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CREES COURIER

At a Glance



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Dear CREES community,

I am delighted to welcome all the new and returning members of our community back to campus for the start of the Fall 2023 semester. CREES has the good fortune of seeing our team grow by five people this year. Dr. Bogi Takács Perelmutter, our newest affiliate faculty member, is an award-winning interdisciplinary scholar and author, with a joint appointment in Jewish Studies and Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies. Dr. Rebecca Johnston, who received her PhD in History from University of Texas-Austin, joins us as the inaugural CREES Cyber Social Postdoctoral Fellow. Our talented graduate assistants, Injuu Jyenis and Andrii Drobko, join us from Mongolia and Ukraine, respectively. Rounding out our team is our undergraduate assistant, Anna Leonova, originally from Kazakhstan. You can read more about them below and also learn about the great work our faculty, students, and alumni have been doing in recent months.

We have lined up an exciting array of events this fall. Working with the other KU area studies centers and the new Institute for International and Global Engagement, we have significantly expanded our International Career Series to showcase the range of career opportunities open to those pursuing Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies and help current students forge connections with our large alumni network. Developed in light of the mass displacement caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine as well as the Russian state's cynical use of deportation and resettlement as weapons of war, a new lecture series considers the longer-term history of migration in the region, with examinations of defection in the Cold War and resettlement after the Second World War.

We are glad to keep the spotlight on Ukraine this year with a presentation by acclaimed Ukrainian novelist and poet Oksana Lutsyshyna, who will deliver the annual Palij Lecture. We will also be hosting a Ukrainian folk dance workshop in the Kansas Union Ballroom later in the semester. In addition, we are proud to support a mini-conference marking the one hundredth anniversary of the end of the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

This newsletter, created by CREES Outreach Coordinator Dr. Megan Luttrell, has more details on these upcoming events. It also offers a look back on all we accomplished as a community over the past year. We invite you to read on, and

we encourage you to stay tuned for more announcements from CREES, including news on the latest funding opportunities for students and faculty. Last but not least, we hope to see all of you as we gather for our Fall Party on Friday, September 8, an opportunity to connect and reconnect over food and music at the Art Love Collective in downtown Lawrence.

Best wishes,

Erik R. Scott
CREES Director

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

CREES



8 SEPTEMBER 5-8PM

FOOD & DRINKS
LIVE MUSIC BY MIRE PRAL

**ART LOVE COLLECTIVE
646 VERMONT ST. LAWRENCE, KS 66044**



CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN, & EURASIAN STUDIES

FALL 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

➤ SEPTEMBER

- W E D**
0 6
- **INTERNATIONAL CAREER SERIES: LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIPS**
3:00pm-4:00pm in the Alderson Auditorium of the Kansas Union
- F R I**
0 8
- **FALL PARTY**
5:00pm-8:00pm at Art Love Collective 646 Vermont, St. Lawrence, KS 66044
- S A T**
0 9
- **STORY TIME AROUND THE WORLD: POLAND**
11:00am at the Baldwin City Public Library 800 7th St. Baldwin City, KS
- S U N**
1 0
- **MULTICULTURAL STORY TIME: MONGOLIA**
3:30pm at the Lawrence Public Library
- T U E**
1 2
- **INTERNATIONAL CAREER SERIES: GRAD SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**
4:00-5:00pm in the International Room of the Kansas Union
- W E D**
1 3
- **CZECH & SLOVAK FAIRY TALES WITH STRINGS: MARIONETTE SHOW**
5:00pm in Swarthout Recital Hall
- T H U R**
1 4
- **DEFECTORS: HOW THE ILLICIT FLIGHT OF SOVIET CITIZENS BUILT THE BORDERS OF THE COLD WAR WORLD**
4:00-5:00 in the Pine Room of the Kansas Union with Dr. Erik Scott (History)
- T U E S**
2 6
- **INTERNATIONAL CAREER SERIES: MEET THE INTERNS**
11:00am-12:15pm in Malott Hall Rm. 2048
- T H U R**
2 8
- **INTERNATIONAL CAREER FAIR**
1:00-4:00pm in the Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union (5th floor)
- F R I**
2 9
- **HOW THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN HUNGARY AND POLAND GAVE RISE TO ILLIBERALISM**
Time TBD at the Max Kade Center with Dr. György Szönyi (Central European University)

➤ OCTOBER

- T U E S**
0 3
- **BROWNBAG LECTURE SERIES**
12:00-1:00pm in Bailey Hall, Room 318 with Dr. David Besson (KU Physics) "Russian Science and the International Particle Physics Community since February 24"
- W E D**
1 8
- **RUSSIA, UKRAINE, WAR AND THE FUTURE: AN EVENING WITH YEVGENIA ALBATS**
7:00pm KU Edwards Campus in the Regnier Hall Auditorium 12610 Quivira Rd. Overland Park, KS
- T H U R**
1 9
- **AFTER THE OTTOMANS-- 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC**
Time and Location TBD
- F R I**
2 0
- **AFTER THE OTTOMANS-- 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC**
Time and Location TBD
- M O N**
2 3
- **INTERNATIONAL CAREER SERIES: TEACH ABROAD**
4:00-5:00pm in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union
- T H U R**
2 6
- **PALIJ LECTURE**
4:00-5:00pm in the Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Union with Dr. Oksana Lutsyshyna (UT Austin)

➤ NOVEMBER

- T H U R**
0 2
- **FILM SCREENING: POCKET HERCULES: NAIM SÜLEYMANOĞLU**
6:30pm in Bailey Hall Rm. 318
- T U E S**
0 7
- **GERMAN BLOOD, SLAVIC SOIL: HOW NAZI KÖNIGSBERG BECAME SOVIET KALININGRAD**
4:00-5:00pm in the Pine Room of the Kansas Union with Dr. Nicole Eaton (Boston College)
- W E D**
0 8
- **INTERNATIONAL CAREER SERIES: COFFEE WITH A DIPLOMAT**
10:00am-1:30pm in Bailey Hall Rm. 318
- M O N**
1 3
- **UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP**
4:00pm in the Kansas Union Ballroom
*to register please email crees@ku.edu

WELCOME: NEW FACES AT CREES

CREES is happy to welcome five new people to its team. Dr. Bogi Takács Perelmutter joins us as an affiliate faculty member. They are an Assistant Teaching Professor with a joint appointment in Jewish Studies and Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies. Dr. Rebecca Johnston is the new CREES Cyber Social Post-Doc Fellow. We are also glad to welcome three new student assistants. Injuu Jyenis is the CREES Digital Humanities GA, Andrii Drobko is the CREES GA, and Anna Leonova is our new Undergraduate Student Assistant.



Dr. Bogi Takács Perelmutter

Bogi Takács Perelmutter (they/them or e/em) is a Hungarian Jewish immigrant to Kansas, an interdisciplinary scholar, and an alum of KU. Bogi is a recent winner of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Jewish Gender Studies Research Award for their work on gender nonconformity in Hungarian Jewish woman writer Zsuzsa Kántor's oeuvre. Bogi's interests include various linguistic and societal aspects of Hungarian and Jewish cultures, their wider historical-political context, and their interactions (including Translation Studies). Bogi is also a health scientist who has conducted laboratory research in atypical language acquisition in both Hungarian and American English. Bogi has taught a range of courses at KU from Introduction to Slavic Folklore to Jewish Mysticism, and has also been active at the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction. In their spare time, Bogi writes speculative fiction, poetry and related criticism -- their work has won the Hugo and Lambda awards, in addition to being a finalist for other awards like Ignyte and Locus.

Rebecca Adeline Johnston is a historian of Soviet culture and power with an interdisciplinary focus on disinformation in the Russian and broader post-Soviet space. She holds a doctoral degree from the Department of History at the University of Texas-Austin. Her dissertation, "The End of Illusion: Putting Culture to Work in the Post-Stalin Era, 1953-1964," utilizes archival materials from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine

to examine changing conceptions and utilizations of culture in Soviet politics and society during the post-Stalin era. Rebecca has worked extensively as an editor and translator of Russian mass media and within the field of international human rights. Most recently,



Dr. Rebecca Johnston

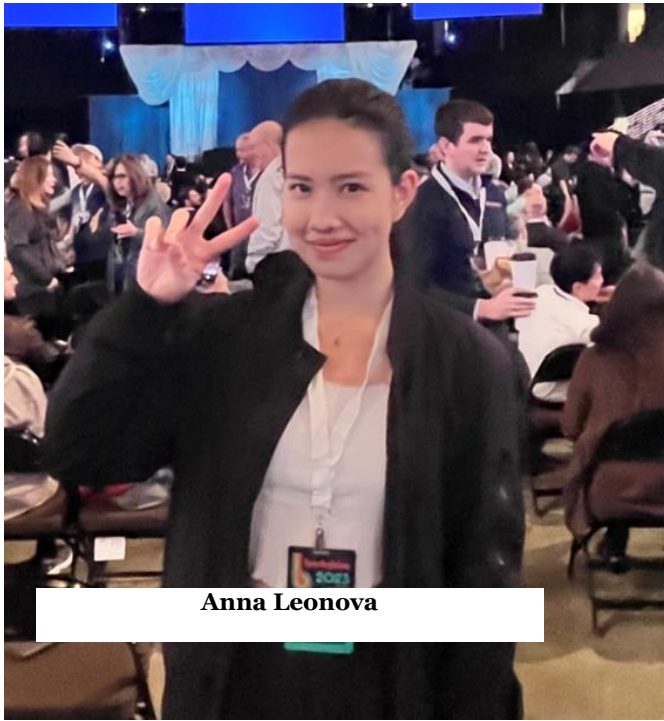


Injuu Jyenis

she held positions as Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Historical Studies and National Security Fellow at the Clements Center for National Security, both at UT-Austin. She has also previously worked as project lead on the Post-Soviet States: People, Power, and Assets oral history archive at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law. Her work has been supported externally by the ASEEES Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Program and National Council for Eurasian and East European Research. Her current writing project examines historical narrative in contemporary Russian cinema as a vehicle for state-sponsored disinformation.

Injuu Jyenis is a graduate student with a passion for history. Born in Kazakhstan and raised in Mongolia, Injuu has always been driven by a curiosity to explore and learn. She speaks four languages fluently and has BBA in Financial Management from Taiwan. When not immersed in business analytics, you can find her being creative by trying new recipes and painting. She also believes in the power of meditation.

Anna Leonova is originally from Almaty, Kazakhstan. She is currently pursuing her second year of economics studies at KU. She finds joy in immersing herself in the rich culture of different countries, gaining unique perspectives that enrich her understanding of the world.



Anna Leonova

Andrii Drobko was born in Lviv, Ukraine and completed a Bachelor's degree in International Relations at Lviv Polytechnic National University, which provided him with a solid knowledge of politics and international relations.

He felt that he should keep developing and acquiring international experience as well as improve his English, so he applied to Budapest Business School in Hungary where he worked toward a Master's degree in International Relations, studying in a diverse environment with students from all over the world.

When the war started, Andrii joined IOM Hungary as a Hotline Operator and later continued as an Information Provision Counsellor under the program for Ukraine Crisis Response, taking an active part in humanitarian response by providing Ukrainian refugees with assistance, counselling and crucial information, additionally he accompanied his Hungarian colleagues as an interpreter. Andrii is a friendly, easygoing, and open-minded person. He likes exploring new cultures and discovering new countries, having travelled to various places. International Relations, politics, human rights, migration, humanitarian relief, and refugee protection are within the scope of his interests.





Dave Besson (Physics) celebrated 30 years at KU this year!

Vitaly Chernetsky (SGES) celebrated 10 years at KU this year! During the spring and summer of 2023, he continued his efforts to deepen the academic community's and the general public's understanding of Ukraine's role and relevance in contemporary world and develop a greater appreciation of Ukraine's culture and history. In the spring semester, he taught a new interdisciplinary course, "Contemporary Ukraine," which he hopes will become a mainstay of KU's curriculum for the REES area.

Prof. Chernetsky delivered the annual Stasiuk Lecture in Contemporary Ukrainian Studies at the University of Cambridge. He presented at a Ukraine-focused conference and delivered a keynote lecture at the International Graduate Center for the Study of Culture at the University of Giessen in Germany. He delivered the opening keynote and led a course restructuring workshop at *Reorienting the REES Field: 2nd Annual REESNe Workshop*, held at Colgate University, and the opening keynote at Miami University's Havirghurst Center's international young researchers conference, focused this year on Ukraine's history, culture, and politics and held at the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma, Italy. He also gave an in-person guest lecture at the College of Wooster. Prof. Chernetsky delivered two online conference keynotes, at Indiana University's Ukrainian studies conference and at a conference on Ukrainian cinema at the Nova Institute of Philosophy in Lisbon, as well as online presentations at the National Humanities Center, the University of Chicago, and the Art Academy of Latvia. At the AATSEEL conference, held online this year, he led an open seminar, "Ukrainian Culture in Regional, Global, and Theoretical Contexts," and participated in the presidential roundtable on the ethics of teaching Russian literature during the war. At the MLA convention, Prof. Chernetsky took part in a roundtable on Afanasii Nikitin's *Journey Beyond the Three Seas* organized by Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. He also presented at the conference *Blind Spots of the Counter-Canon: Soviet Underground Culture Revisited* at Columbia University.

Prof. Chernetsky's article "Queer Culture(s)," co-authored with one of the recent KU Slavic Ph.D. alumni, Devin McFadden, was published in the *Oxford Handbook of Soviet Underground Culture*. His chapter on "Empire" is forthcoming in the new *Cambridge History of Russian Literature*. His review of *Heat Singers*, a documentary by the Ukrainian director Nadia Parfan, was published in *KinoKultura*. Prof. Chernetsky's translation of *The Winter King*, a comprehensive collection by the Ukrainian poet Ostap Slyvynsky (co-translated with Iryna Shuvalova), is forthcoming later this year from Lost Horse Press.

Prof. Chernetsky is serving as ASEEEES Vice President/President-Elect in 2023 and will serve as President in 2024. This summer it [was announced](#) that he will join the jury of the BBC Ukrainian Book of the Year prize. The prize, now in its 19th year, is one of the most prestigious and influential awards in the realm of Ukrainian literature.



Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky at the "Provincializing Russian" conference at the University of Giessen

Dennis Christilles (Theater) celebrated 30 years at KU this year!

Stephen Dickey (SGES) celebrated 20 years at KU this year! He co-authored a new book titled [Russian Aspect: In Conversation](#) along with SGES PhD candidate Kamila Saifeeva and SGES PhD alumna Anna Karpusheva. It was published in March 2023 and is part of KU's Libraries' free, online Open Textbooks initiative. Read more about the book in a recent KU Today [article](#). He was also elected Vice President of the [Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association](#) for the second time.

