Letter from the Director

Universities are sometimes viewed as “ivory towers,” places that avoid any direct contact with reality and indulge in theoretical constructs and wishful thinking. While this view may hold true in some quarters, I can say with certainty that the work of our institute reflects our members’ direct interaction with the real world. Trying to capture the essence of today’s political and social developments, they study conditions on the ground in the EU, Caucasus, and Russia’s Arctic region. One of last year’s visiting scholars, our friend and colleague Oleg Kozlovsky, spent time in a Moscow jail for his efforts to support a legitimate mayoral candidate. Just a few months ago, he had given a fascinating talk right here at the Elliott School on the chances for democracy in his country. What better disproof of the ivory tower legend could there be! – Dr. Peter Rollberg

Former IERES Visiting Scholar Spends Ten Days in Russian Jail

Oleg Kozlovsky, a Fulbright Visiting Researcher at IERES from September 2012 through May 2013, heard the ominous knock of the Moscow police at the door of a friend’s apartment on August 13, 2013. As Oleg was returning from his studies in the United States, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin began his electoral campaign. Oleg joined with other supporters in the campaign of candidate Alexei Navalny.

The police had come to Kozlovsky’s friend’s apartment because another candidate in the race, Nikolai Levichev of the pro-Kremlin Just Russia party, claimed that the dwelling might contain “illegal campaign material” supporting Navalny. The police have given several inconsistent explanations for entering and searching the apartment without a warrant: they claimed that they were looking for arms and explosives, drugs, extremist literature, and even illegal immigrants. Additionally, they have asserted seeing smoke coming out of a window and working to fix a broken sewage pipe.

However they justify their actions, the authorities have not filed charges that the material confiscated from the apartment was illegal. Oleg, for his part, was helping an independent support group called “Brothers of Navalny.” Navalny’s staff offered legal support for this group, but noted that they worked independently of the campaign. Moscow’s Basmanny’s court sentenced Oleg and another person to jail for 10 days for “disobeying a police order” by not opening the door and preventing officers from... >Continued on page 3
IERES Bolsters Its Expertise on Central Asia with Fellowship Program

Central Asia borders powerful neighbors such as Russia and China and faces spillover threats from the ongoing disorder in Afghanistan at a time when U.S. attention is shifting away from the region. Against this difficult international backdrop, the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan must figure out how to employ the many young people at home who do not have jobs and are vulnerable to extremist recruiters. While these countries were all once part of the Soviet Union, today they often have difficulty working together.

To address some of these issues, this year the IERES Central Asia Program, working in partnership with the North American branch of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), began hosting young professionals from the region in Washington, DC, as part of a new Central Asia Fellowship Program. This initiative supports scholars, government officials, policy experts, and human rights and democracy activists who want to enhance their research and analytical skills and seek to become public policy leaders in their respective countries. More generally, the fellowship program seeks to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and build lasting intellectual networks among the Central Asian and U.S. scholarly and policy communities. Fellows spend five months in residence at IERES, where they have an opportunity to meet with U.S. policy and expert communities in both Washington and New York. During the spring and summer, IERES hosted the first two participants:

Aitolkyn Kourmanova is the head of a private consultancy, Central Asia Strategic Management Group, which is based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She specializes in economic and regional issues and risk consulting as well as media and knowledge projects. From 2007 to 2011, she led the Central Asia Institute for Economic Strategies, where she launched a popular economic magazine, Vox Populi, and edited a quarterly academic business magazine, Economic Strategies - Central Asia.

Safovudin (Safo) Jaborov has been a faculty member of the Department of Economics at the Russian-Tajik (Slavic) University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, since 2008. He also leads the international donor-funded Medical Education Reform Project in Tajikistan as the National Project Coordinator. He served seven years in Tajikistan’s Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and also worked for several years as a program manager for different international development organizations in Tajikistan.

We asked them several questions about their interests and experiences.

Q: Could you tell us more about the research you worked on during your stay at IERES?

Aitolkyn: My research examines regional cooperation in Central Asia. The countries of Central Asia have long been both unable and unwilling to cooperate with each other. But today, with the United States paying less attention to the region, combined with rising pressures from Russia and a powerful China, there is renewed interest in regional cooperation. More important than inter-state declarations are the grassroots dynamics that work in favor of more cooperative patterns. My research demonstrates that the countries of Central Asia need to cooperate economically first and foremost, as this will help bring tangible economic gains to wider groups of the population. Regional cooperation is most likely to be driven by a bottom-up dynamic. I think that new ideas on how to develop organic regionalism and foster regional linkages will likely come from grassroots business circles and the next generation elites.

Safo: My research discusses so-called youth radicalization in Tajikistan, with an emphasis on how and to what extent youth unemployment drives this “radicalization,” both in religious and secular terms. I believe that the growing number of young people, and associated youth unemployment and lack of opportunities for moderate religious education, threaten stability in Tajikistan. So my research aims to demonstrate that, contrary to the widely-accepted narrative about spillovers from Afghanistan, domestic issues are the most pressing concerns that the Tajik authorities and international donors must address. The youth bulge is a key issue for the future of the country, and the fight against unemployment the only possibility for making Tajikistan a stable country in the long term.

Q: What did you learn in the United States that was intriguing or challenging to you?

Aitolkyn: The Central Asia Fellowship Program gave me a unique opportunity to move beyond the limits of the intellectual environment in Central Asia. Most importantly, I was able to become acquainted with U.S. and European research on Central Asia. There are a wide range of views and opinions here based on solid...
arguments and excellent knowledge of the region’s background.

Safo: The most intriguing outcome for me was becoming acquainted with the process of public policy formation in the United States. I participated in many conferences and workshops where politicians, academics, NGO representatives, journalists and other interested parties participated in open discussions on different policy issues. What surprised me most was the active and key role the general public and media played in sharpening the efficiency and accountability of public policy. I believe that the participatory policy-formation practice in the United States is the key to the success of this country’s democratic and economic achievements. At the same time, understanding the role and importance of this process was a challenge for me. Even though such public input produces effective public policy, regrettably many societies around the world ignore such options.

What will you bring back to your country with you in terms of recommendations to your elites?

Aitolkyn: One of the projects that I am planning to pursue in Kazakhstan is establishing a regional think tank that will become a platform for young Central Asian experts to exchange ideas and develop research and policy recommendations. Central Asian experts need to foster their own voice in the public debate and those who believe in regional cooperation—an idea that is more popular among the younger generations—need to work together as a first step toward advancing regional unity.

Safo: I think the Tajik government should develop a comprehensive long-term “National Youth Employment Promotion Program” which would focus on improving the skills of young people, including literacy and vocational skills; promote youth entrepreneurship; and establish a system through which all state-owned enterprises and government agencies implement internship programs for students who are about to graduate.

>CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Former IERES Scholar Spends Time in Jail

... conducting the search. Two others received fines of 1,000 rubles for the same offense. Thus, after ten days of silence and not being able to use his Twitter account, Oleg began tweeting again, telling his English-speaking friends, “Just got released from 10 days in jail. Good to be home.” To Russian-speakers, he reported that, on parting, the police who had arrested him wished him luck and shook his hand, the very hand that they had been twisting only an hour earlier!

Scholars Visit Russian Arctic Factory Town

This past July, IERES faculty and staff traveled to the city of Norilsk, in the Arctic region of Russia’s Krasnoyarsk Krai, as part of a research trip organized with Moscow State University and funded by a grant from the Norwegian Research Council. Research Professor Marlene Laruelle, Geography Professors Nikolay Shiklomanov and Dmitry Streletskiy, Research Assistant Colin Reisser, and three students from the GW Geography department took part in the trip. The group met in Krasnoyarsk and then traveled by river for a four-day journey north along the Yenisei River to the city of Dudinka, which is built on top of permafrost.

The team traveled the final 80 km from Dudinka, the port gateway to the closed urban zone of Norilsk, by truck, arriving in Norilsk on July 19. Entering the city requires a special pass that the group’s Russian partners were able to procure. They toured local mines and smelting plants, met with municipal and corporate officials, and attended the city’s 60th anniversary celebrations (pictured above), in addition to conducting academic research on a wide variety of topics. Temperatures this year were unseasonably hot, with a record-setting high of 32°C (89.6°F), and no respite to be found with 24 hours of sunshine thanks to polar day conditions. Accommodations were provided by Norilsk Nickel in company housing, complete with live bears at the complex.

Although Norilsk has the dubious reputation of being the most polluted city in Russia, its unique history, economy, and geography endow it with ample research opportunities. Founded as a Gulag prison camp in 1935, Norilsk became one of the leading industrial centers in Siberia during the post-war period. Norilsk Nickel, among the principal private companies in Russia, exploits the raw materials of some of the world’s largest deposits of nickel, platinum, and palladium. From the nearby port of Dudinka, Norilsk Nickel exports the resources via the
Northern Sea Route (also known as the Northeast Passage) utilizing its large fleet of icebreaking cargo ships (pictured below).

