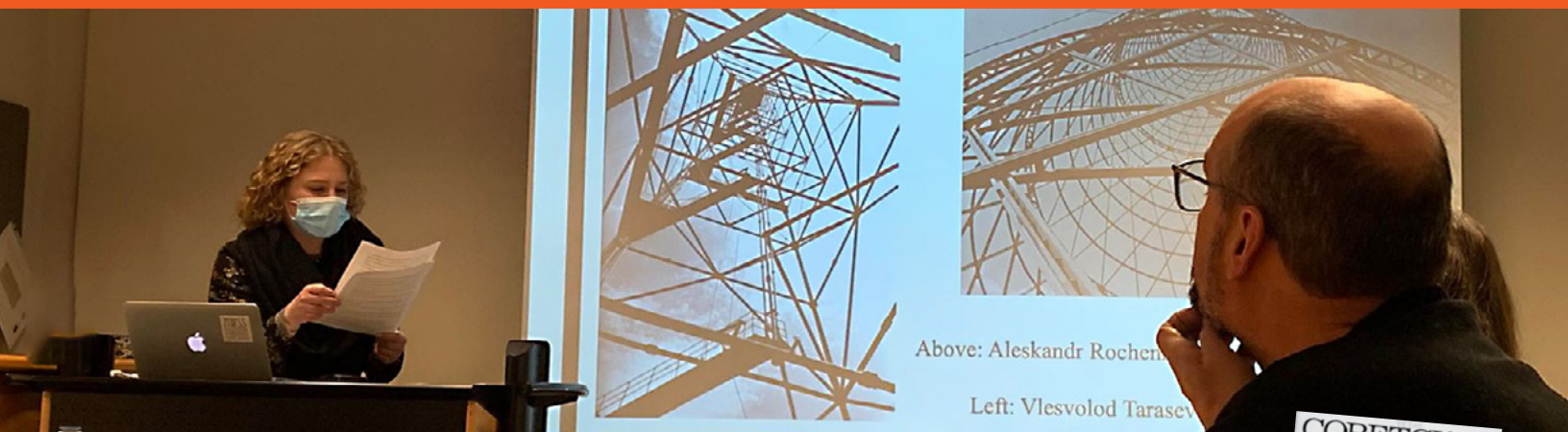


NEWSLETTER OF THE RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN CENTER



New Directions Lecture with Jessica Werneke: *Sovetskoe Foto & De-Westernizing Photography Theory*

BY BRIAN YANG (PHD STUDENT, SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES)

On February 24, as part of the 2022-23 New Directions Lecture series, REEEEC welcomed Jessica Werneke, currently a visiting assistant professor of history at the University of Iowa, to present a lecture titled “*Sovetskoe Foto* and De-Westernizing Photographic Theory.” In this lecture, Werneke discussed the role of photography as an artistic medium in the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 60s. Specifically, Werneke focuses on the periodical *Sovetskoe Foto* and how this journal influenced the development of photography in the Soviet Union and what implications this has for our current understanding of photography theory.

In the first part of Werneke’s presentation, she goes through the history of photography in the Soviet Union and how they did not have their own union like artists or poets did. Rather, they were subsumed under the journalism union, and as Werneke explains, this lack of a stand-alone union had major implications for how photography developed in the USSR, in that photographers and advocates of photography being an artistic medium in its own rite were acting in a way that endeavored to cement photography as such and create an independent union. However, this never happened and because of this, *Sovetskoe Foto* became the *ersatz* forum for professional and amateur photographers to exchange ideas and create a common photographic language.

The second half of her lecture focused on the journal’s attempt to create and nurture a Soviet language of photography. From prescribing cropping techniques according to their aesthetics to suggesting what photographic subjects are more aesthetically valuable, *Sovetskoe Foto* was the authoritative voice of photography in the Soviet Union. Additionally, Werneke argues that *Sovetskoe Foto* moved photography into a journalistic and documentary medium, where photography did not only serve as an aesthetic production but was also meant to depict socialist life in high fidelity.

Werneke’s novel archival research and in-depth engagement with Soviet photography and art history provides scholars interested in the history of photography an opportunity to think beyond aesthetic theories and photographic methods developed by Western Europeans and towards thinking about how different languages of photography developed in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. All in all, Werneke’s work highlights the value in examining independently developed cultural productions as important in their own right, and then expanding it to see how it fits in with other principles outside of that context. ■

Brian Yang is a Ph.D. student in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research focuses on how to understand Russian colonialism in Siberia and the Arctic through critical indigenous theory and Indigenous perspectives.



Hello, again! We're back!

