DIRECTOR’S LETTER

Dr. Henry E. Hale

The year 2011 brings major milestones for both IERES and the region we study. For IERES, it is nothing less than our golden anniversary, marking fifty years since our founding as the Sino-Soviet Institute back in 1961. For Europe and post-Soviet Eurasia, 2011 represents the twentieth year since the final breakup of the USSR and the emergence or reemergence of fifteen newly independent countries.

Ironically, the skills the Institute was founded to develop in 1961 have become more rather than less relevant since the Soviet Union it studied broke apart. This is least surprising when it comes to history, culture, and language, each of which have wound up at the center of current academic and policy debates throughout the region. But few anticipated that the art of Kremlinology would return with new vigor, where debates on some Eurasian polities center anew on the degree of unity and conflict at the pinnacle of power and hinge on subtle readings of censored media spaces. Of course, much has changed since 1961. For one thing, the Institute (Continued on p. 2)

IERES TRACES ITS ROOTS BACK 50 YEARS

Semicentennial Celebration

Looking back over a half century of accomplishment, the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES) celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. IERES began in 1961 as the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies, just as the space race was heating up and the hunger for knowledge about the USSR was reaching its height. Early in the Cold War, U.S. universities lacked sufficient capacity to study and explain on-going developments in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, and the rest of East Asia. The establishment of the Institute was part of the effort to meet these concerns.

A key driver shaping the early work of Institute scholars was the apparent alliance between the Soviet Union and China in the early 1960s. Many at that time viewed the Sino-Soviet relationship as a major development in world politics and a key threat to the West. Even though the scholars associated with the Institute saw conflicts between the two Communist giants as early as 1957, they still thought it was important to understand the dynamics of the relationship in detail. Ultimately, Institute faculty became experts on the issues that divided the Soviets and Chinese. Accordingly, it was (Continued on p. 3)
Director’s Letter (Continued from p. 1)

has a new name, IERES (on how to pronounce it, see below). More fundamentally, the Cold War is over, communism is all but dead, and a European Union now includes most of the former Warsaw Pact and the Baltic countries, which have also joined NATO. Region-spanning debates address unprecedented energy interdependence, the need for a new security architecture, transnational processes of democratization and economic integration, and challenges of environmental stewardship across this massive land mass and its associated waters.

The Institute has remained prominent over five decades in part because of its constant development of new capacities for understanding these changes and challenges. The last two years follow in this tradition, with the biggest development being a major grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York that brought a surge of activity and attention to IERES in the form of the Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS Eurasia, see article on p. 5).

IERES multiplied its human leadership capacity in 2010-2011 with the arrival of two prominent experts on Eurasian politics and history, Dr. Cory Welt as Associate Director of both IERES and PONARS Eurasia and Dr. Robert Orttung as IERES Assistant Director (see p. 13). Along with their research, writing, and administrative responsibilities, Welt is teaching three different courses for the European and Eurasian Studies (EES) MA program and Orttung brings to IERES the externally funded Russian Analytical Digest (see article on p. 6) and Caucasus Analytical Digest, which he co-edits. They and I work with an outstanding staff, each with significant personal experience in Europe and Eurasia (see p. 13).

Several faculty have joined IERES as affiliates over the last two years, including Gregg Brazinsky (History), Laura Engel (International Education), Harris Mylonas (Political Science), Frances Norwood (Anthropology), Scheherazade Rehman (International Business), and Eliot Sorel (Global Health).

We also continue to build upon traditional strengths, publishing cutting-edge research (see p.15), creating a vibrant intellectual community of policy-engaged academics (see article on Visiting Scholars p. 10), engaging the world of policy, running the Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research (SICAR), and organizing some four dozen lectures, workshops, and conferences (see p. 14 for a selection).

Students remain at the center of our mission. Trachtenberg Teaching Prize winner Dr. Peter Rollberg began in 2010 directing the EES MA program distinguished by its joining of Europe and Eurasia (on IERES’s graduate student organization, see p. 6). Thanks to the generosity of our donors (see p. 19), IERES recognized many of GW’s best students through a series of competitive awards (see p. 18), funding everything from dissertation research to conference travel. GW alumni (see p. 18 for a profile of Gulnaz Sharafutdinova) are the best evidence of our success.

And this is just the news to print that fits. We look forward to keeping you updated on IERES and the insights it generates regularly in this newsletter in the years to come. Happy anniversary!

—Henry Hale

The Proper Pronunciation of “IERES”

While there is only one IERES, it seems that everybody pronounces it differently, creating a cacophony of permutations. Some people call it “aye-ris” or “ear-is,” or even “i-er-eez.” In fact, the correct pronunciation is “eye-rees.” We hope this official articulation helps, though we do apologize for another acronym in a town full of them! But now, you can confidently say: “I’ve been to IERES at GW in DC.”
IERES Traces its Roots Back 50 Years (Continued from p. 1)

no surprise when the Sino-Soviet relationship erupted in armed conflict by the end of the 1960s, with troops fighting over disputed territory.