Ani Kokobobo (SGES) was promoted to the rank of Full Professor this spring! In March, she took part in the BBC's *Arts and Ideas* Podcast in an episode titled "The Culture of Albania." You can listen to the episode [here](#). She also served as University Senate President for the past year.

Olga Kyrylova (FMS) won the First-Year Seminar Fellowship, an award for participation in the KU FYS Workshop for her FMS First-Year Seminar "Ukraine Through the Lens of Film."

Marie-Alice L'Heureux (Architecture) celebrated 20 years at KU this year!

Mehrangiz Najafzadeh (Sociology) has been continuing her research and teaching on global gender issues and continues to be active in various aspects of KU's area studies programs including the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the Center for Global and International Studies, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Further, Mehrangiz presented a research paper on recent developments in Azerbaijan pertaining to the second Nagorno-Karabakh War at the

Annual Meeting of the Central Slavic Conference, and she has continued to serve as a member of the Azerbaijan Steering Committee of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC) and as a member of the ARISC Grants and Fellowships Advisory Group. Her on-going research activities include both research on contemporary issues pertaining to Azerbaijanis who were displaced from their homelands during the first Nagorno-Karabakh War and social historical archival research on gender and social change. Following up on her 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar Award for Azerbaijan, Mehrangiz returned to Azerbaijan this past May to continue her research pertaining to gender issues in Azerbaijan, both in social historical and contemporary contexts. Included is a photo of Mehrangiz at a school established for children of families who were displaced by the first Nagorno-Karabakh War.



Dr. Mehrangiz Najafizadeh in Azerbaijan

RB Perelmutter (SGES) celebrated 15 years at KU this year! They were also promoted to the rank of Full Professor this spring. Congratulations, RB!

Robert Rorschneider (POLS) celebrated 15 years at KU this year! Dr. Rorschneider received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to travel to Austria, where he will research European illiberal parties. Read more about his award [here](#).

Erik Scott (History) received this year's [University Scholarly Achievement Award](#). His second book, [Defectors: How the Illicit Flight of Soviet Citizens Built the Borders of the Cold War World](#), was published by Oxford University Press in July. This spring, he published the article "Bordering Transnationalism: Soviet History Across the Globe." In AHR History Lab "On Transnational and International History." *American Historical Review* 128, 1 (March 2023): 317-324. He also published a book chapter titled "The Imperial Iconography of the Georgian Table." In *Picturing Russian Empire*, edited by Valerie Kivelson, Sergei Kozlov, and Joan Neuberger, 434-442. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. This summer he conducted research for a new project exploring basketball, globalization, the end of the Cold War, and the fragmentation of the Soviet "empire of sports" in Tbilisi, Georgia. In July, he gave an interview on NPR's Morning Edition about the history of U.S. service members defecting to North Korea. You can listen to the interview [here](#). In August, he did an interview about the book on MSNBC's Morning Show. Watch the interview [here](#).



Dr. Erik Scott interviewed on the MSNBC Morning Show

Irina Six (SGES) celebrated 20 years at KU this year!

Tsvetan Tsvetanov (Economics) was the 2022-2023 recipient of the [Byron T. Schutz Award for Excellence in Teaching](#). He gave the [annual Schutz lecture](#) this May, which was titled "Understanding and Teaching the Fundamentals of Decision Making."



Aylar Atadurdyeva who graduated *cum laude* this spring, won the 2023 Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity Outstanding International Woman Student. She was also named Outstanding Graduating Major by SGES, and received their award for outstanding service to the department (undergraduate). She successfully defended four capstone theses with. She was inducted into the Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society and the Gamma Pi University of Kansas Chapter of the Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society. She also received the Norman Saul Travel Award to attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Eau Claire, WI, and the [University Award](#), one of the most prestigious awards given at KU. She was also [nominated for the Rhodes Global Scholarship](#), which will be awarded at the end of the year.

Andriayana Baran received the SGES Outstanding Service to the Department (graduate) Award. Among her many acts of service, she taught a free 10-week beginner's Ukrainian class this spring and summer at Lawrence Public Library.

Chul Hyun Hwang presented a paper entitled "Tošnit' vs. tošno, dušit' vs. dušno: a corpus analysis" at the 2023 Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Conference at Harvard University. He also won the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award from SGES.

Rachell Orce received a FLAS Fellowship for Russian. She was inducted into the Gamma Pi University of Kansas Chapter of the Delta Phi Alpha National German Honor Society, and won the award for excellence in intermediate Russian from SGES. She received the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) allowing her to study Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan over the summer.



Dr. Stephen Dickey, Kamila Saifeeva, and Chul Hyun Hwang at the 2023 Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Conference at Harvard University.



Andriyana Baran and Oleksandra Wallo



Raul Rangel and Razi Ahmad

Raul Rangel, winner of the George C. Jerkovich Award, also received the award for excellence in elementary Persian.

Kamila Saifeeva presented at the 2023 Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Conference at Harvard University. Her paper was titled "(Sure) Go Ahead, (But): Levels of Approval in Russian Imperatives." Saifeeva also presented a new textbook for Russian verbal aspect entitled *Russian Aspect in Conversation* jointly with SGES Professor Dr. Stephen Dickey.

Gina Sane received the Excellence in BCMS Award for the intermediate level as well as a FLAS Fellowship for her study of BCMS.

Mark Wilcox, who received his MA from CREES in 1992, was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) this summer. He also recently signed a contract with Walter de Gruyter, GmbH, Berlin, Germany to publish his dissertation, "The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and Russian Foreign and Security Policy." The book will be a part of the De Gruyter Studies in Military History series.

Mariia Shishareva received an award for excellence in elementary Ukrainian from SGES.

Anna Wallen received the Outstanding Graduating Minor Award from SGES. She was a REES concentration minor, who graduated in spring 2023.

Jordan Zaugg, who won a FLAS Fellowship for Ukrainian, also received an award for excellence in elementary Ukrainian from SGES.



Starting nearly a year since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, a new series called "Perspectives on Ukraine" explored the war and its effects on Ukraine and its people. It also taught community members about Ukrainian culture and history. "Perspectives on Ukraine," a partnership between CREES and [Lawrence Public Library](#),

began with a talk by KU CREES and Political Science alum Dr. Laura Dean on February 13 titled "Human Trafficking Dynamics and the War in Ukraine."



Dr. Dean began her talk by defining human trafficking, explaining that it is “a modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act, organ removal, or labor or bondage is induced by force or coercion.” She also mentioned that there are often specific types of human trafficking that often coincide with war.

To underscore the scale of the war’s impact, she listed estimates from the International Organization for Migration, which show that the war displaced 7.8 million people as refugees since the full-scale invasion began, and another 6.9 million displaced internally

within Ukraine, making this “the largest movement of people in Europe since WWII.” She noted that the invasion has put many more people at risk for human trafficking and created conditions ripe for exploitation.

She based her project on field work she conducted in Ukraine in 2012 and 2013, when she talked to different policy makers and NGOs about how human trafficking policies in Ukraine work. She returned in 2015 to do more research, looking at how the situation had changed during what would become the first stage of the war. She used data from interviews, participant observation, anti-trafficking NGOs, and different refugee intake centers, as well as brief archival work.

She explained that Ukraine’s infrastructure has helped combat trafficking since the first stage of the war. Previous research showed that the war amplified peace conditions favorable to trafficking because “the atmosphere of violence generated demand for human trafficking and there were more opportunities for groups to facilitate trafficking.”

She established a baseline for comparison, by discussing trafficking in Ukraine before the war, up until 2013, which she designated as a “source, transit, and destination country,” meaning people were trafficked from and through Ukraine to other countries and trafficked to and exploited in Ukraine. This trafficking consisted of men, women, and children and included forced labor, child begging, and sex trafficking. Dr. Dean noted a shift in trafficking trends in 2008 from female sex trafficking victims to male forced labor trafficking victims, which was a trend that continued until the war. The first stage of the war, 2014-2021, saw the use of child soldiers by rebel forces in the Donbas, then a shift from male to female victims of forced labor. The war, displacement, and economic crisis led to increased vulnerability.

She then turned to human trafficking in Ukraine after the full-scale invasion. She explained that people seeking housing after crossing the border were particularly vulnerable, and that there were warnings about how traffickers were offering accommodations. Most signage about trafficking focused on sexual exploitation. However, as the war continued, most of the trafficking was in forced labor and forced begging, not sexual exploitation. Some of the human trafficking dynamics after the invasion included forced deportations, gender-based violence, illegal conscription in the army, and abductions.

Dr. Dean said that one of the things that makes this war different is that Ukrainians currently have temporary visa-free protection in Europe, which is the first time this has been done. The visa-free protection often includes money for the refugees and has been one of the best things combating trafficking vulnerabilities.

She listed her key research findings as follows: Ukraine is no longer a destination country or transit country for trafficking, the at-risk population has increased due to push factors like poverty, attention shifted from trafficking to the war and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and that as the war continues, Ukrainian refugees and IDPs face displacement for the foreseeable future. Despite the bleak nature of the topic, Dr. Dean ended her talk with optimism, noting Ukraine’s infrastructure and fantastic and

hard-working anti-trafficking advocates as resources to combat the issue in Ukraine.

Since the talk took place the day before Valentine's Day, Dr. Dean provided attendees the opportunity to send well wishes and Valentine's greetings to trafficking survivors in Ukraine.

Dr. Dean is an Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of the Human Trafficking Research Lab at Millikin University. She is the author of *Diffusing Human Trafficking Policy in Eurasia* published by Policy Press at the University of Bristol in 2020.

Watch Dr. Dean's Talk on YouTube



The second event in the "Perspectives on Ukraine Series" was a talk by Dr. Oleksandra Wallo (KU SGES). Her talk, "How Russia's War is Changing Ukraine," addressed how the war has transformed all facets of Ukrainian life including society, culture, and daily life. She opened her talk by stating that "the past year has undoubtedly been one of the most dramatic and momentous in Ukraine's modern history." have been drastic changes in the way that many Ukrainians view Ukraine, its political systems, themselves, and Russia, noting that, "Ukrainian language and culture have become more of a way to fight back, to defend Ukraine."

Many of her examples came from the media, but she also drew upon literature. She discussed excerpts from *A Dictionary of Emotions in a Time of War*, a collection of

short works by 20 Ukrainian playwrights, and *A War Vocabulary*, compiled by Ukrainian poet and writer Ostap Slyvynsky, an online project that features fragments of stories about the war and Ukrainian resistance that redefine basic words like beauty, food, freedom etc. in alphabetical order. Slyvynsky, and other Ukrainians, believe the war has reshaped Ukraine and Ukrainian life so drastically, that it is time to redefine its most basic vocabulary. Dr. Wallo explained that even the titles of these works show that there is a need to create a new language to describe and understand what is going on in Ukraine today.

She said that the main and most dramatic change in Ukraine is of course the killing of civilians, and that it is very difficult to estimate how many have died. Danger has become an integral part of daily life. She read an excerpt from *A War Vocabulary* that discussed the change in the idea of beauty in the face of war. “In a time of war, beauty becomes dangerous. Beautiful things, people, relationships—nowadays they don’t exist to inspire. They exist to be annihilated. Not for admiration and loving touches, but for pain.”

She also described changes in Ukrainian society, explaining how regional differences in Ukraine are becoming significantly less pronounced, and that there is greater unity among Ukrainians around the common goal of victory in war and against the common enemy.

Volunteering has become a practice of resistance. Types of volunteering include fundraising and donating, rebuilding damaged houses and schools, help the army with supplies, help the internally displaced, offering psychological help. There are IT people who hack Russian TV channels or government websites to spread the truth about the war. Dr. Wallo said, “to be a Ukrainian today means to be involved in practices of resistance, such as volunteering.”

Many Ukrainians are switching from Russian language to Ukrainian, either switching completely or by using more Ukrainian in daily life. The change happened almost overnight. Quoting Dmytro Kotov, Wallo said “лягли мы спать 23ого февраля (We went to bed on Feb 23) said in Russian, and а прокинулись 24 лютого” (and woke up on Feb 24) said in Ukrainian. She showed a meme that stated, “when I speak Ukrainian, bricks are falling off the Kremlin.” Speaking Ukrainian has become a weapon to fight against Russian propaganda that claims Ukraine isn’t a real country or culture, and Ukrainian isn’t a real language.

She ended her talk by quoting the new definition of freedom from *A War Vocabulary*: “Freedom is such a thing—nobody is going to get it for you. Nobody will give you freedom, you won’t get it as a present for yourself, you can’t wait for it to arrive. You only get to make it for yourself. Yes, handmade. There are no freedom factories. It’s not batch production.” She stated that, “the main lesson is that freedom is not free and you have to fight for it.” Ukrainians are confident that in the end there will be a victory.

Dr. Wallo’s research focuses both on teaching Ukrainian as a foreign language and on contemporary Ukrainian literature and culture. Her book *Women Writers and the National Imaginary: From the Collapse of the USSR to the Euromaidan*, was published

in 2020 by the University of Toronto Press and received Honorable Mention for the 2021 Omeljan Pritsak Book Prize in Ukrainian Studies.

[Watch Dr. Wallo's Talk on YouTube](#)



CREES continued the REES-Reframed Lecture Series, which challenges the field to reevaluate Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies in light of current events, including Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine. CREES Director Erik Scott describes the series as one that brings, "leading speakers to campus who are challenging and pushing against some of the typical boundaries that divide or categorize Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, exploring it from new directions, cutting across disciplinary boundaries and established ways of studying the region."



Dr. Oksana Kis (Institute of Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

This year, CREES was delighted to welcome four scholars to campus for this series. Dr. Oksana Kis (Institute of Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) gave a lecture titled "Ukrainian Women at War: Historical Legacies and Present-Day Challenges," (March 2) and Dr. Molly Brunson (Yale University) gave a lecture titled "Paint It Black: Art, Mining, and the Donbas in the 1890s" (March 31). On April 4, Dr. Adrienne Edgar (UC Santa Barbara) gave a talk titled "Intermarriage and the Friendship of

Peoples: Ethnic Mixing in Soviet Central Asia" and Dr. Eliot Borenstein (NYU) gave a

talk titled “Mischief Managed: Harry Potter, Satan, and Russia’s War in Ukraine” on April 27. In her lecture, Dr. Kis explored the phenomenon of women’s large-scale participation in the Ukrainian army during the current Russian war on Ukraine. Her talk contextualized Ukrainian women’s military participation using the background of the historical legacy of Ukrainian women’s military service during the two world wars as well as in the armed anti-Soviet nationalist resistance in 1940-50s. She discussed the events of the Euro-Maidan and subsequent Russia’s aggression on Donbas as turning points in the changing public perception of women-soldiers towards further normalization of militant femininity in public discourse.



