on applying the World Readiness Standards for teachers of Russian.

The initial group of nine teachers selected to participate in the program represented schools in a geographically diverse range of seven states: Valeriya Anderson, Elbert Comprehensive High School in Elberton, GA; Michelle Barbee, Silverado High School in Las Vegas, NV; Jill Christensen, Newton South High School in Newton Centre, MA; Catherine (Katya) Cooke, Mill River Union High School in North Clarendon, VT; Danine Falcon, Central High School in Capitol Heights, MD; Valeriya Kozlovskaya, Star Academy for Gifted and Talented in Wellesley, MA; Josh McDermott, Pineville Independent Schools in Pineville, KY; Julia Revok, Baltimore International Academy in Baltimore, MD; and Thomas (Tommy) Tabatowski, Noble Academy in Chicago. Unfortunately, Falcon had to leave TEP upon the termination of Russian language instruction at her school over the summer of 2022. However, the remaining eight participants successfully completed all of the many program elements by May, 2023.

After application and selection in Fall 2021, TEP participants as well as Comer and Roby met in a “get acquainted” session over ZOOM in January, 2022. They then assembled in Philadelphia for a long weekend of activities that kicked off with “Unpacking the World-Readiness Standard for Learning Russian: From Learning Scenarios to Lesson Plans”: a day-long workshop, led by Comer and Roby at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University on the eve of the annual AATSEEL Conference, also taking place in Philadelphia, in February, 2022. The World-Readiness Standards lay out the knowledge and skills that students need in order “to communicate effectively and interact with cultural competence to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world” (<https://www.actfl.org/educator-resources/world-readiness-standards-for-learning-languages#2>). Funded by a three-year grant from the US Department of Education and the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Standards result from the work of an eleven-member task force, representing a variety of languages, levels of instruction, program models, and geographic regions. Since their establishment in the 1990s, the Standards have been regularly refined and updated.

ATSEEL cont'd

Following the workshop, TEP participants attended the AATSEEL Conference, taking in panels specially pre-identified by Comer and Roby and according to individual choice, as well as a second (brief) workshop on “Implementing DEI Principles in a Russian Language Classroom: Innovative Practices & Strategies,” led by Olga Klimova (University of Pittsburgh) and Iza Savenkova (Dickinson College). In March, Comer and Roby met with TEP participants for a virtual conference debriefing session that also included brainstorming ideas for classroom applications to be developed during the following academic year and presented at the 2023 AATSEEL conference. In another virtual session held later that spring, Comer and Roby introduced TEP participants to the conference proposal process and led further discussion about plans for classroom applications with an eye to submitting conference proposals for an individual panel presentation, roundtable, or poster session.

Over the summer and fall of 2022, TEP participants consulted individually with Comer and Roby as they prepared their presentations for the upcoming AATSEEL Conference, to be held virtually in accordance with AATSEEL’s current practice of alternating between in-person and virtual conferences over a two-year period. The TEP cohort also discussed and rehearsed their presentations with Comer and Roby in two group meetings over ZOOM.

The generous TEP representation at the AATSEEL 2023 Conference took the form of individual papers, panel organization, and roundtable contributions. Papers included “Standards-Based Grading in a Russian Language High School Classroom” by McDermott, “Applying ‘Instructional Conversation’ in the Beginning Russian Classroom” by Anderson, and “Differentiation in a Multi-Level Russian Language Class” by Cooke. A roundtable on “K-16 Collaborations: Developing Learner Communities and Pipelines” featured Revok and Tabatowski, who also organized and chaired the event. Kozlovskaya served as panelist for the roundtable “Reviewing PBL in the Russian Language Classroom” while Barbie and Christensen did so for “Exploring Curriculum for Beginning Russian at the High School Level.” TEP participants also attended a variety of other panels on Russian language pedagogy and bridge-building between pre-college and post-secondary Russian programs. After the conference, participants met individually

with Comer and Roby for additional mentoring. Many of the TEP participants look forward to contributing to next year’s AATSEEL Conference in Las Vegas.

“Fantastic program—well structured, challenging, intense, and led by true professionals” commented Valeriya Kozlovskaya. She enjoyed “being a student, not a teacher, for a change, and ... on the receiving end of all those innovative practices ... that we try to implement in our own teaching and to see that they actually work!” She hopes that other teachers will be able to benefit from the program. For Josh McDermott, who also has teaching certification in Biology, English, and Computer Science, TEP provided his first opportunity to undertake in-service professional development for Russian. “I think the program was outstanding for all the resources and work that has been put into it,” he said. “Being able to attend the AATSEEL 2022 Conference in Philadelphia and then presenting at the AATSEEL 2023 Conference online were two awesome experiences as a Russian teacher and probably the highlight of my world language teaching career.” He regards his participation in TEP as “especially helpful in my Russian I and II classes . . . because of the networking that it has allowed me to do with other high school teachers in different states and college professors across the United States.” Reflecting on the trepidation she experienced upon her acceptance into the program, Michelle Barbee said that her many concerns “were calmed on the first meeting day. Everyone was genuinely helpful and open to all of our cohort’s personal perspectives and issues. We were given amazing tips to improve our pedagogy, and then we were set loose at the AATSEEL conference. We met often and discussed our observations, and what we learned from the sessions. It was an eye opening experience.” During the second year, Comer, as her mentor, “was with me the whole way through. He listened to my rants and coached me throughout the process. My cohort group also helped each other through this process with helpful criticism, suggestions, and positive feedback. . . . I am so thankful for the program.” She will focus on the expansion of Russian studies in Las Vegas and further opening the high school to college pipeline.