Kurt London founded the institute and served as its first director from 1961 to 1969, shaping the initial focus on the Sino-Soviet relationship. He was a prolific author, publishing books such as: The Seven Soviet Arts, Unity and Contradiction: Major Aspects of Sino-Soviet Relations (ed.), New Nations in a Divided World (ed.), Eastern Europe in Transition (ed.), and The Soviet Union: A Half Century of Communism (ed.). In the mid-1960s, London hosted a series on WTOP radio about the Communist world, inviting a variety of scholars to speak. Additionally, he was a classical pianist.

Franz H. Michael (1907-92) directed the Institute from 1969 to 1972. Michael was a noted expert on nineteenth century China and Sino-Soviet relations. He frequently testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee and worked on behalf of the State Department and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Michael was born on March 10, 1907 in Freiburg, Germany, to a Jewish mother. During his early career, he served in the German diplomatic service, but left when Hitler came to power. From 1933 to 1938, he worked in China as a professor at the National Chekiang University in Hangchow. In 1938, he came to the US and joined the GW faculty in 1964, serving as associate director of the Institute from 1969 to 1969.

His books included The Origin of Manchu Rule in China (1942) and The Far East in the Modern World (1955).

In his capacity as associate director, Michael recruited Carl Linden to GW in order to develop the Institute’s expertise on domestic Soviet politics. In analyzing the events taking place under mercurial Communist Party General Secretary Nikita Khrushchev, Linden’s work made clear that Khrushchev was not unchallengeable. In a prescient Problems of Communism article published a year before he fell, Linden highlighted the on-going leadership struggle and Khrushchev’s precarious position, stirring a good deal of controversy over the question of his power. Linden’s book, Khrushchev and the Soviet Leadership (1966), traced the struggle that ended with his downfall. It laid out the case for a “conflict model” of Soviet leadership politics and became a classic of “Kremlinology.”

Gaston Sigur (1924-1995) served as director from 1972 until 1989. In addition to being a Distinguished Professor of East Asian Studies, Sigur served as Director of Asian Affairs on the National Security Council, Special Assistant to the President for Asian Affairs, and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific during the Reagan administration. Sigur’s contribution was crucial in US efforts to win trade concessions from Japan and encourage democracy in South Korea, according to his obituary in the New York Times. He also accompanied President George H. W. Bush to China in 1989. After serving in the Army in post-war occupied Japan, he worked as a research scholar at Sophia University in Tokyo from 1959 to 1961. Although his training was in the foreign relations of Japan’s Tokugawa era, most of his career focused on contemporary Asian affairs. With extensive ties in the conservative community, he brought considerable funding to the university from a range of foundations.
Under Sigur, the Institute had a rare connection with the USSR – close ties with Soviet scholars who specialized in China, Japan, and Korea, alternating conferences in Moscow and Washington. As a result, when Gorbachev came to power, GW scholars could see firsthand that things were changing rapidly in the Soviet Union. In the early 1980s, Gorbachev had talked about a balance of interests rather than a balance of forces, suggesting that East-West relations were no longer a zero sum game and opening new opportunities for collaboration.

With the end of the Cold War and Sino-Soviet relations no longer being a key issue, the Center for Asian Studies spun off in 1991 and it was named in Sigur’s honor. At that point, James Millar (1936-2008) stewarded IERES into formation and shifted the focus more toward Russia and the post-Soviet successor states. Millar served as IERES director from 1989 to 2001, taking over the Institute just as the Berlin Wall was falling and the Soviet Union was in its death throes. He was a canny bureaucratic fighter who protected the Institute’s domain. He blocked an effort to turn the Institute into a center, which would have reduced its academic status. When he left, IERES “was a well-funded, well-known center of study with a suite of offices, a conference room, computers for each faculty member, work space for student research assistants, host to internationally renowned visiting scholars, a partner with the Wilson Center’s Cold War International History Project, and the home of a new journal, Problems of Post-Communism,” according to Hope Harrison (IERES Director 2005-9).

As director, Millar encouraged a collegial atmosphere designed to facilitate inter-disciplinary studies. He was consolidator and continuer of a glorious IERES tradition -- Friday afternoon “staff meetings,” actually happy hours, where the focus was on great, but inexpensive, wines. Linden and long-time colleague Suzanne Stephenson started these gatherings in the 1970s and this popular tradition continues today, offering faculty and staff a chance to interact on an informal basis. In 2007, he established the Millar Family Fund to support IERES and launched the James Millar Lecture Series on Russian/Soviet economics.

An economist, Millar studied centrally planned economies. He led an influential panel created by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to review the CIA’s estimates of Soviet economic growth and defense expenditures from 1970 to 1991. The panel concluded that the CIA greatly overestimated Soviet defense expenditures and that the agency’s work could have been improved with more input from outside sources, leading to changes in the way that the CIA collected information. His books included such classics as The Soviet Rural Community (University of Illinois Press, 1971), and Politics, Work and Daily Life in the USSR (Cambridge University Press, 1987). Additionally, he published The Social Legacy of Communism (1994), edited with Sharon L. Wolchik, The Soviet Economic Experiment (1990), and The ABCs of Soviet Socialism (1981). He edited the four-volume Encyclopedia of Russian History (2003). He was editor of the Slavic Review from 1975 to 1980 and Problems of Post-Communism. Additionally, he served as president (2000), vice-president (1999), and treasurer (2004-8) of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS, now ASEEES – Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies). The AAASS bestowed its Distinguished Contributions to Slavic Studies Award, its highest honor, on Millar in 2006.

