Institute Members Prominent in Berlin Wall Commemorations

IERES was closely involved in the 25th anniversary commemorations of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Our institute hosted several events at GW and was also part of the official celebrations in Berlin.


IERES held a half-day symposium on November 13 featuring two IERES professors and two guests from Germany who had experienced the Berlin Wall in dramatic ways. Mario Röllig told the gripping story of his failed attempt to escape from East Germany and his imprisonment by the East German secret police, the Stasi. Röllig now leads tours of the museum-memorial located at the main former Stasi prison in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, where he had been incarcerated. Continued on page 2>

Bolashak Program Established at IERES

Kazakhstan’s Center for International Programs, housed within their Ministry of Education, and IERES’ Central Asia Program created two uniquely-tailored programs under the rubric of the government-sponsored Bolashak International Scholarship: one on international affairs and public policy and another on education management. From November 24, 2014, to January 30, 2015, IERES hosted fourteen Bolashak fellows, eight of whom enrolled in the international affairs program and six in the education management program. During these ten-week programs, each group received more than thirty-five lessons from faculty, staff, and guest speakers; spent fifty hours on methodology, communication skills, and writing skills; and visited more than twenty American political-cultural institutions and international organizations, such as USAID, UNDP, the World Bank, and the Voice of America. They learned about key professional development topics such as the “unspoken rules of spoken English” and the protocol for writing articles for peer-reviewed journals. During their stay with us, the fellows conducted research on topics that they presented during a public appearance in January 2015. The Central Asia Program will publish their final research papers in English in a special booklet.
Berlin Wall Commemoration  >Continued from page 1

At the other end of the spectrum of life experiences in Germany with the Berlin Wall, Ralph Kabisch spoke about his involvement as a young student in West Berlin helping to dig a tunnel under the Wall in 1964. Fifty-seven East Germans escaped to West Berlin through this tunnel. The symposium concluded with presentations by Professors Mary Beth Stein (German Language and Literature) and Hope M. Harrison (History) about their research on East Germany and the Berlin Wall and their own experiences with the Wall. In her presentation, Dr. Stein talked about the Stasi prison at Berlin-Hohenschönhausen and how united Germany has approached the memory and legacy of the Stasi and its victims. Dr. Harrison discussed the ways united Germany has commemorated the history of the Berlin Wall over the past 25 years and how the historical memory of the rise and fall of the Wall is connected to German identity.

On November 17, IERES partnered with the German, Polish, Hungarian, Czech and Slovak embassies to host a panel discussion, “Who Tore Down the Iron Curtain and Why?” The Lindner Commons was standing room only to listen as participants from each of the five countries described their involvement in the historic events of 1989-90 as communist regimes fell in one country after another in Central and Eastern Europe. The Czech Minister of Culture, Daniel Herman, was a Catholic priest supporting the opposition in 1989. The current Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, György Szapáry, had fled Hungary in 1956 and was working for the IMF in Washington when he returned to Hungary in 1989 to be a part of the anti-communist movement. Toralf Pliz escaped from East Germany by swimming across a tributary of the Danube between Hungary and Yugoslavia a few months before the Wall fell. He went on to become a German diplomat. Maria Koziebrodzka was a young student in the “Fighting Solidarity” opposition group in Poland and served as a secret courier of messages between Solidarity leaders in hiding. Their personal accounts of the demise of communism in their countries were enthralling.

IERES was also represented at the official festivities in Berlin for the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Wall on November 9. Professor Harrison arranged for GW to sponsor 11 of the 8,000 illuminated, tethered balloons marking the former path of the Berlin Wall. She was joined by EES student Georges Gautherin who was studying in Berlin for the semester, as well as IERES graduate research fellow Alexander Reisenbichler, who is conducting research in Berlin for his dissertation in political science. At the appointed time on the evening of November 9, the GW participants released each of their 11 balloons into the air along with the thousands of others so that the “border of light” was dispersed just as the Berlin Wall had been 25 years before. While in Berlin, Professor Harrison was interviewed live by CNN International and by the U.S. Embassy. She contributed an article on the commemoration of the Berlin Wall to the special edition of the Berlin newspaper Tagesspiegel and wrote a piece for the Washington Post debunking “Five Myths about the Berlin Wall.” Professor Harrison’s class, “The Two Germanys and the Cold War,” created a short video featuring pieces of the Berlin Wall in Washington, DC.

