

# European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium



## Friday | March 28, 2025

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:

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b> GLOBAL HUB -1ST FLOOR WWPH
8:45 AM	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> 5601 WWPH (5th Floor) <b>Professor Nancy Condee</b> <i>Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies</i>
9:00 AM - 12:05 PM	<b>PANEL PRESENTATIONS</b> 5601 and 5602 WWPH (5th Floor)
12:05 PM - 1:05 PM	<b>LUNCH AND NETWORKING</b> 4130 WWPH (4th Floor)
1:05 PM - 2:35 PM	<b>PANEL PRESENTATIONS</b> 5601 and 5602 WWPH (5th Floor)
2:45 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> 5601 WWPH (5th Floor) <i>"Russian Orthodox Sacred Objects in Central Asia: A Legacy of Imperialism?"</i> <b>Dr. Daniel Scarborough</b> <i>Associate Professor, School of Sciences and Humanities, Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan)</i>
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> 5601 WWPH (5th Floor) <i>"Experiments in Clean Living? Group Houses as Radical Activism in 1970s West Germany"</i> <b>Dr. Belinda Davis</b> <i>Professor, Department of History and Director of the Rutgers Center for European Studies Rutgers University, New Jersey</i>
5:40 PM - 6:40 PM	<b>CLOSING CEREMONY &amp; RECEPTION</b> 4130 WWPH (4th Floor)
5:45 PM	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> <b>Professor Randall Halle</b> <i>Director, European Studies Center</i>

## PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

**9:00 AM**

### 5601 WWPB

#### SELF DETERMINATION IN THE POST-SOVIET WORLD

“Passive Sympathy to Frontline Fervor: The U.S. Evolution in Backing Ukraine”

**Andrew Romanchik**  
**Olivia Hannacker**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

“For Freedom Equality: LGBTQ+ Military Personnel as Agents of Social Change in Ukraine”

**Sashko Horokh**  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

“Quotas and Questions: Evaluating Gender Quotas and Women’s Political Representation in Uzbekistan from 1991-2024”

**Michael Sipper**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

Discussant:

**Dr. Dániel Mikecz**  
*Fulbright Visiting Professor*  
*University of Pittsburgh*

### 5602 WWPB

#### THE BODY: AGENCY AND RESISTANCE

“Pregnancy, Motherhood, and Villainy in Russian Culture and Literature”

**Fidelis Lan**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

“The Body as an Instrument for the Existence of Spirit in Genrikh Saggir’s Collection Elegies”

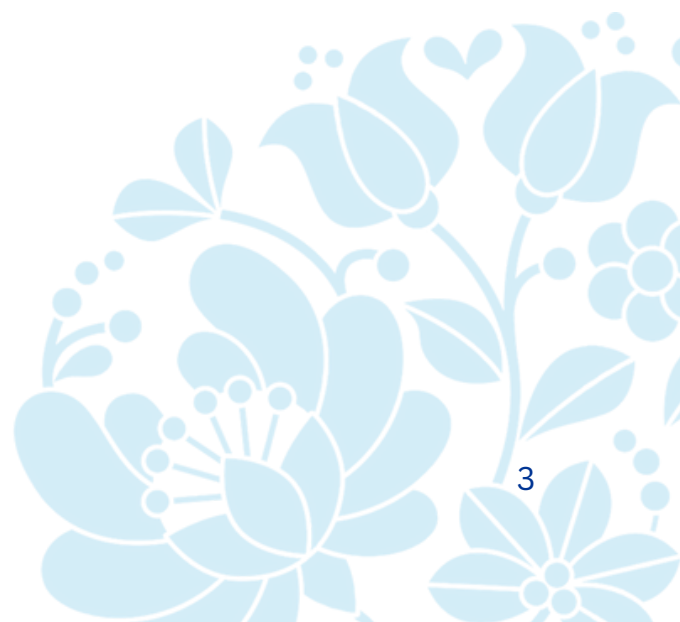
**Anna Matveeva**  
*Bard College*

“Social Darwinism: The Construction of Modernity through Race”

**Nikita Manyrin**  
*University of Toronto*

Discussant:

**Dr. Valeria Umanets**  
*University of Pittsburgh*



## PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 10:35 AM – 12:05 PM

**10:35 AM**

**5601 WWPH**

### **MEDIA/FILM/TV: EURASIA ON SCREEN**

“How Historical Dramas of France, England, and Spain Obscure Colonial Exploitation in the Portrayal of Royal Power”

**Savannah A. Parker**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

“Masking and Bureaucrats in Carnival Night: Jung’s Persona and Ego in Thaw-era Soviet Film”

**Grace Brown**  
*University of Richmond*

“Legitimizing Arbitrary Microphysics of Power: State Narratives and Prison Representation in Cross-Cultural Contexts”

**Parker Schab**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

Discussant:

**Dr. Olga Blackledge**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

**5602 WWPH**

### **EURASIAN ENVIRONMENTS**

“Ghost in the Regime: the Institutional Persistence of Hydro-Hegemony in the Aral Sea Basin”

