

CREES NewsBlast

KU Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Dear CREES Community,

I am excited to enter the new year as the new director of CREES. Although I truly wish I could welcome you back to campus this spring in person, I am enthusiastic about the programming we have lined up and optimistic about our center's future. I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to my predecessors:



Ani Kokobobo, who served as interim director in fall 2020, and Vitaly Chernetsky, who stepped down in summer 2020 after a long and productive tenure. Professor Kokobobo launched the important Russia and Race series, which will continue this spring, and won a grant from the U.S.-Russia Foundation to expand Russian language and Russian studies opportunities for Kansas high school students; Professor Chernetsky, working with CREES Assistant Director Justyna Beinek, also helped secure support from the U.S.-Russia Foundation, and his efforts as well as those of the CREES team paid off further when we were awarded two years of Title VI funding from the Department of Education this past fall.

Among other things, renewed Title VI funding will support additional programming, build up KU Libraries' Slavic and Eurasian Collection, create outreach opportunities for minority-serving institutions and community colleges, and allow CREES to hire, in cooperation with our colleagues in the Department of Political Science, a Visiting Assistant Professor specializing in Russian and Eurasian politics, foreign policy, international security, or cybersecurity. A search for the position is now underway.

While we look forward to returning to in-person events and community gatherings as soon as it is possible to do so safely, events will continue to be in the virtual realm this semester. The silver lining in moving our programming online has been the opportunity to share our expertise with a wider group of people, with speakers and guests joining us from across the country and throughout the world. This spring's Cold War in the Heartland series will bring leading scholars from Russia and the United States together to consider the global and the local histories and legacies of superpower conflict. Speakers will explore pen-friendships between women in Kansas and the Soviet Union as the Cold War began, the way the Cold War played out across the globe, how the conflict was waged through images and media, and the consequences of its end for US-Russian relations. As part of the series, a new teaching website will be launched that gathers documents, landscape studies, and oral histories chronicling the Cold War's impact in the Midwest, with special attention to its role in shaping life in Lawrence, Kansas.

Our first event of the semester will feature KU's own Jaroslaw Piekalkiewicz, who will discuss his *Dance with Death: A Holistic View of Saving Polish Jews during the Holocaust* and recount his experiences as a teenager in Nazi-occupied Poland in conversation with Nathan Wood from KU's Department of History. For our 2021 Palij Lecture, we will welcome Jessica Zychowicz, who will discuss her acclaimed new book, *Superfluous Women: Art, Feminism, and Revolution in Twenty-First Century Ukraine*. Finally, CREES Outreach Coordinator Lisa Giullian will offer a K-12 Teacher Workshop, "Engaging Global Literature and History for Today's Classroom," utilizing the Newbery Honor-winning book, *Breaking Stalin's Nose*.

I look forward to seeing you at our events, and I encourage you to reach out to me by email at scott@ku.edu to share any ideas, hopes, or concerns you have for our center as CREES begins a new chapter.

Best wishes,
Erik R. Scott
CREES Director



This Month at CREES

Please join us for the following CREES-related events:

Meet the Author: Jaroslaw Piekalkiewicz (Prof. Emeritus, Political Science, KU)

Monday, February 8, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Online Event

Prof. Jaroslaw Piekalkiewicz will discuss his most recent book *Dance with Death: A Holistic View of Saving Polish Jews during the Holocaust* (Hamilton Books, 2019) and describe his experience as a teenager in Nazi-occupied Poland in an interview with Prof. Nathan Wood (History, KU). CREES Director Erik Scott will introduce the event.



In this book, Jaroslaw Piekalkiewicz examines this issue in detail as it relates to Poland—the country that experienced the harshest German occupation and was slated for permanent incorporation into the German Reich. He examines all the different factors influencing the capacity and willingness of Poles to save Jews and documents the efforts made to save them despite these impediments.

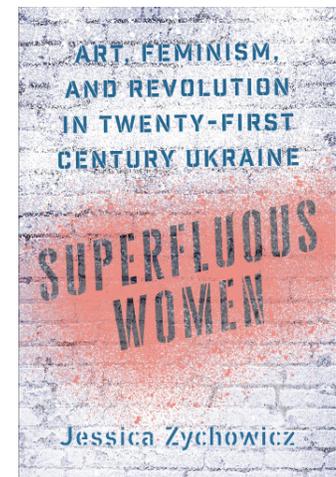
The online interview will be delivered in a Zoom webinar format. Register in advance for the webinar [here](#).

