Russian Media Today: A View from Within
– An Interview with Olga Kuchkina

by Ashley Fillmer (REES MA student)

Olga Kuchkina is a senior columnist for Komsomolskaya Pravda and professor at the Institute of Journalism and Literature in Moscow. Kuchkina’s career in journalism began in 1957 in her fourth year in the Journalism Faculty at Moscow State University, when she was hired by Komsomolskaya Pravda. For the next forty plus years of reporting, she has covered a variety of topics and explored several genres of writing. In the early 1990s she made regular appearances on Radio Liberty, and from 1994 to 1999 she hosted a show called “Vremya ‘Ch’ with Olga Kuchkina” on NTV. She is a member of the Russian PEN Center, a human rights organization, and a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. She was interviewed about her views on the Russian media today.

Since Kuchkina’s journalistic career spans over four decades, the interview began with a discussion on her experiences during the Soviet period. When asked about the kinds of difficulties she encountered working as a journalist, she noted that Soviet censorship on the media affected her work more on the personal level rather than on the political. She replied, “I found it difficult to express myself personally, not only because of the political situation. I was not a dissident. But I now know that I am a liberal person, and I had difficulty expressing this part of myself, not because I wanted to write about political ideology but because I wanted to express my emotions and my thoughts. We had to learn how to write in a different way, between the lines, so that the censors would not notice. I began as a reporter writing small articles, and then I became a columnist and wrote about all types of topics. I’ve been a literary critic, I wrote about movies, about theater, art, and then I began to write about politics when perestroika began.”

During Gorbachev’s perestroika, Russian journalists felt a loosening of the government’s monopoly on public opinion. It was the first wave of transition in the media that would eventually lead to its honeymoon with Yeltsin after the collapse of communism. When asked what was it like, as a journalist, to experience the fall of communism in Russia, Kuchkina remarked, “It was great. The biggest victory of Russian society during Yeltsin’s term was the freedom of the press. We had the ‘Golden Age’ of Russian journalism. Everybody suddenly felt free to write the truth, free to express themselves, and it felt very natural. We felt empowered because we could write about anything. We could tell people what was happening in our own words.”

Beginning in 1994, Kuchkina presented her own words and the thoughts and opinions of her literary peers and others on a weekly television show called “Vremya ‘Ch’” on NTV. The show’s title was intended to express the importance of the radical transition that Russian society was facing. Kuchkina explained, “It’s very hard to translate the title into English—“Ch Time”: the letter ch in Russian- is from the word ‘chelovek’, a human being, and at the same time, the letter ch is the sign that signifies the state of emergency. So the title had multiple meanings. On the show, we discussed everything—philosophy of life, spirituality, Russian culture, politics, personal relationships, love. I showed my program on NTV till 1999. NTV was a very popular and innovative TV channel then, before Gusinsky was pushed out.”

By 1999, the “Golden Age” of Russian media was passing into history along with the president that helped to construct the code of laws protecting a free press. To be sure, all journalists were affected by the conditions that resulted from the leap into market economy. Kuchkina acknowledged that reporters were influenced by the press organizations for which they worked, sometimes pressured by the government or private monopolies, and free expression of the media suffered at times. With Vladimir Putin’s ascent to the presidency in 2000, however, the Russian media now faces new, more forceful government intervention. The Russian media in general, Kuchkina remarked, has reacted with the old Soviet-style tendency to acquiesce to power.

When asked about how she feels about being a journalist in Russia today, Kuchkina passionately replied, “I hate journalism now. I enjoy literary writing more than journalism. Let me explain—I hate journalism as prostitution. Some of our publications have become significantly more yellow; some of our journalists have begun to write incriminating articles for money. But at the same time I still do love journalism because it gives you the possibility to take part in life and to help others. Journalism is a responsibility, and I love this aspect of it. My favorite saying is that to write well means to think well.” The work of a Russian journalist has always been dominated by the political

—continued on page 2, see Russian Media
Russian Media—continued

situation, leading some to “prostitute” themselves to the whims of a higher influence and leading yet others, particularly in the print media, to uphold determinedly the responsibility to report truthfully and express genuine criticism of government actions. The dichotomous feelings that Kuchkina has for her profession are evidence of the dilemma that Russian journalism has faced over the last half century. Kuchkina began when the press was stifled by communist censors, enjoyed the brief vibrancy of an emerging democratic press, and now witnesses its struggle to create a balance of power between government and media.

When asked whether her own freedom as a journalist has been impaired during Putin’s presidency, Kuchkina noted, “No. It depends on what kind of journalism you do and what kind of journalist you are. I am only one journalist. There are many who do feel that there are restrictions. Certainly my colleague Grigory Pas’ko, who was prosecuted and convicted for printing photographs of Russian ships dumping nuclear waste in the Japanese Sea waters, or Elena Tregubova, a former Kremlin reporter for Kommersant who wrote a tell-all book The Tales of a Kremlin Digger about her experiences in the Kremlin media pool, would say that there are restrictions. And then there are others who write what they are told to write. I cannot speak for my colleagues, but I think that the Golden Age of the Russian media is over and that we are working in a Silver Age.”

When asked if there is a danger of moving into a Bronze Age, Kuchkina laughed, “No. I think that we will not have the Golden Age again, but that we will fight to keep a free press. Russia has a free press, and we will keep it.”

In addition to her journalistic work, Olga Kuchkina is a novelist, poet and a playwright. She has written several novels, collections of poetry, and plays, including The Other Voices (2004) and The Message to Citizens of Roma (2000) and the collection of poems The Leap Century (2002) among others. Her plays, Joseph and Nadezhda, The Passions by Barbara, and The White Summer, have been produced and performed in many countries. As a visiting faculty at U of I this semester she has been teaching a course entitled “Power and Media in Russia: A Look From Within.” Her visit was cosponsored by REECC and the Department of Journalism with co-support from International Programs and Studies.
Several important collections were acquired last year with funds from the Library’s NEH challenge grant competition, the Ralph T. and Ruth M. Fisher endowment fund, and the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (Mellon Foundation grant). Included were a collection of 941 fiches and 31 film reels titled “Birobidzhan: An Experiment to Create a Soviet Jewish Homeland” from IDC Publishers, 90 film reels of archival documents from Primary Source Microfilm called “Voice of the People under Soviet Rule” filmed at the Narodnyi arkiv (People’s Archive) in Moscow, a collection of 57 Russian music journals (817 fiches) filmed by Norman Ross at the Russian National Library, and the library card catalogs on microfiche of the Rimsky-Korsakov State Conservatory in St. Petersburg and the Tchaikovsky Music Conservatory in Kiev (also filmed by Ross).

The Slavic Reference Service’s popular online Guide to Slavic Information Resources continues to develop and expand its scope. New sections completed recently include Bibliography of bibliography, Education (with help on the Russian section by librarians at the Russian National Library), Gender studies in Russia and sections on Gender Studies in Poland supplied by librarians from the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow, Library Catalogs, Linguistics, National Bibliography (Albania, Croatia, Estonia, Former Yugoslavia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Ukraine), Periodical Resources, and Russian Archives; Monographic Bibliography (Bulgarian, Czech/Slovak and Yugoslav), Russian Business & Economics. The Guide is available at http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/class/titlepage.html.

The Slavic Library is also expanding its digital activities. We were recently awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Scholarly Information Resources for Humanists under a program sponsored by the Council on Library & Information Resources, and this 2-year fellowship will allow us to hire a new post-doc to begin coordinating our Slavic Digital Humanities program next fall. In July we’ll sponsor a 3-day Digital Text Workshop (http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/sw-dtw/) during the Summer Research Lab.


