

32nd Annual REECAS-NW Conference on Europe, Russia, and Eurasia

University of Washington, Seattle, April 16-18, 2026 – Preliminary Program*

Thursday, 16 April 3:00 pm. Check-In

Thursday, 16 April 4:00-5:45 pm – Panels Session #1

1-1 Multilingual history

Chair: Katarzyna Dziwirek U of Washington

Danko Šipka Arizona State U The Whole World in an Ideological

Order: Ideologies of Slavic Monolingual Dictionaries

Eugene Lemcio Seattle Pacific U: Lost—and Found—in

Translation/s

From Hebrew and Greek Scriptures in Their Entirety Into

Ukrainian: Kulish (1903) and Ohienko (1962)

Gina Kavaliūnaitė-Holvoet Vilnius U: One manuscript, six languages, and what does it all mean?

Maria Katarzyna Prenner U of Graz: The Latinica from a diachronic and synchronic perspective in Belarus and within the Belarusian diaspora

1-2 Public Politics in Southeast Europe

Chair: Gordana Crnkovic Univesity of Washington

Rusudan Kuntchulia U of Washington The Limits of Protest:

Opposition Fragmentation and Regime Resilience amid 2024–2025 Protests in Georgia

Mariam Bibilashvili Masaryk U From Civil Space to Security

Threat: The Securitization of CSOs in Georgia

Nino Turmanidze U of Washington Geopolitical Rupture in the South Caucasus: Trade Routes, the Middle Corridor, and the Reconfiguration of Power after the Russia–Ukraine War

Malkhaz Saldadze George Mason U Korea Reframing the Civil Society Concept under Post-Soviet Authoritarianism: From Professional NGOs to Street Activism

1-3 Film: Prisoners, The System of Terror

Chair: Barbara Henry U of Washington

Evgeniya Chirikova Activatica Prisoners: The System of Terror

Leah Missik Activatica Introduction, Documentary Filmmaker Evgeniya Chirikova

1-4 Translating Canons

Chair: Michael Biggins U of Washington Chair

Piotr Florczyk U of Washington Translators as Canon Builders

Andrzej Brylak U of Southern California The Aphasical Translation of Leo Lipski's Piotruś

Agnieszka Jeżyk U of Washington Feminizing the Polish Avant-Garde Canon: Translating Mila Elin

Kārlis Vērdiņš U of Latvia Latvian Exile Avant-Garde Writer Mudīte Austrīņa and Her Self-Translations into English"

Thursday, 16 April 6:15-7:30 pm: Opening Celebration

Keynote Address:

Europe's Strategy in the Ukraine War

Phillips O'Brien, U of St Andrews

Conference Opening Reception

7:30 pm Graduate Students Welcome, Big Time Brewery

Friday, 17 April 8:00 am Bagels & Coffee

Friday, 17 April 9:00-10:30 am – Panels Session #2

2-1 Popular Culture in a Changing World

Chair: Aldis Purs Seattle U

Seorim Kim U of Washington Symbolism at Its Critical Point:

Evgenii Bauer's Cinematic Experiments

Katya Lopatko U of California, Santa Barbara Aesthetic and political strategies at Karlovy Vary International Film

Festival, 1962: An early platform for tricontinental cinema

José Alaniz U of Washington Alois Nebel in History's Madhouse

2-2 Film: The Accidental President, Sviatlana

Tsikhankouskaya

2-3 Wartime Cultures

Chair: Mariam Bibliashvili, Masaryk U

CS Henry U of Washington From Radio Bucharest to Telegram:

How Socialist Information Strategy Anticipated Russia's War on European Cognition

Līga Miklaševiča U of Washington Latvian Language Policy Since 2022 in Latvia: Developments and Challenges

Oksana Vykhopen U of Kansas Identity negotiation and narrative co-construction in YouTube Comment Section

Alina Ielisieieva Independent Scholar Narrating Displacement: Themes and Strategies in Ukrainian Migrant Literature after 2014

2-4 Nineteenth-Century Central Asia

Chair: Elena Campbell U of Washington

Eric Johnson U of Washington "The Current Regulations Should be Translated into Their Own Language": Linguistic and Historical Analysis of Variants of the 1824 Statue on the Siberian Qazaqs

Diego Benning Wang Harvard U Folklore and the Crimean Tatar Tragedy: Perso-Turkic Jest, Greco-Byzantine Hagiography, and an Untold Cultural Genocide in Soviet Crimea