Sources: Interview with Carl Linden, January 20, 2011; The GW and Foggy Bottom Historical Encyclopedia; Newsnet 49:1, January 2009.

To be continued in the next issue.
RUSSIA 2020

What Should We Expect?

Nobody knows for sure what Russia will look like ten years from now, but the future evolution of the country will have an important impact on Europe, Asia, and the rest of the world. In order to get a better sense of where Russia is headed, Nikolai Petrov and Maria Lipman of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace brought together a collection of Russian, European, and American experts in a convenient and beautiful meeting place: Bellagio, Italy. IERES’s Henry Hale and Robert Orttung were among the participants.

On the shores of Lake Como, once visited by the characters in Stendahl’s novel The Charterhouse of Parma and now home to one of George Clooney’s villas, Russia’s future was the center of attention for three days in October 2010. Trying to predict what will happen in Moscow has a long history. The most famous effort was Russia 2010, the 1995 book by Daniel Yergin and Thane Gustafson drawing out a number of scenarios 15 years into Russia’s future. Andrew Kuchins’ more recent work at CSIS gained notoriety when it included a scenario imagining what would happen if then-President Vladimir Putin were assassinated. Another team assembled at New York University in the Spring of 2010 imagined several worthy-of-note scenarios to encourage policy makers to think creatively.

Petrov and Lipman’s Carnegie effort sought to examine in depth a variety of subject areas, ranging from foreign policy to political parties, to gain a nuanced understanding of developments over the twenty years since the collapse of the USSR. The project has already produced a special issue of Carnegie’s Russian language journal Pro et Contra and the organizers are planning to publish an edited volume later this year.

The key issue at the moment in determining Russia’s future is whether Putin will return as president in 2012, leave the job to the incumbent Dmitry Medvedev, or perhaps choose a third person. While the group disagreed about which was the most likely scenario, most agreed that Putin would ultimately be the one to decide who will be Russia’s next leader. The fact that one person has so much power is surprising in a country as large and complex as Russia, highlighting that Medvedev has made little progress in modernizing the political system.

The various contributors put forward a variety of drivers for understanding Russia’s future development. Kirill Rogov, senior research fellow at the Gaidar Institute for Economic Policy, argued that Russia will only grow slowly in the near future and therefore must adopt a new economic model, the nature of which will shape “the basic content of the third cycle of Russia’s post-soviet history.” Vladimir Gel’man, a professor at St. Petersburg’s European University and a PONARS Eurasia member, asserted that Russia is now in an institutional trap. He claimed that Russia’s current institutions cannot be reformed and must be replaced. Whether such replacement could take place peacefully remained an open question. Orttung examined the central government’s declining ability to deal with crises in order to preserve its legitimacy among regional elites and Thomas Graham, senior director with Kissinger Associates, questioned the Kremlin’s political will to implement a modernization program—a necessity for Russia to compete internationally. For a detailed discussion of these views and many others, see the Russia 2020 website.
PEERS: FROM GRAD STUDENTS TO PROFESSIONALS

In 2008, a group of enterprising Elliott School graduate students, with IERES support, founded Professionals in European, Eurasian, and Russian Studies, better known by its clever acronym, PEERS. Serving graduate students and alumni, it is hosted by IERES and includes students from many Elliott School programs. Since its founding, PEERS has served as a graduate-student run forum to facilitate academic and professional interaction, increase awareness of the issues affecting the countries of Europe, Eurasia, and Russia, and promote an understanding of these issues from a global perspective. One of its premier recent events was hosting Bosnian President Željko Komšić for a major public lecture on October 15, 2009, and then hosting a small-group meeting with the president, students, and faculty. PEERS has also organized a wide variety of other events, ranging from talks by representatives of the European Parliament to very successful networking events in 2010 and 2011 that help current students reach out to professionals working in the field. The organization currently has five officers and a rapidly growing membership. For 2011, it is planning events dealing with space policy, human rights in Europe, and EU politics. To learn more, please contact: peers@gwu.edu.

IERES WELCOMES THE RUSSIAN ANALYTICAL DIGEST

With Dr. Robert Orttung's joining IERES as assistant director and research associate professor of international affairs in 2011, the Institute also enters the collaborative network producing the Russian Analytical Digest (RAD). Co-edited by Orttung, the RAD is a weekly internet publication that examines all of Russia's domestic and foreign policies. Coverage includes political, economic, and social issues. Its concise articles are accessible to a wide-range of readers and informed by the latest advances in academia. The Digest is jointly produced by the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich), the Research Centre for East European Studies [Forschungsstelle Osteuropa] at the University of Bremen, and the Institute of History at the University of Basel. It is supported by CSS and the German Association for East European Studies (DGO). The other co-editors are Stephen Aris, Matthias Neumann, Jeronim Perovic, Heiko Pleines, Hans-Henning Schroder, and Aglaya Snetkov.

