

2023 REECAS Northwest Conference Panels

Thursday, April 20

Session 1A, 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm | HUB 238

Re-Reading Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature

Participants:

Chutong Liu, University of Oregon, “The Heavily Weighed Silence — On the Ambiguity of Child Prostitution in Crime and Punishment”

Svetlana Ostroverkhova, University of Washington, “Dostoevsky's Polyphonic Novels as a Means of Disability Justice”

Susanna Fuentes, UERJ - State University of Rio de Janeiro, “Letters, Leaves, Flames - A Dialogue with the ‘Soul of the World’ in Chekhovs' *The Seagull*”

Chair: Galya Diment, University of Washington

Session 1B, 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm | HUB 307

Education, Civil Society and Science in the USSR and Post-Soviet Space

Participants:

Naila Peken, University of South Florida, and **Gunel Alasgarova**, Pennsylvania State University, “Post-Colonial Traits in Azerbaijan Higher Education”

Chiara Pierobon, DAAD and University of Washington, “The EU, Civil Society and Local Ownership in Kyrgyzstan: Evidence from the Field of Preventing Violent Extremism”

Scott Montgomery, University of Washington, “Reappraising Soviet Science: Vladimir Belousov and the Case of Geolog”

Chair: Joe Wilson

Session 1C, 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm | HUB 214

Roundtable: Decolonization and the Future of Our Field

Participants:

Laada Bilaniuk, University of Washington, Ukrainian Studies

Talant Mawkanuli, University of Washington, Decolonizing Central Eurasian Studies

Mary Childs, University of Washington, "Sakartvelo: Holding Space for the Georgians"

Guntis Šmidchens, University of Washington, Baltic Studies

Chair: Elena Campbell, University of Washington

Session 1D, 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm | HUB 337

Art, Exhibitions, and Monumental Propaganda

Aaron Cohen, California State University, Sacramento, "The Fall and Rise of Monumental Propaganda: Aesthetic Gigantism, Marx and Lenin Monuments, and Decentered Power in the Soviet Union, 1922-1985"

Joanna Matuszak, New Mexico State University, "How the Concept of Nostalgia for the Soviet Past Framed Exhibitions of Post-Soviet Art in the West"

Richard Boyechko, University of Washington, "Riding in a Train Without Being a Passenger: Victor Pelevin's 'Yellow Arrow' (1993) Within the Snowpiercer Franchise"

Alexis Zoto, USC Roski School of Art and Design, Lavenz, Valenz, Lavexha, Lavenzka: Woven felted blankets from the Korçë region in Southeastern Albania

Chair: Adair Rounthwaite, University of Washington

Keynote Speech, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm | HUB 145

Alexei Yurchak | Mutations of “Lenin” - The Sacred Core of Sovereignty: Soviet, Post-Soviet, Anti-Soviet

Friday, April 21

Session 2A, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 238

Conflict and Power in the Post-Soviet Space

Participants:

Benjamin Sutcliffe, Miami University, “Objects of Trauma, Actions of Hope in Narine Abgarian’s Recent Prose”

Syuzanna Petrosyan, University of Southern California, Institute of Armenian Studies, “Understanding Independence: Armenia 1988-1996 - A Preliminary Look at the First Year of Documentation and Oral Interview Collection Process”

Chiara Pierobon, DAAD and University of Washington, “Community Resilience of Post-Soviet Mono-Industrial Areas Affected by the Uranium Legacy and Radiation: Evidence from Kyrgyzstan (co-authored with Zarina Adambussinova)”

Chair: Glennys Young, University of Washington

Session 2B, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 307

Letters, Language, and Translation on the Qazaq Steppe

Participants:

Eric Johnson, University of Washington “‘These Words are from us, Popay Khanim’: Observations on the Life and Diplomatic Correspondence of Popay Khanim (ca. 1690-1780)”

Talant Mawkanuli, University of Washington, “18th-Century Spoken Qazaq Linguistic Data”

Joe Wilson, University of Washington, “Translation's Value to Educational Research in Kazakhstan”

Chair: Matthew Mosca

Session 2C, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 337

New Book Roundtable: *How the Soviet Jew Was Made* by Sasha Senderovich

Participants:

Sasha Senderovich, University of Washington

Cassio de Oliveira, Portland State University

Naomi Caffee, Reed College

Natan M. Meir, Portland State University

Moderator: Elena Campbell, University of Washington

Session 3A, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 238

Exploration, Roads, and the Slave Trade in the Russian Empire

Participants:

Tyson Sadleir, Columbia University, “Road of Empire: A History of the Georgian Military Highway under Russian Rule, 1801-1917”

