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## A YEAR IN SIBERIA BY GWYN BOURLAKOV

I am extremely grateful for my academic year abroad as a Fulbright U.S. Student Scholar in Russia. Those who wrote letters of support for my project and encouraged me as a scholar include Eve Levin, Nathan Wood, Erik Scott, Marie Brown, Evgeny Grishin, Irina Six, Marie-Alice L'Heureux, and J. Megan Greene. I wish to start by thanking them upfront, as the rest of what I will briefly recall in my experience over the 2015-2016 academic year in Siberia would not have been possible without these generous scholars in my corner.

As I embarked on my trip, family and friends were puzzled by my desire to spend a year in Siberia, seeing it as the ends of the earth, a frozen wasteland, the GULAG, and simply asking "WHY!" But it was more than I could have hoped for.

I began my Fulbright year abroad at Novosibirsk State University where I was graciously accepted and advised by Professor Natalia Sergeevna Gurianova, a specialist on Old Believers in Siberia. Although my dissertation focuses on gender and imperial expansion in Siberia in the 17th and 18th centuries, she willingly guided me through my archival discoveries, as well as exposed me to scholars, customs and traditions at the NSU History Department and the Siberian Russian Academy of Sciences.

Prior to arriving in Siberia, I planned on making my "base of operations" for research Novosibirsk; to take a few weeks in Tobolsk, Tomsk, and maybe Krasnoyarsk and Yeniseisk, and Yekaterinburg. However, once there I realized the true vastness of Siberia, and the necessity to relocate several times in order to access and work in regional ar-



Bourlakov visits an ice rink on the grounds of the Tobolsk Kremlin, near Gostiny Dvor in January 2016.

chives. In Novosibirsk, specifically at Akademgorodok, there is a rich pool of scholars and resources, but its archival holdings focus primarily on the 19th century to the present. Knowing that much of the materials from the Early Modern period were located in repositories like the Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts in Moscow (RGADA), I planned to start in Tobolsk since it was the old capital and ecclesiastical center of Siberia. The train from Novosibirsk to Tobolsk took 27 hours. What I thought would be a few weeks in November, pushed through New Year's and Christmas, and as it turned out I stayed until the first week in March. I had found tremendous archival materials in the Tobolsk archives that revealed not only the role of women in the settlement of Siberia, but a fascinating picture of a multiethnic and multiconfessional daily life of 18th-century western Siberia.

My discoveries in Tobolsk predictably led me back to archival holdings in Moscow and St. Petersburg, but I could not imagine that they would lead me to the town of Shadrinsk. The Kurgan Oblast Archives at Shadrinsk held the archives for the men's and women's monastery at Dolmatov. In scouring the Tobolsk archive looking for any mention of women I came across this monastery in the Tobolsk Eparchy, which held several notable female prisoners from the 1730s to the 1760s. Thus, I went on a 12-hour bus ride through the Siberian countryside in the middle of February. It seemed as if we stopped in every small hamlet on the journey south west of Tobolsk toward the Ural Mountains. This "milk-run" of sorts allowed me to experience the vast distances, unreliable roadways, valenki-wearing travelers, but also villages that were not only

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# LETTER FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR



Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters of CREES,

The completion of the Fall Semester marks the midpoint of my time as the Interim Director of CREES. I am happy to report that the Center remains in order and wish to extend my sincere thanks to the CREES Staff for their fine work in overcoming my lack of institutional memory. Moreover, I would be remiss in not mentioning that, although a Fellow at the Hall Center and on leave from his duties as CREES Director, Professor Vitaly Chernetsky has been most generous in offering his time and assistance in making this Fall Semester a smooth one.

The schedule of events for Fall 2016 was truly rich and deserved of mention in some detail. CREES was fortunate to have hosted visiting lectures from Brett Chloupek, Assistant Professor of Geography at Northwest Missouri State University; Mykola Riabchuk, President, Ukrainian PEN Center; Keely Stauter-Halsted, Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Andriy Danylenko, Professor of Russian and Slavic Linguistics, Pace University. Resources from the Palij Family Fund, Backus / Cienciala Memorial Fund, and the Saul Fund, as well as the departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures, History, and the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures facilitated this diverse array of visitors to cam-

pus and we wish to express our thanks to all.

The "Area Studies in the Global Age" symposium was a success. This event also allowed us to welcome back to campus Dr. Edith Clowes (former CREES Director and current Brown-Forman Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Virginia).

As expected, our CREES Visiting Fellows Dr. Kristopher White (KIMEP University) and Dr. Brett Chloupek (Northwest Missouri State University) added spice to our intellectual soup and we look forward to continued associations with these scholars in the future.

As in previous years, the Brownbag Lecture Series combined with CREES' Friday Nights at the Kino provide ample opportunities for faculty, students and those less familiar with our region of interest and expertise to witness current research and draw inspiration for future study.

Looking forward to the Spring 2017 semester, I would like to draw your attention to a rich array of lectures, films and other outstanding events. CREES will join with other International Centers and Units across campus to host the 2nd annual International Jayhawk Festival (Feb 2), an event that drew nearly 800 students last year to learn about the cultures of the world. In early March, CREES will hold its annual Spring Celebration (March 5) and co-sponsor a lecture by Dr. Valeria Sobol, University of Illinois-Champaign (March 15) on "Ukraine as a Space of the Imperial Uncanny in Russian Romanticism." CREES will also host a visiting lecturer, Professor David H. Mould from Ohio University. Dr. Mould, a media historian, will give a lecture (March 13), "Images of World War I: The Films of Pioneer Kansas Photographer Donald Thompson," which will trace the remarkable career of Thompson, a photographer from Topeka who filmed on every front in World

War I and in Russia in 1917. He will also give a brownbag talk (March 14) titled, "Publish and Maybe Perish: The Dangers of Journalism in Central Asia."

On April 10th, we will welcome numerous national and international visitors to participate in our annual security conference. This year the conference focuses on migration. The Keynote speech will be delivered by Professor Cynthia Buckley of the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois. For more information and to register please go to [crees.ku.edu](http://crees.ku.edu). In addition, CREES will partner with Student Union Activities to sponsor an International Night featuring Ukraine (April 17). Later in April (April 22), CREES will sponsor Platforma, a Graduate Conference on Ukrainian Studies with Dr. Mark Von Hagen as keynote speaker. All are welcome to what promises to be a most fascinating event. In a packed month of April, CREES will also show the filmed play "Cherry Orchard" (April 28).

Finally, whether we've heard from you recently or not, please keep your news flowing to our new CREES outreach coordinator. Ms. Lisa Giullian is the newest member of the CREES Staff and brings a wealth of experience and vitality to the position. It is very important for us to remain aware of the many activities and successes of our faculty and students. We look forward to hearing from you!

On behalf of myself and the staff at CREES, we wish you a productive and intellectually vibrant Spring Semester. We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our CREES events.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Diener".

Alexander C. Diener  
Interim Director of CREES  
Associate Professor of Geography  
and Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Kansas

# ROSSUM'S UNIVERSAL ROBOTS ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL SHOWING

An interactive science fiction play, *Rossum's Universal Robots*, (*R.U.R.*) opened on Fri, December 2nd in the KU Theatre. Performances continued until December 8th. This popular play by Karl Čapek, renowned Czech playwright, enjoyed wonderful attendance with full houses for 4 of the 6 performances. In addition to the significant contributions he made as a novelist, poet, playwright and dramatist, he actively fought against fascism in the 1930s. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature in 1936.

Considered the first science fiction play, *Rossum's Universal Robots* explores themes that are now staples of robot science fiction such as freedom, love, destruction and the impact advanced technology could have on humanity (KU University Theatre). *R.U.R.* first premiered at the National Theater in Prague, the capital of what was then Czechoslovakia in 1921. The name of his play marks the first use of the word "robot" to describe an artificial person. Čapek invented the term "robot" based on the Czech word "robota," meaning drudgery, servitude, or forced labor. "Robot" entered the English language in 1923.

"*Rossum's Universal Robots*' is arguably more relevant now than it was in its own time. Čapek originally wrote *R.U.R.* as a response and a warning to the overuse and consumption of technology after World War I," said Blair Lawrence Yates, director and theatre graduate student. At the turn of the 20th century, recent inventions all promised a new century of peace and prosperity. After World War I, faith in humanity was shaken by the brutality of modern machine warfare.



In this future world, robots look just like humans, but are stronger, smarter laborers.