**Conference Presentations**

**Tony Anemone** (The College of William and Mary) “Alexander Sokurov’s Russian Ark: From Russian Idea to Russian Mirage”

**José Alaniz** (University of Washington) “Death and ‘Nature’ in Sokurov’s Mother and Son”

**Roman Timenchik** (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem) “Towards the Poetics of Khrustalev, My Car!”

**Helena Goscilo** (University of Pittsburgh) “Re-Conceptualizing Moscow (W)hole-Sale”

**Alexander Prokhorov** (The College of William and Mary) “The Chronotope of Knowledge: The Soviet School Film and Post-Soviet Education as Journey in Sergei Solov’ev’s Gentle Age”

**Elena Prokhorova** (The College of William and Mary) “Nostalgic Exploits: Russian Television and Cinema in Search of a New ‘Masterplot’”

**Mark Lipovetsky** (University of Colorado) “Post-Socialist Realism: Balabanov’s Voina”

**Lilya Kaganovsky** (University of Illinois) “After Stalinism: Sergei Livnev’s Serp i molot”

**Faculty Organizers**

Lilya Kaganovsky, University of Illinois

Dragan Kujundzic, University of California, Irvine

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**Russian and East European Library News**

**February 27 – 28, 2004**

Screening of Alexander Sokurov’s Russian Ark (Russkii kovcheg), 2002 with introduction by Dragan Kujundzic (University of California, Irvine) followed by post-screening discussion.
REEEC Engages K-12 Educators and Students

By Lynda Park (Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator, REEEC)

While you may hear a lot about the Center’s public events, such as the colloquium series on “Directions in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies,” the nighttime lecture series, conferences, and concerts, the Center is busy with another set of programs about which you may not hear so much. Throughout the year, we provide numerous and varied outreach programs that engage K-12 educators and students. Here are some highlights.

One of the cornerstones of our outreach programs for K-12 teachers is the five-day Summer Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia (which in some years have included the Balkans). Established in 1999, the workshop draws teachers from all over the U.S. and provides them with information and curricular resources on geography, history, culture, economy, and politics of the region. Most of the sessions are conducted by REEEC-affiliated faculty, which the teachers greatly appreciate. This year we were delighted to be awarded the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant to take a group of 14 educators to Russia this summer on a short-term semi-institutional travel program to the K-12 community. The Joint Area Centers Symposia often has a K-12 component. Working with the Illinois International High School Initiative, the professional development workshop for the 2002 JACS on “Rethinking Terrorism,” which was organized by REEEC and the EUC, was well attended by teachers from throughout the region. A smaller group of teachers attended the 2003 JACS on “Interactivity in a Globalizing World,” but we expect the 2004 JACS on “Contested Waters,” which will address the problem of water resources throughout the world, will be of great interest to K-12 teachers.

Now the students. We were particularly excited last year to revive Illinois’ participation in the Olympiada of Spoken Russian for high school students, coordinated by ACTR. Working with Indiana University’s REEI, the 2003 Illinois-Indiana Olympiada was hosted by Todd Golding, the Russian language teacher, at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana. Students from the University Lab High School took part in it and walked away with gold medals. Katya Dunatov, the Russian teacher at Uni, should be congratulated for her teaching. On April 20, 2004, REEEC hosted the Illinois Olympiada with students again from the University Lab High School, and Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools in the Chicago suburbs. It was heartening to see that Izabella Tashlitskaya, who teaches Russian at Glenbrook North and South, has so many students who study Russian at those schools, not all of whom could take part in the Olympiada. All the students in the Olympiada gave it their all in the competition, which was judged by the faculty in our Slavic Department. We want to congratulate the following medal winners:

