

European Studies Center  
Center for Russian, East European,  
and Eurasian Studies



**European and Eurasian**

# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



**Tuesday-Wednesday, May 5-6, 2020**

# Schedule of Events

**TUESDAY, May 5, 2020**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/UJkdeqpgzwqGtAzEUX1o93hQMI58NmZ6HjN](https://pitt.zoom.us/j/6481042222)

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## **10 a.m. – NATIONAL IDENTITY AND POST-SOVIET AND POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE AND ART**

- “Contemporary Kazakhstani Poetry and National Identity: What Being Kazakh Means in the 21st Century”  
**Aibarsha Kazhyakpar**, Nazarbayev University
- “In-Between: Interpretations of National Identity and Alienation in Post-Soviet Russian Art”  
**Erik Livingston**, The College of Wooster
- “Gogol’s Dead Souls: A Slavophile in the Provinces”  
**Dalton Arrendale**, University of Florida

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

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## **11:30 a.m. – LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION POLICY AND NATIONALISM**

- “National Identity in Education: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Northern Ireland”  
**Courtney Madl**, Miami University of Ohio
- ““Their Mother Tongue”: How Russia’s Language Policy Gives a Voice to Nationalism”  
**Clara Giorgis**, Dickinson College

Discussant: **Joseph Patrick**, Department of Linguistics, University of Pittsburgh

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## **1:00 p.m. – GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

- “A Woman’s Place: Anna Karenina in the Context of the “Woman Question” as Compared to Literature Outside of Russia”  
**Emmaleigh Krause**, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- “An Independent Woman in Putin’s Russia: Elvira Nabiullina in Political Context”  
**Meredith Walker**, Oberlin College
- “Perspectives on the Gay Community in Weimar Berlin”  
**Jordan Nistendirk**, West Virginia University

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

# Schedule of Events

May 5, 2020 (continued)

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## 2:00 p.m. – BORDERS

- “Schengen and the Changing Nature of Borders”  
**Drew Fenner**, University of Florida
- “In Divided Cyprus, Can Water Come Before Peace?”  
**Clara Weibel**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Georgia’s European Past & Future? Evaluating the Republic of Georgia’s EU & NATO Aspirations”  
**Grace Ingle**, Dickinson College

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

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## 2:30 p.m. – ART & REPRESENTATION IN SOCIETY

- “Tsarism and Soviet Soft Power: Revolution, Stagnation, and Historicity in Soviet Life Magazine”  
**Avery Comar**, Miami University of Ohio
- “Lost in the Woods”  
**Marion Carter**, Roanoke College

Discussant: **Eve Barden**, Film and Media Studies, University of Pittsburgh

# Schedule of Events

**WEDNESDAY**

May 6, 2020

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## **10:00 a.m. – PERSPECTIVES ON HIV AND AIDS**

- “The AIDS Crisis in the United Kingdom and the United States: A Comparison of Organizational and Political Responses or Lack Thereof”  
**Drew Medvid**, University of Pittsburgh
- “Heteronormative Assumptions Affecting HIV/AIDS Research in Kazakhstan”  
**Ayjan Urazbayeva and Ademi Zhakyp**, Nazarbayev University
- “Analysis of HIV/AIDS Educational Materials Produced by the Ministry of the Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Social Constructionism and Face(s) of the “Risk Groups” Behind Government Awareness Efforts”  
**Makhabbat Boranbay**, Nazarbayev University

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

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## **11:30 a.m. – RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE**

- “If There Were Better Muslims and an Islamic Government, Such Behavior Would Not Be Tolerated”: Corruption and Islamic Revival in Kyrgyzstan”  
**Naomi Messer**, Yale University
- “The Palladium of Russia: The Political Power of Our Lady of Vladimir”  
**Mary Orsak**, Yale University

Discussant: **Dr. Aziza Shanazarova**, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh

# Schedule of Events

May 6, 2020 (continued)

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## 1:00 p.m. – MANIFESTATIONS AND EFFECTS OF TRAUMA

- “Material Manifestations of Individual Trauma in Margarita Khemlin’s Klotsvog (2009)”  
**Anna Galperin**, New York University
- “Life in the Face of Death: Children in the Theresienstadt Ghetto”  
**Molly Plante**, West Virginia University
- “Chernobyl Syndrome: The True Effects of the Nuclear Accident”  
**Victoria Basciano**, Muhlenberg College

Discussant: **Emjay O’Shea**, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures,  
University of Pittsburgh

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## 2:00 p.m. – POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

- “Khrushchev and the King’s Two Bodies: Reframing the Legitimacy Debate Through Soviet Jokelore, Medieval Political Philosophy, and Stalin’s Ghost”  
**Emma Johnson**, University of Richmond
- “Online Imperialism: Sovereignty and Cyber Warfare in Eastern Europe”  
**Roman Shamakov**, Swarthmore College
- “The Effects of Bukharan Jewish Emigration from the Soviet Union on Afghanistan’s Domestic Policy Towards Jews”  
**Grace Sewell**, Swarthmore College

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

# Schedule of Events

May 6, 2020 (continued)

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## **3:30 p.m. – TENSION AND IDENTITY IN SOCIETY**

- “The Stories We Tell Ourselves—Téa Obreht’s *The Tiger’s Wife*”  
**Jenna Novosel**, Roanoke College
- “A Look Inside the Tensions Underlying Russian Identity”  
**Betty Ben Dor**, Muhlenberg College
- “Class Consciousness in the Short Story”  
**Mallory Harrison**, University of Pittsburgh

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

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## **3:30 p.m. – EU INSTITUTIONS: ELECTIONS AND LEGITIMACY**

- “The Limits of Cooperation: The European Union’s Legitimacy Crisis in the Face of Democratic Backsliding”  
**Abigail Skalka**, Cornell University

Discussant: **Brianna Howell**, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh



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