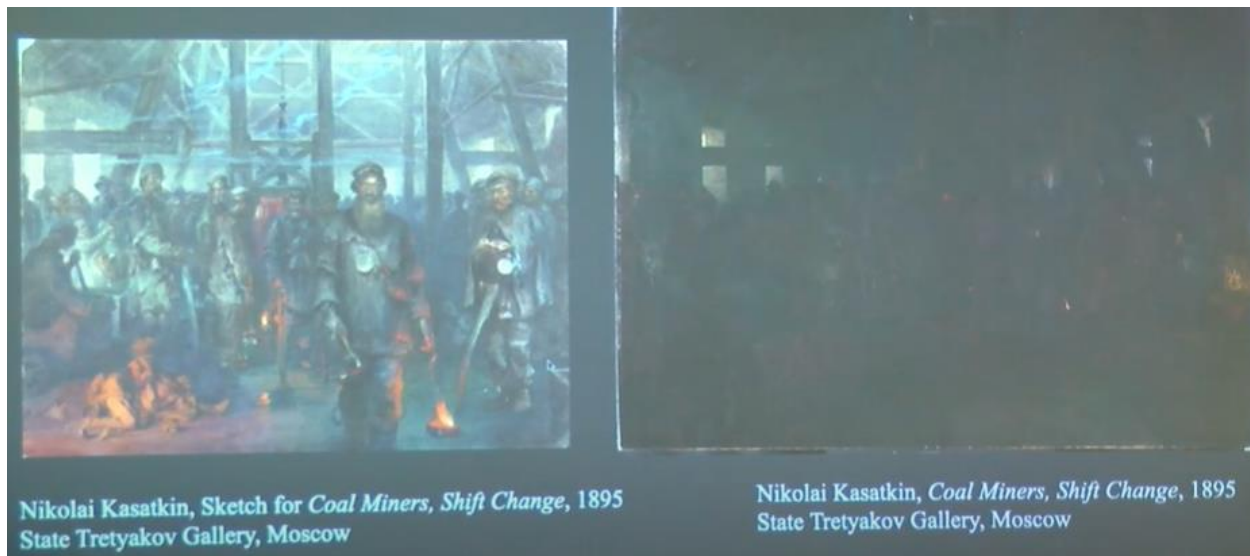
Dr. Molly Brunson (Yale University)

Dr. Molly Brunson discussed the painter Nikolai Kasatkin (1859-1930), whom she calls Russia’s first modern painter of coal, and looked at works he produced in the Donbas in the 1890s. She noted that, at the time, the Donbas was one of the most highly industrialized regions of the Russian Empire, and in traveling there, Kasatkin sought a representation of the modern worker in the mines and factories.

She showed Kasatkin’s three major works from this period that track his descent deeper into the realms of mining, from the surface in *The Poor Gathering Coal at a Spent Mine* (1894), to the pithead elevator in *Coal Miners, Shift Change* (1895), and finally to the depths of subterranean caverns in *Hauler* (1896). She asked, “how is possible for painting, especially realist painting, to depict mining which exists in dark spaces beyond the scope of human vision?” and “What do Russian painters see when they train their

eye on the conditions of modern labor and not on the idealized populist fantasies? What does Kasatkin do with this aesthetic challenge?”

In comparing a preparatory sketch for *Coal Miners, Shift Change* with the final painting, she explains that the answer to this last question is that “he paints it black. He takes a packed but legible multifigure composition...he takes the crisscrossing beams of the ceiling structure; he takes the faces of the men and the figures sprawled on the floor and he paints it all black... he paints it so black that the picture is nearly impervious to vision.”



Preparatory sketch and final painting of N. Kasatkin's *Coal Miners, Shift Change* (1895)

The first of his Donbas coal paintings, *Poor Gathering Coal at a Spent Mine* (1894) explored the ravages of industry on the land and the people working there. Dr. Brunson described how the ground plane dominates in the painting. The figures threaten to disappear into land itself. She called attention to dark figures emerging from and fading into the dark land in the middle ground of the painting. She noted that, “the peasants absorbed into the very energy source they are gathering.”

Brunson noted that that the opacity and invisibility of the mines was not the only aesthetic, or even the primary aesthetic, available at this moment. Photography, she explained, promised merciless visibility and to expose what had been previously cloaked. Kasatkin’s Donbas pictures, she argued, are a resistance to literal and figurative illumination. He leveraged the opacity of oil paint, casting miners and their world back into shadow. She termed his layers of pigment as a “material counterargument to the transparency of the photographic negative” and a “refusal of the revelatory promise of his earlier realism.” Kasatkin, Dr. Brunson said, created a visual field that required his viewers to go on a journey with him, letting his subjects reveal themselves as the viewer’s eyes adjust to the dark.

Brunson argued that the Donbas taught Kasatkin that illumination, revelation, and exposure were no longer needed for a meaningful picture of labor. If Realism promised a

visual knowability of previous unknown spaces, Kasatkin painted at its limits. In his work, “the underground and its people reclaimed their invisibility, turning the lights off on certain strain of Realism.” Kasatkin’s is a Realism that withholds and resists. His paintings sought to absorb the material and political energy of coal itself.

Molly Brunson is Associate Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Yale University, with a secondary appointment in the Department of the History of Art. She specializes in the literature and visual art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with an emphasis on the recurrent realisms that emerged in imperial Russia and the Soviet Union.

[Watch Dr. Brunson’s Talk on YouTube](#)



1Dr. Adrienne Edgar (UC Santa Barbara) giving her talk for the REES Reframed Series

Dr. Edgar began her talk by explaining that the phrase “the friendship of peoples” was a Soviet-era slogan that reflected the way the Soviet Union wanted to view its multiethnic state, that is, as a paradise of ethnic and racial harmony, especially in comparison to the United States. Her talk examined how the region moved from the friendship of peoples to ethnic intolerance and war by investigating the rise of racial and racialized thinking in the late Soviet era through the lens of intermarriage.

She explained that before WWII, the Soviets believed that ethnic differences stemmed from shared historical and cultural traits. The 1930s saw a favorable policy of intermarriage. Intermarriage and the merging of ethnicities was seen as positive, playing a large role in the creation of a single Soviet people. However, an increasingly primordial understanding of nationality appeared in the Khrushchev and Brezhnev eras.

Her interviews with ethnically mixed families showed that Soviet citizens understood and spoke of nationality in racialized ways. Even members of these families described characteristics of different nationalities and ethnicities as innate and immutable, accepting the implicit existence of a certain ethnic hierarchy.

Dr. Edgar discussed naming as an important part of nationality and identity. She explained that people highly valued name matching, that is a child's first name should match their patronymic and last name. For example, the name Vladimir Ivanovich Smirnov was seen as acceptable, but Vladimir Ahmetovich Abdrahmanov was not. A child's first name should also match their physical appearance. Someone who looked Kazakh should not have a classically Russian name. This reflected a unitary view of nationality in which outward appearance, name, language use, and passport nationality should all be in conformity.

Finally, Dr. Edgar discussed language use in mixed families. Most parents wanted their children to speak perfect, accent-free Russian. Therefore, they spoke Russian at home. They believed that their children would go further in life if they were perceived as native Russian speakers. A perfect knowledge of Russian was a source of pride in some contexts, but a source of shame in other contexts. For example, some children wished they had learned their father's native language as well.