- Level 1 (non-heritage): Rose Kearns (Uni)—Gold; Brad Goerne, Alejandro Collopy (Uni), Dmytro Ambrozjak (GN)—Silver; Emil Nichitioi (GN)—Bronze;
- Level 1 (heritage): Tanya Amantea (GN)—Gold; Igor Prilutsky (GN)—Silver; Felix Birman (GN)—Bronze;
- Level 2 (non-heritage): Louise H. Yeung (GN)—Gold; Erin Conlon (GS)—Silver; Becky Birman (GS)—Bronze;
- Level 3 (non-heritage): Sasha Steinberg, Kate Peisker (Uni)—Gold;
- Level 3 (heritage): Yama Naser Ahmad (GN)—Gold; Victoria Bangieva, Olga Kashivska (GN)—Silver; Michael Elkind (GN)—Bronze;
- Level 4 (heritage): Kate Lukashock (GN)—Gold; Kira Zhukovskaya (GN)—Silver; Dmitriy Mikhelson (GN)—Bronze.

To find out more about the Center’s K-12 outreach programs, visit the new REEEC website at www.reec.uiuc.edu and click on ‘outreach’ in the navigation bar, or contact Lynda Park at (217) 333-6022 or lypark@uiuc.edu.
New Faculty Profile: Valeria Sobol

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center is pleased to welcome Valeria Sobol to the University of Illinois and to the REEEC community. She joined the U of I faculty in fall 2003 as Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Language Coordinator. She received her undergraduate degree from Kiev State University in 1994 and her PhD from Columbia University in 2003.

Professor Sobol specializes in Russian literature and culture of late-18th and 19th centuries. Her interests include Sentimentalism, Russian and European Romanticism, and medical epistemology and discourse in literature. Her doctoral dissertation, “Febris erotica: Love-Sickness and the Mind-Body Problem in Russian Literature and Culture,” examines the ways in which pre-20th century Russian literature, culture, and medicine dealt with the philosophical and epistemological implications of the concept of lovesickness. Her publications include “Reading the Invisible: The Mind, the Body, and the Medical Examiners” in Lev Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina,” in Anna Karenina on Page and Screen. Studies in Slavic Cultures II (2001) and “ ‘Shumom bala utomlenyi’: The Physiological Aspect of the Society Ball and the Subversion of Romantic Rhetoric,” Russian Literature XLIX (April 2001). She is continuing her research on the connections between lovesickness and hysteria in 19th century Russian literature and culture. She is currently working on a paper on the Russian physiologist Ivan Sechenov and the literary influences on his theory of passions. In addition to Russian literature, she also specializes in Ukrainian and Czech literatures.

In the Slavic Department, Professor Sobol teaches third-year Russian and courses on 19th century Russian literature. As the Language Coordinator, she also supervises the teaching of first and second-year Russian language courses. She is currently developing an advanced Russian seminar entitled “Between East and West: The Literary Journey and the Exploration of Russian National Identity,” which will be a required course for all Russian majors. Her husband, David Cooper, is also teaching a course on “Slavic Folklore” this semester as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Slavic Department.

Professor Sobol notes that she is glad to be at the University of Illinois where the environment is “creative and inspiring.” She also appreciates the interdisciplinary connections with other departments that REEEC provides.

Report from the Field: the Czech Pop Music Scene

By C. Michael Elavsky (PhD candidate, Institute of Communications Research)

I spent last year in Europe with rock stars and record executives. Besides being a great line to use at a party, it happens to be the truth behind my dissertation research. Through a Fulbright-Hays grant, I was given the opportunity to personally find out just how complex and complicated the Central European music industry actually is, and how taxing the “rock and roll” lifestyle can be.

My dissertation explores the relationships between Czech identity and the Czech record industry and pop music culture as they relate to the larger organizational logics and relationships of the global record industry. Conducting my research meant spending 12 months interviewing and observing employees and activities at the offices of the Bertelsmann Music Group (BMG) in Prague, London, and New York, as well as documenting the pulse of the contemporary Czech pop music industry and culture. I pursued the latter by interviewing influential radio programmers, journalists, music fans, label executives, etc., and working closely with many popular Czech musicians, the most important being the BMG band Buty, one of the most successful and celebrated Czech rock groups of the last decade (pictured above).