The city hosts large populations of both legal and illegal immigrants from the Caucasus and Central Asia that have become an integral, though contested, part of the city’s economy and identity. These migrants were the central focus of Laruelle’s research. She is interested in the role that Central Asian and Caucasian migrants play in the city of Norilsk and met with local representatives of the respective communities, city government officials, workers, and other groups. Russia is no different than the U.S. and Western European countries in that it often has a difficult time integrating migrants into the wider society. Laruelle noted that the Azerbaijani population is well entrenched in the city, but Central Asians seeking jobs there have a more difficult time.

Reisser researched the political and economic ties of the city of Norilsk to regional and federal power centers as part of a joint project with IERES Assistant Director Robert Orttung. They are examining how resources are allocated in the city and what efforts are being made to address issues of sustainability.

Shiklomanov and Streletskiy, along with their geography students, took part in a field course on Arctic geography led by the Moscow State University faculty of Glaciology and Cryology, including soil profiles, climate change monitoring, and permafrost engineering. Additionally, they went into the field to measure the extent of thawing in the permafrost. All of this effort feeds into the Research Coordination Network for Arctic Urban Sustainability, which is based at IERES and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as ongoing research projects in the Department of Geography, which also benefits from NSF funding. GW scholars hosted an Arctic conference in May, and are completing a joint book project and developing a number of cooperative projects to take place over the next five years.

Upcoming Sochi Winter Olympics Boost Mega-Project Studies in Russia

Sochi will host the Winter Olympics in February 2014, welcoming some of the planet’s elite athletes to the volatile North Caucasus and inviting the attention of the global media well in advance of the 17-day event. Billions of viewers around the world will be willing to interrupt their daily schedules to watch the Games, offering Russia a unique opportunity to promote itself on the global stage.

For scholars, this mega-sporting-event opens a wide window of analyses on a host of state and regional political, social, and economic areas. In recent years, a burgeoning literature has appeared studying mega-events and the massive infrastructure investments that surround them. Political scientists ask who benefits from these events and how. Economists wonder if such events stimulate growth in the place that hosted them and if the massive investments will live up to initial expectations or will merely create white elephants, such as stadiums that stand empty and fall into neglect. Urban planners question whether hosting such events comprises a rational development policy or merely diverts scarce resources away from more pressing needs, such as affordable housing, better schools, or improved medical services. Other scholars examine such issues as how participants and fans experience the Olympic moment and how the Games affect nationalism, perceptions, or tourism, to name a few.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) claims to be apolitical and the Olympic charter bans protests at the competition itself. But the post-modern Olympic movement also asserts that it promotes world peace, equality among all people, and environmentalism, thus opening it up to accusations that the Games often fall short of their lofty and idealistic goals. On one hand, the Olympics are not about politics but purely about sport, on the other, there has always been an undertone of time and place, and a spotlight on the host country’s strong and weak points.

A host of NGOs are jostling at the start line to make their causes known. There are groups like Human Rights Watch that seek to use the platform of the Games and the gigantic audiences they attract to promote global
causes, such as workers' rights. Similarly, environmental groups seek to use the Olympics to highlight ecological concerns. On social issues, Sochi is already garnering a bad rap due to the Russian Duma's rubber-stamping in June 2013 of a law banning "propaganda of nontraditional sexual orientations," making the Kremlin a prime target for homosexual rights campaigners around the world.

The history of the Olympics provides a rich context for the Russian Games in the context of Putinism. Russia is spending more than $50 billion to host the sports festival and rebuild Sochi's infrastructure, making these Olympics the most expensive in history and raising questions about how effectively the money allocated for them is being spent. Looking back, Germany in 1936 used the Games to promote Nazism, the USSR sought to boost socialism by hosting the 1980 Olympiad in Moscow, Japan used the 1964 Olympics to announce its return to prosperity after WWII, and China used the 2008 Beijing games to assert its international standing. Putin hopes that the Sochi Games will demonstrate that Russia is a modern country that can compete as an equal in today's globalized system.

Given the horror of the 1972 terror attack in Munich and the explosion at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics, Russian organizers cannot ignore the problems of extremism and violence—after all, Sochi is right next to Abkhazia and a stone's throw from Ingushetia and Chechnya—and organizers are therefore taking extensive measures to ensure that there are no incidents at the Games. On the other side of this issue, there are already complaints that the Russian security actions violate civil liberties, a problem that has arisen in Western contexts as well.

Given the prominence of the Olympics, world-wide interest, and the rich opportunities for research, IERES will be devoting resources to the study of the Games and their legacy in Russia over the next year. Events will include a special panel at the September PONARS Eurasia conference, with policy memos, as always, made available for free online at ponarseurasia.org. There will be presentations and publications on the security and economic aspects of the Games.

Researching sports mega-events now, in 2013-2014, is a particularly fruitful endeavor because Russia will be hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2018, another major global event, with all eyes watching.

IERES Launches New Research Program on Democratization

This fall, IERES is launching a new research initiative that enhances and extends the individual research activities of IERES faculty members. The purpose is to develop collaborative and multi-disciplinary projects and outcomes.

Democratization is a multi-faceted endeavor that transcends the well-defined boundaries of academic disciplines. Combining insights from political science, history, economics, sociology, literature, and film makes it possible to more deeply study challenges to democratic development. The program seeks to enrich the existing scholarship and produce recommendations for policymakers interested in strengthening democracy abroad.

When the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Bloc led to the liberation of Central and Eastern Europe and the emergence of fifteen new post-Soviet states, there was world-wide optimism that the social energy ushering in this new era would quickly form vibrant new democracies. The removal of the USSR's stifling authoritarian system would naturally, the conventional wisdom predicted, release the forces of individual citizens and associations of like-minded activists and install robust democratic institutions and stimulate economic growth. However, twenty years later, the post-communist space is characterized by considerable variance in the quality of democracy and governance.

On the one hand, most former Eastern bloc countries and the three post-Soviet Baltic states are stable, democratic members of the European Union and NATO, even as they continue to face governance challenges concerning minority integration, corruption, immigration, and other issues.

On the other hand, despite the optimistic expectations of many, the non-Baltic post-Soviet states have not been able to establish consolidated democracies. Four states—Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Ukraine—are democracies but lack stability. Only Moldova appears
likely to consolidate popular rule in the near future. The remaining post-Soviet states—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan—remain mired in deeply corrupt systems of authoritarianism, even as segments of their societies and elites actively seek their countries’ transformation toward modernization, equality, inclusive politics and civil society benefits.

The relative successes of the Eastern and Central European states, the hesitant and uncertain advances made by other post-Soviet states, and the prolongation of authoritarian governance in the rest provide material for a rich set of research questions. Why have some countries succeeded in democratizing while others remain mired in authoritarianism? What is the relationship between regime type and political and economic development? What is the impact of regime type on foreign policy and international relations? These are only a few of the questions that our faculty are addressing.

IERES is exceptionally well-equipped to implement a coordinated research program on this set of big picture questions that will help define the way scholars and policy-makers think about democracy-related issues in the post-Soviet space, including their implications for U.S. policy. The idea is to provide an integrated framework to pull together the various democratization-related agendas of IERES faculty members.

The program will focus on three geographical areas: 1) Russia; 2) Ukraine; and 3) Central Asia and the Caucasus. It will emphasize a set of common themes: elections and constitutions; traditional and new media; political economy; foreign policy; relations with the West and rising Asian countries; and U.S. strategies in dealing with this region.

Over the next several years, IERES is planning to sponsor conferences in collaboration with the Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS Eurasia) and the Central Asia Program (CAP) on these topics.

Additionally, IERES will host a variety of speakers in a new event series entitled “Democratization in the Post-Communist World: Prospects, Impacts, and Recommendations for U.S. Leadership.” Speakers will include GW and outside faculty, and the events will highlight the launch and discussion of new books, journal articles, and reports.

As Figure 1 shows, IERES’s current research projects on the topic will feed into an inter-disciplinary and coherent examination of democratization.

This new Institute-wide project should deliver several intellectual and policy-relevant innovations. Among other contributions, it will help scholars and policy-makers conceptualize political regimes in Eurasia. A major deficiency in our understanding of democratization today is an inability to specify and explain dynamics of democratization and autocratization across the post-Soviet space. We seek to rethink how political scientists understand politics and political regimes in the post-communist world, focusing on what is special about societies where rule of law is lacking and corruption rampant. Examining the role of political networks in post-Soviet societies will help fill existing gaps in the literature.