Palij Lecture Series: Jessica Zychowicz (University of Alberta, Canada)

Thursday, February 18, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Online Event

Dr. Jessica Zychowicz will present a lecture “A New Dawn at the Centennial of Suffragism: New Transatlantic Research on Culture, Gender, and Activism in Ukrainian Studies” in the Palij Lecture Series. This lecture draws upon over a decade of research toward the recent book, *Superfluous Women: Feminism, Art, and Revolution in Twenty-First Century Ukraine* (University of Toronto Press, 2020). Using firsthand interviews, archival documents, historical context and theoretical frameworks, the book communicates the unique story of a generation of artists, feminists, and queer activists who emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but whose ideas and actions were forged in the tumultuous decade between the two revolutions of the 2000s.

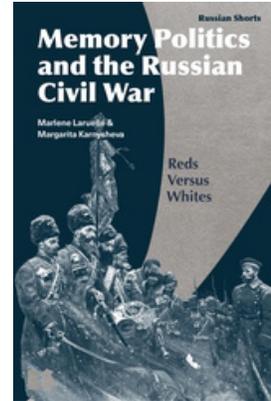


The lecture will be delivered in a Zoom webinar format. Register in advance for the webinar [here](#).

News from our Faculty, Alumni, and Students

Check out this new book by Margarita Karnysheva, a KU History Alumna!

Jake Kipp (History, Emeritus) recommends a new book by Marlene Laruelle and Margarita Karnysheva. Margarita Karnysheva received her PhD. from KU in Russian History. The book has the title *Memory Politics and the Russian Civil War: Reds Versus Whites*. Publishing data: Bloomsbury Academic: London, New York, Oxford, New Delhi, and Sydney, 2021. Prof. Kipp comments, “I am reading the book right now and have found many interesting insights into the process of White rehabilitation under Yeltsin, its continuation under Putin and the role that the Russian Orthodox church has played in the process to date. Given the posture of the Soviet State towards the White Movement as traitors and allies of foreign powers seeking to destroy the Soviet State (French, British, US, Japanese and later Nazis), this rehabilitation marks a serious ideological shift with its own set of complications for those in power.”



Vitaly Chernetsky (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) completed in June his term as Director of KU CREES and is back full time in the Slavic Department. He successfully applied to CEC ArtsLink to host at KU a residency by the Ukrainian artist Alevtyna Kakhidze. It is currently taking place virtually, with the in-person part postponed to Fall 2021 due to the pandemic. She is the fourth CEC ArtsLink-funded visitor at KU. The international conference at Yale University Prof. Chernetsky co-organized with Edyta Bojanowska, *The Other Europe: Changes and Challenges since 1989*, planned for April, was postponed to September and took place online. He presented at several other online conferences, including a Ukrainian Studies conference at Charles University in Prague and a keynote at a Memory Studies conference in Chişinău. This fall, Prof. Chernetsky was named head of the editorial board of the Ukrainian journal *Shevchenkoznavchi studii*, the world’s only journal focused on Ukraine’s national poet Taras Shevchenko, and member of the editorial board of Ukraine’s leading literary scholarship journal, *Slovo i chas*. As a guest expert, he was frequently interviewed on U.S.-related topics by Ukraine’s public radio, *Hromads’ke*.

Alexander Diener (Geography) published “Multi-Scalar Territorialization in Kazakhstan’s Northern Borderland” in the journal *Geographical Review* and co-authored “Local Perceptions of Tourism’s Effects in Russia’s Altai Republic” with KU CREES graduate Ruth Remmers in the journal *Ustoichivoe razvitie gornykh territorii -Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories*. He is making progress on several projects including two books and an edited volume. He is also co-editing two special issues of journals. In the spring semester 2021, Alex is pleased to be offering a new undergraduate course titled Political Geography (GEOG 373) which explores the relationship between power, place, and identity around the world, as well as, a graduate level seminar on Place Attachment which critically engages concepts of home, homeland, territory, sacred space, conservation/preservation, and mobility.

Molly Godwin-Jones (Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2020), a recent KU graduate, has accepted a position as a Learning Design Specialist at the Language Flagship Technology Innovation Center at the University of Hawaii, where she will be assisting faculty in Flagship programs across the US with implementing digital projects in their programs. Congratulations!!