Like all good graduate students, I started out with an intricate research plan, but unfortunately, the record industry just doesn’t work that way. What soon materialized was a nomadic “research schedule,” where I was commuting to all manner of “sites” (offices, mountain cottages, cafes, rehearsal studios, TV stations, etc.) to engage the individuals and their activities as opportunities arose. Nine months into the project, not knowing where I would sleep or be the next week, how long I would be there, or who exactly I would be interviewing and observing became normal. Long days observing the activities at BMG’s various offices melded into long nights as a drum tech on tour with Buty, followed by early mornings at a recording session, marketing or sales meeting, radio interview, or music piracy press conference, etc. Although the time passed very quickly, it is only as I now write it up that I appreciate the “adventure” that it was; at the time, it felt like a never-ending amusement park ride.

In retrospect, challenging as it was on my health and sanity, it was certainly intriguing to be on the “inside” of the music business for a time. But I must say it feels pretty good to know I am sleeping in my own bed tonight as well.
Faculty/Staff/Associates News

FACULTY NEWS

Nancy Benson led workshops on radio news reporting for the International Center for Journalists in Tbilisi, Georgia, in May 2003.

Dmitry Bobyshhev wrote the introduction to Iurii Ivask’s Pokhvala rossiiskoi poezii (Tallinn, 2002). He also led a discussion of Pasternak’s Doctor Zhivago on WILL radio in November and did a poetry reading at the AATSEEL annual meeting in San Diego in December. He also participated in a conference of the Russian content advisory committee for the Illinois State Board of Education. He received a 2004 REEEC Summer Course Development Grant to develop a course on Anna Akhmatova.

Marianna Tax Choldin published with M. Brewer, “Slavic Studies Librarians in the Profession” in the AAASS Newsnet (Oct. 2003). She continues to consult for the Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow, in particular the newly established Institute for Tolerance. She also chairs an international advisory committee for Tbilisi State University in its development of a LIS degree program and will be in Tbilisi this year.

Jonathan Fineberg has been given an endowed chair, Gutgsell Professor of Art History. In addition, he received the Dedalus Foundation Senior Research Fellowship for 2004. His book on the Bulgarian artist Christo, Christo and Jeanne-Claude: On the Way to the Gates, will be published by Yale University Press in April in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York where it serves as the catalogue to the exhibition, “Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Gates.” He is also the chief creative consultant for a PBS special, Imagining America: Icons of 20th Century American Art, which will air in early 2005 accompanied by a book co-authored with John Carlin.

Frank Y. Gladney presented a poster entitled “Slavic Velar Palatalizations Chained” at the conference on Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics at the University of South Carolina in February.

Diane Koenker published the introduction to a special issue of the Slavic Review on Russian and Soviet travel and tourism, “Travel to Work, Travel to Play: On Russian Tourism, Travel, and Leisure,” Slavic Review, 62:4 (Winter 2003). She presented “Training Wheels: Bicycle Touring and the National Imagination in the USSR” at the AAASS annual meeting in Toronto in November. She also organized and participated in a panel discussion, “The Interdisciplinary Journal in a Transnational World” at the same meeting.

Ioan-Sherban Lupu was given the title of “Commander of the National Order of Merit and Service” by the Romanian government for his worldwide musical and cultural activities. The ceremony took place in January and was performed by Ion Iliescu, the President of Romania.

Peter Maggs published with Alexei Zhitlov a revised translation of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation (Moscow 2003). He spoke at the meeting of Russian-American Rule of Law Consortium on “Russian Civil Law” and delivered a paper on “Precedent in the Russian Supreme Court” at a joint University of Illinois College of Law/Chicago-Kent symposium. In addition, with the support of the Central Asian Research Initiative of the International Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Institute, he has been acting as a mentor to a young law instructor from Kazakhstan.