The role of traditional and on-line media will also figure prominently. There is a complex relationship between television and democratization in post-Soviet societies. Central issues are the continuity and discontinuity in the media during and after regime change, the ownership structures of the media, and how public and private media work to promote or undermine the interests of the current authorities rather than the public good. Television is currently the most important medium in the post-Soviet space because most citizens receive their information from it. However, online social media are growing in importance in terms of audience size and ability to mobilize political action and will be a key part of the analysis in understanding how the various governments and regimes are dealing with this new means of communication.

Other issues that will be examined as part of the project will include inequality and social stratification, human rights, legacies of the past, the politics of memory, the role of nationalism, the importance of Islam, protest movements, and the political consequences of natural resource wealth.
**PONARS Eurasia Policy Memos Are Now Available in Russian**

**Re-Posted Memos on “Ekho Moskvy” Generate Buzz**

In a major development, PONARS Eurasia began publishing in 2013 Russian-language translations of all of its policy memos. With the help of Sufian Zhemukhov, IERES fellow and 2013-14 Russian-language editor for PONARS, an agreement was reached with the popular Ekho Moskvy media organization for re-posting of selected memos (see: [http://echo.msk.ru/blog/ponarseurasia](http://echo.msk.ru/blog/ponarseurasia)).

Based in Moscow, Ekho Moskvy is a hugely popular talk radio station and website portal that shares a wide range of articles, interviews, and opinions on a variety of issues. Even though the station is owned by Gazprom, the Kremlin-friendly natural gas monopoly, it has somehow maintained its complete editorial independence. PONARS Eurasia memos re-posted to their website have received thousands of hits and have stimulated numerous comments. As Sufian points out, the Russian internet audience is particularly tough and readers frequently engage in heated debates. At the same time, the Kremlin also pays people to write comments on popular websites to tamp down threads that could uplift protest movements.

Recent comments to a memo posted on Ekho Moskvy show the hard-bitten nature of the readers, such as: “The population is paying for someone else’s banquet”, “The idea that Putin will adopt some kind of careful reform is absurd,” and “Everyone is already tired of boring, pedestrian analyses and predictions by foreign and domestic political pundits.” Judging by the huge comment forums on popular social media sites and on sites like Ekho Moskvy, freedom of speech in Russia exists (even if it limited to Internet users, which is a small but fast growing segment in all the post-Soviet countries), and IERES and PONARS Eurasia are proud to be part of that broader region’s conversation. [www.ponarseurasia.org](http://www.ponarseurasia.org)

**Visiting Scholars**

**Sardar Bagishbekov**, a Central Asia Program Fellow, is the executive director of the Kyrgyzstani human rights NGO Golos Svobody (Voice of Freedom, [www.vof.kg](http://www.vof.kg)). The organization works to prevent torture and illegal detentions to monitor police detention facilities and prisons, and to promote the rights of marginal groups on the national and international levels. Bagishbekov previously was the Chairperson of the Association of Young Lawyers in Kyrgyzstan and worked with a UNHCR project on refugees. Before that, he worked for Freedom House, the Human Rights Defender Support Project in Kyrgyzstan, and as a regional coordinator for the Central Asian anti-torture network. He has published articles promoting the universality of human rights and freedom from violence and torture in Kyrgyzstan. He earned his bachelor’s degree in jurisprudence from the Kyrgyz National University in Bishkek. bagishbekov@gwu.edu. August-December 2013

**Aurélie Biard** is a Researcher at the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI) in Paris and an associated researcher at the Centre for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan, and Central Asian Studies (CETOBC, CNRS). She works on the contemporary uses of Islam in Eurasia. Her Ph.D in political science and political anthropology at Sciences-Po, Paris, to-be-defended in December 2013, analyses interactions between the Kyrgyz national context and global religious evolutions. Her post-doctoral research focuses on the systems of interdependences (at the individual, relationship, and structural levels) between various Islamic actors and the changing political situation in Kyrgyzstan. September 2013 - August 2014.

**Markian Dobczansky**, the Mellon Fellow in Contemporary History, is a Ph.D. candidate in Soviet and East European history at Stanford University. His dissertation project, "From Soviet Heartland to Ukrainian Borderland: Searching for Identity in Kharkiv, 1943-2004," is a case study of the multiple and overlapping identities generated in this large urban center in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods. Other academic interests include nationalism, urban history, and socialist culture. He received a B.A. in History and German Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in History from Stanford University. He is from Silver Spring, MD. September 2013 - June 2014.

