



University of Pittsburgh

“Europe: East and West”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM



Friday, April 1, 2016

# Schedule of Events

## CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Room 548, William Pitt Union

8:30 – 9:00 A.M.

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### PANEL 1 – THE BALTIC STATES

Room 538, William Pitt Union

9:00 – 10:25 A.M.

- “Trouble with the Neighbors: The Baltic States’ Perspective on Security after the Annexation of Crimea”  
**Girard Bucello**, University of Mary Washington
- “The Impact of EU and NATO Policies on Ethnic Minorities in the Baltics”  
**Rachel Desch**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- “The Integration of Russian Minority Populations in the Post-Soviet Baltic States”  
**Isaac Shimsky-Agosto**, Muhlenberg College

Discussants: **Dr. Ronald Linden**, Department of Political Science/European Studies Center; **Dr. Katja Wezel**, Department of History

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### PANEL 2 – RELIGION & CULTURE

Room 540, William Pitt Union

9:00 – 10:25 A.M.

- “Flowers That Live in the Sands’: Sufism and Socialist Utopia in Platonov’s Dzhan”  
**Rose Hinman**, Columbia University
- “Misunderstandings: Femen’s Misguided Attempts to Liberate Tunisian Women”  
**Jordan Pahl**, University of Texas at Austin
- “Death Becomes Her: Joan of Arc’s Dramatic Resurrection over the Centuries”  
**Brianna Gasgonia**, University of Pittsburgh

Discussants: **Dr. Jeanette Jouili**, Department of Religious Studies; **Jacqueline Saslawski**, International Business Center

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### PANEL 3 – POLITICS & ELECTIONS

Room 548, William Pitt Union

9:00 – 10:25 A.M.

- “Black Septembers: Terrorism and the Consolidation of Power in Putin’s Russia”  
**Benjamin Cohen**, Pomona College

## Schedule of Events (continued)

### PANEL 3 – POLITICS & ELECTIONS (continued)

- “Effect of Electoral Systems on Parliamentary Voter Turnout Rates”  
**Kilian Liptrot**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Voting for the Nation: Immigration, Integration, and the Rise of Far-Right Populist Parties in Denmark and Finland”  
**Amaury Perez**, University of Richmond

Discussant: **Dr. Despina Alexiadou**, Department of Political Science

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### PANEL 4 – LANGUAGE & EDUCATION

Room 538, William Pitt Union

10:35 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

- “Naming and Renaming in Diaspora: A Case Study of Sephardic Surname Continuity and Divergence in Sofia, Bulgaria”  
**Taylor Diken**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Politics of Ethnic Difference in Multilingual Education: Romanians and Hungarians in Post-Socialist Transylvania”  
**Bridget Kelly**, Indiana University
- “Segregated Schools, Conflicting Narratives, and a Prolonged Process of Reconciliation in Bosnia-Herzegovina”  
**Margaret McPike**, University of Washington

Discussant: **Gina Peirce**, Center for Russian and East European Studies

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### PANEL 5 – RUSSIAN HEALTH

Room 540, William Pitt Union

10:35 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

- “Impact of Cultural Beliefs Held by Former USSR Citizens on the Perception of Modern Medical Care”  
**Adam Elwood**, Muhlenberg College
- “Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis in the Russian Federation”  
**Madeline Kehl**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Understanding the Nature and Causes of Cardiovascular Disease in Russia”  
**Elizaveta Shmakova**, Muhlenberg College

Discussant: **Dr. Linda Frank**, Graduate School of Public Health

## Schedule of Events (continued)

### PANEL 6 – ARTS & HUMANITIES

Room 548, William Pitt Union

10:35 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

- “The Awe of Banality and Mass Esoterics: Sots-art, Pop Art, and Capitalist Realism in the Period of Late Capitalism”  
**John Stachelski**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- “Exoticism in Balanchine’s New York City Ballet: Firebird and a Journey of Invention”  
**Kelsey Danielle Piva**, Columbia University
- “The Erotic and Warlike Agency of Women in the Byzantine and Slavic Epic”  
**Ravital Goldgof** and **Lily Shelton**, Florida State University

Discussants: **Elise Thorsen**, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures;  
**Meredith North**, Department of History of Art and Architecture

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

Room 548, William Pitt Union, 12:00 P.M. – 1:10 P.M.

