

**“EUROPE: EAST AND WEST”
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM (URS)
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**



SPONSORED BY:

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN & EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES
4400 WESLEY W. POSVAR HALL
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AND

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URS web address: (<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium/>)

NOTES ON THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The “Europe: East and West” Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) is designed to provide undergraduate students from the University of Pittsburgh and other colleges and universities with the opportunity to develop advanced research and presentation skills. This year, the eleventh annual symposium brings together 22 students from Bethany College, Chestnut Hill College, James Madison University, Oakland University, Otto-von-Guricke University Madgeburg (Germany), Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, Wake Forest University, and Washington and Jefferson College to present research papers on diverse topics pertaining to Western, Eastern and Central Europe, Russia, and the European Union.

This event is sponsored by the Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) and the European Union Center of Excellence / European Studies Center (EUCE / ESC) at the University of Pittsburgh, with support from the U.S. Department of Education.

THE PROCESS

Each student submitted an application and a paper abstract in January. A selection committee then determined who would participate in the symposium and grouped the selected papers into relevant panels.

In advance of the symposium, student participants had the option to work with their professors or the symposium graduate assistants to polish their papers, practice their presentations, and prepare for questions from the discussants and audience members.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The selected participants give 10- to 15-minute presentations based on their papers to a panel of faculty and graduate student discussants from REES and EUCE/ESC. The presentations are open to the public. A series of questions and comments from the discussants and the audience follows each presentation. Students are honored with a certificate and award at the end of each panel.

For more information on the 2012 symposium or on participating next year, please visit the symposium website at www.ucis.pitt.edu/ursymposium/.

“EUROPE: EAST AND WEST” UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
University of Pittsburgh
Friday, March 30, 2012

Schedule of Events:

Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00 A.M., Dining Room A, William Pitt Union

Panel A: Literary and Cultural Insights
9:00 – 10:50 A.M., Dining Room A, William Pitt Union

“Yeats: The Esoteric Dramas”
Paul Bametzreider (University of Pittsburgh)

“An Isle Divided: *Translations* and the Irish Identity”
Hayavadhan Thuppal (University of Pittsburgh)

“Female Agency through Sexuality, Fertility, and Motherhood in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*”
Taylor Wegmann (University of Pittsburgh)

“Dionysiac Utopias: A Reading of the Marquis de Sade”
Trevor Wilson (University of Pittsburgh)

Panel Discussants: Dr. Clare Connors (Chair) (Department of English), Ms. Julie Tremeryn (Department of English)

Panel B: Economic and Educational Policies
9:00 – 10:50 A.M., Dining Room B, William Pitt Union

“A Case for a Financial Transaction Tax in Europe”
Stephanie Schneider (University of Pittsburgh)

“The Influence of the NEP on Perestroika: A Deadly Cocktail of Economic and Political Reform”
Olivia Frank (Chestnut Hill College)

“Education Reform and Romanian Roma”
Michelle Bovée (James Madison University)

“The Search for a European Identity: A Comprehensive European History Textbook”
Catherine Papp (Bethany College)

Panel Discussants: Dr. Arpad von Klimo (Chair) (Department of History), Mr. Evgeny Postnikov (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs)

Panel C: War and Authoritarianism

11:00 A.M. – 12:25 P.M., Dining Room A, William Pitt Union

“Parallel Experiences: German Nationalism, Catharsis, and Memory in the First World War”
Matthew Hershey (University of Pittsburgh)

“The Two-Phase Decline of the Polish Communist Party during the Second Polish Republic, 1922-1938: From the United Front to the Great Purges”
Aleksandra Pomiećko (University of Pittsburgh)

“The Russian Nation as a Political Tool for Justifying Authoritarianism: From Nicholas I to Vladimir Putin”
Sean Cannady (Oakland University)

Panel Discussants: Dr. Sean Guillory (Chair) (Department of History and Center for Russian and East European Studies), Mr. Joel Brady (Department of Religious Studies)

Panel D: Terrorism and Counterterrorism

11:00 A.M. – 12:25 P.M., Dining Room B, William Pitt Union

“EU Counterterrorism Policies”
Allison Bailey (James Madison University)

“Three Days of Terror, Never-Ending Questions: The Beslan Massacre”
Brittany Mosi (Washington and Jefferson College)

“The Effect of the Attacks of September 11 and the Subsequent War on Terror on U.S. Foreign Policy towards Russia”
Daniel Zemel (University of Pittsburgh)

Panel Discussants: Dr. Tony Novosel (Chair) (Department of History), Mr. Brandon Boylan (Graduate School of Public and International Affairs)

Lunch for Presenters, Discussants, and Faculty Sponsors

12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M., Kurtzman Room, William Pitt Union

Panel E: European Union Politics and Policies

1:40 – 3:30 P.M., Dining Room A, William Pitt Union

“The European Union in the Quartet: Is the EU an Accepted and Effective Actor in the Middle East Peace Process?”
Cassandra Emmons (Temple University)

“Actions for Obesity Prevention in the European Union”
Kayla Florian (University of Pittsburgh)

“Has the European Union Gone Too Soft?: The Role of European Normative Power in Economic Cooperation between the EU and China”

Kelly Posenau (University of Pittsburgh)

“EU Conditionality and Immigration Policies in Eastern Europe”

Brandon Wilson (University of Pittsburgh)

Panel Discussants: Dr. Bernard Hagerty (Chair) (Department of History), Mr. Aaron Abbarno (Department of Political Science)

Panel F: Issues in Post-Communist States

1:40 – 3:30 P.M., Dining Room B, William Pitt Union

“Russia’s Arctic Balancing Act”

Thomas Walker (Wake Forest University)

“Is Russia a Part of Europe?”

Ekaterina Ananyeva (Otto-von-Guricke University of Madgeburg)

“Polish Foreign Policy’s Main Challenges and How They Could Be Addressed”

Cécile Jouanne (University of Pittsburgh)

“Transitional Justice and the Rule of Law: Lustration and Criminal Prosecutions in Post-Communist States”

Sara Olson (Wake Forest University)

Panel Discussants: Dr. Jonathan Harris (Chair) (Department of Political Science), Dr. Viachaslau Yarashevich (Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Belarus State University)

**The Center for Russian and East European Studies and the European
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The Panel Discussants:

Aaron Abbarno, Brandon Boylan, Joel Brady, Clare Connors, Sean Guillory, Bernard Hagerty,
Jonathan Harris, Arpad von Klimo, Tony Novosel, Evgeny Postnikov, Julie Tremeryn, and
Viachaslau Yarashevich

The Organizing and Selection Committee:

Brandon Boylan, Stephen Lund, Gina Peirce, and Vera Sebulsky

REES Director: Robert Hayden

REES Associate Directors: Andrew Konitzer and Eileen O'Malley

EUCE / ESC Director: Ronald Linden

EUCE / ESC Associate Directors: Allyson Delnore and Timothy Thompson

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