Generous funding by AATSEEL, REEI, and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at UT Austin covered all participant travel expenses to Philadelphia, conference registration fees, and program materials. REEI and AATSEEL look forward to bringing on the second TEP cohort in Fall 2023.

IN MEMORIAM: ROMAN ZLOTIN

The Department of Geography and the R. F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute (REEI) are saddened by the death of Lecturer Emeritus Roman Zlotin, our beloved faculty colleague, at his residence on February 26, 2023. The Geography and REEI communities extend heartfelt condolences to Roman's wife, Sonya, as well as to their son, Alexey, and his family. Roman was an outstanding and internationally renowned scholar in the field of biogeography, esteemed both by colleagues in his native Russia and at IU Bloomington, where he was additionally known as a versatile and popular instructor over the course of three decades. He remained active in fieldwork throughout his career.

Roman was born in Moscow, USSR on November 22, 1940. As a schoolboy he developed a keen and lifelong fascination with the natural world, actively participating in expeditions to nature preserves and wildlife parks under the auspices of the All-Russian Society for the Protection of Nature. He entered Moscow State University in 1958 as a student in the Faculty of Geography, where he specialized in biogeography until his graduation in 1963. Diploma in hand, he quickly accepted the position of research scientist in the Department of Biogeography at the Institute of Geography of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He soon established himself as a leading specialist on general and regional issues in biogeography and ecology, eventually publishing almost a dozen monographs and more than 100 articles. Roman travelled extensively throughout the USSR as participant and leader of research expeditions to the frozen tundra of Siberia, the mountain vastnesses of the Caucasus and Tien-Shan, and the arid deserts of Central Asia. He also undertook research abroad to such destinations as Norway, where he served as scientific leader of the Russian Ecological Expedition to the remote island of Spitzbergen; Vietnam, as secretary of the Soviet-



The young naturalist: Roman (center, left arm upraised) in the field with fellow participants on an expedition sponsored by the All-Russian Society for the Protection of Nature



Roman Zlotin and his wife Sonya at Roman's retirement party in the spring of 2019 (Photo: Veronika Trotter)

Vietnamese National Atlas Program that resulted in a comprehensive atlas with over 450 detailed maps of the country; and various islands in the Pacific Ocean as an organizer of expeditions on board the scientific-research vessel Callisto. In 1970 he defended his Candidate of Science dissertation on the "Structure and productivity of high-altitude ecosystems in inner Tien-Shan," a work that served as the basis for his monograph *Life in High Altitudes*. He chaired the Department of Biogeography of the Institute of Geography from 1983 to 1994.

Roman first visited the United States in 1987 when he was invited to deliver a

In Memorium cont'd keynote address at the 4th International Wilderness Congress in Denver. In an interview with Matthew Atkins (MA, REEI, 2004) for REEification the REEI newsletter, Roman likened his initial impressions of the US to “love at first sight.” His newly conceived affection for the land, cultures, and people of the US and North America as a whole lasted throughout the remainder of his life. Tasked with the establishment of an Earthwatch program in the USSR, he returned to the US in 1989 for program-related training over the course of a 45-day tour that took him from Massachusetts to Hawaii. In 1990, he set foot on the IU Bloomington campus for the first time in order to attend a conference devoted to environmental problems in the Aral Sea. That visit opened the door to an association with IU that ultimately led to multiple appointments over three decades. In Fall 1992, he taught “Environmental Degradation in the Former USSR” for the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA, now O’Neill). The course opened a new chapter in Roman’s professional life, as he took on the role of instructor for the first time in his academic career, which up till then had been devoted to research exclusively. Notwithstanding his pedagogical inexperience as well as the challenges of both communication in a second language and, as Atkins put it, “immersion in American culture, possibly at its rawest and most unrefined level—that of the college student,” Roman’s classroom debut was a success that led to a series of visiting appointments as both instructor and researcher with SPEA, the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, the Department of Geography, and the Center for the Study of Global Change. Alongside his activity at IU, Roman also formed an association with the University of New Mexico, first as a researcher and subsequently as an adjunct professor in its Department of Biology.