Letter from the Director



John Randolph

I'm not sure time is a circle (or any other defined shape), but you do see things come and go and come again. I remember about a decade or so ago hearing from colleagues that we were discontinuing paper newsletters and going entirely online. It seemed like the thing to do at the time. Soon enough, as Director, I found myself rummaging through REEEC's archives and finding old newsletters. And I was surprised at how useful they were! There's something, it seems, about having a physical record — now and then — in our paperless world, that connects people. So we've decided, once a year, to put ink on paper again, to tell our story, for readers today and hopefully tomorrow.

It's a lot of work, but one of the big stories from this year is that we're able to do it. The University, following the constant improvisations forced by the pandemic, is starting to walk more normally again. Danielle Sekel arrived as our Outreach and Programming Coordinator in the Spring of 2022, and she's revolutionized the office. We have an excellent group of MA students and Graduate Assistants (not least drawn by our new MA REEES and MS Library and Information Science program). And as headed by Dr. Maureen Marshall, REEEC Associate Director, REEEC feels ready to do new things. This Newsletter will share them.

In what follows, you'll find a record of some of what's happened in the past year. Of course, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, as well as the struggle of so many to survive and defeat it, have hung over everything we have done. You'll find stories here about our wartime programming, as well as about our campus efforts, through the Scholars at Risk network, to help provide a better future for scholars (and scholarship). At the same time, we continue with our basic, long-term work as a Title VI National Research Center. We sponsor the study of less commonly taught languages (including Ukrainian!) and administer FLAS fellowships at the graduate and undergraduate level. We collaborate with our colleagues at the Slavic Reference Service on our annual Summer and Open Research Laboratory programs.

Most of all, we serve as a meeting place for anyone interested in our world region — and its connections to the world at large.

Illinois has a proud legacy as an open, accessible, public research university: we look forward to helping students, researchers, teachers, and the public whenever we can. If this newsletter inspires any ideas of what we should do next, we look forward to hearing from you! And in the meantime, hello again from Illinois. We're glad to be back.

John W Randolph, Director
Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center

REEEC Hosts ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian

For the first time since 2018, REEEC was thrilled to host the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) Olympiada of Spoken Russian on March 13, 2023. Organized in collaboration with the University of Chicago's Slavic Languages Program Coordinator Erik Houle, REEEC welcomed over thirty high school Russian language students from The Noble Academy, Pritzker College Prep, Glenbrook North High School, and By the Onion Sea to our campus for the day to participate in various language evaluations. Students also attended sessions about our programs at the U of I and a demonstration of regional instruments presented by Justin Balcor (PhD Candidate, Musicology). Поздравления to all students who participated! We wish you all the best in your continued language studies!



Writing the History of the Soviet Body: Questions & Approaches

Noontime Scholars Lecture with Claire Shaw

BY LAUREL TOLLISON (MA REEES, 2023)

As part of the REEEC Noontime Scholars Lecture series, on February 14 Claire Shaw gave a lecture titled "Writing the History of the Soviet Body: Questions and Approaches." Shaw, an associate professor in the history of modern Russia at the University of Warwick, was present on campus this February to take part in the Open Research Laboratory as a Research Associate. Shaw focuses her current research on the history of disability and the senses of the body under Soviet Socialism. She is the author of award-winning book *Deaf in the USSR: Marginality, Community, and Soviet Identity*. Currently, Shaw is working on a forthcoming book about Soviet socialists' perception of the human body and how these perceptions affected the lives of ordinary citizens.