**Ahmad Guliyev** is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at IERES, where the title of his research project will be “Ethnic Identity among Azerbaijani Immigrants in the United States.” He is a research scientist at the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of History, where he defended his Ph.D. in 2007. He is also the chairman of the Development in Science and Education NGO. His research interests include national and ethnic identity issues, nation and state building in the South Caucasus and Turkey, international relations in Europe and the Middle East, Ottoman-Safavid relations, and the Sufi orders of Islam. October 2013-March 2014.
Mami Hamamoto is a Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology of the University of Tokyo, where she specializes in the history of Russian Muslims, especially Tatars. Her research topic at IERES is Tatar merchants and their relationship with the government of the Russian Empire. She received her Ph.D. (2006) at Kyoto University (Japan) and audited classes at the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow from 1999 to 2001. hamamoto@gwu.edu. September 2011–September 2014.

Lisa Kasher is a Ph.D. candidate in political economy at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne and at Sciences Po Paris. She is currently conducting research on the politics of financial reforms in response to the subprime crisis for a project entitled "Transnational Civil Society and Financial Regulatory Reforms: An EU-US Comparison." She received her M.A. in European Studies from the University of Bath, Washington and Sciences Po Paris and her B.A. from the University of Mannheim. September 2013.

Yevgeniya Pak received her degree in legal studies from Westminster University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, before pursuing a professional career as a practicing lawyer and contracts manager with Aleks Group Investment LLC. Pak has also worked with the Central Asian periodical Business Report and edited articles on economics and business at Uzreport.com. As a Central Asia Fellow at IERES, her research will explore the visa regime in Uzbekistan, with a focus on existing regulations and practical alternatives. yevgeniypak@gwu.edu. August 2013 – December 2013.

Jean-Francois Ratelle completed his Ph.D at the University of Ottawa in 2012. At IERES, he is researching “Mapping and Theorizing Identity Variations in Intrastate Wars.” His main research interests include the micro-dynamics of violence, civil wars, terrorism, Islamic radicalization, the North Caucasus, and the Balkans. His Ph.D. dissertation addresses the recent upsurge of insurgent violence in the North Caucasus. He engaged in ethnographic-based research that focused on the pathways toward insurgent participation in Dagestan and in the North Caucasus, conducting 13 months of ethnographical research in Russia, including 6 months in the North Caucasus (Dagestan, Chechnya, and Kabardino-Balkaria). ratelle@gwu.edu. September 2012 – August 2014.

Agustin Rossi Silvano is a Ph.D. Researcher in Social and Political Sciences, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. At IERES, he is studying “Online privacy regimes of the EU and US.” He argues that due to historical and cultural reasons, the regimes are very different in kind, but poor implementation and business power make their results equivalent. He also studies the political effects of the corporate invasions of privacy. agustinrossi@gwu.edu. August 2013 – November 2013.

Lars Rowe, a Senior Research Fellow at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, is a Norwegian scholar of Soviet and Russian history. He has mainly worked on the bilateral relationship between Norway and the Soviet Union/Russia, and has published widely on these topics. During his stay at IERES, Rowe will be working on a project that explores the metallurgical sector in the Russian Arctic, with an emphasis on how the Soviet production base and Soviet governance traditions still influence and sometimes hamper development within this field. He will also co-edit and co-author a 200-year history of Russian-Norwegian relations to be published in the spring of 2014. larsrowe@gwu.edu. July 2013 – June 2014.

Albert Schmidt is Professor Emeritus in Law from Quinnipiac College of Law and Professor Emeritus in History from the University of Bridgeport. At IERES, he is working on the town planning and architecture of provincial Russia and the history of English law firms in the 18th and 19th centuries. albsch@gwu.edu.

Gulnaz Sharaftudinova is a senior lecturer at King’s Russia Institute (starting in the fall of 2013). Her research focuses on the political economy of post-communism, Russian politics, and federalism. She is the author of Political Consequences of Crony Capitalism Inside Russia (University of Notre Dame Press, 2010). She currently is working on a project exploring the issue of “cognitive path-dependence” and the extent to which Putin’s regime has relied on specific attitudes, predispositions and practices associated with the Soviet era, thus reproducing some of the negative features of Soviet mentality in current Russia. Sharaftudinova is also a contributing member of PONARS Eurasia. gulnaz@gwu.edu. August 2013 – December 2013.

