

# European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium 2023



**FRIDAY | March 31, 2023**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR WWPH)

7:30 - 8:00 am      **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

### 5206 WWPH

8:00 am      **OPENING REMARKS**

**Professor Nancy Condee**

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

8:15 am      **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**“Urban Tissue Typology in Habsburg Central Europe (1867-1918)”**

**Dr. Éva Lovra**

*Fulbright Visiting Professor*

In this presentation, Dr. Lovra will bring the urban fabric and urban heritage of Habsburg Central Europe (1867-1918) into closeup. The relevance of the topic is deeply embedded in our theoretical and practical knowledge, even though Western Europe’s traditions and urban planning principles are generally the focus of the academic study of urban design and planning. These Western traditions and principles, though fundamentally important to know and thoroughly understand, should not obscure the knowledge of our own close environment: the Central and East-Central European urban heritage, its structure, the towns and their characteristic urban fabrics, the urban fabric types, and urban taxonomy in general.

Dr. Éva Lovra holds a Ph.D. in Architectural Sciences and has conducted postdoctoral research at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, and at the University of Novi Sad. She is a senior lecturer/adjunct professor at the University of Debrecen's Department of Civil Engineering, teaches in the English-language Urban Systems Engineering M.Sc. program, and serves as a lecturer and doctoral supervisor at the Doctoral School of Earth Sciences.

## PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 9:30 AM – 12 PM

### 4318 WWPH

#### 9:30 AM **SOFT POWER | HARD POWER**

“The Power of Education: The Role of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Russian Foreign Policy”

**Polina Protozanova**  
*St. Mary's University*

“Russia-Syria ‘Special’ Relations: Modern-day Realpolitik”

**Chirag Bansal**  
*Science Po (France)*  
*George Washington University*

“Thieves and Law: How Russian Organized Criminal Networks Took Over the International Underground”

**Jack Gallick**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

DISCUSSANT:  
**Melinda Szabo**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

### 5206 WWPH

#### 9:30 AM **DEMOCRACY'S DECLINE: RIGHTS AT RISK**

“Russian Music in the 2000s: Censorship of Alternative Genres”

**Alisha Mithani**  
*Howard University*

“Independent Romanian Journalism: Negotiating a Post-Communist Identity”

**Irina Bucur**  
*Chatham University*

“Don't Display the Gay: Reframing Queerness, Reclaiming Agency, and Resisting the Russian State in Children - 404 ”

**Max Heimowitz**  
*Yale University*

DISCUSSANT:  
**Dr. Olga Kuchinskaya**  
*University of Pittsburgh*

**4318 WWPB****10:45 AM SOCIALIST UTOPIAS,  
DYSTOPIAS, AND REALITIES**

“Discovering Socialist Realism along  
the Volga”

**Zain Adamo**

*University of Pittsburgh*

“Soviet Bloc Dystopia: Cross-cultural  
Comparative Analysis”

**Karim Abouelenein**

*University of Pittsburgh*

“The Establishment, Expansion, and  
Undermining of the Proletariat and  
Communism in Czechoslovakia”

**Griffin Emory Meckler-Culbertson**

*University of Pittsburgh*

DISCUSSANT:

**Eve Barden**

*University of Pittsburgh*

**5206 WWPB****10:45 AM GENDER IN FOCUS**

“The Gendering of Harmful Magic:  
The Process of Gendered Differences  
in Witchcraft Through Europe’s  
Middle Ages”

**Kirsten Rose Bell**

*University of Rochester*

“‘She Ruled Our King’: Artemisia  
Gentileschi’s *Madonna of the  
Svezzamento* and the Humanity of  
Jesus”

**Margaret M. Barnes**

*University of Pittsburgh*

“The Experiences of Women Living in  
the Soviet Union and in a Post-Soviet  
Country”

**Anipa Almazbek kyzy**

*American University of Central Asia*

DISCUSSANT:

**Dr. Misha Appeltova**

*University of Pittsburgh*

**5206 WWPH**

**12 – 1:30 PM** Decolonization in Focus Series (Panel VI): “The Future of SEES Expertise: How Can We Anticipate Tomorrow’s Differences?” - Serhy Yekelchuk, Ararat L. Osipian, Ilya Gerasimov, Juliet Johnson

*(Concurrently lunch and networking opportunity in the Global Hub on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor)*

**PANEL PRESENTATIONS | 1:35 PM – 4:35 PM****4318 WWPH**

**1:35 PM** **INTERNATIONAL LAW  
PERSPECTIVES ON THE WAR  
AGAINST UKRAINE**

“The Limits of International Law in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict and their Impact on Future Conflict Resolution”

**Tudor Boanda**

*CUNY – Hunter College*

“Russia-Ukraine War as a Commitment Problem: How it Starts and What is the Prospect to its End”

**Yijin Qu**

*University of Rochester*

“War-Inflicted Damages to Transport Infrastructure in Ukraine: Damage Analysis and Roadmap to Reconstruction”

**Victoria Piontkivska**

*University of Pittsburgh*

DISCUSSANT:

**Tymur Mykhailov**

*University of Pittsburgh*

CHAIR:

**Professor Nancy Condee**

*University of Pittsburgh*

**5206 WWPH**

**1:35 PM** **LIMINALITY, BORDERLAND,  
AND THE OTHER**

“The Misrepresentation of Makar (other Gamefowl and Aliens)”

**Isabella Mason**

*Howard University*

“The Cosmopolitan “Land of Fire”: Symbolic Space, Soviet Legacy, and Post-Socialist Futurity in the Urban Architecture of Baku”

**Sam Heimowitz**

*Yale University*

DISCUSSANT:

**Dijana Mujkanovic**

*University of Pittsburgh*

## 4318 WWPH

### **3:05 PM TRAUMA IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY AND STORY-TELLING**

“Famous Fairytales and their Slovak Counterparts”

**Alexis Waksmunski**

*University of Pittsburgh*

“Analyzing Obchod na korze (1965) and Všichni moji blízi (1999) In Understanding Nazi Aryanization and the Relationship between Nazi Germany and the First Slovak Republic”

**Benjamin Sommer**

*University of Pittsburgh*

DISCUSSANT:

**Eve Barden**

*University of Pittsburgh*

## GLOBAL HUB

### **4:45 PM CLOSING CEREMONY—RECEPTION CLOSING REMARKS**

**Professor Josephine Olson**

*Director, European Studies Center*

### **5 PM STUDENT ART EXHIBIT: COMMEMORATING THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER THROUGH ART AND CULTURE**

*Exhibit curated and presented by Dr. Olga Klimova, University of Pittsburgh*