

European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium 2024



FRIDAY | March 22, 2024

**Wesley W. Posvar Hall | 230 S. Bouquet Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260**

SPONSORS:

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
European Studies Center
University Center for International Studies
Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies
Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia
Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

GLOBAL HUB (1st FLOOR WWPH)

**8:00 - 8:45 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
AM**

5601 WWPH (5th FLOOR WWPH)

9:00 AM OPENING REMARKS

Professor Nancy Condee

Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 9:15 AM – 11:50 PM

5601 WWPB

9:15 AM CHALLENGES IN DEMOCRACY

"Incompatibility of the Islamic Theocratic Government in Iran with Democracy: Contrary to the Claims of Ayatollah Khomeini and His Followers"

Mahtab Joghrafi

Arizona State University

"A Label with Great Power: The Hidden Mechanisms and Effects of the Russian Foreign Agent Law"

Sonia Stadler

The University of Chicago

"Social Trust and Civic Engagement: The Case of Armenian Society"

Gayane Davtyan

Yerevan State University (Armenia)

"A Revolutionary Avant-Garde: The Anarchical Roots of Manifesto Writing in Marinetti and Khlebnikov"

Tova Tachau

University of Pennsylvania

"Torture and the Evolution of Muscovite Law"

Daniel Wiltse

Macalester College

DISCUSSANT:

Kamran Hakiman

University of Pittsburgh

5602 WWPB

9:15 AM VOLATILE NATIONAL IDENTITIES IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE

"The Impacts of Linguistic Variance on Higher Education Experiences in Kyrgyzstan"

Lily Nemirovsky

Mount Holyoke College

"Obstacles for Central Asian Unity: The Dismantling of Pan-Turkism"

Caroline Southworth

Gustavus Adolphus College

"Kafkaesque Allegory: Suppressed Screams of Non-Russian Minorities"

Sara Tapalova

Reed College

DISCUSSANT:

Dr. Natalia Krylova

University of Pittsburgh

5601 WWPH**10:35 AM POLITICAL (IN)STABILITY AND
MIGRATION**

"Through the Ideological Looking-Glass: Understanding the Nazi and Soviet Social Utopias Through Legislature and First-hand Accounts"

Madeline Fyock

University of South Carolina

"'Le Temps Passé N'est Plus': Transcending the Past and Temporalizing the Revolution on August 4"

Benjamin Armus

The College of William and Mary

"Crusades as a Movement in the Pursuit of Power"

Yijin Qu

University of Rochester

"Examining the Relationship Between Slovak Immigrants and Labor"

Alec Ott

University of North Carolina Wilmington

"Migration Messaging: Comparing Third Party Commentary on the European Union Versus Member States' Externalization Policies"

Olivia Rosati

University of Pittsburgh

DISCUSSANT:

Marina Salnikova

University of Pittsburgh

5602 WWPH**10:35 AM ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

"Cult of Isis Frescoes as Narratives at the Temple of Isis in Pompeii"

Kirsten Bell

University of Rochester

"Exploring the Female Body: Femininity and Queerness in Slavic Cinema"

Alisha Mithani

Howard University

"A Reflection of the Past: Tarkovsky's Eclectic Cinematography in *Mirror*"

Peter Guma

Dickinson College

"Pharmakos and Penance: Guilt and Cultural Context in Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus* and Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*"

Ivy Johnson

Dickinson College

DISCUSSANT:

Samantha Bodamer

University of Pittsburgh

4130 (4th FLOOR WWPH)

12:00 – 1:00 PM LUNCH AND NETWORKING
PM

PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 1:00 – 2:15 PM

5601 WWPH

1:00 PM

CENTRAL EUROPE: PAST AND PRESENT

"Local History and Changes in
Space Recorded in Toponymy
and Microtoponymy – The
Example of Komiaków
Południowy Village"

Anna Brodowicz

University of Warsaw (Poland)

"Ambiguous Belonging: Literary
Expressions of National Fluidity
in "Nationalizing" Bohemia"

Angel Cramer

University of Pittsburgh

"Contrasting Paths of Faith in
the Czech Republic and Poland"

Lily Cass

University of Pittsburgh

"Potential and Problematics:
European Union Enlargement
of Bosnia and Herzegovina in
the 21st Century"

Vanesa Simic

DePaul University

DISCUSSANT:

Dr. Gregor Thum

University of Pittsburgh

5602 WWPH

1:00 PM

WOMEN'S STUDIES

"Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan"

Michael Ç. Sipper

University of Pittsburgh

"Women in Government in Central
Asia: Successes and Limitations of
Gender Quotas"

Eleanor Pugh

Michigan State University

"Suspended Violence: Princess Olga
and Feminine Violence in Medieval
Rus"

Anya Armentrout

Macalester College

DISCUSSANT:

Elizaveta Volkovskaia

University of Pittsburgh

5602 WWPH**2:15 PM****KEYNOTE ADDRESS****“Past Identities, or Moving Past Identity? Literary Cultures, Bureaucratic Aesthetics, and Forgotten Collectives in Eurasian History”****Dr. James Pickett***Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh*

The broad rubric of identity is the single most dominant research agenda in academic scholarship, and Eurasian history is no exception. When it comes to questions of ethnic identity, scholars most often focus on groups that can boast some kind of institutional backing – such as a nation-state. Yet, historically, there were many ways that people integrated into collectives – whether or not they were conscious of doing so – that did not lead to a modern nation-state. This keynote address highlights some of the Central Asian groups all but forgotten by history, as well as non-identitarian forms of human integration, such as language, cultures of documentation, and performances of sovereignty.

Dr. James Pickett is associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interest focuses on empire and Islam as entangled sources of authority, with particular attention to historical memory and state formation. His first monograph, *Polymaths of Islam: Power and Networks of Knowledge in Central Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2020) examines transregional networks of exchange among religious scholars in the Central Asian city-state of Bukhara. Through mastery of arcane disciplines, these multi-talented religious intellectuals enshrined their city as a peerless center of Islam, and thereby elevated themselves into the halls of power. A second book project, *Seeing Like a Princely State: Protectorates in Central and South Asia at the Nexus of Early Modern Court and Modern Nation-State*, will compare Bukhara’s transformation into a Russian protectorate with the Indian princely state of Hyderabad’s parallel trajectory into semi-colonial status. It is especially concerned with cultures of documentation in relation to the state.

5601 WWPH**3:45 PM****POSTER SESSION: COMMEMORATING THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER THROUGH ART AND CULTURE****Exhibit curated and presented by Dr. Anna Karpusheva, University of Pittsburgh***4130 (4th FLOOR WWPH)****5:00-6:00****PM****CLOSING CEREMONY & RECEPTION****CLOSING REMARKS****Professor Randall Halle***Director, European Studies Center*

POSTER SESSION: COMMEMORATING THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER THROUGH ART AND CULTURE

Exhibit curated and presented by Dr. Anna Karpusheva, University of Pittsburgh

Invited paper presentation:

“Nuclear Nodes and Oil Flows: Nuclear Icebreakers in the Russian Arctic”

Elena Tiedens

The University of Chicago

Session presentations by students of the Chernobyl Memory Museum (SLAV 0860) course:

Cassandra Prentiss, “невинность (Innocence)”

Domenic Colangelo, “My Garden in Chernobyl”

Galen Patrick Lovejoy, “Time of Wolves”

Kate Sandidge, “The World Is Watching: Worldly Reactions to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Disaster”

Kaylee Branagan, “Chernobyl Through the Lens”

Kristen Ruhl, “Chernobyl Then and Now”

Liam Cunningham, “Chernobyl: Learning from Nature Through a Slavic Folklore Lens”

Madelena Lapinski, “The Importance of Context: An Example of Growing Perspective”

Matthew Hickey, “Spirit of Chernobyl: Role-Playing Game”

Nicki Marie Myers, “Nuclear Poetry: A Trauma Informed Series”

Renee Narushoff, “Metamorphosis of the Red Forest: Chernobyl’s Story in Thread”

Tristan Uram, “Chernobyl: A Visual Timeline of a Nuclear Disaster Reflection”