**John O’Neill**  
*Temple University*

“Reflections of a Chance Activist: Superimposing Development Politics in Serbia in Relation to the Jadar Project onto that of Siberia in Relation to the Baikal Project”

**Zora Vujovic**  
*Williams College*

“Developing Urban Sustainability: A Focus on SDG 11 in Affordable and Sustainable Transport Systems in Slovakia”

**Abigail Kraus**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

Discussant:

**Dr. Stephanie Love**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

## PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 1:05 PM - 2:35 PM

1:05 PM

### 5601 WWPH

#### NATION FORMATION

"International Nationalism and Regional Particularism: The 1848 Uprisings in Lombardy-Venetia and the Challenges of Italian Unification"

**Angel Cramer**

*University of Pittsburgh*

"The Ancient Amalgamation of Religion and Politics and its Influence on Modern Iran"

**Ava Mollabashy**

*Indiana University*

"Ideological Foundations of Russian Gleichschaltung: Russkiy Mir and Ivan Ilyin's 'Russian Organism'"

**Julian Kelly**

*University of Toronto*

"Soviet Homogenization: How the Stalinist Devolution of Lenin's Indigenization Created a Soviet Subcarpathian Rus"

**Bethany Sromoski**

*Bucknell University*

Discussant:

**Ryan Gartland**

*University of Pittsburgh*

### 5602 WWPH

#### EU PRESSURES, CONFLICTS, CHALLENGES

"Navigating Rising Nationalism in Europe: Policy Recommendations for the United States"

**Francesco Lanzieri**

*Temple University*

"Why Did the British Government Decide to Hold the Brexit Referendum? The Pressures and Personalities Behind the Decision"

**Saya Iki**

*Temple University, Japan Campus*

"Minority Politics in Slovakia and Hungary: Historical Roots and Contemporary Challenges"

**Benjamin Sommer**

*University of Pittsburgh*

Discussant:

**Dr. Max Trecker**

*University of Pittsburgh*

## 2:45 PM I KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5601 WWPB

*"Russian Orthodox Sacred Objects in Central Asia: A Legacy of Imperialism?"*

**Dr. Daniel Scarborough**

*Associate Professor, School of Sciences and Humanities, Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan)*

Orthodox Christianity first came to Central Asia along with the Russian conquest in the 19th century. Along with Slavic settlers came Orthodox sacred objects, such as miraculous icons and the relics of saints. Churches, monasteries, and parish communities were built around these objects. During the colonization process, control over Orthodox sacred objects was contested by the imperial regime, settler communities, and the native population. These objects ultimately became targets of violent conflict during the anti-colonial uprising of 1916, and the revolutionary violence and terror of the following decade. The physical survival of the Orthodoxy in Central Asia was possible due to the collaborative efforts of both settlers and natives, despite the efforts of the colonial regime to utilize the Church for the consolidation of Russian rule. The Orthodox objects and spaces that dot the landscape today comprise part of Central Asia's shared cultural heritage.

**Dr. Daniel Scarborough** is associate professor of Russian history and religion at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. His interests include the religious and intellectual history of late imperial Russia, the local history of Moscow and Tver, and Russia's Silver Age. After earning his PhD in Russian History from Georgetown University, he taught Russian and European history at Georgetown, Marymount, and Howard universities and Russian religious history and global Christianity at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio before starting his appointment at Nazarbayev University in 2015.

## 4:15 PM I KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5601 WWPB

*"Experiments in Clean Living? Group Houses as Radical Activism in 1970s West Germany"*

**Dr. Belinda Davis**

*Professor, Department of History and Director of the Rutgers Center for European Studies  
Rutgers University, New Jersey*

This paper will explore one of the means by which primarily young people in West Germany attempted to "revolutionize" everyday life and beyond, through new, explicitly political forms of cohabitation designated Wohngemeinschaften (WGs). WGs served as critical hubs of more conventional popular politics of the era, but also housed intense experiments in remaking the self and relations with others, transcending the nuclear family and the centrality of the couples relationship, and working through ideas and convictions across populations often conceived as incompatible. Part of broader efforts to remake German society from the bottom up, these experiments mark one site of successful youth efforts to transform the world around them.

**Dr. Belinda Davis** is professor of history at Rutgers University and director of the Rutgers Center for European Studies. She is author or co-editor of five books, including the coedited *Social Movements After '68: Selves and Solidarities in West Germany and Beyond* (2022); *The Internal Life of Politics: Extraparliamentary Opposition in West Germany, 1962-1983* (forthcoming with Cambridge). She is currently completing work on *Voices of the Organized Poor: Learning from the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign's Everyday Struggles for Survival and Alternative Futures*; and working on an environmental history of modern Europe for Cambridge University Press. She is a member of the Rutgers team participating in the Jean Monnet-funded ValEUs grant, of which the University of Pittsburgh is also a consortium member.



***Thank you for your participation in this year's  
European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium***