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
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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
“Incompatibility of the Islamic Theocratic Government in Iran with Democracy: Contrary to the Claims of Ayatollah Khomeini and His Followers”
Mahtab Joghrati
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
“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

“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
5601 WWPH
1:00 PM
CENTRAL EUROPE: PAST AND PRESENT

“Local History and Changes in Space Recorded in Toponymy and Microtoponymy – The Example of Komiaktów 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*
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.
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”

Madeleena 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”