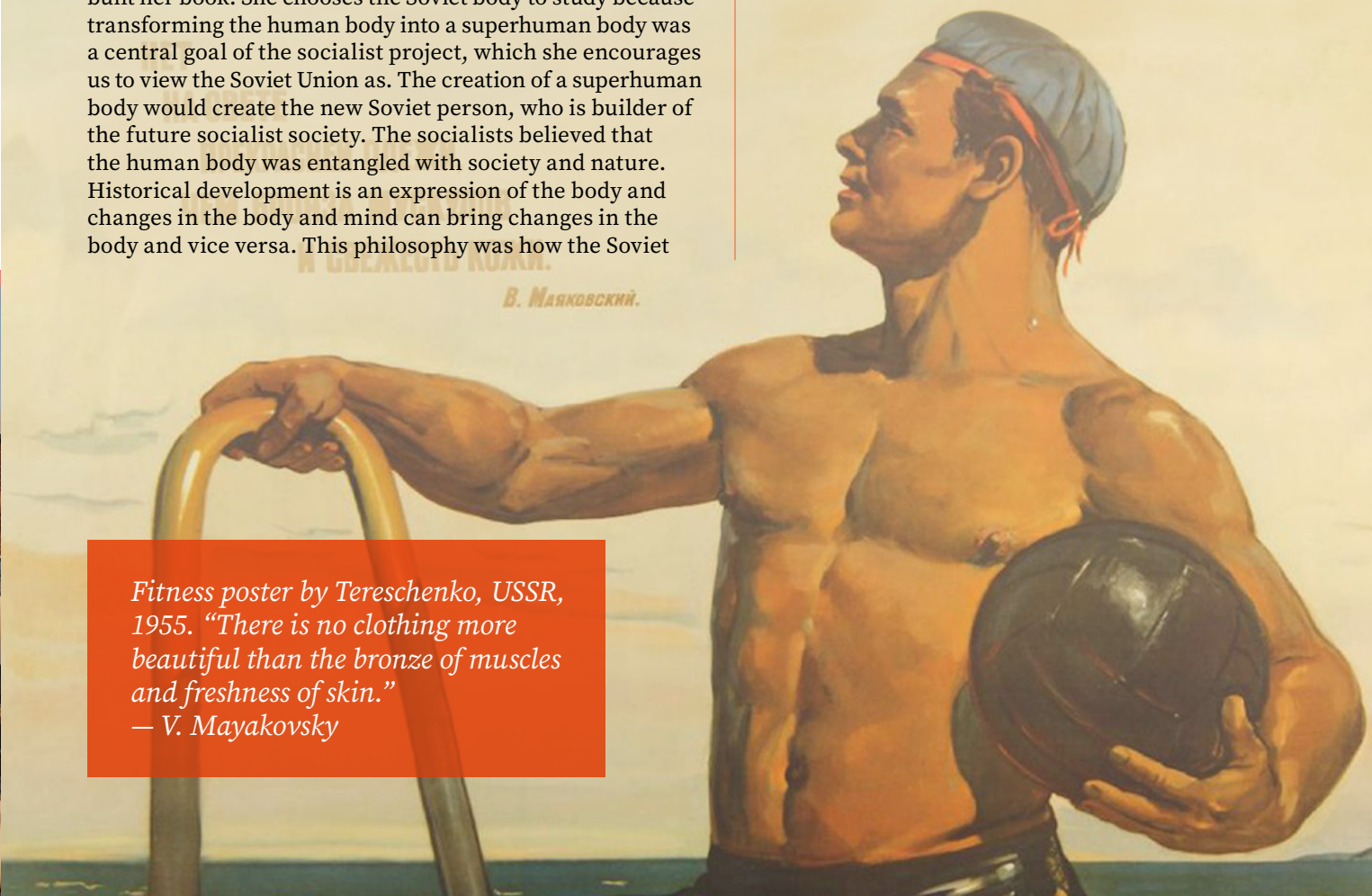
In her lecture, Shaw introduced her research topic and explained how she is approaching her research. Her research began as an undergraduate module for her Soviet history class at the University at Warwick and from that she has built her book. She chooses the Soviet body to study because transforming the human body into a superhuman body was a central goal of the socialist project, which she encourages us to view the Soviet Union as. The creation of a superhuman body would create the new Soviet person, who is builder of the future socialist society. The socialists believed that the human body was entangled with society and nature. Historical development is an expression of the body and changes in the body and mind can bring changes in the body and vice versa. This philosophy was how the Soviet

Union thought about bodies, but the reality of this ideal was much different. Shaw strives to understand how through this philosophy ordinary people understood their physical states. During her time at the University of Illinois, she is using the library to find memoirs, letters, and diaries from citizens, periodicals, and magazines to help her with her research.

Histories of the body began to development at the end of the twentieth century. Shaw mentioned how the early period of Soviet history and the body has been covered, but no one traces the history of the body throughout the Soviet Union. She hopes her book will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the Soviet body and place the history of the Soviet body in general historiography of the body. ■

Laurel Tollison is a recent MA graduate in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the UIUC. Her research focuses on the role of gender in commercialism in Russian America.

*Fitness poster by Tereschenko, USSR, 1955. "There is no clothing more beautiful than the bronze of muscles and freshness of skin."
— V. Mayakovsky*





Armenia's Pivot to the West: Collapse of the Russian-Led Security Architecture in the South Caucasus

IGI Series on Global Responsibilities with Nerses Kopalyan

BY RICHARD BYINGTON (MA REEES/MS LIS STUDENT)

Each year, the Illinois Global Institute brings together multidisciplinary and global perspectives to major contemporary questions through the IGI Lecture Series on Global Responsibilities. As part of this lecture series, on April 6 REEEC welcomed Nerses Kopalyan, associate professor of political science at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to present a lecture titled "Armenia's Pivot to the West: Collapse of the Russian-Led Security Architecture in the South Caucasus."