In 2003, Roman was appointed Senior Lecturer in the IU Department of Geography, a position he held until his formal retirement in 2019. Roman regularly taught such Geography courses as “Geography of Russia,” “World Regional Geography,” and “Russia and Its Neighbors.” With the encouragement of REEI, Roman developed a Russian-only version of the latter course for students with advanced proficiency in the language as well as “Environmental Issues in Russia,” another course taught exclusively in Russian. Housed in REEI, these courses proved highly popular among REEI MA students and undergraduate minors as well

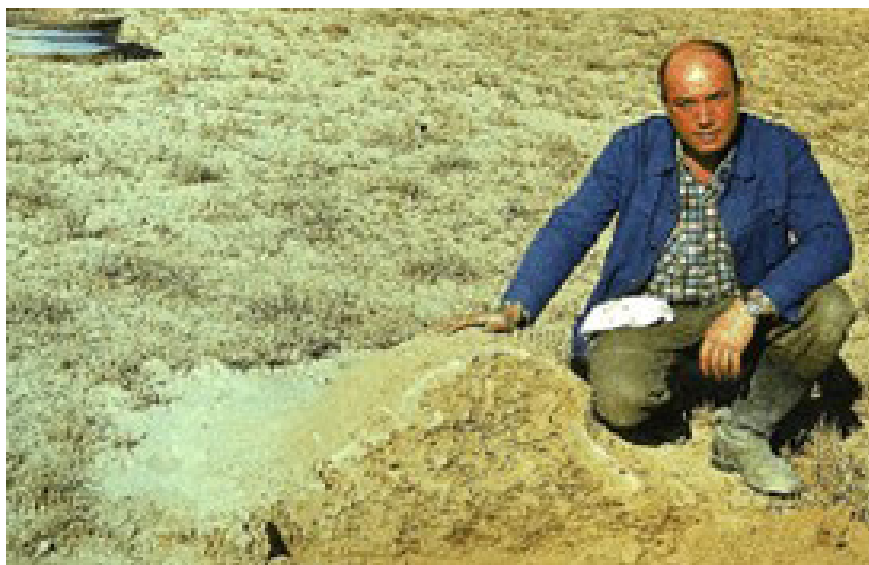


Roman and his students in a Russian-only course as they celebrate the end of Spring Semester 2017 at Yogi's

as students pursuing other programs of study. Even as a retired faculty member, Roman continued to offer a Russian-only course to IU students under the title “Contemporary Issues in Russia” through Spring 2021. At the onset of these courses, Roman prompted each student to submit three topics of individual interest, which he then used to map out the schedule and content of the semester. Each student led at least one discussion after preparation that involved individual consultation with Roman on suitable discussion questions and materials like Russian news articles or other media items to be assigned fellow classmates in advance. “Going to Russian discussion every Friday afternoon for the past two years has been a highlight of my undergraduate experience at IU,” wrote Emma Patterson (BA, SLAV, 2021) for the Spring 2021 issue of REEification. “The unique interests of the students guarantee a steady supply of engaging topics, like portrayal of disabilities in Russian media, Broadway and the Arbat, and political opposition in Russia.”

Those who knew Roman have been invited to submit reminiscences and testimonials using a [Google Doc](#). Van

In Memorium cont'd Holthenreichs, a doctoral student in SLAV who also attended Roman's Russian-only courses, remembers Roman as "such a massive help in refining my usage of Russian in higher level debates/discussions" and "always just such a happy and nice man who treated all of his students with the utmost kindness and respect." Upon the news of Roman's death, Emeritus Professor of Geography Dan Knudsen wrote that "I will greatly miss his wisdom and wit, his recounting of his various escapades while engaged in fieldwork, and our friendly repartee," adding that he was "so incredibly fortunate to have known Roman and been graced by his loyalty



Roman demonstrates the internal structure of a termite mound during an expedition to the grasslands of Kazakhstan in 1987 (photo by Dr. Yasny, Geographical Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences)

and friendship." Sarah Phillips, Professor of Anthropology and Director of REEI, expressed enormous gratitude to Roman for many years of teaching as "he guided generations of students through his fondly-remembered 'Contemporary Issues in Russia' course, taught completely in Russian, which gave students the opportunity to explore topics in politics, culture, society, and international affairs while polishing their Russian language skills. I attended the course myself several times and will always remember the twinkle in Roman's eye as he got students talking, in Russian, about topics of great interest that they researched and presented to the class. He was a wonderful instructor, colleague, and friend. Every time Roman went to Russia for research, he brought back a memento—often a lovely painting, such as a city or rural landscape—for REEI. These gifts will now live forever at REEI in Roman's memory and as a testament to Roman's generosity of spirit." Several former Department of Geography students who worked with Roman characterized him as "always so joyful, . . . a kind and gentle soul and a joy to be around." Many also served as Associate Instructors in his "World Regional Geography" and noted their good fortune for the experience. Roman "was a captivating scholar who provoked [thought] among his students" recalled Amy Savener (PhD, Geography, 2016). Rick Wolfel (PhD, Geography, 2001), now Professor of Geography at West Point, noted that in teaching his classes he still relies on "many of the concepts [Roman] taught me."

On Saturday, May 13 a celebration of Roman's life took place in the Global and International Studies Building. REEI Director Sarah Phillips presided as friends, former students, and colleagues shared reminiscences about Roman in the company of his widow Sonya.

Rest in peace, Roman.