The technological boom to follow was met with much concern. "It could easily be argued that we're getting dangerously close to the world that Čapek imagined where people become so dependent on technology that their own humanity starts to slip away." Recent studies have found the average user checks smartphones for messages, emails, Facebook, and other apps around 150 times per day, which averages at 54,750 times a year (Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers's annual Internet Trends report). "The show will provide a space where the audience can think on their own technology use and open up the debate on tech use being either a hindrance or a blessing for humanity," Yates said.

Czechoslovakian author and playwright Čapek (1890-1938) commented on *R.U.R.*, written in 1920, in a later London Saturday Review interview: "I wished to write a com-

edy, partly of science, partly of truth. The odd inventor, Mr. Rossum (whose name translated into English signifies "Mr. Intellectual" or "Mr. Brain"), is a typical representative of the scientific materialism of the 20th century. His desire to create an artificial man -- in the chemical and biological, not the mechanical sense -- is inspired by a foolish and obstinate wish to prove God unnecessary and absurd. Young Rossum is the young scientist, untroubled by metaphysical ideas; scientific experiment to him is the road to industrial production. He is not concerned to prove but to manufacture. Those who think to master the industry are themselves mastered by it. Robots must be produced even though they are a war industry, or rather because they are a war industry. The product of the human brain has escaped the control of human hands. This is the comedy of science."



The Buddhist monastery Ivolginsk Datsan of the Russian Federation's Republic of Buryatia during Bourlakov's May 2016 travel.

## CONTINUED: BOURLAKOV IN SIBERIA

dotted with Orthodox churches as the primary structure on the horizon, but more often mosques.

Later in March I travelled to Moscow to work a few weeks at RGADA, and meet up with my daughter who had been staying with relatives in the Far North. Over the next few months we traveled by bus and train to Grodno and Brest (Belarus), St. Petersburg, Helsinki (Finland), Tomsk, Ulan Ude, Ulan Bator (Mongolia), and then back to Novosibirsk where I presented my archival findings to members of the Siberian Russian Academy

of Sciences in May of 2016. I spent my last month in Tobolsk, returning to the archives once more, and getting a taste of spring in Siberia before leaving for the U.S. With the company of my daughter, and the support of good friends in the U.S. and Russia, I more than accomplished my research goals. Fulbright speaks of what we as Americans can bring to our host countries, and I am certainly gratefully for the support and funding of the Fulbright Program, but I believe I received much more from my time in Siberia than I have given.

# AREA STUDIES IN THE GLOBAL AGE

PANEL TALK WITH PROMINENT SCHOLARS FEATURES FORMER KU PROFESSOR EDITH CLOWES



CREES Director Vitaly Chernetsky was joined by panelists Professor Edith Clowes, Associate Professor John Kennedy, Associate Professor J. Megan Greene, and Assistant Professor Marike Janzen.

CREES warmly welcomed former KU Professor Edith Clowes on November 3, 2016, to lead a panel discussion, “Area Studies in the Global Age.” Clowes was joined by several prominent scholars, all of whom contributed to the book, *Area Studies in the Global Age: Community, Place, Identity*. The panel included J. Megan Greene, Department of History; Marike Janzen, coordinator of Peace & Conflict studies and courtesy professor of Germanic languages and literatures; John James Kennedy, Department of Political Science. Elizabeth MacGonagle, Department of History and director of the Kansas African Studies Center also contributed to the book. The book resulted from a 2011 conference held at KU and was co-edited by Edith Clowes, formerly a professor in KU’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and director of the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

Professor Clowes, currently Brown-Forman Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Virginia, opened the discussion. “In the last quarter century,” she noted, “we have seen a backlash against the

American-led initiatives of ‘democratization’ and ‘globalization’. Why are both of these initiatives failing in some remarkable ways? Have leaders failed to get to know the communities and the people they are addressing and to take heed of their interests and concerns? In addressing the real challenges and dangers in our world, a strengthened area studies in combination with umbrella global perspectives, will help deliver greater, more reliable cultural knowledge and lead to better policymaking.” The world, Clowes argued, is made of a myriad of cultures. Change happens only in the context of a community’s cultural archive, its usable history. Each community has its cultural subjectivities, based on experience. Thus, real change must be perceived as an improvement by the specific culture or people. Language and area studies specialists aim to understand the problems a community may be facing in the context of the culture. This cultural understanding leads to better solutions, solutions accepted within the terms of the culture in question. *Area Studies in the Global Age* is relevant today: instead of focusing on generalized models and statistics

alone, the authors listen to and analyze real people in real communities for perceived needs.

Professor Kennedy explained how the identity of Chinese villagers has changed as cities have expanded out, meeting the boundaries of villages. His chapter in the book discusses the process of changing from ‘rural’ to ‘urban’ and its impact on villagers’ personal and administrative identity. Kennedy spent a great deal of time among villagers in China, documenting this identity shift. Villagers often travel to the city to find work. Although they work in the city, they identify themselves as villagers. Many villagers feel a sense of security, knowing that they can always return to the village, if needed, to grow food for basic subsistence. As urban cities grow to the boundaries of their villages along with permanent rural to urban migration, villagers grapple with new concerns. As their household registration changes (from rural to urban), the identity of villagers changes.

China’s urbanization is growing at an astounding rate. In 1978, 17% of China’s population was urban. Currently, 56% of China’s population is urban. Due to this growth,



Associate Professor Kennedy's (center) chapter in the book discusses the process of changing from 'rural' to 'urban' and its' impact on villagers' personal and administrative identity.

government and city officials are faced with a myriad of challenges including sanitation, property rights, pollution, water quality, solid waste management, and health and disease prevention. We need to invest in area studies, which puts these challenges "in-context" and provides a solid framework for understanding and solving complex problems. Sometimes, China is considered a threat. What if China succeeds? However, a greater concern is what if China fails in meeting the challenges of rapid urbanization? What impact would that have on other countries and their economies?

Professor Greene's presentation looked at how political actors in Taiwan have fostered the development of both area and regional studies programs to shape identity and to promote Taiwan's independence. In the late 1980s, a new Institute of Taiwan Studies was established at Taiwan's most prestigious government run academic institution, signaling a new emphasis on the importance of understanding Taiwan's particular social and cultural features (as opposed to China's, which had been the dominant focus of academic study in Taiwan from 1949 until the late 1980s). This first step towards the creation of Taiwan Studies as an area of focus was followed up in the period after 2000 with an explosion of Taiwan Studies programs and a pointed effort to retell Taiwan's history in ways that deemphasized Taiwan's linkages with China. In particular, many public sites such as museums and monuments were used to present exhibits that emphasized Taiwan's multicultural colonial past, stretching back to the 17th century when both the Dutch and the Spanish occupied parts of Taiwan. Through these activities, the political leadership hoped to reshape Taiwan's citizens' understanding of the island's history, and to position the island as a world actor, rather than simply as an appendage of China.

Local or regional studies were not the only way in which Taiwan's politicians sought to use area studies to influence Taiwan's relationship with China. In the mid 1990s Taiwan's government encouraged area studies of Southeast Asia and Korea with an eye to using greater knowledge about these regions – knowledge of language, culture, political systems, etc – as a foundation to encourage greater economic engagement with those regions and thereby to discourage excessive economic engagement with China. This strategy did not succeed, although it is being tried again by Taiwan's new president, Tsai Ying-wen. Nonetheless, the belief that it could work demonstrates the importance that some political actors continue to place on knowledge of other countries. By promoting Taiwan studies programs and area studies programs focused on potential trading partners, politicians in Taiwan have acted in the belief that knowledge of a region's past, culture, economy, languages, political structure and social norms can facilitate engagement and trade with external partners, as well as construction of identity.

Professor Janzen compared Bertolt Brecht's play, *Mother Courage and her Children* (1941) with Lynn Nottage's reworking of Brecht's piece *Ruined* (2007). The two plays offer insight into distinct ways that people have imagined community in the past 75 years. Brecht's work tells the story of Mother Courage's struggle to survive during the thirty years' war by selling goods to soldiers, no matter what side they're fighting on. By implication, Brecht argues that the profit-motive fuels conflict, and that creating a more just economic system—one in which people do not only look out for themselves—can create a more just and peaceful society. Brecht's position aligns with understandings of human community described by the term "solidarity,"

namely, that human relations are shaped by economic relations.

Nottage's play focuses on the life of Mama Nadi, a brothel owner making a living during the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo by selling beer, and her "girls," to whatever soldiers come to her place. Unlike *Mother Courage* who sacrifices relationships in order to preserve her capital, Mama Nadi risks capital in order to create relationships. The implication of Nottage's work is that humanity can survive in spite of exploitation. *Ruined* represents a vision of human community defined in terms of "human rights," or the idea that community is based on the fact that all humans possess innate qualities and rights.