Dilrabo Tursunova U of Washington Speaking the Language of Empire and Islam: A portrait of a Merchant Intermediary in Russian Turkestan, 1859-1882

Friday 17 April 11:00-12:30 pm – Panels Session #3

3-1 Global Russian Culture on Stage

Chair: José Alaniz U of Washington Chair
Joanna Matuszak The U of Texas at Tyler Beyond Moscow
Actionism: Feminist Performance Art in Russia in the 1990s
Stefka Mihaylova U of Washington In Search of the Lost Moor:
Stanislavsky's Othello (1896) and Imperial Politics
Cassio de Oliveira Portland State U Adventures of "Huckleberry
Finn" in Russian Translation

3-2 Imperial Histories Revisited 1

Chair: Dilrabo Tursunova, U of Washington
Arna Elezovic Western Washington U Ethnographic Antiquity:
Arthur J. Evans in Croatia and Slavonia
Susan Baker Independent Scholar Ottoman Responses to the
1875 Uprising in Herzegovina and the Beginning of the
Eastern Crisis
Elena Watson Independent Scholar A Bridge Between Cultures:
British Women Writing on Girlhood in Imperial Russia

3-3 "Less-Commonly-Taught" Language Pedagogies

Chair: Danko Šipka, Arizona State U
Radosław Kaleta U of Warsaw Reclaiming Belarusian:
Challenging the Myths of Politics, History, and Education
Bridget Yaden Pacific Lutheran U The Pedagogy of Welcome:
Tactical Inclusion of Ukrainian Students in Norway's Public
Schools
Karile Vaitkute U of Illinois, Chicago / Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture Learning language and history through
genealogy
Fred Gregor Rahuoja U of Washington Neural Orthographic
Normalization for Low-Resource Kazym-Khanty

3-4 War, Past and Present

Chair: Scott Radnitz U of Washington
Taylor Cox U of Washington Overwhelming Defenses?
Evaluating Russia's Drone Saturation Strategy Against
Ukrainian Air Defenses
Arusa Malik Johns Hopkins U Dividing to Unite? The Paradox of
the Dayton Peace Agreement
Khrystyna Dmytryshyn Kyiv School of Economics / U of Chicago
Determinants of Peace Agreement Compliance in
Personalist Authoritarian Regimes
Alina Khamatdinova Washington State U Justice over Peace:
Moralized War Support and Domestic Constraints on
Conflict Settlement in Russia
Discussant: Olena Lennon U of New Haven

Friday 17 April 2:00-3:30 pm – Panels Session #4

4-1 Strategies for Staging Chekhov

Chair: Stefka Mihaylova, U of Washington
Sebastián Bravo Montenegro U of Washington Director
Rachael Rowles U of Washington, Dramaturg
Presenters TBA

4-2 Strategies in Language Pedagogy

Chair: Guntis Šmidchens U of Washington
Piibi-Kai Kivik Indiana U Language Program Coordinator
Teaching across language and area studies courses: views
from small programs
Russell Hugo U of Washington, Director, Language Learning
Center
Robert Elliot U of Oregon Director, Yamada Language Center
Bridget Yaden Pacific Lutheran U, Director of Language Resource
Center

4-3 Twentieth century revisited

Chair: James Felak U of Washington
Aldis Purs Seattle U Interwar Parliamentary election results and
myths about Latvia's parliamentary experience"
Felipe De Los Santos U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Reinventing History: The Evolving Narrative of the
Leningrad Siege
Mario Del Pero Centre d'Histoire, SciencesPo-Paris Sovereignty
by means of sovereignty. Some reflections on Italy's
experience during the Cold War
Glennys Young U of Washington Franco's Death: Official and
Unofficial Soviet Reactions

4-4 Central Asian Political Culture

Chair: Eric Johnson U of Washington
Alex Williams U of Washington Invoking Democracy: Electoral
Practices and Discourses in Central Asia
Julia Lasiota Stanford U Playing All Sides: Central Asia's
Ideological Arbitrage in Great Power Competition
Mukhayyokhon Azamova U of Washington A Long Way Back
Home: Biographical Narratives of Uzbek Women
Repatriated from ISIS Camps
Erich Steinman Pitzer College Languages in The Shadow of
Russia's War Against Ukraine: Shifting Attitudes Toward
Kazakh and Russian among Ethnic Kazakhs
Discussant: Nargis Kassenova Harvard U