Temira Pachmuss published three reviews of Pokhvala rossiiskoi poezii by Iurii Ivask (In the fall 2003 issue of the Center News we incorrectly reported that she published this work).

Janice T. Pilch presented “Key Developments in Copyright for Slavic and East European Materials” at the AAASS meeting in November.


Mahir Saul is spending a sabbatical leave at the College de France, Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Sociale, in Paris. He also received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship grant.

Valeria Sobol received a 2004 REEEC Summer Course Development Grant to develop a new Russian seminar on “Between East and West: The Literary Journey and the Exploration of Russian National Identity.”

Mark Steinberg completed work on the 7th edition of A History of Russia (Oxford University Press), of which he is now co-author together with Nicholas Riasanovsky. This substantially revised edition should appear in bookstores in about a year.


Maria Todorova published Balkani i Balkanizm (Sofia University Press, 2004 · second revised and expanded edition of Imagining the Balkans in Bulgarian) and “What is it or is there a Balkan culture, and do or should the Balkans have a regional identity?” in the Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies, 4:1 (2004).

REGIONAL FACULTY ASSOCIATES NEWS

Steven D. Roper (Eastern Illinois University) will be a visiting associate professor at the Air War College in Montgomery, AL, for 2004-2005.

Bijlijan Sljivc-Simsic (UIUC) organized a panel “Postmodernism in Serbian and Czech Literatures” for the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, in January. In 2003, the Serbian Studies Program in the Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures at UIUC celebrated its 30th Anniversary, which Professor Sljivc-Simsic has led since its inception in 1973.

Charles Steinwedel (Northeastern Illinois University) received a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council for 2004-05 to complete a project entitled “Visions and Practices of Empire on European Russia’s Eastern Edge, 1735-1917.”

Codrescu Talks about Romania

On March 8, REEC invited Andrei Codrescu, Romanian-born poet, novelist, NPR commentator, editor of an online journal Exquisite Corpse, and MacCurdy Professor of English at Louisiana State University, to give a CAS/MillerComm lecture on “Reinventing the Wheel: Original Capitalism in Dracula Land.” Codrescu offered a poetic exploration of communism and post-communism with thoughts on his own experiences in Romania and longings of his native country. During his visit, he also appeared on Focus 580 on WILL-AM, gave a Journalism talk, did a poetry reading, and met with students and faculty.

The following poem by Codrescu and others was composed at the reception following his lecture:

champaign corpse #1

a corpse in Illinois riles from the corn fields growing over the library stacks of books lined up in alphabetical order. the lack of order is the rule rather that the exception proves the rule, if you exclude science is not truth but fanciful mystery wakes me at night under the halogen glow brighty little cherished one should not think, no one should think.

smith memorial hall, 8 march 2004, compiled by ashley fillmer


Theodora Dragostinova (history) presented “National Identity as Emergency Identity in the Greek-Bulgarian Population Movements, 1906-1941” at the AAASS annual meeting in Toronto in November.


Kevin Hawkins (LIS) finished his MS in LIS in December and accepted the position of electronic publishing librarian at the University of Michigan.


Irina Gigova (history) presented “Socialism as Life and Text: Bulgarian Writer’s Intellectual Identity, 1945-1955” at the AAASS meeting in November.


Gregory Stroud (history) presented “Broken Sites/Ruins of Memory: The Past in the 1910s” at the AAASS meeting in November.

Dmitry Tartakovsky (history) presented “Anti-Semitism and the Jewish Question in 19th Century Russia” at the AAASS meeting in November.

Christine Varga-Harris (history) presented “At Home as at Work”: Popular Initiative and the Revival of Socialism in Russia Under Khrushchev at the AAASS meeting in November.

2004 Skalnik Prize for Best Essay in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Undergraduate winner: Catherine Bower (history), “Catherine II and Language: The Formation of Legitimacy and Loyalty in Imperial Russia”

Graduate winner: Florin Fesnic (political science) “Modernization, Transition, and Voting in Romania”

Send Us Your News!
We would love to hear from REES-related alumni. Please send us your news along with the degree(s) earned and year and your current affiliation to the email or street address below.

Summer 2004 Programs

• Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, June 14 - August 6
• Association for Women in Slavic Studies Inaugural Conference, June 24-25
• Research Workshop, featuring Mikhail Afanas’ev (Director, State Public Historical Library of Russia, Moscow), June 14-24
• Annual Ukrainian Conference: “Contemporary Ukraine as Seen by Scholars in Ukraine and Abroad,” June 16-19
• Annual Slavic Librarians’ Workshop, July 6-7
• Digital Text Workshop, July 7-9
• Noontime Scholars’ Lecture Series, June 15 - July 6
• Summer Film Series, June 14 - July 14
• Summer Curriculum Development Workshop on Russia, June 16-20
• Fulbright-Hays Short-term Seminar in Russia for K-12 Educators: “Understanding Russia Through Everyday Life,” June 21 - July 19
• International Summer Institute for Pre-collegiate Educators: “World Economies, International Trade, and Globalization,” July 6-10

For information on any of our summer programs, please contact the Center at (217) 333-1244 or reec@uiuc.edu. Information and applications available online: www.reec.uiuc.edu
Illinois

Colloquium Series

Directions in “Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies”

January 29
“The Gift of Empire: Popular Culture and Political Persuasions Where Russia Meets the Caucasus”
Bruce Grant (Anthropology, Swarthmore College)

February 26
“Charlie Chaplin and Soviet Avant-garde Art of the 1920s”
Yuri Tsivian (Humanities, University of Chicago)

March 10
“Shamed by Comparison: Eastern Europe and the Rest”
Judit Bodnar (History & Sociology, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary)

April 19
“Letters from Heaven: Bolsheviks Against ‘Superstition’ and ‘Superstition’ against Bolsheviks”
Steve Smith (History, University of Essex, UK)

Noontime Scholars

February 10
“Oh, Those Turks!” Music and Interculturality in the Balkans and Beyond
Donna Buchanan (Musicology, UIUC)

February 17
“Politicizing Magic: Fairy Tales of Socialist Realism”
Marina Balina (Slavic, Illinois Wesleyan University)

February 24 with PSAMES
“Shedding Light on the Balkans: Sezen Aksu’s Anatolian Pop”
Martin Stokes (Music, University of Chicago)

March 2
“Representing Collectivization Emically: Eyewitness Accounts from Uzbekistan”
Russell Zanca (Anthropology, Northeastern Illinois University)

March 30
“Land and Nationality in Late Imperial Russia: The Bashkir Case”
Charles Steinwedel (History, Northeastern Illinois University)

April 6
“Urbanization under Communism: The Example of Bulgaria”
Ivaylo Ditchev (Cultural Anthropology, University of Sofia, Bulgaria)

April 13
“The Ideology of Russian Translation: From Poetic to National Competition”
David Cooper (Slavic, UIUC)

April 27
“The Political Censorship in Modern Russia - Reality or Myth?”
Olga Kuchkina (Komsomolskaya Pravda)

May 4 with PSAMES
“The Impact of Turkish Modernization on Kurdish Nationalism”
Mezher Yuksel (Sociology, Middle East Technical University, Turkey)

Soviet Jewish Studies Lecture Series 2003-04

November 6
“David Bergelson’s and Aron Vergelis’s Birobidzhan Shund”
Gennady Estrailkh (New York University)

November 17
“Bearing Witness: Soviet Jewish Photojournalists Confront World War II and the Holocaust”
David Shternshis (University of Denver)

February 10
“Messianic Quest in the Age of Proletariat: Soviet Marxist Theories of Yiddish Literature, 1918-1941”
Mikhail Krutikov (University of Michigan)

May 3
“Trying to Transform the Tradition: Red Passover in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s”
Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)