For the current generation of students, the fall of the Berlin Wall is a historical event, but no longer part of their personal memory. This challenge is a motivation for all of us at IERES to bring these events to the attention of GW students and guests. Leading specialists such as Professor Harrison play a crucial role in fulfilling this mission.
On December 8-10, 2014, PONARS Eurasia held a workshop on “Comparative Political Development in Post-Soviet Eurasia and the Middle East” in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in partnership with NYU Abu Dhabi and the Elliott School’s own Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). The workshop was generously supported by the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute and Carnegie Corporation of New York.

PONARS Eurasia workshops are intended both to provide an incentive for the academic members of the network to prioritize policy-relevant work and to promote the crucial goal of better integrating Western and post-Soviet scholarly communities. Given the current climate in U.S.-Russia relations and tensions among post-Soviet states, we thought it especially helpful to convene participants at a third site of common academic and policy interest, rather than their home countries. We anticipated that Abu Dhabi would be an exemplary location for this kind of dialogue, as well as give us an opportunity to launch a cross-regional discussion with Middle East specialists on cross-regional topics.

We solicited papers that addressed questions of patronal politics, popular mobilization, and identity politics and conflict in post-Soviet Eurasia and the Middle East; domestic sources of foreign policy; and the impact of resource-based economies on state-society relations. We also invited papers that sought to distill comparative lessons from the experiences of the post-Soviet Union and the post-Arab Spring Middle East. Workshop participants discussed a total of 26 papers.

Our host was PONARS Eurasia member Georgi Derluguian, Professor of Social Research and Public Policy, NYU Abu Dhabi. Participants came from a variety of academic institutions, including the University of Washington, University of North Carolina, Bates College, the Higher School of Economics (Moscow), McGill, Columbia, Georgia State University, Volgograd State University, PRIO (Oslo), University of Tartu, Harvard, Yale, and Tufts (to name but some).

Along with the academic side of the conference, which was held at the impressive and sleek new NYU Abu Dhabi campus on Saadiyat Island, participants took the opportunity to explore (and scrutinize) the cultural and economic development of the UAE. Participants also had the opportunity to receive an off-the-record briefing with a senior U.S. Embassy official on U.S.-UAE relations and on a variety of key regional issues.

PONARS Eurasia is housed at IERES and co-directed by Elliott School Professors Henry E. Hale and Cory Welt. [www.ponarseurasia.org](http://www.ponarseurasia.org)
IERES Publications

Professor Henry E. Hale’s New Book Celebrated

On April 10, IERES hosted an event dedicated to Professor Henry Hale’s most recent book *Patronal Politics: Eurasian Regime Dynamics in Comparative Perspective*. This book, which seeks to recast democratic and authoritarian breakthroughs as phases in longer-term cyclic dynamics, has been lauded by critics as “explain[ing] more about the trajectories of post-Soviet societies than anything else on the market” (Kimberly Marten, Columbia University), a “path-breaking study,” (Vladimir Gel’man, European University at St. Petersburg & University of Helsinki), and as an “elegant” model of “rich and compelling” empirical research (Paul D’Anieri, University of California, Riverside).

Professor Timothy Colton (Morris and Anna Feldberg Professor of Government and Russian Studies and chair of the Government Department, Harvard University) presented a detailed assessment of Professor Hale’s book at the event that brought together GW students, faculty, and interested guests. Patronal Politics is now available in hardback and paperback.

Books


Articles & Book Chapters


Policy Papers


Commentaries


Annotated Bibliographies


The Winter 2015 issue of Demokratizatsiya examines a range of topics, including the 2011 presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan, the role of the internet in democratization, the nature of Russia’s coercion against local NGOs declared to be “foreign agents,” the impact of paranoia in Belarus, and suggestions for ways to improve local governance in Armenia. Issues and information about subscriptions can be found at the IERES website.
Recent Event Highlights

Professors Hope Harrison (far left) and Peter Rollberg (right) introduce guest speaker Peter Finn of The Washington Post, who presented his recent book *The Zhivago Affair* to the GWU community.

Lecture participants gather around speaker Mustafa Nayyem (third from left), Ukrainian parliamentarian and recipient of the 2014 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award, and IERES Professor Eliot Sorel (center).

Tetiana Matychak of Stopfake.org provided vivid examples of how state media manipulate public opinion in the current information war between Russia and Ukraine.
Recent IERES Events of Note

During the winter and spring months, IERES hosted numerous events covering themes ranging from business in Kazakhstan to art in Ukraine, including:

- **Ukraine’s Crisis through Ukrainian Eyes**: a symposium held January 21, 2015 that highlighted research conducted on attitudes towards the Euromaidan movement, volunteer militias, identity issues, and political preferences.