News from our Faculty, Alumni, and Students

Marc L. Greenberg (Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures) contributed the foreword in *Dialectology of the Montenegrin Language* by author Adnan Čirgić. Montenegrin dialects have long been treated as part of the Serbian or Serbo-Croatian language in traditionalist dialectology. Even though they are among the best studied dialects of Slavic languages, this is the first monograph offering a synthesis of Montenegrin dialects. The recent publication can be found at: <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793636362/Dialectology-of-the-Montenegrin-Language>

He also had an article published titled, “The Western South Slavic change -l > -o/-a and attendant phenomena: diachronic, diatopic, terminological, and typological considerations.” Josip Bratulić, Gordana Čupković, Josip Galić, eds. *Dijalekti, jezična povijest i tradicija: Zbornik u čast Josipu Liscu: 279-296*. Zadar: Sveučilište u Zadru, Matica hrvatska, Ogranak Matice hrvatske u Zadru. <http://hdl.handle.net/1808/30960>

Greenberg was also interviewed on television (in Slovene with Hungarian subtitles): Dušan Mukič: Slovenski utrinki (Nov., Duna TV, Szombathely, Hungary) about the publication of his *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar*, beginning at minute 20 (Dec. on RTV 1 Slovenia). Duna TV (Hungary): <https://mediaklikk.hu/video/slovenski-utrinki-2020-11-26-i-adas/> RTVSLO 1 (Slovenia): <https://www.rtv slo.si/4d/arhiv/174736955?s=tv>

Jake Kipp (History, Emeritus) published a chapter on “Russian Naval Power under Vladimir Putin,” pp. 575-686 in Stephen J. Blank, ed., *The Russian Military in Contemporary Perspective*, (Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Strategic Studies Institute and U. S. Army War College Press, 2019).

Amy Millet (History), a graduate student in the Department of History, just arrived in Vienna, Austria, a few weeks ago. She is in Austria on a Fulbright research grant until the end of September. There was some question about whether or not the Fulbright program would actually go forward this year, and it was delayed from the planned start in September 2020, so Amy is glad to be in Austria. She plans to go to Ljubljana, Slovenia later this year for some more research, but she’ll have to wait and see how things go. Austria is in lockdown right now, and travel is pretty strongly discouraged.

Norman Saul (History, Emeritus) had an article entitled, “Diary of a Conference -- Moscow, March 1991” published in *Journal of Russian American Studies*, vol. 4, no 2 (Nov 2020): 133-47. This is an online journal, which one can find by googling FRAS, the full name of the journal, or through the KU Library database. It is a publication of Watson Library. This diary was kept by the author who was in Moscow for most of the month during which Gorbachev conducted a referendum on maintaining the Union, which was followed by the August Coup and the end of the Soviet Union. He also published a review essay for *Diplomatic History* (current issue) entitled “Odd Man Out” about the neglect the role of Russia played in recent books on the American Civil War.

Erik R. Scott (History) shared his recollections of Patricia Herlihy and her scholarship as a discussant on the panel “‘Odessa Recollected: The Port and the People’: In Memory of Professor Patricia Herlihy” at the 2020 convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in November.

Giving to KU CREES

The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies 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, renowned lecturers, scholarships and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donations can help us to maintain 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!

FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

A secure online donation can be made to CREES via the KU Endowment website at: 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:

Center for Russian, East European &
Eurasian Studies
Bailey Hall, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 320
Lawrence, KS 66045-7574

CREES General Fund

Supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities. Among its dedicated sponsors are the **Oswald P. Backus/Anna Cienciala Memorial Fund** for visiting lecturers in Polish Studies, the **Bramlage/Willcoxon 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

Supports visiting lecturers in Ukrainian studies, and the Ukrainian Studies Prize for an outstanding student specializing in Ukrainian.

George C. Jerkovich Fund

Supports the development of KU's South Slavic library collection; and provides awards to outstanding students with a demonstrated 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 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 students who have shown commitment and scholarly interest in Ukraine and Ukrainian Studies.

Alexander Tsiovkh Memorial Fund

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

SPASIBO Fund

The Gerald E. Mikkelson Fund supports and sustains the Siberia and St. Petersburg components of KU's instructional profile.