Edgar noted, however, that speaking Russian perfectly did not make one Russian, and the children from mixed families whose outer appearance did not match their language skills were never fully accepted as ethnic Russians. She explained that, in the Soviet Union, the way people thought about nationality had become racialized. More people viewed national culture as something biological, innate, and immutable. Identity was no longer malleable or something a person could choose.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the formation of states based on national identity, the context for ethnic mixing changed significantly. Edgar noted that Kazakhstan saw surge in ethnic Kazakh consciousness, while the state worked to create a civic identity called Kazakhstani, that downplayed ethnic identity.

Kazakhstan, Edgar said, still celebrates ideas that resemble the Soviet friendship of peoples. Yet positive portrayals of mixed marriages have seen pushback from Kazakh nationals, including resistance to intermarriage. Tajikistan, conversely, was strongly ethnonationalist with an overt hostility to mixed marriages. Edgar explained that the Tajik state is trying to unify the population by emphasizing the ancient roots, purity, and cultural superiority of the Tajik nationality. Part of this national and religious revival is an emphasis on "traditionalism" in marriage and family relations, which is not accepting of intermarriage.

“History,” Edgar concluded, “is not linear and progress toward equality and inclusiveness is never guaranteed. In the multi-ethnic countries of a globalized world, the collapse of Soviet identity in favor of primordial nationalism should serve as a cautionary tale for us all.”

Dr. Adrienne Edgar is professor of modern Russian and Central Asian history UC Santa Barbara. Edgar’s first book was *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, (Princeton, 2004). She is co-editor, with Benjamin Frommer, of *Intermarriage from Central Europe to Central Asia: Mixed Families in the Age of Extremes* (Nebraska, 2020). Her second monograph, *Intermarriage and the Friendship of Peoples: Ethnic Mixing in Soviet Central Asia*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2022.

[Watch Dr. Edgar’s Talk on YouTube](#)



Dr. Eliot Borenstein (NYU) giving his talk for the REES Reframed Series

Dr. Borenstein opened his talk by asking who the enemy is that Russia has targeted in its invasion of Ukraine. “Not Ukrainians, who as the Russia media continuously reminds us, don’t actually exist. Not NATO and the collective West...Throughout most of the war, the so-called Kiev junta has been labeled a band of homosexuals, drug-addicts, and most prominently Nazis. Yet somehow, even Nazi’s don’t seem to be evil enough. So, who is

the true enemy? Could it be, Satan? Apparently, yes.”

He explained that, since 2014, *The Lord of the Rings* has been used as an allegory by Ukrainians and Russian liberals to describe Russia’s actions against its neighbors, calling Moscow Mordor and the Russian invaders orcs. They have also enlisted the *Harry Potter* series in their struggle as well, comparing President Zelensky to "the Boy Who Lived," and transforming Putin into Voldemort. Dr. Borenstein even showed an image of Putin as the villain in a short animated Ukrainian antiwar Harry Potter parody, which you can watch [here](#). “Putin,” he said, “has big BDLE, big dark lord energy.”

Borenstein explained that Russia reached for its most powerful iconography, The Great



**Still from Harry Potter and the War in Ukraine
(Animation parody by IKOTIKA)**



**Street-art in Poznan, Poland depicting Vladimir Putin
as Voldemort**

Patriotic War (WWII) and termed Ukrainians Nazis. Between 2014 and 2022, the use of WWII rhetoric in Russia was unrelenting. It reframed the West as bastion of Nazism that is repeating WWII and showing its true colors. He described the important shift in terminology within the WWII rhetoric as it relates to Russia’s war in Ukraine. In its first attack on Ukraine in 2014, Russia used the term Fascist to refer to anti-Russian Ukrainian forces. In WWII, the Soviets used the term Fascist instead of Nazi.

However, in the wake of full-scale invasion, the Russian media started using the term Nazi almost exclusively. Dr. Borenstein noted that this term is less about an ideological conflict and more akin to speciation, showing an inherent rather than ideological source of evil in the enemy. “Nazis are evil because they are Nazis” he said.

He then described how in the year since invasion, the Russian media has escalated from the term Nazi to say that Ukraine is a hotbed for Satanism. Both Ramzan Kadyrov, head of the Chechen Republic, and Dmitri Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, called for the “de-Satanization” of Ukraine. Something about the war in Ukraine has “repeatedly activated theocratic reactionary forces” in Russia. For example, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church called Putin a warrior against the anti-Christ.

Borenstein stated that the Russian audience is content to be isolated from the reality of their country’s actions in favor of a total simulation. Russian propaganda has long relied on fake atrocity stories which show Ukraine as self-consciously evil. These evil acts then justify the actions of Russia. The war effort is aimed at an enemy that becomes a caricature of vileness. The Russian media has, as Borenstein argued, “turned Ukraine

from a state into a totalitarian hyper-cult.”

The escalation of the enemy from gays to Nazis to Satanists follows a kind of video game logic. To keep the players engaged, they need to battle ever bigger villains. Dr. Borenstein asked, “but where can you go after Satan...When your enemy is Satan, there is little room for negotiation, retreat or surrender.” Dr. Borenstein concluded his talk by stating that there is one cause for hope, “if there’s one world leader who must have vast experience in making deals with the Devil, it’s Vladimir Putin.”

Eliot Borenstein is Professor of Russian & Slavic Studies at New York University. His most recent books include *Plots against Russia: Conspiracy and Fantasy after Socialism* (winner of the 2020 Wayne S. Vucinich book prize and the 2020 AATSEEL book prize), and *Meanwhile, in Russia...: Russian Internet Memes and Viral Video* (2022). His next two books, *Marvel Comics in the 1970s: The World Inside Your Head* and *Soviet-Self-Hatred: The Secret Identities of Postsocialism*, were published by Cornell in May and June.

[Watch Dr. Borenstein’s Talk on YouTube](#)



CREES organized two cultural workshops for the fall semester. The first workshop was a Kolo dance class held on October 1 at the KU Union and taught by Kansas City music and dance duo The Baric Brothers. You may remember the Baric Brothers from their musical performance at the 2022 Spring Festival.

Students, faculty, staff, and community members learned a number of kolos including "Setnja," a Serbian kolo from Sumadija, "Syrto," which originated in Greece, "Orijent," which actually originated in America in the 1930s but is very popular in both Serbian and Croatian culture, and "U sest." One of the instructors, Joe Baric, said of "U sest," "if you go to Croatia, Bosna or Serbia and you say kolo, this is what people think you are talking about."

In November, Anna of [Anna's Bakery](#) led the "Culinary Explorations: Ukrainian Pyrizhky" workshop. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the community learned to make potato and cabbage pyrizhky. You may remember some of Anna's creations from this year's spring festival.

Community member and frequent participant in CREES events, Jeff Lough, said of the workshop that, "the pyrizhky cooking class was a wonderful experience. I was able to meet and visit with several great people. The instructor was as knowledgeable and skilled as anyone on any topic. I had fun making the rolls and I shared them with friends and my daughter."



Scenes from the CREES Kolo class, Ukrainian Cooking Class, and Wycinanki Workshop

CREES organized three cultural workshops for the spring semester. The first workshop was a Wycinanki (Polish papercutting) workshop held on February 23 at the KU Union and taught by local artist Angie Pickman of [Rural Pearl Studio](#). Originally, attendance was capped at 20, however we received such great interest in the event, that we moved to a larger venue and had 50 people sign up!

Angie not only taught how to create a work of wycinanki, but also explained the origin of the art and how it varies by region in Poland. Participants included KU students and staff as well as a large number of community members. The workshop was a wonderful way to reach a new audience. Many of the participants signed up for the CREES pysanky workshop later in the spring.

Becky Weaver, art teacher at Baldwin High School said that, "the wycinanki workshop was a lot of fun and I learned new information about the paper cutting tradition. It was really beneficial to hear from local artist Angie Pickman, whose work I always enjoy viewing. As someone who learns through doing, I really appreciated how the workshop left a lot of time for creating."

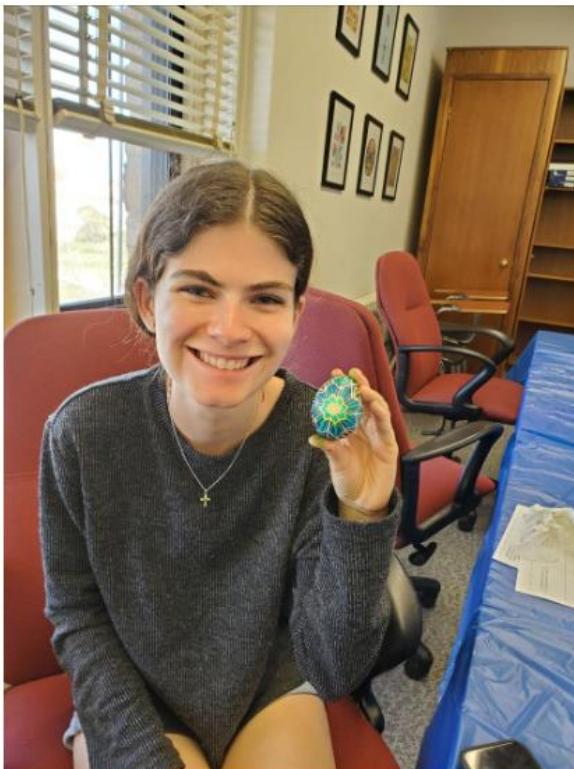
Outreach Coordinator Megan Luttrell led two workshops on Ukrainian pysanky in April. The first, held on April 7, was part of the [Perspectives on Ukraine Series](#) in partnership with Lawrence Public Library. The event was so popular that registration filled up months in advance.

The second, held on April 11, took place in Bailey Hall. At both workshops, participants learned about the history of the art, its symbolism (both Pre-Christian and Christian), and how to make their own pysanka using traditional kistki.

Ling-Lung Chen, who attended the April 11 workshop said, "the Pysanky workshop was informative and lots of fun. It's a good opportunity to meet people in our community who had the same interest. The presentation was well thought out, the instructor was knowledgeable, personable, and helpful. This was my first time trying out egg painting. I enjoyed it thoroughly, thank you CREES for offering it!"



Even though most participants had never made a pysanka before, their designs turned out beautifully. CREES plans to host a pysanky workshop each spring, so if you were unable to attend this year, be on the lookout next April!



As part of its outreach initiatives, CREES is working to create digital resources on Russian, East European, and Eurasian culture. These "digital culture tours" are available to the public, and also include lesson plans for K-12 educators.

For those who couldn't attend the art workshops this year, digital resources on [Ukrainian pysanky](#) and [Polish wycinanki](#) are now available on the CREES website. You can learn about a [variety of decorative eggs](#) in the region as well. Kindergarten teachers can access a [lesson plan](#) that teaches shapes using traditional pysanky designs.



CREES has been partnering with several local libraries over the past academic year to provide a number of story time events for children. This year saw the continuation and expansion of CREES involvement in the Lawrence Public Library's Multicultural Story Time Series. In September 2022, CREES Assistant Director Dr. Esra Predolac and Turkish FLTA Gizem Zeybek conducted Turkish story time.

In December, Outreach Coordinator Dr. Megan Luttrell led Russian story time. She read "The Tsarevna Frog," led the group in a rendition of "Kalinka," and taught them a little about Russia.

In March, visiting scholar Dr. Dinara Rakhmatullayeva and her daughter conducted Kazakh story time. They read "The Mantis and the Swallow," and "The Cotton Girl and the Cat" to 42 attendees. After learning about Kazakh culture and learning some words in Kazakh, participants made a paper yurt.

CREES led the final Multicultural Story Time of the year in April. CREES undergraduate student Aylar Atadurdyeva led Turkmen story time. She read "A Mountain of Gems," taught the kids and their parents about Turkmenistan, and how to say a few words in Turkmen.

Anita Patel, Youth Services Assistant at Lawrence Public Library, said that "partnering with CREES has brought invaluable people from around the world to share their cultures with the kids and families here at the library. Through food, games, dance, crafts, and of course, stories, the families in our community have learned so much! My hope is that this partnership opens young children to be accepting of people who are different from them and find their differences something to celebrate and learn from!"

CREES looks forward to continuing its partnership with Lawrence Public Library and bringing more wonderful events to the Lawrence community.



Scenes from Kazakh, Turkmen, and Russian story time at Lawrence Public Library

CREES launched a new story time series at the Baldwin City Public Library called Story Time Around the World. Outreach Coordinator Megan Luttrell, chair of the Baldwin Library Board, brought Ukrainian Story Time to the library in April 2022, just before she started working for CREES.

In April, Megan led Turkish story time, where she read "The Hungry Coat" and spoke about Turkish wishing trees. The kids could either color a traditional tulip motif tile or make a nazar boncuğu out of paper.

CREES' partnership with the Baldwin City Library has helped reach new audiences outside of the Lawrence community. It has also sparked collaborations between the library and other area studies centers at KU, which have also conducted events in Story Time Around the World Series.

CREES plans to expand its presence in Baldwin not only with more events at the Baldwin City Library, but also through a partnership with the Lumberyard Arts Center.



Turkish and Ukrainian story times at the Baldwin City Public Library

CREES Office Manager, Mariya Borisova, has launched a new Russian-language story time series in Johnson County. Each month, she leads story time either at the Monticello Library or the Lenexa Library. The series goes year-round, including the summer.



Russian Language Story Time in Johnson County

This has been a wonderful way to connect with the Russian-speaking community in Johnson County. At each event, Mariya reads a story in Russian and helps the children do a craft related to the story. They have read stories including "Живая шляпа," "Телефон," "Жар-птица," and "Мороз Иванович."

[Learn More About Upcoming CREES Storytimes](#)



CREES held its first indoor Spring Festival in 3 years on March 5 at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries (ECM). We were thrilled to see the event so well attended. 250 people including faculty, staff, students, and members of the community came out to celebrate the arrival of spring. It was wonderful not only to get together with our usual attendees, but also to welcome so many new faces to the CREES community.

The Kansas City-based fifteen-piece Croatian band [Hrvatski Obićaj](#) gave a spirited performance from 5 to 6pm. Their music really added something to the festival and we hope to have them back!



We were pleased to welcome the Czech and Slovak Club of Kansas City, who had an information table, and the KU Turkish Student Association, who had an information table and collected donations for earthquake relief. We hope to include more groups from the community in the future.

You can't mention the CREES spring festival without mentioning the food. We'd like to extend our thanks to CREES Office Manager Mariya Borisova who prepared over 300 bliny for the event. Thank you to student assistants Kevin Thomas and Gina Sane for their help with the festival as well, including serving bliny to all our guests.



The spring festival featured a number of activities. Kids enjoyed making crafts from the region including Polish wycinanki, Bulgarian Martenista dolls and bracelets, and doing coloring pages of Ukrainian pysanky. The fun wasn't just for kids though! People of all ages were able to take pictures in our "photo booth," where they could hold up speech bubbles with "hello" in 12 REE languages. We hope to add more props for next year.



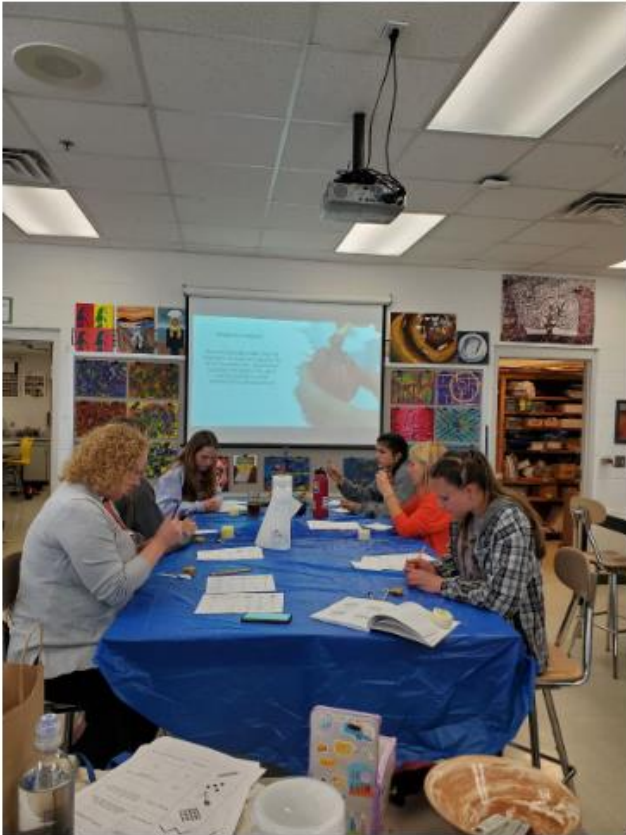
CREES was busy this year engaging with K-12 students and educators! Outreach Coordinator Megan Luttrell visited World Language classes at both Southwest and West Middle School every quarter to teach students Russian language and culture. Students learned the alphabet, how to count 1-10, greetings and introductions, colors, and even to sing a song in Russian. Megan also gave students in the Eudora High School International Club an introduction to the Russian alphabet and greetings.

Leticia González, World Languages teacher at Southwest Middle School said "my seventh grade students remember the Russian lesson and the Russian teacher as the best unit in my World Languages class. I have several students who have delved into studying Russian because of Dr. Luttrell's visit."

In addition to language classes, Megan visited the AP Art class at Baldwin City High School in the fall, teaching students about Russian and Ukrainian fine art. They discussed works by Ilya Repin, and Kazimir Malevich. In the spring, Megan visited the Baldwin High School 3D Design class where she taught students to make Ukrainian pysanky. Students also learned about the history and symbolism of pysanky and were introduced to a few of the other types of egg decorating techniques in Eastern European culture. Curious? Check out our new [digital resource](#) on egg art! On behalf of all the Area Studies Centers at KU, Megan continued leading a foreign language program at the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), bringing in volunteers to teach different foreign languages to incarcerated youth. In January and February, Megan taught Russian language to 8 students once a week for 5 weeks. They learned the alphabet, greetings, colors, numbers 1-20, and how to give their ages. They also enjoyed seeing pictures of Russia and singing a couple of songs in Russian.

Megan also taught the JDC students to paint Matryoshka dolls in an additional class following the conclusion of their Russian language study. The students were enthusiastic about learning the language and asked great questions about Russian culture. Robin Lindley, teacher at the JDC, said "The residents at the JDC truly enjoyed learning about Russian culture and language. It was a great cultural experience for the students." CREES and the other area studies centers will resume language teaching at the JDC after the summer break.

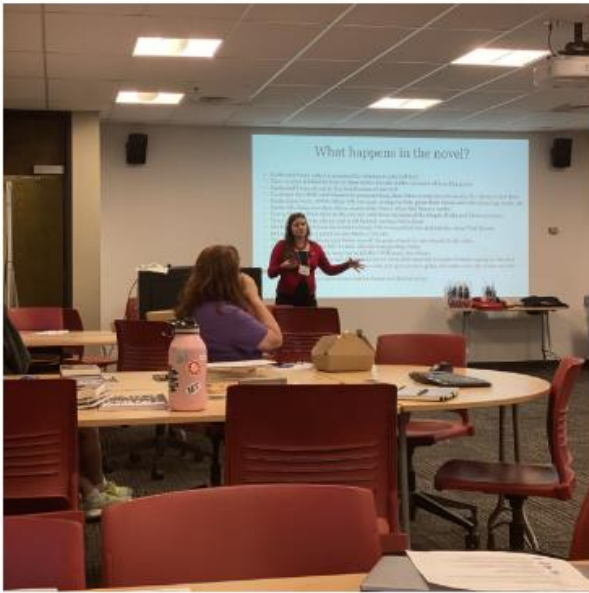




CREES and the other area studies centers, CLACS, CEAS, and KASC, conducted two Traveling World Languages Fairs this semester. The first, on March 7, was at Topeka High School. Megan Luttrell and SGES MA student Andriyana Baran gave a joint presentation to students on Ukrainian and Russian, and discussed language as a part of identity, in general and how it has changed after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. 60 students participated in the language fair.

The second TWLFF took place on April 28 at Wichita North High School. Megan taught Russian greetings and the alphabet at the event. Both events included a session which discussed FLAS, study abroad, and the importance/benefits of studying another language and culture.

Over the summer, CREES and the other area studies centers organized a hybrid educator workshop for K-12 teachers and education students. The workshop, titled "Global Health Through Literature," was a professional development workshop aimed at internationalizing curricula using books related to global health from around the world. Educators received free copies of each book as well as digital resources to help them implement the lessons in their classrooms. CREES taught a lesson on Adrian Lysenko's [Five Stalks of Grain](#), a graphic novel that tells the story of survival during the Holodomor. Educators can access a lesson plan developed by CREES as well as a variety of digital resources on the [workshop website](#).



Global Health Through Literature K-12 Educator Workshop



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS**





Read About This Year's Laird Essay Contest Winners



This semester saw the continuation of the CREES brownbag lecture series. Dr. Olga Kyrylova (Film & Media Studies) gave a lecture titled "[Volodymyr Vynnychenko: Political and Cinematic Fin-de-siècle Narratives for Independent Ukraine](#)" (February 7), and Dr. Brett Chloupek (Northwest Missouri State University) gave a lecture titled "Reinterpreting Monuments to the Slovak National Uprising after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine" (February 21).

Visiting scholar Dr. Dinara Rakhmatullayeva gave a talk titled "Measuring Wellbeing in Kazakhstan Using AHP" (February 28), and on March 9, CREES had a [special student brownbag](#)

[lecture](#), which featured undergraduate student Aylar Atadurdyeva and history graduate student Adam Rodger. Aylar and Adam gave talks based on their presentations at the ASEES national convention in November 2022. Aylar's talk was titled "Decolonization and Nationalism in Kyrgyzstan" and Adam's talk was titled "One War, Two Fronts: The Spanish Civil War as a Continuation of the Russian Civil War."

Many of the brownbag talks are available to watch on the [CREES YouTube channel](#). The series will continue in the fall.



The Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies has been a national leader since 1959 and is the only federally designated resource center on this crucial world area in the Great Plains. Special events, renowned speakers, scholarships, and study abroad opportunities are just some of the ways your donations can help us maintain the center's vitality and expand its impact in Kansas and beyond. 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](#)

Supports a wide range of educational and outreach activities. Among its dedicated sponsors are the **Oswald P. Backus/Anna Cienciała 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.