



**PittGlobal** | University Center for  
International Studies

**European and Eurasian**

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM**



**Friday, April 12, 2019**



# Schedule of Events

## CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Room 548, William Pitt Union

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

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## PANEL 1 – LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE AND THE UKRAINIAN DIASPORA

Room 527, William Pitt Union

9:00 – 10:25 a.m.

- “The Science of Hunger in the Holodomor Literature”  
**Anna Gorshkova**, Montclair State University
- “Russian Language Acquisition Utilized as a Tool for Ethnic Identity Formation and Kinship Maintenance among Ukrainian Immigrants”  
**Natalia Joseph**, Mercyhurst University
- “Code-Switching and Bilingualism in Contemporary Music in Ukraine”  
**Chandini White**, The Ohio State University

Discussant: **Gregor Thum**, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

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## PANEL 2 – USE AND ABUSE OF WOMEN IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY

Room 538, William Pitt Union

9:00 – 10:25 a.m.

- “Midwifery: Policy Changes in Midwifery in the UK and USSR, 1920-1950”  
**Melissa Grannis**, Brigham Young University
- “‘The Great Patriotic War’: How Memory Laws Shape National Identity in Central and Eastern Europe”  
**Abigail Greene**, Johns Hopkins University
- “100 Kilometers to Freedom: Women’s Stories of Escape During the 1956 Hungarian Revolution”  
**Cameron Mitchell**, Agnes Scott College

Discussant: **Emi Finkelstein**, Department of History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh

# Schedule of Events

## PANEL 3 – AUTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA

Room 548, William Pitt Union

9:00 – 10:25 a.m.

- “The Emergence of a Modernized Political System in Post-Soviet Russia”  
**Austin Davis**, Muhlenberg College
- “Autocratic Russia from the Eyes of a Revolutionary”  
**Hannah Farley**, University of Oklahoma

Discussant: **Sean Guillory**, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Pittsburgh

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## PANEL 4 – DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION

Room 527, William Pitt Union

10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- “Rostov Undone: Identity, Territory, and the Russian Roots of Conspiratorial Antisemitism”  
**Ethan Charles Holmes**, University of Montana
- “Sexuality as a Scapegoat: Political Homophobia in Present Day Russia”  
**Elena Plotnikoff**, Thompson Rivers University
- “Reconstructing the Perennial Enemy: Positioning Islam in PVV and FPÖ Discourse”  
**Tanner Stump**, George Washington University

Discussant: **Frank Karioris**, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh

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## PANEL 5 – RUSSIFICATION IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Room 538, William Pitt Union

10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- “Babylon in Babylon: Linguistic Complexity in Victor Pelevin’s ‘Homo Zapiens’”  
**Dante Kanter**, Kenyon College
- “Rome in the Steppes: Foundations of Eurasianism and the Implications for Russian Foreign Policy in Ukraine”  
**Jose Ma Fernando Rios**, University of Texas at Austin
- “The Soviet-Afghanistan War and Collapse: Effect and Identity”  
**Thomas Lemons**, Muhlenberg College

Discussant: **Trevor Erlacher**, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Pittsburgh

# Schedule of Events

## **PANEL 6 – IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON CULTURAL IDENTITIES**

Room 548, William Pitt Union

10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- “Russia’s Migration Laws’ Effect on the Social Reception of Immigrants”  
**Sera Maria Passerini**, University of Pittsburgh
- “The Effect of Public Opinion on the Hungarian Government’s Migrant Defection”  
**Phoenix Berman**, University of Florida
- “Pan-Eurasian Heritage through the Alans and Bulgars”  
**Robert Willard**, Columbia University

Discussant: **Ljiljana Duraskovic**, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures,  
University of Pittsburgh

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## **LUNCH FOR PRESENTERS, DISCUSSANTS, AND FACULTY SPONSORS**

Room 548, William Pitt Union

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

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## **PANEL 7 – DIPLOMACY AND PROPAGANDA**

Room 527, William Pitt Union

1:00 – 2:25 p.m.

- “Scottsboro Nine: Internationalism in Black and Red”  
**Alexa Tignall**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Goodwill Hunting: Cold War Cultural Diplomacy and Propaganda”  
**Madison Krstich**, Wittenberg University
- “Anglo-American Relations in the Great War: Associates, Not Friends”  
**Cassidee Knott**, University of Pittsburgh

Discussant: **Andrew Lotz**, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

# Schedule of Events

## PANEL 8 – EUROPEAN UNION IDENTITIES AND VALUES

Room 538, William Pitt Union

1:00 – 2:25 p.m.

- “A Moral Bureaucracy: Enforcement of EU Fundamental Values in Central and Eastern Europe”  
**Sarah Sheets**, University of California, Berkeley
- “Development of European Identity through Education Reform”  
**Christine Berry**, University of Florida
- “Sharpening the Blade of Integration: Crafting European Identity to Counter Political Opposition”  
**Drew Fenner**, University of Florida

Discussant: **Tony Ocepek**, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

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## PANEL 9 – CONTEMPORARY QUESTIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND IDENTITY

Room 548, William Pitt Union

1:00 – 2:25 p.m.

- “The Reduction of the Aral Sea: A Water Management Crisis”  
**Nathaniel Kiehm**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- “‘Putin Down Protest’: Is Widespread Mobilization Possible in the Shadow of the Oil Curse?”  
**Chase LaSpisa**, Oklahoma State University
- “Nuances of Nationality Policies in Uzbekistan and Xinjiang”  
**Harry Qiu**, Dickinson College

Discussant: **Adam Brode**, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

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## PANEL 10 – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE

Room 527, William Pitt Union

2:35 – 4:00 p.m.

- “Theme and Variation: Armenian Sacred Architecture and the Reflection of Identity”  
**Elise Schlecht**, Barnard College of Columbia University
- “Neither/Nor: Planning, Spatiality, and Ownership of Public Space in Athens, Greece”  
**Nektarios Kasamias**, University of Pittsburgh
- “‘Our Happy Domestic Home’: Queen Victoria, Separate Spheres, and the British Sovereign’s Popularity in America”  
**Sarah Fling**, University of Pittsburgh

Discussant: **Drew Armstrong**, Department of History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh

# Schedule of Events

## **PANEL 11 – ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IN RUSSIAN POLICY AND CULTURE**

Room 538, William Pitt Union

2:35 – 4:00 p.m.

- “Resurrecting Religion: Reimagining the Russian Orthodox Church in Post-Soviet Nation Building”  
**Gabrielle Chwae**, Vassar College
- “Regulating Faith: The Evolution of Religious Policy and Russification in Imperial Russia”  
**Morgan Farnsworth**, Brigham Young University
- “Divine Potential in Dostoyevsky’s *The Idiot*”  
**Austin McCoy**, Dickinson College

Discussant: **Vasili Rukhadze**, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

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## **PANEL 12 – ISLAM’S EVOLUTION IN EURASIA**

Room 548, William Pitt Union

2:35 – 4:00 p.m.

- “Integration of the Turkic People into the Islamic World”  
**Iliyas Bektas**, Nazarbayev University
- “The Other Republic: Understanding the Trajectory of Dagestan in the Post-Soviet North Caucasus”  
**Grace Ingle**, Dickinson College
- “The Effect of the Evolution of Islam in Tajikistan on Policy Making”  
**Abigail Scripka**, Indiana University Bloomington

Discussant: **James Pickett**, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

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## **CLOSING RECEPTION, AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES, AND GROUP PHOTOGRAPH**

Room 548, William Pitt Union

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.



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