Select IERES Publications

Books


Articles


Marlene Laruelle, "Foreign Policy and Identity in Central Asia." Pro et Contra. No. 1-2, Jan.-Apr. 2013. [In Russian]


Cory Welt, "Turkish-Armenian Normalisation and the Karabakh Conflict." Perceptions: Journal of International Affairs. Vol. 18, No. 1, Spring 2013, pp. 207-221.


Commentary


Marlene Laruelle and Scott Radnitz. "Will Afghanistan Take Central Asia Down with It?" The National Interest. 1 August 2013.

Harris Mylonas. "Wither Nation-Building?" e-International Relations. 8 May 2013.


Jean-François Ratelle. "Boston: 2e suspect toujours recherche: Entrevue avec Jean-François Ratelle." Radio Canada. 19 Apr. 2013. [In French]


Cory Welt. "But on Balance, and Despite All the Drama, it's Been a Decent Start." IPN Georgia. 22 Mar. 2013.


Policy Papers


IERES Events Spring 2013

Annual James Millar Lecture


Arctic Working Group

“Promoting Sustainability in the Russian Arctic,” co-sponsored with National Science Foundation, May 30-31, 2013. (Pal Davidsen, pictured below)

Behind the Headlines Series

“Clio Meets Alexander the Great: Reassessing the Historiography of the Macedonian Question,” Basil C. Gounaris, Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, co-sponsored with Onassis Foundation (USA), February 6, 2013.

“Immigration Reform in Russia,” Olga Gulina, Junior Professor, Law Institute, Samara, Alisa Oblezova, Perm State University, co-sponsored with Kennan Institute, February 7, 2013.


“Findings from the Deep Borehole Research at Lake Vostok, Antarctica,” Vladimir Kotlyakov, Director of the Program on Armed Conflict and Conflict Management, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, co-sponsored with Geography Department, April 5, 2013.

“The Kurdish Perspective: Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Beyond,” H.E. Dr. Fuad Hussein, Chief of Staff to President Barzani, H.E. Falah Bakir, Minister, Head of the Department of Foreign Relations, H.E. Qubad Talabani, Minister, Head of the Department of Coordination and Follow-up, co-sponsored with Institute for Middle East Studies, April 8, 2013.

“Belarus and the Neighborhood: Where is Democracy Possible?” Alexei Pikulik, European Humanities University, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies, and European University, Virginijus Valentinavicius, European Humanities University, co-sponsored with European Humanities University, April 8, 2013.

“Russia’s Snow Revolution: Game Over or Still Reason for Hope?,” Stefan Hedlund, Professor of Soviet and East European Studies, Uppsala University, April 11, 2013.

“Elections in de facto States: Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistria,” Donnacha Ó Beacháin, Faculty Member, Dublin City University, April 15, 2013.

“What Lies Ahead: Russia’s Political and Energy Outlooks Over the Next Decade,” Robert W. Orttung, Assistant Director, IERES, Oleg Kozlovsky, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, co-sponsored with Delta Phi Epsilon Professional Foreign Service Fraternity, April 22, 2013.


“Human Trafficking in Russia,” Lauren McCarthy, Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, April 30, 2013.

“The View from Germany: Pivot to Reality – New Strategies for the West,” Hans-Ulrich Klose (SPD), Member,
German Bundestag, co-sponsored with The GW German Club & The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, May 6, 2013. (Pictured)

“Stone Dreams: Literature and Peacebuilding in the Caucasus,” Mikail Mamedov, Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, Department of History, Georgetown University, May 10, 2013.

“Central and Eastern Europe Efforts to Democratize MENA,” Kristina Mikulova, Transatlantic Policy Fellow, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, co-sponsored with Institute for Middle East Studies, June 13, 2013.

Faculty Book Launch Series

“Transatlantic Relations in the 21st Century: Europe, America and the Rise of the Rest,” Erwan Lagadec, Adjunct Professor of International Affairs, GWU, Ambassador Kurt Volker, McCain Institute for International Leadership, February 27, 2013. (Pictured below)

“Globalizing Central Asia: Geopolitics and Challenges of Economic Development,” Marlene Laruelle, Research Professor, IERES, Sebastien Peyrouse, IERES, Johannes Linn, Former World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia, April 2, 2013.


Central Asia Program


“Understanding Conflict and Ethnic Violence in Kyrgyzstan,” Neil Melvin, Director of the Program on Armed Conflict and Conflict Management, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, March 5, 2013.


“Legal Aspects of Foreign Direct Investment in the Gold Mining Sector of the Kyrgyz Republic: Towards a Path to Sustainable Environmental Development,” Begaiym Esenkulova, Assistant Professor of Law, American University of Central Asia, May 13, 2013.


Cultural Initiative

“Contemporary Literary Voices from Germany and Switzerland,” Tim Krohn, Author, Switzerland, Leif Randt, Author, Germany, co-sponsored with GW German Club & Romance, German, and Slavic Languages and Literatures Department, February 25, 2013.

Eurasian Leadership Series


European Politics Series


“Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: Political Consumerism as Political Participation,” Dietlind Stolle, Associate Professor of Political Science, McGill University, April 26, 2013.

Leaders in European and Eurasian Studies Series

“Perspectives on Russia and Eurasia from Outside the Euro-Atlantic World,” Kimitaka Matsuzato, Professor, Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, April 16, 2013.

Media and Democratization in Russia and Eurasia


PEERS

“Turkish-Russian Spheres of Cooperation and Conflict: Syria, the Caucasus, Iran, and NATO,” Ambassador Ross Wilson, Director, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council of the United States, February 13, 2013.

“French Foreign Policy and the Intervention in Mali,” Erwan Lagadec, Adjunct Professor of International Affairs, IERES, March 27, 2013.

“Irish Foreign Policy Priorities,” Derek Hannon, First Secretary of Political Affairs, Embassy of Ireland, April 5, 2013.

Petrach Program on Ukraine


“International Labor Migration and Migration Policy in the Context of EU Expansion,” Iryna Yeleyko, Associate Professor, Ivan Franko National University, Lviv, Ukraine, April 25, 2013.


PONARS Eurasia

“Rethinking the Sources of Russian Foreign Policy,” Policy Workshop, March 16-17, 2013.

“Russia as a Global Power: Contending Views from Russia,” Vladislav Inozemtsev, Director, Centre for Post-Industrial Studies, Ryodor Lukyanov, President, New Eurasia Foundation, and Director General, Russian International Affairs Council, Andranik Migranyan, Director, Institute for Democracy and Cooperation, co-sponsored with Sigur Center for Asian Studies, March 18, 2013.

In May, PONARS Eurasia held a policy workshop in collaboration with the European University at St. Petersburg (EUSP). (Pictured above right) See the Policy Memos.

Post-Communist Politics Social Science Workshop


“The Politics of Ethnic Return Migration,” Harris Mylonas, Assistant Professor, GW Political Science Department, Discussant: Paul Zachary, GW Political Science Department, April 9, 2013.

“Local-Level Law Enforcement: Muscovites and their Uchastkovi,” Lauren A. McCarthy, Assistant Professor of Political Science in Legal Studies, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Louise Shelley, George Mason University, June 11, 2013.

Russian Analytical Digest

U.S.-Russia Working Group


Visiting Scholars Roundtable

“Remembering Stalingrad,” Charles J. Sullivan, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, The George Washington University, Ivan Kurilla, Volgograd State University, January 24, 2013.


“Northeast Asia: Russia’s Gateway for “Greatness”?” Hong Sub Lee, Associate Professor, Korea National Defense University, co-sponsored with the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, February 14, 2013.

“My Teacher is a Policeman:” Postcolonial Nation-Building through Thai Border Patrol Police Civic Actions,” Sinae Hyun, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History, co-sponsored with the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, February 28, 2013.

Special Events and Student News

“The Elyse Treaty Debate,” co-sponsored with the Embassy of France & Embassy of Germany, April 14, 2013. (Pictured below)

“Memorial Symposium in Honor of Carl Linden,” Albert Schmidt, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Bridgeport, Jack Moran, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, Kennesaw State University, Lijun Gu, Professor, St. John’s College, Annapolis, Peter Rollberg, IERES, May 10, 2013. (Pictured below)

Rodica Tomescu-Olaru, a graduate student in the European and Eurasian MA Program, won a Career Development Half-Tuition Fellowship for the 2013-14 academic year. Congratulations, Rodica!
Gifts and Giving Opportunities

IERES is grateful for support from individuals, foundations, and corporations for its activities. This funding helps make possible some of our most important activities: supporting outstanding students; providing opportunities for students to study in Europe or Eurasia; sponsoring research conducted by students and professors; bringing in outside speakers to share their insights with the IERES community; organizing events that bring together students, professors and outside experts; and more.

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