- **The Fourth Annual Central Asia Fellows' Seminar**: a discussion held January 26, 2015 that provided Central Asia Fellows a forum to discuss women’s political representation in Kyrgyzstan, brain-drain in Uzbekistan, and territorial enclaves in the Ferghana Valley.

- **Russia After Crimea**: a talk on January 29, 2015 with esteemed Russian journalist Maria Lipman, who discussed the uptick of anti-Western, anti-liberal, xenophobic rhetoric in Russian policy and intensifying crackdowns on oppositional voices.

- **Central Asia and the Eurasian Economic Union**: a conference held on February 26, 2015 and co-sponsored by the U.S.–Kazakhstan Business Association where participants discussed how the Eurasian Economic Union would impact Central Asian states across a variety of fields.

- **Maidan. Ukraine. Road to Freedom**: an exhibition opening held on March 23, 2015 that presented artifacts and original art pieces collected from and inspired by recent events in Ukraine accompanied by rock covers of Ukrainian folk songs.

- **The First Uzbekistan Initiative Workshop**: co-hosted by the Uzbekistan Initiative, this event on April 6, 2015 gathered discussants to discuss such themes as Uzbekistan’s domestic and foreign policies, economic development, and engagements with diaspora communities.

- **U.S.-Russia Relations: What Went Wrong and is there a Way Out of the Current Crisis?**: a talk led by Dr. Edward Lozansky, founder and president of the American University in Moscow, on April 6, 2015, wherein participants discussed possible opportunities for common dialogue and rapprochement between Russia and the United States.

- **A luncheon with the Honorable Karel Schwarzenberg** (below), former foreign minister of the Czech Republic, where graduate and undergraduate students alike had an opportunity to discuss such topics as EU enlargement and the Czech Republic’s role in crafting European policy.

![The Hon. Karel Schwarzenberg (third from left) with IERES professors and EES students](image-url)
On April 20, 2015, the former Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Milan Panic visited the George Washington University, where he presented his book *Prime Minister for Peace: My Struggle for Serbian Democracy*, took questions from George Washington University faculty, students, and DC community members, and focused on the need for revamped, peace-centric dialogue and diplomacy.

Clockwise from upper left: His Excellency Milan Panic presenting his book to a crowd of eager spectators in Lindner Commons; with Elliott School Dean Mike Brown; with IERES Director Peter Rollberg; a group photo with Bill Press (second from left) and Senator Birch Bayh (second from right).
Visiting Scholars
2014-2015

Anne Marie Aanerud, IERES’ Stuart fellow for the spring semester, is a Political Advisor for the Center Party Parliamentary Group in the Norwegian Parliament. Previously, she served as Political Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. She earned an MA and a BA from the University of Oslo and was a student fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. While at IERES, she examined the consequences of the joint US-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in Norway.

Dongjie Chen is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Central Asia Institute at Shaanxi Normal University (China). His research interests include modern state and national building in Central Asia, especially in Uzbekistan. His project “Globalization and Nation-State: The Challenge and Response in Uzbekistan” focuses on how Uzbekistan has been coping with globalization in its efforts to build a nation-state. His publications include The Relations between Xinxiang and Soviet Russia in Yang Zenging’s Period and Bureaucracy Reform in Yang Zenging’s Period.

Virginie Fracheboud is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). Her research focuses on transatlantic political and economic relations between 1945 and 1973. Her publications include The Introduction of Disability Insurance in Switzerland: Tensions at the Very Heart of the Welfare State (Ed. Antipodes, 2014) and Looking After One’s Interests: Swiss Watchmakers and the Federal Government against U.S. Protectionists (an article submitted to the journal Relations Internationales.

“I am proud to be the first Fulbright Hildeman Fellow in Scandinavian Studies here at IERES. In my research I focus on transatlantic security and IERES. The Elliott School is one of the greatest research environments regarding security studies in the world, hosting topical seminars and other events every day. I am also glad that I have the opportunity to teach a course about Scandinavian Security during my fellowship. The students are very talented and ambitious, which also is a challenge and develops me as a professor. I have learned a lot about the US system of higher education, which I will take with me back to Scandinavia.” – Dr. Magnus Petersson

“It’s a great pleasure and a unique opportunity to be a CAP fellow. I focus on energy security in Central Asia and develop an information analysis project on Central Asia. This fellowship gave me a chance to meet inspiring people and receive new ideas for future research and my career. I also try to promote Turkmen culture and share my experiences of living in various Central Asian countries.” – Nazik Muradova

Farukh Imazarov, one of two Central Asia Program fellows for the spring semester, is Country Director at the Central Asian Development Institute, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He is also completing his PhD in Institutional Economics at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. In 2014, he was a Visiting Researcher at the Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, and a Visiting Fellow at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany. He is in charge of several research projects on economic development, labour migration, regional trade, and transport issues in Central Asia.

Dr. Vladyslav Hrynevych is a Senior Research Associate at the Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, as well as an associate professor at the Mohyla Academy in Kyiv. A Carnegie fellow, Dr. Hrynevych’s research project focuses on the formation of a new model of historical memory concerning World War II in Ukraine, amidst the backdrop of the recent Maidan (and, subsequently, anti-Maidan) movements.

Dr. George Ivaniashvili is Chairman of the International Centre for Social Research and Policy Analysis, where he coordinates research programs and projects financed by international donors. His research interests are comparative politics, political ideologies, post-Soviet transition, democratization, and formation of political elites. He is currently working on a book, titled Rethinking the Paradigms of the Post-Soviet Transition to Democracy: The Case of Georgia. In the past, Ivaniashvili has had several visiting scholar appointments at the Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge (2008); Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Bologna (2012); and Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University.
Dr. Jan Koura is a lecturer at the Institute of World History, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. He holds a master's degree in history and political science. In 2013, he completed his Ph.D. at Charles University. His main research interests include Cold War history, U.S. foreign policy and public diplomacy towards Eastern Europe after the Second World War, and Euro-Atlantic relations in the 20th century. During his stay at IERES, he will be working on the project titled “U.S. public diplomacy towards Czechoslovakia in the years 1945-1953.” September 2014 – June 2015.

Dr. Michal Kšiňan received his Ph.D. (2011) at Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and the Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences. His research interests center on relations between politics, history and memory, and Slovak and French historiography. He has published several articles and books including Milan Rastislav Štefánik (Cupoter Press, SNA, 2012) and La mémoire conservée du général Milan Rastislav Štefánik dans les archives du Service historique de la Défense (co-author; SHD, 2008, translated into Slovak in 2009). October 2014 – February 2015.

Nazik Muradova, one of two Central Asia Program fellows for the spring semester, received her Master’s degree from the University of St. Andrews (Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies program) and her Bachelor’s from the American University of Central Asia (International and Comparative Politics Department). Among Nazik’s key academic interests are regional security, energy, and humanitarian law. At George Washington University, Nazik analyzes, among other issues, energy security prospects in Central Asia.

Dr. Magnus Petersson is Professor of Modern History at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies in Oslo, as well as an Associate Professor at Oslo University and Stockholm University. He has been a Lecturer, Researcher, Director of Studies, and Head of Research and Development at the Swedish National Defence College (1998–2008), and currently he is the first Fulbright Hildeman Fellow in Scandinavian Studies at IERES. He is currently teaching a class on Scandinavian security during and after the Cold War.

Abdulfattoh Shafiev, a Fulbright Visiting Scholar, has been researching the increased role of social media in the formation of civil society in Tajikistan through a step-by-step comparative process with countries already witnessing the power of an actively mobilized online society. His doctoral research at his home institution, the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University (RTSU), in Tajikistan, also covers the emergence and rise of online professional and citizen journalism. Abdulfattoh has won numerous international and national competitions for journalists and writers.

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

Dr. Justyna Zając teaches international relations at the University of Warsaw. She served on the National Security Strategic Review Commission as an appointee of the President of the Republic of Poland. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the Standing Group on International Relations (the European Consortium for Political Research), and she has authored several books and articles on transatlantic security, the European Union, U.S. foreign policy, and Poland’s foreign and security policy.
In only its second year, the CAP Film Club has established a loyal following among students, faculty, and members of the DC community, who enjoy unusual feature films and Central Asian cuisine. IERES gratefully acknowledges the expertise of Dr. Michael Rouland, who has led the project from its inception.  www.centralasiaprogram.org
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; sponsoring research conducted by students and professors; organizing events that bring together students, professors and outside experts; and more.

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During the 2014-2015 academic year, IERES hosted more than 2,400 participants at 100 events including panel discussions, film screenings, conferences, and academic workshops. Support for IERES helps the Institute sponsor a wide range of events, which attract students, professors, and practitioners from various fields.

Support Our Students
Contributions to IERES support graduate students scholarships for study abroad programs, language courses, internships, and research projects in Europe and Eurasia.

Support Our Research Initiatives
IERES is home to over 30 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 several 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 do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 994-6340! - IERES Director Peter Rollberg

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