Janzen hopes that her examination of these two plays can offer two insights for scholars of area studies. First, that ways of imagining human community are not static, but grow out of and respond to distinct historical contexts. And, second, that ways of imagining human community have consequences for where we see problems and tensions, how we understand their causes and effects, and how we take action to intervene and solve them.

In conclusion, the speakers emphasized that the academy needs to design courses and curricula which teach us to understand and learn the cultures and languages of various people. How we see problems and tensions, and how we make sense of them, will depend on our cultural lens. How are identities and communities shaped on the global stage? All of these questions and more are effectively understood and addressed with a solid understanding and knowledge of the world's cultures, histories and languages. It is time for our universities to enhance language and culture curricula that are oriented toward linguistic and cultural proficiency and to build strong research collections in these areas. When it comes to understanding human behavior, we can do better.

Published earlier this year by Northern Illinois University Press, *Area Studies in the Global Age: Community, Place, Identity* examines the interrelation between three constructions central to any culture—community, place, and identity—and builds on research by scholars specializing in diverse world areas, including Africa; Central, East, and North Asia; Eastern and East Central Europe; and Latin America. In contrast to sometimes oversimplified, globalized thinking, the studies featured here argue for the importance of understanding particular human experience and the actual effects of global changes on real people's lives. The rituals, narratives, symbols, and archetypes that define a community, as well as the spaces to which communities attach meaning, are crucial to members' self-perception and sense of agency.

# MIGRATION TO RUSSIA AND EUROPE: GENDER AND VULNERABILITIES

## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR VICTOR AGADJANIAN AT THE KU CENTER FOR MIGRATION RESEARCH

*Migration has been a key issue in policy and political agendas all over the world. For centuries, people have migrated to other lands for employment and a better life. How does migration affect these individuals and their families, and what impact does migration have on the sending and receiving communities? We visit with Professor Agadjanian concerning his research on migration trends and their impact on communities and the families left behind. Victor Agadjanian is Co-Director of the KU Center for Migration Research and Foundation Distinguished Professor of Sociology.*



**CREES:** “How did you get interested in migration research? Was your interest tied to your family’s migration?”

**Agadjanian:** To some extent, it’s tied to my own experiences as a migrant. My parents migrated from Armenia to Moscow. At that time, it was internal migration, like moving from Kansas to New York. It was not a big deal, compared to my own migration experience of growing up in Moscow and then coming to the United States to do graduate work. Of course, my professional interest in migration goes way beyond my own experiences. Around the world, migration is a very important part of everyday life. It shapes the social fabric, economic conditions and prospects, and culture in complex ways, and I am intrigued and fascinated by this complexity.

**CREES:** Do people usually migrate for work or better opportunities elsewhere?

**Agadjanian:** Yes. In most cases migration is driven by people’s quest to improve their lives, and it is often a temporary move, or at least, it’s intended as such. It’s what we call “labor migration.” In other words, migration for work, to earn an income, so as to transfer that income, or at least part of it, back to the home country, to the community of origin, to improve living conditions and opportunities for the family back home. Most of migration around the world is driven by similar motives. We just don’t think of it as typical for our society, as we are much more attuned to “permanent immigration,” in which people come into the United States and other countries to settle permanently. Even in such cases, people do not sever ties from the communities of origin. In fact,

even that kind of migration is part of a bigger family project. Who goes first? Who will stay back? Those who we call “immigrants” remain very much connected with their homeland because they have families there. They have economic interests, cultural ties and they may still be politically involved and even vote in elections in their home country.

What really is subject to a lot of debate and research is the kind of impact those connections have both on migrants, in terms of their integration into the new society, and on their families, those whom migrants left behind, and their lives, opportunities, and aspirations.

**CREES:** What kind of impact do those connections have? Do you see both positive and negative impact, or does it depend on the family or culture?

**Agadjanian:** It depends on the family and on the social conditions and socioeconomic opportunities back home. Typically, when we think of migration and what migration means to the sending household and family in sending communities, we think primarily of financial resources. Migration is expected to generate those resources, in the form of what we call “remittances” to send back home. Now one question in migration research is whether those resources are indeed generated. Am I successful in generating those resources, by getting employment in the migration destination, and earning wages that can be partly shared? A second related question is whether migrants are really willing to send and how much are they willing to send back. They may come with this intention and then they may get distracted. A migrant may find another object of attention in their country of destination. Sometimes a romantic relationship develops in the destination country, and a newly formed family also needs the migrant’s resources. Thus, some of those families back home may suffer as a result. It’s not just the migrants’ success on the labor market, but the migrants’ willingness and ability to share that success with their families back home. In the beginning, everything may work well.

Another big question is: what happens to the money sent to the community of origin?

It is typically spent on family’s needs, children’s well-being, education, and healthcare. Sometimes it is invested in creating and expanding local businesses. That happens only when there is an appropriate environment for economic development. To start or build a business you need initial capital. You also need a market for your products or services. If you have the money to open a little shop, but there are no customers, you’re not going to do that. So in many small communities in Mexico, Armenia, or Kyrgyzstan, there is no such opportunity. Then, in many cases, migration remittances do not lead to economic development in the home country. Often, they just help other family members to migrate in the footsteps of the migrant. Again, if people don’t see prospects at home, for a number of reasons - economic, social, political and cannot be successful in their communities of origin, then they look elsewhere. Also, when a migrant is successful, others in their community want to follow his or her example. Migration tends to create new migration, thus perpetuating itself.

**CREES:** Which countries do more migrants leave from?

**Agadjanian:** Typically, migration is determined by relative economic opportunities, but also by traditional established connections between countries. In the former Soviet Union, many countries that have fewer economic opportunities are more likely to send migrants, than to receive them. They also send migrants to places where it’s easy for those migrants to go. In this case, it will be mainly the Russian Federation, because until relatively recently, they were part of the same country, the USSR. They are still very much connected by language and culture. Some countries like Armenia and Kyrgyzstan (where I’ve done much research) became members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), a Russian-led economic international organization that besides Russia, also includes Kazakhstan, Belarus, and now Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, it is much easier to migrate legally and start working in Russia from those countries. Thus, differences in wages, differences in economic opportunities, traditional connections, and legal and economic costs of migration shape this process. That’s why we see this massive

*“...My professional interest in migration goes way beyond my own experiences. Around the world, migration is a very important part of everyday life. It shapes the social fabric, economic conditions and prospects, and culture in complex ways, and I am intrigued and fascinated by this complexity.”*



A beautiful view of a village in the Tavush province of Armenia where Agadjanian's fieldwork took place.

migration from the poorer parts of the former Soviet Union to Russia.

Of course, there is migration from other parts of the former Soviet Union like Moldova, Ukraine, or the Baltic countries. However, that migration also reflects their new orientation to Western Europe. Increasingly there are many migrants from Moldova, Ukraine and the Baltics going West, to the United Kingdom, Germany, and some to Southern Europe. And many of those migrant workers are women. Many of these countries are attractive given the rapid aging of their populations, and an increasing demand for personal care of the elderly. For example, many women from Eastern Europe, Moldova, and Ukraine go to Italy and Spain to work, providing this care. Migrants from the former Soviet Union are more attractive as they are cheaper to hire, compared to locals. Elderly care is not a very exciting line of work, especially for younger people, so it's very hard to find locals, Italians, or Spaniards who would

be willing to provide care for 80 year olds. Plus, many of them work semi-illegally and you can pay them less. They are often not protected by labor laws.

**CREES:** Is it easier to work legally in Russia if you are from the former Soviet Union?

**Agadjanian:** Citizens of most former Soviet republics do not need a visa to enter Russia, which is already a big difference, compared to many Western European countries and the United States, where just getting there is a problem. Still, most migrants in Russia work illegally or semi-illegally and are paid, increasingly so, in cash. In Russia, they call this “black” or “gray salaries” or “in the envelope,” or in other words, paid cash by their employer and there's no taxation. At the same time, this employment doesn't offer any security or safety to workers. If you are not legally employed, you can be fired at any time. And you can be subject to a frequent form of abuse, as employers do not pay what

they promise. Then you cannot do anything, because there is no law that protects you. Some may choose this arrangement. Some may not have a choice. In fact, increasingly, many Russian citizens choose this kind of arrangement too. Many employers don't want this flow of resources and money to go to the state, to be taxed. Even if you are legally entitled to work and you have all your paperwork, sometimes you don't, because you don't see the benefit, or your employer sets this as a precondition.

**CREES:** What are conditions typically like for women migrants in Russia?

**Agadjanian:** In addition to providing care for the elderly or children, there are other niches for women's employment. That's why the share of women among migrants in Russia and elsewhere is rising. And migrant women are typically at a greater disadvantage compared to men. They are more likely to be abused, underpaid, to be fired, less

likely to defend or stand up for their rights, or insist that their employers meet their obligations. And, of course, there is always the added penalty of sexual harassment and sexual abuse that women face everywhere in the world. Many times, sexual abuse against migrant women is perpetrated by employers, as part of the “package” to secure their employment. Often times, it is perpetrated by law enforcement agents, as a sort of “sexual tax,” that women have to pay to be left alone, especially if they are not legal.

**CREES:** That’s difficult, because they are not in their own community, so they are more vulnerable.

**Agadjanian:** Indeed. But it is also important to see how migrants interact with other migrants. We tend to think of the immigrant experience in terms of immigrants versus natives dilemma or dichotomy. But many times migrants are abused by other migrants, who have been there longer and who have established a business, and hire migrants. They know that the new migrants are not going to complain to the police, fearing deportation. It happens unfortunately. There is an illusion that many of us have of migrant solidarity, of solidarity of the vulnerable. Solidarity does happen, but so does abuse of migrants by other migrants. This occurs, not because they are inherently bad people or worse people than natives, but due to the circumstances of everyone’s life. It all has to do with the challenges of migrant existence. Our team in Russia interviewed a lot of women, and they often talk about sexual harassment and abuse. And oftentimes, it’s done by other migrants, some of whom are relatively wealthy. And even when migrant women are directly forced to have sex, they are often offered a job or a discount on their rent, or other opportunities or perks in exchange for sexual services. These sexual favors are different from direct coercion, but nonetheless, it is also a product of migrant women’s added vulnerability. In addition to being marginalized, as many migrants are, especially in the context of Russia, where there is a lot of xenophobia and resentment against migrants, migrant women have a higher risk of being abused because of their gender. In some cases, a male migrant will resist that abuse and try to move away or stand up to someone, who is abusing them. However, it’s much more difficult for women to do.

Sometimes we look at the suffering and injustices that migrants face, and some of us inevitably ask, “Why are you still here if your life is so tough? If you are abused and deceived, if you are not paid what you were

promised, if you have to work more than you are paid for, if you are sexually abused...Why are you still here?” And for many migrants, the answer is: because, counting all the disadvantages and challenges, it is still a better option than staying back in the village, having no opportunities and no hope.

**CREES:** I read about women, who migrated because they had children to support back home. Sometimes, they are the only provider of their families. Do you find this in your interviews with women?

**Agadjanian:** This is a big issue for women, especially in patriarchal settings of Central Asia or the Caucasus. On the one hand, women feel obligated to provide for their children, especially in cases where the marriage has dissolved or there is no male partner to help support the children. On the other hand, that often conflicts with a cultural expectation of what women should and should not do. In many of those countries, it is not culturally acceptable for women to move and work on their own. You are supposed to stay home to take care of your family while your husband will earn an income and provide for you and the children. For a woman, especially a young unmarried woman, to go to work elsewhere for some time, that already puts a stigma or label on her. She’s not seen as a decent, good woman. If she comes back, she often has no chance of getting married, because she does not meet the ideal of the perfect traditional woman. It’s a big additional penalty that women have to endure. If you go to Russia on your own, you have little chance of being accepted back, even by your family. After working elsewhere, some women go back to a different place, because simply, “If I go back to my own village, everyone will be pointing fingers at me, saying ‘that whore came back, after working and sleeping with men in Russia.’” It’s a highly patriarchal society and men cannot come to grips with the fact that women may also need to earn income on their own. Yet, some of it is changing. You see a large number of women, who actually migrate to Russia. And you think about Western Europe and that niche I described in elderly care. It’s disproportionately women, working in elderly care. So you’ll see increasingly women going to work and often the men staying behind. It’s a very new phenomenon, but if you think how dramatically it transforms a local patriarchal arrangement... Essentially, not only does the woman become the main breadwinner, but she is also the migrant. The husband is the one who stays home with the children. However, this arrange-

ment puts men in a subordinate role. And many times it is a stressful process. When the roles are reversed, when women earn the income and command more economic resources, it clashes with their traditional roles and sometimes they become victims of domestic violence and abuse. Men do not want to accept this challenge of women earning more, being more successful economically, being a more important member of the family. Of course, this is not unique to the former Soviet Union. Domestic violence is often driven by this upset balance of power within the family. Some men cannot handle the fact that women rise economically and socially. And that creates conflict.

As part of the KU Center for Migration Research, we are equally interested in all aspects of migration: where migration starts and why; what happened to those communities; the process of migration - how people move and where they go; and of course, the consequence of migration - where they settle, how they settle; what happened to them as they settle and integrate, and what happens to their native communities and receiving communities. How do locals interact with immigrants? How does the host society change in response to immigration? What potential tensions, problems and challenges emerge as immigrants arrive, in terms of perceived or real economic competition for jobs? What cultural differences exist between immigrants and natives? And of course, how it translates into politics. We see very vividly in the recent election, how immigration can be used as a propaganda tool to mobilize political support. The supposed threat of immigration is an easy rallying slogan and not just in the United States. Everywhere in Western Europe you see increasing use of anti-immigrant rhetoric to achieve political goals, especially on the far right. In the end, what is concerning is how it affects the political process and elections in different countries. And who comes to power and what do people do about that, not just with respect to immigration itself, but other aspects of the political process. Immigration is just one instrument and tool that politicians use.

*The KU Center for Migration Research was established in the spring of 2016. Its mission is to promote, coordinate and facilitate innovative high-quality interdisciplinary research on how human migration both shapes and is shaped by the social landscapes in which it takes place at the local, regional, national, and global levels. Foundation Distinguished Professors Cecilia Menjivar and Victor Agadjanian co-direct the Center.*



Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies

# KU LAIRD ESSAY COMPETITION

All University of Kansas students actively pursuing interests in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies in any KU academic program are eligible to submit an essay of approximately 2,000 words on any topic dealing with the region.

The essay should be a "think piece," not a formal research paper. It should explore a key issue in any discipline relevant to the region. For example, students might explore the causes and consequences of recent political changes in the region, discuss the implications of the post-imperial order for national languages and literatures, the role of religion today, or compose an essay on another topic. Students may rework papers from KU classes, but submissions must be reformatted to meet the competition criteria (2,000 words, 12-pt font, double-spaced). See examples of previous winners on the CREES website.



## DEADLINE MARCH 27, 2017

The Laird Essay Competition is supported by the  
Professor Roy D. and Betty Laird Endowment

**Undergraduate Award:**  
**\$250 cash prize**

**Graduate Award:**  
**\$500 cash prize & \$75 of  
books**

All essays must be 12-pt font,  
double-spaced.

Submit an anonymous version of  
the essay to the CREES office or  
email to [crees@ku.edu](mailto:crees@ku.edu) (subject  
header: "LastName Laird Essay").  
Please include whether it is a  
graduate or undergraduate es-  
say.

Winners may be invited to pres-  
ent their papers at the final  
CREES Brownbag of the aca-  
demic year and may have their  
papers posted on the CREES  
website.

If you have questions regarding  
the topic or submission, please  
contact [crees@ku.edu](mailto:crees@ku.edu).



CREES.KU.EDU @KUCREES

# CREES Snapshots

## The Curtain Falls on 2016

Our Fall semester was full of exciting gatherings and special guests. Take a short tour of some of the highlights:

### 01 Holiday Party CREES

invites faculty, staff, students, and community members alike to come together each holiday season to share regional dishes and good cheer as the semester comes to a close.

### 04 Folk Dance Workshop

The Kansas City World Folk Dancers taught dances from various Slavic countries including Bosnia, Serbia, Poland, Russia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia.

### 02 Palij Lecture Professor

Andriy Danylenko specializes in Slavic linguistics. His CREES program focused on the Ukrainian Bible and the history of Russian Imperial censorship.

### 05 Fall Mixer

Interim Director Alexander Diener welcomes the crowd to our kick-off to the academic year.

### 06 Slavic Languages Literatures & Cultures Fall Convocation

This event marked the first anniversary of the school and celebrated the conclusion of an impactful first year.

### 03 Backus- Cienciala

**Lecture Series**  
Professor Keely Stauter-Halstead is a specialist in the history of modern Eastern Europe, gender history, and the Holocaust. She spoke on the topic of prostitution and social control in partitioned Poland.

### 07 Poetry Reading

Ukrainian poet Natalka Bilotserkivets presents her work, "We Shall Not Die in Paris."



01



01



02



07



# SLLC FINDS SUCCESS PROMOTING STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

## INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR MARC GREENBERG AT THE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURES

Since its organization in 2014 and official launch in September 2015, the School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures (SLLC), has made great strides in fulfilling its mission "to advance and educate students, the campus and public on the increasing importance of foreign language and cultural knowledge as a central part of a 21st century education." Knowledge of other languages and cultures is of great importance in a globalized world. The School offers 40 languages, making the University of Kansas a national leader in the study of foreign languages.

In this Spring edition of the CREES newsletter, we visit with Director Marc Greenberg regarding the School's programs and success.

**CREES:** How did the idea for the School for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures come about?

**Greenberg:** Funding decreased significantly from the State of Kansas and Title VI programs. We thought, 'How do we sustain our programs and seed funding from the college to support and build structures?' Danny Anderson was a visionary dean and a strong advocate for language and culture. He saw the school as a way of strengthening and repurposing the language programs by creating a school where we could work together to innovate in our curriculum and have a single point of contact for students to study languages.

**CREES:** How is the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures funded?

**Greenberg:** State and federal funding for foreign language education has sharply decreased, while there is a heightened national need for foreign language education. Tuition dollars from increased enrollments in foreign language courses have helped. We are actively fundraising (through private donations, seek-

ing support from private foundations and public granting organizations). Within the first five years, we aim to have a truly sustainable school, robust enrollments and scholarships for students. It's very rewarding work.

**CREES:** How does the SLLC promote its programs?

**Greenberg:** We work with undergraduate and graduate advisors, involving them in our meetings, so they see the importance of taking a foreign language. Christian Beer, our Coordinator for Media, Outreach, Recruitment and Development, has been successfully promoting our programs on social media, for example, on Twitter and Facebook. Web development, ad campaigns, recruitment events, and bringing in guest visitors, engage students and give visibility to our programs.

In addition, we work closely with the University Career Center. They have made a special effort to reach out to students. They see the value and understand the need for foreign language skills in various jobs. We also collaborate with the Area Studies Centers. They are our closest allies. We cross-promote our courses. Melody Stratton, the Study Abroad Outreach Coordinator has been great at promoting our courses and overseas programs.

In September, the School held its 2nd Annual Convocation, which was particularly successful. The KU Ballroom was full. We had great speakers including distinguished alumni, university leaders and representatives from partnering organizations.



It was a tremendous opportunity for students. We also have support from Victor Jackovich, the first United States Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although he is not a KU alum, he strongly supports the SLLC

and is on the advisory board for the school.

There is an increasing need for professionals with foreign language skills and cultural knowledge in a global economy. This generation has more mobility. Businesses must seek markets abroad, since the U.S. economy is saturated. They need people who can move across borders, know how to manage another culture and how to interact with other people. People are a product of their history. It's important to understand how people relate to their society and to others' cultures.

**CREES:** What is your greatest success?

**Greenberg:** Over the last 10 years, humanities enrollments have decreased. When we started the School, our foreign language enrollments have started to go up. It can be directly related to reaching out to students through messaging, the use of social media, our School's outreach, recruitment, and an innovative curriculum. We are teaching curriculum that crosses departments and we raised awareness of the importance of what we do. Students are beginning to understand how valuable language study is.

**CREES:** What has been your biggest obstacle?

**Greenberg:** Budget cuts. We

haven't been able to replace professors and lecturers.

**CREES:** Have student enrollments gone up in foreign languages and if so, which ones?

**Greenberg:** Korean has been quite popular due to K-pop, Korean pop music. Russian has increased. German has a robust program. Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian is pretty popular. Hebrew and Hindi are popular. Farsi is an important language and will become more so. Turkish is a strategically important language because you can use it not just in Turkey but also across much of Central Asia."

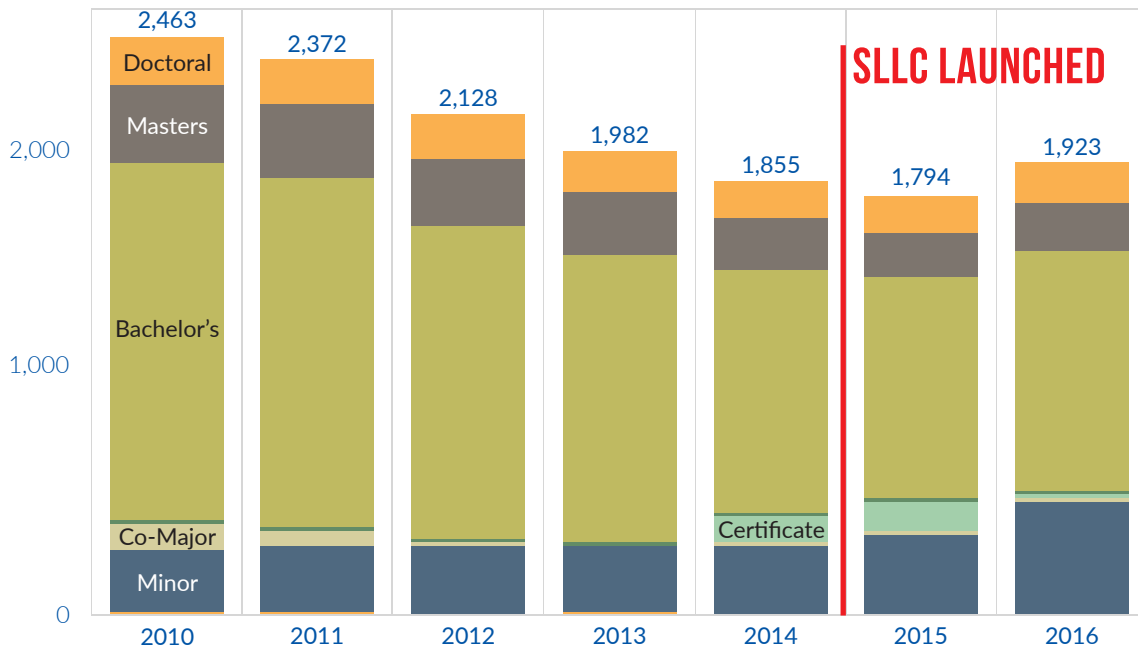
**CREES:** What partnerships do you have with national and international organizations and businesses?

**Greenberg:** We partner, for example, with the Global Language Project (GLP). Our students help a New York based nonprofit serve underprivileged K-5 students to give them a boost toward college, by offering foreign language instruction. (GLP is an educational nonprofit that partners with public elementary schools to develop and grow language programs that empower students to compete in a globalized world and workforce. For more information, see: [www.glpny.org](http://www.glpny.org)).

Steele CIS hires our students to look at business practices abroad. They conduct online investigations to find and warn about corruption, and ensure compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). (Steele is a longtime global business advisory and risk management company specializing in compliance with the FCPA. For more information, go to: [www.steelecis.com](http://www.steelecis.com))

# SLLC AFFILIATED FALL ENROLLMENT

KU Institutional Research & Planning



In the coming year we would like to build more steady relationships in Kansas City and Kansas as a whole. In particular, we would like to be more engaged with the International Relations Council and the Kansas World Language Association (KSWLA). We have been attending the KSWLA conference and have spoken with teachers about what kids can do by adding a foreign language and we are working on

better articulation with K-12 and junior colleges.

The SLLC also works with the KU Community Toolbox, a World Health Organization affiliated program, which is translating its English-language texts into the working languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. We are now working on a curriculum, under the leadership of Professor Kathryn

Rhine (Anthropology) which will allow SLLC students to apply language and cultural education to global health issues. Students who complete this curriculum successfully will be contributors to a multi-lingual workforce able to manage complex health issues.

In addition, the SLLC offers a graduate certificate program in Second Language Studies (SLS), which provides an opportunity

for graduate students (of foreign language, literature and culture) to gain credentials in Second language studies.

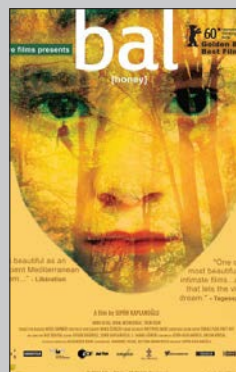
I teach an Honors Seminar on how to learn a foreign language as an adult. This is a freshman seminar where students sample seven different languages. We use the book *Becoming Fluent: How Cognitive Science Can Help Adults Learn a Foreign Language*. There is a myth that it is too difficult to learn a foreign language as an adult. However, this isn't the case. Adults focus on different aspects than children do, and they are motivated by the desire to build connections and use language towards their goals.

**CREES:** What are some goals you have in the upcoming year?

**Greenberg:** We are reworking by-laws for faculty tenure and promotion guidelines. As mentioned earlier, we plan to build more steady relationships in Kansas City and Kansas, namely, with the International Relations Council and the Kansas World Language Association. We would like to be more engaged with these organizations. We all have the same goal of strengthening international education and opportunities for students.

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## FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE KINO



FEB 3 | LITTLE MOSCOW  
(POLISH)

FEB 17 | CINEMA KOMUNISTO  
(SERBO-CROATION)

MAR 3 | HONEY  
(TURKISH)

MAR 31 | THE MAJOR  
(RUSSIAN)

7:00 PM 318 BAILEY

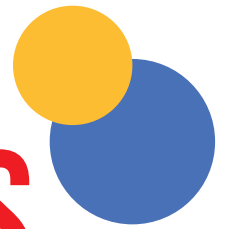
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# BROWNBAG LECTURE SERIES

## FALL 2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Videos of these lectures and others are archived at the [KUCREES YouTube Channel](#).

### DYNAMICS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE FAILED COUP IN TURKEY

On July 15th, a faction of the military initiated a military coup against the regime of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a plot that ultimately failed in the face of massive civil protest. This talk highlighted three major dynamics in play during the coup attempt—the impact of the media the night of the coup, the role of the Turkish cleric residing in the U.S., Fethullah Gulen, and the accusations that the U.S. is implicated in the events that transpired. One of the fatal flaws of the coup was that the plotters only shut down the national television station, but left all the commercial channels running (until it was too late). This allowed the embattled government

to use this outlet to communicate directly to the people and ultimately control the narrative of the evenings events. The talk discussed the ambiguous nature of the organizational structure and chain of command within the community of followers of Fethullah Gulen; this allows for the possibility that no evidence against Gulen could ever materialize, whether he had any “involvement” or not. Finally, **Mike Wuthrich** concluded with a discussion regarding the alleged connections between members of the U.S. military and the CIA and alleged coup plotters that have generated the accusations that the U.S. might have had some involvement in the events that transpired.



### WRITING FROM THE RUBBLE OF NORMATIVE ETHICS: SOVIET SOCIETY AS A MORAL 'GRAY ZONE' IN VASSILY GROSSMAN'S EVERYTHING FLOWS

On November 1st, 2016, Assistant Professor **Ani Kokobobo** of Slavic Languages and Literatures spoke on the the power of normative ethics beginning with Immanuel Kant's categorical imperative of categorical moral law derived from universal principles that must be obeyed unconditionally. Black and white moral codes such as

this are called into question in light of tragedies such as the Holocaust. Holocaust survivor Primo Levi's essay “The Gray Zone” advocates moving away from ethical judgement as a result of the witnessing the two sides of his camps “diverge and converge” in a way that cannot fit into Kant and others' categorical moral standards.

### LOOKING AT THE SOVIET PAST THROUGH THE CINEMA: EMBODIMENT OF MEMORY IN ABULADZE'S REPENTENCE AND GERMAN'S KHRUSTALEV, MY CAR!

On October 8th, 2016, **Luliia Glushneva**, who is a Fulbright graduate student pursuing a Master's degree in the Department of Film and Media Studies, discussed a part of her ongoing research on theories of film experience, highlighting the phenomenology which help us understand how the body reacts to film. Her presentation drew on two provocative

films known for their unique structure and being an uncomfortable, sometimes unbearable viewing experience. Cognitive responses to these stories differ, sometimes unexpectedly, based on cultural or political comprehension of the past. She emphasized that these effects are supported by the director's purposefully frantic editing choices.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

# CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

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## Spring 2017 LECTURE SERIES

For over 30 years, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series has been an informal forum for KU and the surrounding community to discuss general topics related to Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

From the arts and literature to political science and current events, the CREES Brownbag Lecture Series continues to educate and inform all those interested in this diverse and dynamic area of the world.

**318 BAILEY HALL  
TUESDAYS**

**12:00 PM (NOON)**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GAP CREDIT AVAILABLE

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MEDIA PRODUCTION STUDIO

CREES Brownbags are taped by KU IT's Media Production Studio and available at [youtube.com/KUCREES](http://youtube.com/KUCREES)

# Brownbags

## FEBRUARY 14

**Unending Quest for Russia's Place in the World: The Co-evolution of the Study and Practice of International Relations in Russia**

Mariya Omelicheva, Political Science

## FEBRUARY 21

**Everyday Nationalism: Rap, Red Star, and the Ordinary Citizen in Post-Milošević Serbia**

Travis Toon, Global & International Studies

## FEBRUARY 28

**Update on Ukraine: Cultural Aspects of Recent Social Change**

Vitaly Chernetsky, CREES and SLL

## MARCH 7

**Patriarch Nikon's 'Reforms' and the Russian Schism: On the Quincentennial of the Protestant Reformation**

Evgeny Grishin, History

## MARCH 14

**Publish and Maybe Perish: the Dangers of Journalism in Central Asia**

David Mould, Media Arts & Studies, Ohio University

## MARCH 28

**Rap in Russia: New-Style Poetry, or Old-Style Patriotism?**

Irina Six, SLL

Ginger Johnson, Journalism

Mikhail Kremnev, Business

Victoria Snitsar, Journalism and Global & International Studies

## APRIL 4

**Between Militarism and Maternalism: Representing Women's Roles in the Euromaidan Protests**

Oleksandra Wallo, SLL

# STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

**Drew Burks** (History) presented a paper “A City at the Front of Change: Urban Life in Lwów across the First World War” at the annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Washington, D.C. He presented his paper on the same panel “Modernity Derailed? The Urban Experience in Three Polish-Speaking Cities during the First World War,” along with KU Professor Nathan Wood and Professor Robert Blobaum of West Virginia University, who visited KU last spring as part of our “Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front” lecture series. Burks received the Norman Saul Travel Award from CREES to present at the conference.

**Liam Burnside** (REES) spent the summer of 2016 teaching English in Russia. In the fall, he studied at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. This Spring 2017, he will begin a new job doing international outreach at the Hudson Group, based in Moscow. He plans to return in the fall of 2017 to finish his master’s degree in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

**Joshua DeMoss** (REES/Law) will soon participate in the KU School of Law’s inaugural “Sixth Semester in DC” program. He will be taking classes from a KU law professor in Washington D.C., and attending various alumni and professional development events throughout the semester. DeMoss will work two different jobs while there - one for credit and another for pay and experience. For credit, he will be a legal assistant at the National Association of Attorneys General, where he will help with projects pertinent to attorneys general. The other position will be at the law firm Baker and McKenzie in their Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) Practice. There, he will assist on projects to help businesses comply with anti-bribery and anti-corruption statutes when doing business in Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asia. DeMoss’ legal and language skills will be useful in this position. Baker and McKenzie’s international trade practice will also have some work for him. In addition to school and work, DeMoss is excited to be in Washington D.C. during such an interesting time of transition and geopolitical shifts.

**Gloria Funcheon** (REES MA '13) recently accepted a new position at the Ermal Garinger Academic Resources Center (EGARC) at KU. She will work as a program manager for “Project GO,” and provide administrative support. Since graduating, she has worked in international development and education primarily in Tajikistan,



**Stephen Riegg (above) in front of the Trinity Bridge in St. Petersburg, Russia. Joshua DeMoss (right) in Washington D.C.**

with shorter contracts in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Georgia. She has been contracted by Save the Children, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, and American Councils for International Education. Most recently, she worked in Kyiv facilitating international education opportunities for Ukrainian youth.

**Alana Holland** (History) was awarded a Truman Good Neighbor Award for \$5,000 in spring 2016. She used these funds to do pre-dissertation research in the archives in Moscow, and also to participate in a summer Yiddish language program and do more pre-dissertation research in the Lithuanian Special Archives in Vilnius. From late June to mid-July, she was also a fellow with the Auschwitz Jewish Center, a three-week intensive study program (three days in NYC and two and a half weeks in Poland), focusing on the Holocaust, aftermath, and memory in Poland. She presented a paper at ASEES entitled, “Discerning Indifference: Polish Responses to the Jewish Wartime Fate, 1944-47.”

**Evgeny Grishin** (History) took part in a roundtable called “Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History 1500-1800” at the annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Washington, D.C. This roundtable was dedicated to the most recent volume of a bibliographical series dedicated to Christian-Muslim relations, published by Brill. He authored two of the entries in the edition and translated eight other entries from Russian into English. He spoke about his experience as an author and translator.



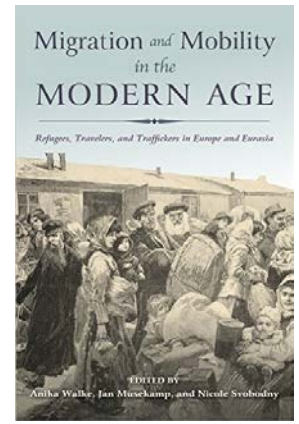
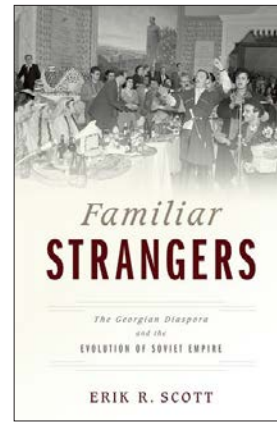
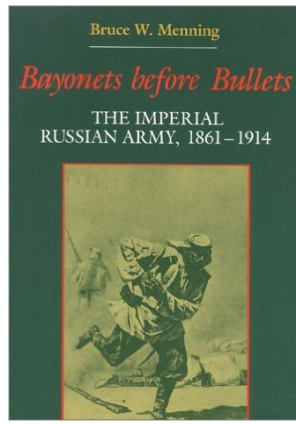
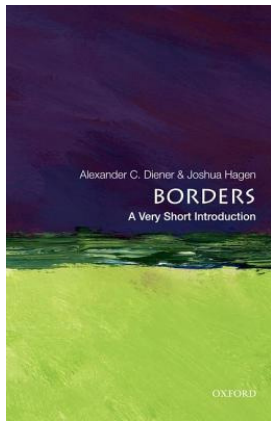
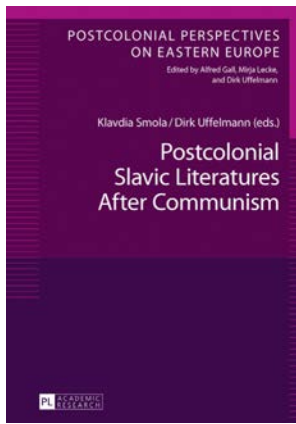
**Stephen Riegg** (History/REES BA '09) received a PhD in Russian history this year at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and in August he started as assistant professor of history at Texas A&M University. He is currently working on his book project, *Beyond the Caucasus: The Russian Empire and Armenians, 1801-1914*.

**John Stanko** (REES) has been offered a summer internship with the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw (Poland) through the Department of State Student Internship Program, as well as a Virtual Student Foreign Service internship opportunity to create a cultural outreach document intended for Russian citizens, ages 18-34.

**David Trimbach** (Geography) successfully defended his dissertation entitled, “Citizenship Capital and Political Power in Estonia,” and graduated with his PhD in geography in May 2016. He has published three articles related to his doctoral research and is currently working on an analytical policy report for the Foreign Policy Research Institute’s *The Baltic Bulletin* (expected in early 2017).



# FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



**Vitaly Chernetsky** (Slavic Languages and Literatures) began his Mid-Career Fellowship at the Hall Center for the Humanities with a research trip to Ukraine, where he participated in the Lviv Book Forum, the country's largest book fair and literary festival. He delivered a lecture at Stanford University, titled "Ukraine's Postcoloniality Reconsidered." At the ASEES convention in Washington, he presented at a roundtable on the Ukrainian writer Yuri Andrukhovych, who was a guest at KU in March 2016. Professor Chernetsky published the articles "Ukrainian Queer Culture: The Difficult Birth," in Kārlis Verdiņš and Jānis Ozoliņš, eds., *Queer Stories of Europe* (Cambridge Scholars Press), "Identity Quests: Postcolonial Journeys in Contemporary Ukrainian Writing," in Dirk Uffelmann and Klavdia Smola, eds., *Postcolonial Slavic Literatures after Communism* (Peter Lang), and "Silences and Displacements: Revisiting the Debate on Central European Literature from a Ukrainian Perspective" (*Zeitschrift für slavische Philologie*).

**Alexander Diener** (Geography and Atmospheric Science) returned from a year at Harvard University as a Davis Center Senior Fellow. Since then, he has taken up the post of Interim Director of KU's Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. In the last year, he published two articles with the *Journal of Eurasian Geography and Economics* and one with the *SAIS Review*. Alex has also written several edited volume chapters and encyclopedia entries that are in the process of being published. In 2016, Shoten Publishers of Tokyo Japan produced a Japanese language version of Alex's co-authored book *Borders: A Very Short Introduction*. Alex was also invited to deliver a series of lectures at the Border Studies Summer School at Hokkaido University in Japan and conducted fieldwork on his Eur-

asian Mobilities project in Mongolia. He is currently in the final stages of co-editing a book titled *Urban Space, Place, and National Identity*. In the coming months Alex will speak at a special event at the Kennan Institute in Washington DC on *Challenging the "Post": 25 years after the Soviet Union*, participate in seminars at Radcliff College and the University of Illinois, and plans on conducting fieldwork in Kazakhstan in relation to his project on Territorialization, Citizenship, and Civic National Identity.

**Jon C. Giullian** (Library) published "Aspects of Diversity in ASEES National Conferences as a Reflection of the Field of Slavic and Eurasian Studies in North America: the Case of Gender, Location, Discipline, and Institution." *Slavic and East European Information Resources* 17, no. 4 (In Press). (Refereed, double blind peer-review).

**Marta Pirnat Greenberg** (Slavic Languages & Literatures) received the 2016 CREES Faculty Service Award. She also won a curriculum development grant to create a weekly virtual class session.

**Bruce W. Menning** (History Emeritus) published, Brios U. Menning, *Pulia i shtyk: Armiia Rossiiskoi imperii, 1861-1914* (Moscow: Modest Kolerov, 2016), translation of Bruce W. Menning, *Bayonets before Bullets: The Imperial Russian Army, 1861-1914* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992, 2000).

**Mariya Omelicheva** (Political Science) published three articles: "Covert Operations, Wars, Detainee Destinations, and the Psychology of Democratic Peace" in *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (with C.Crandall, R.Beasley, and O.Cox), "Critical Geopolitics on Russian Foreign Policy: Uncovering the

Imagery of Moscow's International Relations" in *International Politics*, and "An Unending Quest for Russia's Place in the World: The Discursive Co-Evolution of the Study and Practice of International Relations in Russia" featured for free download at *New Perspectives: Interdisciplinary Journal of CEE Politics & IR* (with Lidiya Zubytska). She presented at the annual meeting of PONARS Eurasia (Washington, D.C.) on the CSTO and SCO security responses to the trafficking/terrorism nexus, and took part in the workshop on Russia's nuclear security organized by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (Washington, D.C.). Her observations on the future of US-Russia relations were quoted in the Washington Post. She is serving as a program chair for a new Central Asian states section of the Midwest Political Science Association.

**Rebecca Rovit** (Theatre) gave a public lecture at the University of Munich in Germany as part of her Fulbright Fellowship entitled, "From the Rubble to Renewal. Theatre in Occupied Berlin and Vienna, 1945-1948."

**Normal Saul** (History Emeritus) presented a paper at the November conference of ASEES in Washington on "California-Alaska Trade, 1850-1867: The Relations of the American Russian Commercial Company with the Russian American Company" and chaired a round table on "Americans Witness the Russian Revolution." At the Slavica Publishers (Indiana University) exhibit, the first volumes of the American eyewitnesses of the Russian Revolution series were on display. It included this introduction, edited and annotated, republication of *Russian People* by Julia Grant Cantacuzene. Another new venture is being co-general editor (with Ben Whistenhunt) of an e-journal, *The*

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

# CONTINUED: FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

*Journal of Russian American Studies* available as of November 1 for receiving submissions of articles and books for review. It received valuable assistance from Marianne Reed and Jon Giullian of University of Kansas Libraries, which is hosting the journal. The first issue is expected April 2017.

**Erik R. Scott** (History) was invited in October to present on his new book, *Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora and the Evolution of Soviet Empire*, at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. In November, he presented his research on defectors and

the postwar Soviet border at the annual convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Washington, DC.

**Nathan Wood** (History) presented a paper at the November convention of AS-EES in Washington, D.C. on Cracow during the Great War for the panel "Modernity Derailed? The Urban Experience in Three Polish-Speaking Cities during the First World War," along with Drew Burks (History PhD candidate), and Professor Robert Blobaum of West Virginia University, who visited KU

last spring as part of our *Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front* series. Wood also participated on a roundtable discussion of new approaches to studying Poland in the 1920s and 30s. In December he published a chapter, which appeared in a new collected volume: "A main station at one's front door': Bicycles, Automobiles, and Dreams of Personal Mobility in Poland, 1885-1939," *Migration and Mobility in the Modern Age: Refugees, Travelers, and Traffickers in Europe and Eurasia*, Anika Walke, Jan Musekamp, and Nicole Svobodny, eds., (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2016). (24pp. with notes.)



## KU GRAD GIULLIAN JOINS CREES STAFF AS OUTREACH COORDINATOR

We welcome Lisa Giullian to CREES as a part-time Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Giullian graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Family Science and a minor in Russian. After teaching English to children and adults in Russia and volunteering in the Czech and Slovak Republics, she settled in Lawrence, Kansas with her husband, Jon. She later graduated from KU with a

master's degree in Social Welfare. During her graduate studies, she interned with Jewish Family Services, doing outreach with Russian-speaking refugees.

Studying two foreign languages and working overseas in Russia and the Czech and Slovak Republics has been a life-changing experience and has opened the door to many wonderful opportunities. "I'm excited to join CREES, in promoting

foreign language and area studies, and supporting the center in their outreach activities. I hope to help teachers weave knowledge of our region into their curricula," said Giullian. Ms. Giullian enjoys hiking, running, volleyball, and dancing. She especially likes to go hiking with her husband and her two sons (Addison and Christian) in national parks.

# PLATFORMA

UKRAINIAN STUDIES GRADUATE  
STUDENT CONFERENCE @ KU

22 APRIL 2017



Submissions are now open until **24 February 2017** for paper presentations, roundtables, and discussion panels. Visit [crees.ku.edu/platforma](http://crees.ku.edu/platforma) to register and for more information.

Keynote speaker: Dr Mark von Hagen, Arizona State University

Selected papers from the conference will be featured in a special issue of *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*

# PIRNAT-GREENBERG RECEIVES FACULTY AWARD



Pirnat-Greenberg (right) with CREES Interim Director Alexander Diener.

At the Fall Mixer, CREES Interim Director Alex Diener awarded the 2016 CREES Faculty Service Award to Marta Pirnat-Greenberg. He commended Marta for her dedicated efforts in promoting the study of Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian and Slovene. Marta teaches beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian (BCS) and Slovene at KU. Her accomplishments are quite impressive. She has written the textbook for learning Colloquial Slovene. In addition, she has worked tirelessly to promote the languages she teaches, using cutting edge technologies in the classroom, and has successfully engaged the local community in learning more about Southeastern Europe.

Marta made use of a curriculum development grant to create a weekly virtual class session. It has meant an increased workload for Marta, but since she started this practice she has received fantastic results in student learning and even better reviews from students in her class. In 2011, Marta developed a project for her second year BCS students to interview Croatian-heritage artists living in the Strawber-

ry Hill community in nearby Kansas City. They interviewed the artists, translated the articles into BCS, and had the two articles published in the Croatian diaspora magazine *Matica*.

The following year, Marta incorporated the activities of the KU World War I Centennial Committee into her classroom. Her students translated tweets into BCS for the KU World War I Twitter Project. As a final class project, her students also subtitled a Serbian-made documentary on Gavrilo Princip and the Sarajevo Assassination, which is now available to English-speaking audiences for the first time on YouTube.

For two years, Marta's students have organized a BCS Fest that seems to grow bigger and bigger every year. Her South Slavic films have always enjoyed fantastic attendance, with loyal students past and present coming for her amazing Balkan treats as much as the terrific movies she selects. Her contributions to furthering the study of the languages and cultures of Southeastern Europe are greatly appreciated by students, colleagues and CREES.

## A GREAT COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND: CONGRATS TO BETTE LUTHER ON HER RETIREMENT

We offer our congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to Bette Luther for her service and contributions to CREES, where she first began her employment at KU in the 1990s. Bette then moved on from CREES to work as the International Programs budget officer and, most recently, business manager for nearly 12 years. Among her many tasks, she worked tirelessly with the international program units on all things financial, oversaw travel and grant funding, worked with the associate vice provost on the unit budget, and coordinated financial matters with the Shared Service Centers.

At a recent retirement reception on Dec 9, 2016 held in Bette's honor, Professor emerita Maria Carlson shared warm memories of working with Bette:

"It was the early 1990s. The Soviet Union had just collapsed. I had just become director of the Center for Russian & East European Studies. Not long after that, our office manager decided to retire after more than 40 years in the job. I tried to find the right person to replace her. It was a demanding job, with many facets; in fact, it was really six or seven jobs! A short while later, Donna Garcia

(who served as an interim office manager), found Bette Luther. Amazingly, she met all requirements of the official job description and practically all of the requirements of my dream job description. And the rest is history. Bette stayed with me and CREES until I finally surrendered the directorship (and eventually regained most of my sanity). Bette eventually went on to be indispensable to the Office of International Programs. But those CREES years were heady, we achieved a great deal, and Bette, you know how grateful I am to you – as are several generations of CREES students and staff. Bette, you selflessly gave a lot to the Center and its staff, to its students, to the University, and to me personally. You were a professional colleague during the CREES years and you have become a good friend since then. Together you and I forged our little outfit into a team, and as a team we turned out to be much greater and more effective than the sum of our individual parts. I believe that's the way it's supposed to work. We are all in it together. One last word: Bette, speaking as a recent retiree myself, I'm here to tell you that you will love retirement. My sincere congratulations on



Bette Luther, her son Paul, and granddaughter Alyza enjoy a retirement reception honoring her 20 years of service. "I enjoyed being able to spend time with so many great people I have worked with over the last twenty years," said Luther.

your retirement! I can't thank you enough for everything you have done."

The entire CREES family – faculty, staff, and students – wishes Bette the best in her retirement as she reinvents herself once more and enjoys the luxury of spending more quality time with family, friends, and colleagues.

# GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

## BECOME A CREES DONOR TODAY

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (CREES) has been a national leader for the study of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since 1959.

The Center is a degree-granting program within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

Many of our activities are enhanced through private donations to the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies.

Special events, guest lecturers, scholarships and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donation can help us ensure our Center's vitality.

We hope that you will contribute generously to strengthen the Center's programs by sending your gift today.

Your gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you for your support!

### CREES GENERAL FUND

The CREES General Fund supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities on campus and in the wider community. Among its dedicated sponsors are the **Oswald P. Backus/Anna Cienciata Memorial Fund** for visiting lecturers in Polish Studies, the Bramlage Family Foundation Fund, which provides scholarships to KU REES MA students who have strong connections to the state of Kansas, and the **Norman E. Saul Fund**. Named after KU History Emeritus Professor Norman E. Saul, the Saul fund supports REES students with travel grants to collections or to REES-related conferences for professional development.

### PALIJ FAMILY FUND

The Palij Family Fund supports visiting lecturers specializing in Ukrainian studies. The fund also supports the Ukrainian Studies Prize for an outstanding student specializing in Ukrainian.

### GEORGE C. JERKOVICH FUND

The mission of the Jerkovich Fund is twofold: 1) to support the development of KU's South Slavic library collection; 2) to provide awards to outstanding students who have demonstrated an interest in the study of Croatian or Serbian history, literature, folklore, or culture.

### ROY & BETTY LAIRD FUND

This fund is named after the late Professor Roy D. Laird, a longtime member of the Russian and East European Studies (REES) and Political Science faculties, and Ms. Betty Laird, whose continued support of CREES activities includes sponsoring the annual Roy & Betty Laird Essay Contest. Monies donated to support this fund will primarily contribute to the advancement of Russian Studies.

### JAROSEWYCZ FAMILY FUND

The Jarosewycz Family Fund provides scholarships for graduate students who have shown commitment and scholarly interest in Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies.

### ALEXANDER TSIOVKH MEMORIAL FUND

The fund is named after the late Professor Alexander Tsiovkh, a longtime professor of Ukrainian Studies at University of Kansas. Monies donated to this fund are used to support students studying Ukrainian Area Studies at KU.

### SPASIBO FUND

The Gerald E. Mikkelson Fund is intended to sustain the Siberia and St. Petersburg components of KU's instructional profile.

# KU

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EAST EUROPEAN &  
EURASIAN STUDIES

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& Sciences

## THANK YOU

### FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

A secure online donation can be made to CREES via the KU Endowment website at: [crees.ku.edu/give-crees](https://crees.ku.edu/give-crees)

### FOR DONATIONS BY MAIL

If you would like to make a donation by check or money order, please make your check payable to **KU CREES** and mail your donation to:

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