University of Pittsburgh

“Europe: East and West”

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 1, 2016
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Room 548, William Pitt Union
8:30 – 9:00 A.M.

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

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

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
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

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

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
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

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

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
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.

  **Molly Petchenik**, Swarthmore College

- “Reconciling the Theories: The Origins of Yiddish and the Ashkenazim”  
  **Michael Kosowski**, Binghamton University

- “Zůstat, 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

  **Courtney Kayser**, Seton Hall University
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, AWARDDING OF CERTIFICATES, AND GROUP PHOTOGRAPH
Room 540, William Pitt Union
4:15 – 5:00 P.M.