Friday 17 April 4:00-5:30 pm – Plenary Session:

Ukraine, REECAS and the European Union

Nargis Kassenova Harvard U
Justyna Zając Indiana U
Olena Lennon U of New Haven

7:00 pm Concert, New Directions in European Music

Mägi Ensemble

(Downtown Seattle: Plymouth Church of Christ)

Saturday, 18 April 8:00-9:00 – Bagels & Coffee

Saturday, 18 April 8:45 am (HUB Lobby)

Arvo Pärt, Spiegel im Spiegel

Peter Garbes

Heather MacLaughlin Garbes, Mägi Ensemble

Saturday, 18 April 9:00-10:30 – Panels Session #5

5-1 Imperial Histories Revisited 2

Chair: Erich Steinman Pitzer College

Aliya Nupbay U of Washington Samples of the Steppe: Imperial Knowledge Gathering and Turkic Folklore in Radlov's Ethnography

Mariia Pankova Bard College The Formation of National Identity in Modern Kyrgyzstan through Museum Institutional Practices in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Periods.

Sylvia Sztern The Hebrew U of Jerusalem Railroads and Russian Peasant Letters—Pazdery Village 1881–1896, along the Belaya, Kama, and Volga River Ports—Does human capital accumulation catalyzed along the rails and waterways constitute a historical gender distributed harbinger of escape from coercion and modern era subversion to Putin's rule ?

5-2 Celebrating Arvo Pärt 90

Jeffers Engelhardt Amherst College Arvo Pärt at 90: Listening to his Worlds

5-3 European Integration

Chair: Scott Montgomery U of Washington

Maciej Schmidt Adam Mickiewicz U, Poznań Tracing the Evolution of Kazakhstan-Poland Relations: 1991 to the Present - Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategic Ties

Sierra Rupp U of Washington The Limits of Neutrality: INTERPOL Cooperation in the Russo-Ukrainian War

Anastasiia Zvir U of Toronto Impact of International Financial Assistance on Ukraine's Economy

Discussant: Justyna Zajac Indiana U

Saturday, 18 April 11:00-12:30 – Panels Session #6

6-1 Central Asia, Past and Present

Chair: Talant Mawkanuli University of Washington

Mirlan Bektursunov Hokkaido U From Lineage to Nation? Kyrgyz Elites Between Nomadic Identity and Socialist Transformation in Early Soviet Kyrgyzstan

Katharina Hass U of California, Berkeley Shine, Tashkent! From Timurid to Soviet Golden Age in Tashkent

Anara Jeenbekova U of Washington The Representation of a Legendary Imperial Explorer Nikolay Przhevalsky in the Kyrgyz National Memory

6-2 Belarusian Folk Culture

Chair: Radosław Kaleta U of Warsaw

Volya Dzemka Folk Group Volya Documentary Film: The Songs of Old Europe – Ancient Belarusian Folk Songs

6-3 Russian diaspora identities

Chair: Sylvia Sztern, The Hebrew State U

Brooke Barton U of Alaska, Fairbanks Holy Wars & Words: Mapping Space, Time, & Morality in Patriarch Kirill's Sermons

Sasha Orlova U of Washington Permanent temporariness as a condition of post-2022 Russian emigration

Lina Turygina Harvard U Strategies in Exile: Constructing Space in Irina Odoevtseva's The Angel of Death

Thomas Bidewell U of Washington Governing Faith under Fire; Legislating Religion in Wartime Ukraine

6-4 Energy, Power, and War

Chair: Glennys Young, U of Washington

Scott Montgomery U of Washington An Energy War with Global Impacts: Russia-Ukraine in Early 2026

Zofia Bizan Adam Mickiewicz U, Poznań, Poland Beyond the Pipeline - Azerbaijan's Energy Strategy and Its Role in Reducing Eastern Europe's Dependency on Russian Resources

Pramod Kumar Mody U of Science and Technology, Rajasthan, India The Russia-Ukraine War and Baltic Energy Resilience: Accelerating Diversification Efforts

Chris Jones U of Washington Who Would Have Thought? The Curators of "Old Thinking" as the Curators of "New Thinking" 1979/1980- March, 1985

Discussant: Phillips O'Brien U of St Andrews

*Preliminary Program as of March 9, 2026. We will make as few changes as possible, but some panel assignments may need to change. Please check for updates on the conference website, and plan to be on campus for the entire conference!

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