The RAD currently has more than 6,000 global subscribers and subscriptions are free, just click on the “Sign up!” button on http://www.res.ethz.ch/analysis/rad. Archives dating to 2006 are also available on the site.

RECENT RAD TOPICS

Russia’s Policy toward Africa and the Middle East • Energy security • Economic development • Relations with Belarus and Kazakhstan • Regions • Urban planning • Police reform • Soft power • Internet and blogs • Afghanistan • Environment • Military thinking • Political institutions • Regional organizations • Russian-Ukrainian relations • Financial activities • History writing • National myth-making
PONARS EURASIA COMPLETES FIRST YEAR AT IERES
Connecting International Scholars, Students, and Policy Makers through The George Washington University

As of 2010, IERES became headquarters to the premier network of international scholars working on transnational and comparative issues facing the post-Soviet space, the Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS Eurasia). Since its 1996 inception at Harvard University as the Carnegie Young Scholars Project directed by Celeste Wallander, PONARS Eurasia has grown into a widely known network of over 70 leading and emerging scholars from the United States, Russia, and 12 other countries that share IERES’s mission of mobilizing academic research for crucial policy-relevant debates.

The Program comes to IERES thanks to a major grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which has funded it throughout its history at Harvard, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and most recently Georgetown University (the MacArthur Foundation is another major past funder). With the move to GW, PONARS Eurasia has greatly expanded its programming, making IERES the hub for major public conferences, smaller workshops joining scholars and policymakers, speaker series, book incubators, book launches, a prominent policy memo series, and a lively website featuring analysis and debate on public affairs related to Eurasia—all aimed at putting knowledge into action.

At IERES, PONARS Eurasia acquires new leadership by Henry Hale, who was the original administrative assistant for the Carnegie Young Scholars Project as a graduate student in 1996 before later becoming a PONARS Eurasia member. As part of the move, Cory Wel (see p. 13), a political science PhD and leading specialist on Eurasian and Caucasian security and politics, left Georgetown for IERES to serve as the Institute Associate Director and PONARS Eurasia Associate Director as of 2010. Over the course of that year, Alexander Schmemann and Olga Novikova joined the team as, respectively, managing editor and program assistant (for more on them, see p. 13). The Program also provides opportunities for GW graduate students to serve as research assistants, as have Wilder Bullard (Political Science, PSC), Michael
predictions by analyst Pavel Baev and sociologist Georgi Derlugulian concerning new waves of popular upheaval in Eurasia and beyond. The workshop also featured a dinner with off-the-record remarks by Michael McFaul, National Security Council senior director for Russia and Eurasia Affairs.

In October, PONARS Eurasia held its Annual Policy Conference, a welcome and engaging fare of expert analysis, prediction, and prescriptions. Panelists debated whether Russia could possibly take a cue from Washington to “reset” its relationship with neighbors like Azerbaijan, Poland, and Georgia. They also took a hard look at the “values gap” hindering greater European-Eurasian security cooperation and advised ways to bridge that gap. Panelists also searched for a way forward in Kyrgyzstan in the wake of regime change and anti-Uzbek pogroms, pointing to the need for political and constitutional reforms to instill respect for legal norms and avoid exacerbating the underlying deficiencies of Kyrgyzstan’s political system. The Kremlin’s modernization drive and its semi-feudal, dysfunctional rule in the North Caucasus were two more topics that panelists juxtaposed.

A key component of the PONARS Eurasia program is the Policy Memo series. These brief policy papers are derived from the current research of PONARS members, directed toward contemporary policy questions, and designed for policymakers and non-policymakers alike. In 2010, members produced almost fifty policy memos, published in three volumes.

The Policy Conference briefing book included the memos discussed at the PONARS Eurasia Annual Policy Conference, held at GWU in October 2010. In 2010, a new publication format was introduced called PONARS Eurasia Policy Perspectives. The first such volume, based on discussion at a February 2010 workshop, was “After the Color Revolutions: Political Change and Democracy Promotion in
Another volume, “Kyrgyzstan: Recovery and Reformation,” included four memos on the regime change and ethnic violence that engulfed Kyrgyzstan from April to June 2010 and provided recommendations for democratic stability and security. In addition to hard copy publications, all volumes are available for free on the PONARS Eurasia website.

In December 2010, the program launched a first-ever standalone website, www.ponarseurasia.org. The homepage is in a casual, blog-format style, offering discussions, member updates, and expert poll results on a variety of Eurasian security and political issues from New START and missile defense to neighborhood policies involving Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The site lists all members, their affiliations, publications, and contact information.

The Program also held a number of other meetings in 2010. In May 2010, it headed to Odessa, Ukraine, for a scholarly conference designed to enable PONARS Eurasia members to learn from and improve each other’s academic work while deepening professional relationships. Our local partner was Odessa National University’s Center for International Studies (directed by PONARS Eurasia’s own Volodymyr Dubovyk).

We also introduced two new series featuring the academic work of PONARS Eurasia members. The first is a book launch series featuring presentations of newly published policy-relevant books, where we invite authors and Washington think-tank or NGO specialists to discuss new releases like Oil Is Not a Curse: Ownership Structure and Institutions in Soviet Successor States by Pauline Jones-Luong and Erika Weinthal (commentary by Ed Chow, CSIS Senior Fellow and Professorial Lecturer at the Elliott School for IERES’s EES Program).

The other is a book incubator workshop series designed to provide authors of draft manuscripts feedback by scholars and practitioners on theories, findings, and the relevance of their research to contemporary policymaking. We initiated this series with a review of PONARS Eurasia member and Columbia University professor Kimberly Marten’s manuscript on Outsourcing Sovereignty: Warlords and International Security, which explores the consequences of working with or eliminating warlordism in Pakistan, Georgia, Russia, and Iraq.

IERES-PONARS Eurasia
Book Events

Graeme Robertson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, discussed his book The Politics of Protest in Hybrid Regimes: Managing Dissent in Post-Communist Russia, with commentary by Nadia Diuk, NED, on Feb 22, 2011.

Randall W. Stone, University of Rochester, discussed his book Controlling Institutions: International Organizations and the Global Economy, with commentary by Alex Mourmouras, IMF Institute, on March 1, 2011.
VISITING SCHOLARS FOR THE SPRING 2011 SEMESTER

Each academic year, IERES offers in-house opportunities to visiting scholars, research assistants, and doctoral student fellows. We are very pleased to have the following on board.

Rebecca Chamberlain-Creanga was previously a Title VIII Research Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars’ Kennan Institute and is now wrapping up her doctorate in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics. She is working on “Manufacturing Separatism: Transnational Economy, Identity, and Politics on a Post-Soviet Frozen War Front,” which features extensive fieldwork in Moldova and its breakaway region of Transnistria. Chamberlain did participant-observation in urban heavy industry for almost two years in 2004-06. (February-August 2011)

Dariga Chukmailova is originally from Kazakhstan. She is a Ph.D. Candidate at Claremont Graduate University who is writing about “Sector-switching” in Kazakhstan’s healthcare industry. dariga@gwu.edu (September 2010-September 2011)

Ludmila Coada is a Fulbright Scholar at IERES and the Dean of the History and International Relations Department at the Free International University of Moldova. Her Fulbright research project is entitled “Foreign policies of Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia since the fall of the Soviet Union,” and has a particular emphasis on Moldova’s foreign policy between 1991 and 2011. Ludmila is the author of various scholarly articles on Bessarabian history and the foreign policy of Moldova. Her first book, The Zemstvo as an Institution in Bessarabia: Historical and Juridical Aspects, was published in 2009. lcoada@gwu.edu (September 2010-June 2011)

Paul Coyer is a Ph.D. Candidate at the London School of Economics. He is researching Cold War history, specifically the Sino-Soviet-US diplomatic and strategic triangle. At IERES, he is working toward finishing his dissertation, “Congress, China and the Cold War,” which is about the role the US Congress played in the early development of Sino-American relations. coyer@gwu.edu (January 2010-August 2011)

Alexander Diener is an IERES Senior Fellow in Eurasian Studies and Associate Professor of Geography at Pepperdine University. His research focuses on mobilities and immobilities in post-Soviet space. diener@gwu.edu (September 2010-May 2011)

Jeremy Friedman is the 2010-11 Mellon Fellow in Contemporary History and a Ph.D. Candidate at Princeton University. His dissertation is entitled: Reviving Revolution: the Sino-Soviet Split, the “Third World,” and the Fate of the Left. jsfriedm@gwu.edu (September 2010-July 2011)
Danielle Granville is a doctoral student in political science at Oxford University. She is working on her dissertation, a comparative study of the efforts of Ukrainian diaspora communities in Great Britain and the United States to achieve genocide recognition for the 1932-33 Great Famine. dgranv@gwu.edu (October 2010-September 2011)

Yasunori Hanamatsu is a Fellow of the International Training Program for Young Scholars of the Slavic Research Center in Hokkaido University, Japan. He is studying Russia’s foreign policy on transnational environmental issues. yhanamat@gwu.edu (July 2010-May 2011)

Stefan Hedlund is Professor of Soviet and East European Studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. A longtime friend of IERES, he is working on a book entitled Russia as an Energy Superpower. stefan.hedlund@ucrs.uu.se (March-April 2011)

Alexander Kupatadze is IERES’s 2010-11 Hoffman Post-Doctoral Fellow in Eurasian Studies. He recently completed his Ph.D. at the School of International Relations at St. Andrews University. At IERES, he is turning his dissertation into a book. His research interests include criminal networks, informal politics and corruption, and the international relations of the Caucasus and Central Asia. He has authored several articles and book chapters on criminality, smuggling, and policing in post-Soviet Eurasia. He is now working on a book entitled State Formation and Organized Crime in Post-Soviet Eurasia, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2011. akupatad@gwu.edu (September 2010–May 2011)

Nancy Meyers is researching the role of moral shock in early 1999 Serbian protests and the 1996-97 protest in central Serbia. nancyim@gwmail.gwu.edu (July 2010–July 2011)

Sabina Mihelj is a Lecturer in Media, Communication, and Culture at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. Her research project is entitled “Entertaining a Socialist Nation: Dilemmas of Popular Culture and Good Life in Socialist Yugoslavia, 1960-1980.” She is the author of Media Nations: Communication, Belonging, and Exclusion in the Modern World (Palgrave, February 2011) and has published several journal articles and book chapters on nationalism and the media, European communication, and the cultural and social history of the Italo-Yugoslav border region after 1945. smihelj@gwu.edu (January-March 2011)

Margaret Paxson is Senior Associate at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Her research project is entitled “Remembering the Good: Legacies of Rescue and Resistance in the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon.” She is researching how the extraordinary rescue efforts on the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon during the Holocaust are recalled—in story and in action—by the local community. She has studied memory patterns and social/moral questions in rural communities extensively in Russia and the Caucasus. paxson@gwu.edu (January-December 2011)
Andriy Pekhnyk is Associate Professor at Lviv’s Ivan Franko National University’s Department of International Relations in Ukraine. He comes to IERES as the 2011 William and Helen Petrach Scholar, and will be researching issues of mutual dependence and conflicts and commonalities in foreign policy and economic interests in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet countries. Pekhnyk has written over 40 scholarly works, including the textbook *Foreign Investments in the Economy of Ukraine* (2007). Pekhnyk is currently researching geopolitical and geoeconomical powers in the contemporary world, in particular the influence of economic factors on geopolitics. pekhnyk@gwu.edu (February-June 2011)

Ridvan Peshkopia is IERES’s 2010-11 Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow in European Studies. His research topic is international migration and he is looking at the effects of EU membership conditionality, migration attitudes, and the ethical debate over international migration. He did his graduate work at the University of Kentucky. rpeshkop@gwu.edu (October 2010-June 2011)

Francisco Javier Rodriguez Jimenez is a Fulbright Scholar from the University of Salamanca, Spain. He is studying American cultural diplomacy after World War II. His interests include American studies; anti-Americanism; American high culture vs. popular culture; cultural diplomacy and soft powers of different states in a comparative approach. His book, *Antidoto Contra el Antiamericanismo?* American Studies en Espana, 1945-1969, was recently published. fjrodrig@gwu.edu (September 2010–August 2011)

Albert Schmidt from the University of Bridgeport is studying town planning and the architecture of provincial Russia. Additionally, he is working on the history of English law firms in the 18th and 19th centuries. albsch@gwu.edu (January-December 2011)

Valentyna Vasylova from Chernivtsi University in Ukraine is currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar pursuing a research project on the Ukraine-Romania-Moldova borderlands. The project looks at the interplay between the historical regions, respective nations’ imagined maps, and current inter-state/EU borders. Her broader research interests encompass physical and symbolical borders, overlapping identities, historical memory, frozen conflicts, national minorities in East Central Europe, and the EU Eastern neighborhood. vasylova@gwu.edu (September 2010-June 2011)

A full list of current and future visiting scholars can be found at www.ieres.org

Visitng Scholars
The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES) invites applications from U.S. and foreign scholars who need to be in residence in Washington, DC for their research and writing on topics related to Europe and/or Eurasia (the territory corresponding to the former Soviet Union). Senior scholars, post-doctoral scholars, and advanced graduate students working on their dissertations in any major discipline are eligible to apply. Interested scholars should contact ieresgwu@gwu.edu.

Find IERES on Facebook
Caitlin Katsiaficas, IERES’s Executive Associate, joined IERES in December 2009 and is currently pursuing an MA in international affairs with concentrations in international development and conflict resolution. Her interests include migration, forced displacement, and post-conflict development. Caitlin earned her BA summa cum laude in international affairs with a minor in anthropology from GW. She has also studied in Belgium and Turkey. She speaks French and is studying Turkish.

Olga Novikova joined IERES as Program Assistant for PONARS Eurasia in April 2010. Previously, Olga worked at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars as well as at several book publishing companies in New York City. She was raised in Kharkiv, Ukraine, and traveled the world as a professional chess player. Olga’s interests include civil and human rights, intercultural communication, and exploring used bookstores. Olga received her BA in Political Science from Kenyon College.

Robert Orttung, IERES Assistant Director, has published studies of Russian democratization, federalism, corruption, and energy security. He joined IERES in January 2011 after working in a variety of universities and think tanks, including American University, the EastWest Institute, the Open Media Research Institute, and the Resource Security Institute. At home, his main tasks are chauffeuring two teen-agers and finding lost things.

Alexander Schmemann (“Sasha”) started working at IERES in the summer of 2010 as the Managing Editor for PONARS Eurasia. He has experience in both the private and non-profit sectors, including at Troika Dialog in Moscow and the Eurasia Foundation in Washington, DC. He attended Middlebury College and the London School of Economics and Political Science. His hobbies include following current events, windsurfing, and ice hockey. He was born in New York City and has Russian ancestry.