Sylvia Sztern, Hebrew U of Jerusalem, "Railroads and Russian Peasant Letters—Pazdery Village 1881–1896, along the Belaya, Kama, and Volga River Ports: A Gender Perspective on the Escape from Coercion"

Tatiana Saburova, Indiana University, "Mountains and Glaciers: Exploration of Altai in the late Russian Empire"

Tuna Basibek, University of Washington, "The Slave Trade on the Russian-Ottoman Border in the Caucasus, 1800-1860"

Chair: Eric Johnson, University of Washington

Session 3B, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 307

Politics and Identity in the Baltics

Participants:

Inga Daraškienė, Vilnius University, "Patterns of Language Usage and Reflections of Identities in the Lithuanian Linguistic Landscape"

Emilie Bryant, University of Washington, "Northern but Not Nordic? Social Democracy in Estonia"

Dalia Satkauskytė, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, "Decanonization of Soviet Writers in Contemporary Lithuania: the Argument of Biography"

Solvita Burr, University of Washington & University of Latvia, "'No more Pushkin, Moscow, Klucis, and Sakse in Our Streets!' Street Renaming Strategies in Latvia in the Shadow of the War in Ukraine"

Chair: Guntis Šmidchens, University of Washington

Session 3C, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 337

Resolving and Freezing Conflicts

Participants:

Rina Cakrani, Simon Fraser University, “International state-building in post-independence Kosovo”

Halina Sapeha, UBC-Okanagan, “Unsettled Borders and Protracted Disputes in the Post-Soviet Region”

Fran Leskovar, Texas A & M, “The Dayton Peace Accords: Breakthrough Negotiation or a Permanent Settlement to the Bosnian Crisis”

Chair: Chris Jones, University of Washington

Session 3D, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 340

Hierarchies and Regimes of Understanding in the Soviet Union

Participants:

Erin Gilbert, University of Washington, “‘Why can’t he love a cockroach...?’ Andrei Platonov’s Multi-Species World-Making”

Mateos Hayes, University of Victoria, “Soviet Orientalism: The Missing Link”

Michael Coates, University of Idaho, “Reading Great Soviet Encyclopedia”

Jessica Shirvanian-Wolfe, Oxford University, “From Empire to Republics: Exploring the Evolution of Identity in the South Caucasus through Military Service”

Chair: Benjamin Tromly, University of Puget Sound

Session 4A, 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm | HUB 238

The Production of Politicized Regime(s) of Memory: Before and after the Fall of Communism"

Participants:

Ekaterina Klimenko, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, "Martyrological in Form, Statist in Content: The Russian Orthodox Church and the Memory of the Great Patriotic War"

Benjamin Tromly, University of Puget Sound, "A Cold War Alternative History: The Vlasov Movement in Intellectual Discourse in West Germany and the United States"

Alex Langstaff, New York University/University of Oregon, "The Path to Shangri-La": The Afterlives of Public Opinion Polling under Communism"

Chair: Doug Smith, Author and Visiting Scholar, University of Washington

Session 4B, 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm | HUB 307

Approaches to Russian Language

Participants:

Stefana Vukadinovich, University of Washington, "Challenges and Practices of Gender-Neutral Language in Russian"

Tatiana Kuzina, Lomonosov Moscow State University, "Russian Descriptive Predicates: General and Specific Features"

Aleksandr Chernousov, University of Oregon, "The Drama of the Russian Language: Methods of Documentary Theater in the Study of Russian-Speaking Communities"

Chair: Barbara Citko, University of Washington

Session 4C, 2:00 pm – 3:45 pm | HUB 337

Dissidents, Perestroika and Collapse of the USSR

Participants:

Chris Jones, University of Washington, “Legacies of East European Resistance to Soviet Military Interventions: Lessons Learned”

Andreea Mosila, American Public University, “Mikhail Gorbachev: A Transformational Leader”

Abigail Bennett, University of Washington, “The Baltic Lynchpin: How Three Small Republics Led to the Collapse of a Superpower”

Joseph Ellis, Wingate University, “Karlis Leyasmeyer and the Baptist Speaker's Circuit”

Chair: Brendan McElmeel, University of Washington

Conference Plenary, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm | HUB 145

Joshua Zimmerman | “Józef Piłsudski, Founding Father of Modern Poland, and his Plan for Ukrainian Independence”

Saturday, April 22

Session 5A, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 214

Roundtable: Challenges of Teaching Small-Enrollment REECAS Languages at the University of Washington

Participants:

Inga Daraškienė, University of Washington, “The Significance of Small Enrollment Non-English Language Courses at a Global University”

Krystyna Untersteiner, University of Washington, “Pros and Cons of a Small Language Class”

Solvita Burr, University of Washington, “Students’ Awareness of the Benefits of Studying Less Commonly Taught Languages: Results of Student Survey at the University of Washington”