Security studies of the Caucasus and Eastern Europe have come to the forefront of international politics in recent years, in part due to the war in Ukraine and the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. Kopalyan's experience working directly with the governments involved allows him to provide an educated and up-to-date analysis of the security architecture of the South Caucasus. His talk provided a short and concise explanation of the current security situation in the region, while also considering the severity of consequences and possible issues in the future.

Since the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict in 2020, Armenia has begun to pivot to the West in its search for a security partner. The failure of Russia to deter the aggression from Azerbaijan has given them the opinion that Russia is a failed security partner, and thus they turn to the West to fill this need. Since 2002 Russia has taken a revisionist actor role in the multipolar system, using frozen conflicts and bothsideism with the threat of possible Russian interference to provide extended deterrence for this conflict. However, the Russian inability to keep Azerbaijan from committing to cross-border aggression, along with Russia beginning the war in Ukraine, has seen Russia's loss as the security guarantor of the region.

Kopalyan argues that Russia's loss of being the security guarantor for the region has caused them to lose their soft power abilities in the region, subsequently causing a power vacuum that the US and the West are eager to fill. Both Azerbaijan and Russia do not want the West to have a presence in the area; however, as Kopalyan explains, Russia no longer has the geopolitical clout to keep the West out of the region. After the presentation, Kopalyan was able to provide more depth to the subject while answering several questions from those in attendance, offering attendees a new and profound understanding of the region's geopolitics. ■

Richard Byington is a graduate student in the dual-degree MA REEES/MS LIS program and a REEEC FLAS Fellow. His research focuses on the Komi people of Northwestern Russia, exploring Arctic Indigenous Peoples and how their interactions with missionaries influenced their cultural development and worldviews.

Illinois Scholars at Risk (ISAR): Responding to War, Seeking a Better Future

JOHN RANDOLPH (DIRECTOR, REEEC)

The international Scholars at Risk network, established in 2000, seeks to defend scholars whose lives are endangered, helping them survive the immediate challenges they face and plan a new future. Following Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, scholars across the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies began to look to SAR as a model for building programs that could help scholars from our region. Victoria Somoff and her colleagues at Dartmouth College were instrumental in helping our field see the potential of this approach.

At Illinois, the Illinois Global Institute became the home for these efforts. Building upon the models suggested by REEEC, IGI proposed to University leadership that we join the SAR network and begin hosting SAR scholars at Illinois.

Our goal is to provide these scholars with the support they need to recover from their experiences.

With strong campus support, the proposal was approved. In its first year, the Illinois Scholars at Risk program is hosting ten scholars from around the world, including three scholars from Ukraine. Our goal is to provide these scholars with the support they need to recover from their experiences and begin to pursue their professional lives again. Illinois benefits tremendously from their presence and expertise, which have opened up new ways for our university to connect to global scholarship and international challenges. Through our membership in the international SAR network, we are able to help our scholars pursue new opportunities, as well, and (hopefully) either return home, or find a new path for their futures. We're glad that our field has played a role in helping many institutions engage with the challenges facing scholars today around the world. ■

Creative Clippings: Polish Paper Cuts

REEEC and the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures Host Event

BY KELSEY WILLIAMS (ANTHROPOLOGY, BA; REEES MINOR)

During the spring semester of my senior year, I was able to assist with several K-12 and community outreach events at REEEC. On March 26, REEEC hosted an event alongside the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures celebrating the art of *wycinanki*, Polish paper cuttings of colorful geometric designs and springtime motifs. Throughout the planning stages, I researched the background of this art form and different styles of *wycinanki*. Together with Spurlock's Assistant Director of Education, Kim Sheahan Sanford, we created several stations for participants to learn about *wycinanki* and try their hand at creating their own paper cuttings.

Attendees were greeted by different craft stations that ranged in both style and difficulty. Our first station featured beginner-level crafts, from coloring sheets to creating a rooster inspired by the vibrant layered *wycinanki* from central Poland. Participants also created *gwiazdy wycinanki* by choosing a color and following the cutting and folding directions to create a beautiful geometric shape. The second

station showcased the more technically challenging *leluja wycinanki*. At this station, crafters were able to create their own layered floral bookmark: a craft with several steps involving tracing, cutting, and gluing the many colorful layers of paper.

Overall, this event was well-received by all in attendance: families and friends alike gathered to spend quality time together on a Sunday afternoon trying their hand at a new craft and enjoy a sampling of *wycinanki* on display from Spurlock's collections. Some crafters even free-handed their own layered scenes similar to the *wycinanki* from the Spurlock collection, giving a horse some layered grass to stand upon and a sun and clouds to complete the scene. ■

Kelsey Williams is a recent graduate with a BA in anthropology and a minor in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.



Graduating Student Profiles



Jacob Springer

Jacob Springer graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign this year with an MA in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. He received his BA in Slavic languages and literatures and history from the University of Kansas. Jacob came to the REEES program to have a better understanding of Eastern Europe and to prepare for a career working with foreign languages. During his time as a REEES MA student, Jacob has studied Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, and Tatar. Jacob's MA research focused on a Ukrainian musician, Taras Kompanichenko, and how he has brought folk songs, medieval ballads, and old Ukrainian instruments to a contemporary audience.

Jacob plans to work in Eastern Europe as an English language instructor as either a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Peace Corps Volunteer, or through the First Things Foundation.

Laurel Tollison graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign this year with an MA in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. She received a BA in History from Mississippi



Kelsey Williams

State University in 2021. Laurel pursued a master's degree in REEES to strengthen her language skills and prepare her for a PhD program. During her time as a REEES MA student, Laurel has taken courses in Russian language, Russian history, Russian literature, indigenous studies, and women's history. Laurel's MA research focuses on European women and their involvement in the Russian colonization of Alaska.

This summer Laurel received a FLAS to live in Daugavpils, Latvia for a summer intensive Russian program. Laurel will move to Providence, Rhode Island this fall to pursue a PhD in Slavic Studies at Brown University, where she will continue her research in gender and empire. She hopes to one day become a professor.

Kelsey Williams graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign this year with a BA in anthropology concentrating in sociocultural linguistics and a minor in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. In previous summers, she has participated in Pushkin's Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study Russian, and in 2019 she

continued studying Russian language and culture abroad in Latvia. These experiences sparked her interest to minor in REEES. During her Senior Capstone Project in anthropology, she has done research on maternity and healthcare in Belize. She loves to travel and has also been to China and Belize. She hopes to explore more countries and pursue a career involving cultural immersion.



Laurel Tollison

Faculty Profile: Anna Whittington

REEEC extends a warm welcome to Dr. Anna Whittington, who has joined the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as an assistant professor of history in the 2022-2023 academic year. Her research specializes in the history of citizenship and inequality across Soviet Eurasia. Dr. Whittington holds a PhD in history from the University of Michigan, where in 2018, she completed her dissertation "Forging Soviet Citizens: Ideology, Identity, and Stability in the Soviet Union, 1930-1991." Before arriving at the University of Illinois, she held post-doctoral fellowships at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University.

Her first book manuscript, *Repertoires of Citizenship: Inclusion, Inequality, and the Making of the Soviet People*, explores the discourses and practices of Soviet citizenship and identity from the October Revolution to the Soviet collapse. She is also continuing work on her second book, *A Mirror for Society: Censuses in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union*.

Dr. Whittington teaches courses on Russian and Soviet history as well as the history of central Asia and thematic courses on citizenship and borders.



Anna Whittington



Tamara Pavlović

2023 Yaro Skalnik Prize Winner: Tamara Pavlović

Congratulations to Tamara Pavlović (PhD Student, Anthropology) for receiving the Yaro Skalnik Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies for her paper "Contested Futures: Serbia as a Place of Extracting Value." Tamara was presented this award, which includes an official certificate and an award of \$250, at the REEEC Spring Reception on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

The committee praised Pavlović's work for both its importance and its ethnographic insight, lauding her choice to explore "how the government's ideas about the future collide with those of the people who protest various extractive practices in Serbia" profoundly informative and clarifying.

2022-2023 REEEC FLAS Fellow: Katherine Ashcraft



Katherine Ashcraft

Katherine Ashcraft is a second-year student in the joint M.S. Library and Information Sciences/M.A. History program and a 2022-2023 REEEC FLAS fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She previously earned a B.A. in History Education from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Before coming to UIUC, she taught English in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program.

Katherine's research is concerned with the history of literacy in Central Asia, particularly in Tajikistan. She is currently completing a practicum to perform original cataloging for around 200 recently acquired Uyghur-language books at the University of Illinois. Through the support of FLAS, Katherine is learning the Uyghur language, which has enabled her to create library records that will make these books accessible for the U of I and other North American Institutions.

This fall, Katherine returned to Tajikistan through the American Councils Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training program to continue her M.A. project that documents the development of children's literature in Central Asia. In the future, she hopes to put her languages skills into practice as an area studies librarian.

Foreign Languages & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

FLAS Fellowships are administered by the UIUC National Resource Centers and are awarded competitively through an annual competition to support graduate and undergraduate study in modern foreign languages in combination with area studies, international studies, or international or area aspects of professional studies.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Camille Dolce
Political Science, Statistics – Russian

William Doty
History – Russian

Lea Karpov
Political Science – Russian

David Mock
Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Policy – Russian

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Richard Byington
REEES/LIS – Finnish

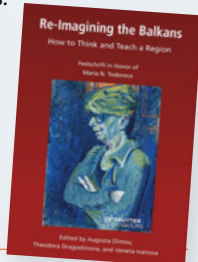
Tabitha Cochran
History – Polish

Sonia Kelly
REEES/LIS – Russian

Mackenzie Noxon
Slavic Languages and Literatures – Russian

Affiliated Faculty News

Donna A. Buchanan (Musicology) contributed a chapter titled “The Bells of Tsarevets: Resonant Mythology, National Heritage, and Campanological Cosmology in Bulgaria” in the edited volume *Re-Imagining the Balkans: How to Think and Teach a Region*, a *Festschrift* in honor of Maria N. Todorova, edited by Augustana Dimou, Theodora Dragostinova, and Venete Ivanova.



Jessica Greenberg (Anthropology) was named a Humanities Research Institute Campus Faculty Fellow for “Making Violence Visible: Anticipatory Justice and the Democratization of Evidence in Human Rights.”

Benjamin Lough (Social Work) has been selected to serve as the next dean of the School of Social Work, pending approval by the Board of Trustees. Lough, a REEEC faculty affiliate, is a professor in the School of Social Work and a professor and director of Social Innovation at the Gies College of Business.

Valeria Sobol (Slavic Languages & Literatures) was awarded the Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Peter Wright (Slavic Languages & Literatures) was awarded a 2023-2024 Fulbright Scholar award to conduct research in Croatia for his book project, entitled *The Business of Solidarity*.

Alumni News

Kyle Estes (PhD Political Science, 2019; REEEC FLAS Alum) is an Assistant Professor-in-Residence in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at Bradley University. Dr. Estes’ research interests focus on ethnic and distributive politics with a particular emphasis on the post-Soviet states. In March, Dr. Estes returned to U of I to participate in the panel “Working Non-Tenure Track Teaching and Post-Doc Positions” as part of the Illinois Global Institute’s 2023 Career Day.

Cassie Ward (MA REEES, 2022) recently accepted a position as an Infant Family Support Specialist at DSC, a non-profit organization that provides services and support to children and adults with intellectual and development disabilities living in Champaign and Ford counties in Central Illinois.

Lucy Pakhnyuk (MA REEES, 2018) is a Program Officer at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Washington, D.C., where she manages democracy assistance programming in Ukraine. In March, Lucy participated in the IGI 2023 Career Day as a participant in the “Career Paths in Non-Profit Organizations” panel.

Brian Coffey (BA REES, 1990) received an M.Div. (Master of Divinity) degree in August 2021 from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He completed 25 years of employment with Caterpillar Inc. in August 2020, and, following a year-long internship in Virginia, he was ordained as a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and began serving at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale, Illinois on January 1, 2022.

Andrew Scoulas (BA REES, 95) has been working for the National Association of REALTORS® in Chicago for 26 years. As part of the Association Leadership Development team, he is Manager of Association Information and Resources.

Student News

Richard Byington (MA REEES/MS LIS) was awarded the inaugural Yaro Skalnik Scholarship Fund to support student research and conference travel. In May, Richard travelled to Tkaronto (Toronto) to present his paper “St. Stephan’s Mission: Christianization’s Influence on Komi Religion and Culture” at the 2023 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference.

Tabitha Cochran (PhD Student, History; MA REEES, 2022) was the recipient of the History Department’s Frederick S. Rodkey Prize in Russian History for most promising graduate student in Russian History.

New Acquisitions in REEES at the University Library

BY KIT CONDILL (REEES LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY)

The UIUC Library continues to build on its excellent collection of primary and secondary sources for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, and has made a special effort this year to increase acquisitions from Ukraine. New full-text-searchable digital archives include the early Soviet cinema journals *Kino-Fot* and *Kino-Zhurnal A.R.K.*; seven decades’ worth of the most comprehensive bibliography of Russian and Soviet monographs, *Knizhnaia Letopis*; and the secret military journal of the Warsaw Pact (*Informatsionnyi sbornik ShOVS Varshavskogo Dogovora*, 1970-1990). Full-text-searchable versions of the Ukrainian newspapers *Demokratychna Ukraina* (“Democratic Ukraine”), *Za vil’nu Ukrainu* (“For A Free Ukraine”), and *Holos Ukrainy* (“The Voice of Ukraine”), dating from 1990 to 2022, will be added soon, as well as a subscription to the Policy Commons database, which contains the full text of over 3 million “grey literature” documents from think tanks, NGOs, and research centers from around the REEE region and beyond.



Specific examples of recent print acquisitions include the deluxe two-volume National Atlas of Uzbekistan, over 250 books (mostly of a religious nature) published by and for the Uyghur diaspora community in Istanbul, and two rare Glagolitic publications now housed in our Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Brill’s “Middle Eastern Manuscripts Online 4: The Shangoda Collections from Dagestan” was another major purchase, providing high-quality scans of a famous secret collection of Arabic-script materials from the North Caucasus region.

The Library also continues to acquire new scholarly works in all social sciences and humanities fields, from all 29 countries of the REEE region, as they are published. These methods have built some of the finest country-specific collections in North America, both across the board and in specific areas of strength such as Ukrainian literature, Russian history, Polish cultural studies, Siberian Studies, and Turkish scholarship on Central Asia and the Caucasus. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Fisher Remembering a Founder and a Friend

It is with a heavy heart that we report that Ruth Meads Fisher passed away on March 26. She was 101 years old. Many of you knew Ruth, and for those who did I imagine there’s little more to say. But for those who didn’t have a chance to meet this inspiring individual, her long life was truly remarkable.

She was born in Berkeley, CA in the 1920s, and had teenage memories of the building of the Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge, along shores where her father used to go duck hunting. Her family was close family friends with another family, the Fishers. While attending University of California, she and Ralph Fisher fell in love and got married. At Columbia University she studied social work while Ralph got his PhD in Russian history. After they moved to Urbana in 1957, Ruth and Ralph worked together to bring into being the entire interdisciplinary field of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, as it is known in the US today. Ruth also had a long and distinguished career in the Urbana school district, establishing programs for children that continue today. These include Operation Snowball, an inter-

national peer mentorship program that envisions “a world where adults support, encourage, and challenge youth to become strong leaders in their communities.” At the same time, as anyone who remembers those decades or peruses those archives can see, Ruth was a lifelong friend and supporter of REEEC in innumerable ways, with amazing industry and energy and good cheer, a fact that is acknowledged in the dual naming of our endowment fund for the Ruth and Ralph Fisher Forum. Thank you so very much, Ruth!

Ruth is survived by her daughter-in-law Yeshodara Menon Fisher, daughter Meg Fisher-Krugman & Arn Krugman, and her son Dr. Albert Meads Fisher & Dr. Marina Talet Fisher, and by five grandchildren: Joshua & Galen Krugman; Anjali & Mira Fisher; and Owen Fisher. ■

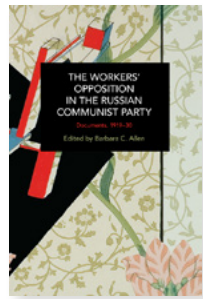


...In 1957, Ruth and Ralph worked together to bring into being the entire interdisciplinary field of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, as it is known in the US today.



2022 Research Laboratory Alumni Publications

The Open Research Laboratory and Summer Research Laboratory alumni publish articles, book chapters, and monographs that help to shape the field of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Find below a selection of the 2022 publications that have resulted from research conducted at the Research Labs.



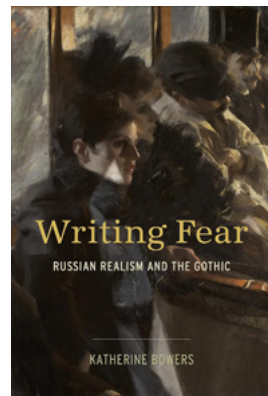
Allen, Barbara, ed. 2022. *The Workers' Opposition in the Russian Communist Party: Documents, 1919-30*. Chicago: Haymarket Books.

Arnold, Richard. 2022. "The Stakes Could Not Be Higher: The Allied Response in Ukraine." *Journal of Global Strategic Studies* 2 (2), 109-18.

Biskupska, Jadwiga. 2022. *Survivors: Warsaw Under Nazi Occupation*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.



Blauvelt, Timothy. 2022. "Between Modernity and Neo-Tradition: Patronage Politics and Bacteriophage Research in Interwar Soviet Georgia." *Euxeinos: Governance & Culture in the Black Sea Region* 11 (34): 90-114.

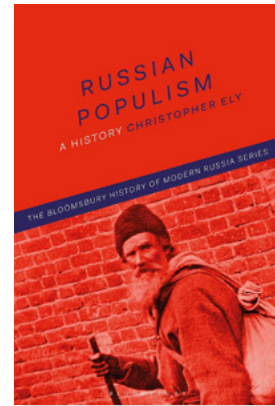


Bowers, Katherine. 2022. *Writing Fear: Russian Realism and the Gothic*. University of Toronto Press.

Brown, Rikki. 2022. "Autonomous Political Economies: Winemakers, National Heritage, and the Ethnographic Mapping of Geopolitics in the Republic of Georgia." *TSU-TI – The International Scientific Journal of Humanities*, 1 (1).

Bucur, Maria. 2022. "The Little Entente of Women as Transnational Ethno-Nationalist Community," *Aspasia* 16 (1): 79-102.

Ellis, Joseph M. 2022. "Russian Disinformation: The Forest Brothers, Baltic Resistance, and NATO." In *Information Wars in the Baltic States: Russia's Long Shadow*. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 35-52.



Ely, Christopher. 2022. *Russian Populism: A History*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Lanoux, A., Herold, K., & Bukhina, O. 2021. *Growing Out of Communism: Russian Literature for Children and Teens, 1991-2017*. (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill | Schönningh.)

Kovács, Eszter Krasznai, Agata Bachórz, Natasha Bunzl, Diana Mincyte, Fabio Parasecoli, Simone Piras, and Mihai Varga. 2022. "The War in Ukraine and Food Security in Eastern Europe." *Gastronomica* 22 (3): 1-7.

Starks, Tricia. 2022. *Cigarettes and Soviets: Smoking in the USSR*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.



Zankina, Emilia. 2022. "A Delicate Balancing Act: Turkish-Bulgarian Relations within the Context of Foreign and Domestic Politics." *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* 22 (1): 65-81.

For a full list of 2022 Research Laboratory publications, please visit:

go.illinois.edu/RLAlumniPublications



REEEC Fisher Fellow Lecture Griffin Creech, "Buriats Beyond Borders: Making and Unmaking Multi-Layered Citizens in the Russia-Mongolia Borderlands, 1890-1938"

BY IVAN CHERNIAKOV (PHD STUDENT, ART HISTORY)



Griffin Creech with an ancient burial marker during a research trip in Khentii province, eastern Mongolia, 2022.

How does citizenship function in an empire? How do different citizenship regimes shape populations in their borderlands? These were the questions that Griffin Creech — the recipient of the 2023 Fisher Fellow Award — discussed in his talk "Buriats Beyond Borders: Making and Unmaking Multi-Layered Citizens in the Russia-Mongolia Borderlands, 1890-1938" on June 27. Creech is a PhD candidate in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of History. Before graduate school, Creech spent four years living, studying, and working in Mongolia and Russia, including a stint with the United States Peace Corps in northeastern Mongolia.

Creech's research focuses on the Buriats, the indigenous population in the Russia-Mongolia borderlands in the Baikal region. Working with archival sources in Buriat, Mongolian, and Russian, Creech tracks different formations of citizenship among the Buriat population over three

Read the in-depth interview with Griffin Creech on our news page at reec.illinois.edu/news

chronological periods. The first period covers the interactions of the Buriats as a colonized subject with the politics of the Russian Empire. It is followed by the Buriats' reaction to the collapse of the empire in 1917 — the rise of Buriat nationalism and pan-Mongolism — as well as the start of cross-border migration of the Buriats to Mongolia. Finally, the last period of Creech's research starts with the formation of the Mongolian Socialist State and the Buriat Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in the Soviet Union, followed by the increasing migration of the Buriats between the two states. Creech investigates how the Buriats interacted with both of these political regimes and their politics of nation-building, such as *korenizatsiia* (cultural and political integration and patronizing of national minorities) in the Soviet Union or the offer of citizenship to the Buriats in the Mongolian Socialist State. In addition, with the rise of anti-spy and nationalist narratives in the late 30s, the Buriat population suffered severe purges on both sides of the border.

Drawing on conceptualizations of citizenship in the works of such authors as Jane Burbank, Frederick Cooper, Nira Yuval-Davis and Willem Mass, Creech argues that the Buriats' case

disproves the common association of citizenship regimes exclusively with liberal democracy and nation-states. The Buriats' social and political history demonstrates that the notion of citizenship likewise applies to populations of empires and borderlands. Rather than being historically default and stable, the Buriats' citizenship emerges and constantly transforms through their ongoing negotiation and interaction with different state regimes in the borderland setting.

Creech's talk was an overview of his dissertation project currently in progress. Creech shared his plans for the upcoming year to continue doing research with archival sources in Mongolia, Finland, and the United States as a Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellow. ■

Ivan Cherniakov is a PhD student in the Department of Art History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and worked as a summer graduate assistant at REEEC. His research interests include modern art from a transnational perspective and representation of animals in the Soviet avant-garde and visual culture.



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