Cory Welt, IERES Associate Director, came to the Institute together with PONARS Eurasia in January 2010 from Georgetown University. He is a specialist on post-Soviet Eurasian security and politics, with an enduring interest in Georgia and the rest of the Caucasus. Before moving to Georgetown, he was a member of the Russia and Eurasia team at the Center for Strategic and International Studies from 2003 to 2007. Originally from Las Vegas and a Stanford/MIT graduate, he, his wife, and his two young children now call Reston, VA home.
RECENT EVENTS AT IERES

Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin,
Timothy Snyder, Yale University, March 10, 2011

Rock and Roll, Disco Mafia, and the Collapse of Communism, Sergei Zhuk, Ball State University, Taras Kuzio, Johns Hopkins University, March 9, 2011

Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia: Challenges and Prospects, Dr. Elizabeth Wishnick, Bowdoin College, Dr. Yasunori Hanamatsu, IERES, Dr. Laura A. Henry, Montclair State University, Dr. Yasunori Hanamatsu, IERES, Moderated by Dr. Henry E. Hale, IERES, March 4, 2011

Deadly Communities: Anti-Jewish Pogroms in the Shadow of the Holocaust, Jeffrey Kopstein, University of Toronto, March 4, 2011


Selling a Western Way of Life? The Politics of Popular Culture in Cold War Yugoslavia, Sabina Mihelj, IERES, Wednesday, March 2, 2011


Euro Stress: The Future of the Common Currency, Desmond Lachman, American Enterprise Institute, Holger Wolf, Georgetown University, co-sponsored with the Institute for International Economic Policy (IIEP), February 9, 2011

Did the Americans Buy Out the French Résistance? The Revelations of the “Affaire Suisse,”

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Robert Belot, Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard, co-sponsored with the History Department Research Colloquium, February 8, 2011


Post-Elections Development in Kyrgyzstan: The Tension between Democracy Promotion and Conflict Mitigation, Alisher Khamidov, Johns Hopkins University, Jeff Goldstein, Open Society Institute, December 6, 2010

Europe 2020: Competitive or Complacent? Daniel S. Hamilton, Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, November 19, 2010


The Caucasus Region: New Status Quo and Unresolved Conflicts, Sergey Markedonov, CSIS, November 12, 2010

Democratic Accountability Relations: Exploring Global Patterns, Herbert Kitschelt, Duke University, October 29, 2010

Behind the Lines in Greece: The Story of OSS Operational Group II, Robert E. Perdue, Jr, WWII Veteran, October 4, 2010

Book Presentation: Oil Is Not a Curse: Ownership Structure and Institutions in Soviet Successor States, Pauline Jones Luong, Brown University; Commentary by Edward C. Chow, CSIS, September 24, 2011

SELECTED IERES PUBLICATIONS 2010-2011

Books


Articles and Book Chapters


Eglitis, Daina S., ”Cultures of Gender and the Changing Latvian Family in Early Post-Communism,” Journal of Baltic Studies, June 2010


Harrison, Hope M., ‘The Demise and Resurrection of the Berlin Wall: German Debates About the Wall as a Site of Memory,” In Diktatur-Uberwindung in Europa, Winter 2010


Mylonas, Harris and Elpida Vogli, “Hellenes are...Incorporation Strategies toward Co-Ethnic Repatriate Groups in Contemporary Greece (1990-2006),” In Immigrants and Minorities: Discourse and Policies, 2010


Norwood, Frances, “Promising Practices for Evacuating People with Disabilities,” A cooperative project, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, United States Department of Education, 2011

Orttung, Robert, “Center-Periphery Relations in Russia,” Pro et Contra, Vol. 14, No. 4-5. July-October 2010


Pifer, Steven, "The Next Round: The United States and Nuclear Arms Reductions after New START," Brookings Institution, December 2010


POLICY REPORT

Derived in part from a December 2010 fact-finding trip to Georgia, including along the Abkhazia and South Ossetia conflict lines., IERES Associate Director Cory Welt and Samuel Charap. Center for American Progress, released a 70-page policy report, A More Proactive U.S. Approach to the Georgia Conflicts, at an event on February 15 in Washington, DC. They reviewed the Washington policy debates concerning the Russia-Georgia war of 2008 and explained why the current time is right for a more proactive U.S. approach to the region. The discussants at the event were Damon Wilson, Atlantic Council, and Alexander Cooley, Columbia University.
Szaszdi, Lajos F. and Mackenzie Eaglen, "What Russia's Stealth Fighter Developments Mean for America," The Heritage Foundation, November 2010

Mylonas, Harris and Wilder Bullard, “This Is No 1989 Moment for the Middle East,” The Guardian, February 2011


Welt, Cory and Samuel Charap, "How to Resolve the Georgia Conflict,” The Moscow Times, December 2010

Welt, Cory, “Georgia's Constitutional Reform,” Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, Vol. 12, No. 21, November 2010

Welt, Cory and Samuel Charap, "A New Approach to the Russia-Georgia Conflict," Center for American Progress, October 2010

Mylonas, Harris, "An Iniquitous System," Kathimerini, 2 July 2010


Commentary

Welt, Cory and Samuel Charap, "Easing the Crossing: More Permits, Crossing Points and Clearer Rules Are Needed," The International Institute for Strategic Studies, February 2011

Awards

2010-2011 Academic Year
Helen and Sergius Yakobson Scholarship
James (Wilder) Bullard

Hoffman Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Brian Karlsson, Dissertation: The Politics of Immigration in the Shadows of the Nazi Past

Hoffman Conference Travel Grant
Medlir Mema, to attend and present at the International Studies Association’s annual meeting in Montreal, Canada

Summer 2010
Davis Language Study Fellowship
Lisel Hintz, to take an intensive Turkish language immersion course at Boğaziçi Univeristy in Istanbul, Turkey

Millar Summer Student Travel Grant
Medlir Mema, to attend a series of conferences and conduct dissertation research

Isham Summer Student Travel Grant
Sevana Sammis, to participate in an internship at the Eurasia Partnership Foundation in Tbilisi, Georgia

Millar Award
Yasin Emre Kucukkaya, to intern at the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris, France
HAT TRICK FOR IERES ALUM: TENURE, BOOK, BABY!

Some people can do everything! In the last few years, IERES Alum Gulnaz Sharafutdinova (PhD, PSC, ’04) earned tenure at Miami University, published a book based on her GW Political Science PhD dissertation, and gave birth to Rafael, now a three-year old toddler.

Gulnaz is an associate professor in the Political Science Department at Miami University in Ohio and an active player in its Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies.

The University of Notre Dame Press published her book *Political Consequences of Crony Capitalism inside Russia* at the beginning of 2011. IERES Director Henry Hale called it “one of the most interesting and well argued books I have read recently on the question of democracy in Russia.”

In her premier monograph, Gulnaz examines the coexistence of crony capitalism and traditionally democratic institutions, such as political competition and elections in Russia after the collapse of communism. The combination, she argues, has produced a distinct pattern of political evolution in contemporary Russia where the institutional forms of democracy did not result in expected outcomes. Instead, democratic institutions were widely devalued and discredited in the context of crony capitalism.

Gulnaz closely scrutinized elections in two regions of Russia, Nizhnii Novgorod and her native Tatarstan, and discovered that crony capitalism was rampant and that massive amounts of money “purchased” candidates and power. As a result, the majority of citizens perceived elections as a means for the elite to access power and wealth rather than as expressions of public will.

Through her detailed case studies and her analyses of contemporary Russia in general, Gulnaz persuasively demonstrates that the turn toward authoritarianism associated with Vladimir Putin and supported by a majority of Russian citizens was a negative political response to the interaction of electoral processes and crony capitalism.

Alum Updates

David Giles (EES, ’06) is currently the Assistant Director of the Program on Crisis Leadership at Harvard’s Kennedy School. His responsibilities include conducting research on public policy issues concerning disaster management and crisis leadership. He said, “Although I’m not currently working on much related to Europe and Eurasia, my time at IERES has actually had a big impact on my career. It gave me a very good grounding in public policy analysis and comparative politics research, and I owe a big debt to IERES faculty for helping me to develop my writing and research skills, which I rely on constantly.”

Jeff Lightfoot (EES, ’08) is the Associate Director for the Program on International Security at the Atlantic Council in Washington. He works on transatlantic security and defense issues, particularly concerning NATO, EUCOM, and transatlantic missile defense. He tells us he is working on the same issues that he studied in graduate school, which means the coursework, relationships, and curriculum he gained from IERES/Elliott School are directly relevant to what he does in his job on a day-to-day basis.
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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IERES is home to over 25 faculty members who are active in their fields, writing books, articles, and opinion pieces and lecturing in the US and abroad. The Institute also hosts over 20 visiting scholars each year from institutions around the world. Supporting IERES research projects enables faculty and visiting scholars to continue their research activities both at the Institute and in the field.

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For more information, please contact IERES Director Henry Hale at (202) 994-6340 or hhale@gwu.edu

Thank you!
We are grateful to all who have contributed over the years, including:
A. Michael Hoffman  ▪  Detta Voesar  ▪  The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  ▪  The Carnegie Corporation of New York  ▪  The Helen and Sergius Yakobson Scholarship Endowment  ▪  The Heyward Isham Fund for Russian and Eastern European Studies  ▪  The Maria H. Davis European Studies Endowment  ▪  The Millar Family Fund  ▪  The Stuart Program on Northern Europe  ▪  The William and Helen Petrach Endowment
The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES)

The primary mission of the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES) is to promote the understanding of Europe, Russia, and Eurasia through the synergistic activities of education, research, and practice. Its hallmarks are its blending of academic rigor with policy engagement, its programs mobilizing theory for action, its interdisciplinary perspective, and its recognition that Europe, Russia, and Eurasia cannot be understood in isolation from each other or from global trends. The Institute’s numerous programs and activities include: PONARS Eurasia, the Summer Institute for Conducting Archival Research (SICAR), the Russian Analytical Digest/Caucasus Analytical Digest, the IERES Visiting Scholars Program, the GW Cold War Group, the Stuart Program on Northern Europe, and the William and Helen Petrach Program on Ukraine.

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