Guntis Šmidchens, University of Washington, UW’s Administrative Barriers and Opportunities for Raising Language Class Enrollments

Sofiia Fedzhora, University of Washington

Discussant: Pibi-Kai Kivik, Indiana University

Chair: Russell Hugo, University of Washington

Session 5B, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 307

Experiences of War across History

Participants:

Ellen Ahlness, Veterans Health Administration, “From Contextual Conditions to Broader Implications: Qualitative Methodology Considerations from Narratives on the Tajik Civil War”

Susan Baker, Independent Scholar, “Culminating Point--The Herzegovinian Assertion of Diplomatic Power in the Eastern Crisis of 1875-1876”

Michael Seraphinoff, Independent Scholar, “Why do many Citizens of NATO member state the Republic of North Macedonia show Sympathy and Support for the Russian invasion of Ukraine?”

Brigit Farley, Washington State University, Tri-Cities, “Doctoring through Disaster: Dr. Slavka Mihajlovich and the Great War in Serbia”

Chair: James Felak, University of Washington

Session 5C, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 334

Putin's Russia

Participants:

Maxim Krupskiy, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, "The Russian Law on "Foreign Agents" as a Tool for Desubjectivation Citizens. Why Does it Matter during Russia's War against Ukraine?"

Petr Gulenko, Charles University (Prague) Putin TV, "Russian Television Propaganda: A View from Inside and Outside"

Muhammad Abdulqayumov, University of Washington, "Losing More Than the War in Ukraine? Implications of the Russo-Ukrainian War on Russia's Influence in Central Asia"

Scott Montgomery, University of Washington, "'Masterminds and Instigators': What Outlook for Russian Energy Today?"

Chair: Chiara Pierobon, DAAD and University of Washington

Session 5D, 8:45 am – 10:30 am | HUB 340

Moderated Discussion: Doug Smith's Translation of Konstantin Paustovsky's *The Story of a Life*

Participants:

Doug Smith, Author and Visiting Scholar, University of Washington

Michael Biggins, Slavic Librarian, University of Washington

Session 6A, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 214

Decolonization of Russian Language Instruction

Participants:

Veronica Muskheli, University of Washington, CWU, “It Conjugates the Same in Kyiv, Riga, and Yoshkar-Ola as in Moscow: Decolonization of the Underlying Narratives in Russian-Language (Beginner) Instruction”

Alexey Kuznetsov, “Imperialist Agenda in Russian Education, and Educators’ Moral Responsibility to Dismantling It”

Svetlana Abramova, University of Washington, “Advocating, Teaching, and Learning Russian with a New Open-access Resource "Choose to Study Russian for Professional Needs"”

Chair: Volha Isakava, Central Washington University

Session 6B, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 307

Political Regimes and Identities

Participants:

Ebru Bodur, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, “From Industrial Utopia to Pure Imaginative Reality: The Transformation of the ‘New Soviet Person’ During the Interwar Period (1919-39)”

Pavel Krejčí, University of Hong Kong, “The Future Belongs to the Proletariat: The Intellectual Origins of People’s Democracy in Czechoslovakia”

Taylor Eftimov, University of Washington, “The Reinvention of Identity Across Unstable "Homelands" in Luan Starova's My Father's Books”

Andreea Mosila, American Public University, “The Challenge of Nationalism and Populism on Pandemic Response in Romania”

Chair: Alex Langstaff, New York University and University of Oregon

Session 6C, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 334

Ukraine in Focus: Politics of Memory, Diplomacy, and Language

Participants:

Yurii Latysh, European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania); Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine), “Politics of Memory of Ukraine During the Russo-Ukrainian War”

Olena Podvorna, Independent Researcher, “The First Lady Olena Zelenska as a New Face of Ukrainian Diplomacy”

Nathan Marks, University of Oklahoma, “Mapping Ukrainians’ Perceptions of Regional Variation”

Chair: Laada Bilaniuk, University of Washington

Session 6D, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm | HUB 340

Power, Gender, Love, and Sexuality in the USSR and post-Soviet Russia

Brendan McElmeel, University of Washington, “On Those Who [Do] Love to Talk About Love:” Toward a Theory of Soviet Pneumopolitics”

Usha K B, Jawaharlal Nehru University, “Solving Women’s Question in Russia in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Contexts: Complexities and Contradictions”

Patricia Manos, Harvard University, “Yevgeniy Fiks’ Counterfactual Countermonuments to a Queer Popular Front”

Victoria Henretty, Indiana University, “Vlast’ i Vlist’ Power and Influence: LGBT Violence in Chechnya and Activist Responses”

Chair: Ekaterina Klimenko, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences