Pitt Global
University Center for International Studies

European and Eurasian

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 12, 2019
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Room 548, William Pitt Union
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

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

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
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  

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  

PANEL 5 – RUSSIFICATION IN THE 20TH CENTURY  
Room 538, William Pitt Union  
10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  

• “Babylen 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
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

LUNCH FOR PRESENTERS, DISCUSSANTS, AND FACULTY SPONSORS  
Room 548, William Pitt Union  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

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

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

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
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: Vasily Rukhadze, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

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

CLOSING RECEPTION, AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES, AND GROUP PHOTOGRAPH
Room 548, William Pitt Union
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.