Remarks by **Dr. Andrew Konitzer**, Acting Director,  
Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Pittsburgh

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### PANEL 7 – IMMIGRATION & INCLUSION

Room 538, William Pitt Union

1:10 – 2:35 P.M.

- “A Precarious Relationship: EU Accession, Grassroots Organizations, and the Refugee Crisis along the ‘Balkan Route’”  
**Jelena Djuric** and **Silviu Kondan**, University of Toronto
- “The Slavs of Mahanoy City, PA: Migration, Perception, Representation”  
**Erin Frey**, Bucknell University
- “The Neoliberal Charade of Multiculturalism: A Critical Analysis of the Superkilen Park in Nørrebro, Copenhagen”  
**Ekaterina Mizrokhi**, University of Toronto

Discussant: **Dr. Bernard Hagerty**, Department of History

## Schedule of Events (continued)

### PANEL 8 – LITERARY STUDIES

Room 540, William Pitt Union

1:10 – 2:35 P.M.

- “The European Existential Background of Afro-American Expatriates James Baldwin and Richard Wright”  
**Elizabeth Withers**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Antisocial Personality Disorder in Dostoyevsky and Poe”  
**Anastasia Steblina**, Truman State University
- “Precarious Palimpsest in French Urban Literature: The Case of Abd Al Malik”  
**Cameron Cook**, Rider University

Discussant: **Dr. Carol Bove**, Department of English

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### PANEL 9 – JEWISH HISTORY

Room 548, William Pitt Union

1:10 – 2:35 P.M.

- “The Tale of a Tour: Solomon Mikhoels, Itzik Fefer, and the American Jewish Press”  
**Molly Petchenik**, Swarthmore College
- “Reconciling the Theories: The Origins of Yiddish and the Ashkenazim”  
**Michael Kosowski**, Binghamton University
- “Zústat, nebo Odjet: Bohemian Jewish Intellectuals in 1939 and Decisions on Emigration from Czechoslovakia”  
**Vaclav Zheng**, McGill University

Discussants: **Dr. Irina Livezeanu**, Department of History; **Dr. Alexander Orbach**, Department of Religious Studies

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### PANEL 10 – RUSSIAN & US FOREIGN POLICIES

Room 538, William Pitt Union

2:45 – 4:10 P.M.

- “A Costly Misunderstanding: How Foreign Policy and Security Statements Illustrate the Conflicting Perspectives of the US and Russia in Syria”  
**Brad Hanlon**, University of Pittsburgh
- “The Future of US-Russian Relations: Foreign Policy and the 2016 US Presidential Primaries”  
**Courtney Kayser**, Seton Hall University

## Schedule of Events (continued)

### PANEL 10 – RUSSIAN & US FOREIGN POLICIES (continued)

- “Diametrically Opposed”  
**Haein Shin**, University of Pittsburgh

Discussant: **Dr. Jonathan Harris**, Department of Political Science

### PANEL 11 – ECONOMICS & POLICY

Room 540, William Pitt Union

2:45 – 4:10 P.M.

- “The Economic Impact of EU Enlargement on Former Eastern Bloc Countries: A Quasi-Experimental Approach”  
**Laura Kincaide**, University of Oklahoma
- “Conflict in the Pipeline: How Globalization and Russian Hydrocarbon Export Dependence Have Influenced Conflict in Eastern Europe”  
**Sean Norton**, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- “General Aviation in Russia: The Steps to Restore the Industry”  
**Carson Scalf**, Middle Tennessee State University

Discussant: **Dr. Bob Donnorummo**, Department of History

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

Room 540, William Pitt Union

4:15 – 5:00 P.M.



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