

# **2025 Midwest Slavic Conference**

HOSTED BY  
THE CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN AND  
EURASIAN STUDIES

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLUMBUS, OH  
APRIL 4-6, 2025

# Welcome

Welcome to Columbus and the 2025 Midwest Slavic Conference.

This year's theme, **authenticity**, emerged from our brainstorming at the Midwest Slavic Association meeting a year ago. The conversation swerved in the direction of Artificial Intelligence, something quite relevant for educators and students alike. Technology both complicates and simplifies our search for the “real”—and we need to learn how to navigate and use it. Sometimes, though, it can cloud or substitute for the authenticity that many seek—and that none of us truly understands. Our goal this year is to try to identify the roles authenticity plays in history, culture, politics, and language. I look forward to exploring with you the broader meanings of “authenticity” for our lives and work in academia and beyond.

As our keynoter on Friday evening we welcome Mikhail Epstein from Emory University, whose creative and theoretically complex writings have fascinated readers across the globe for decades. With works translated into 26 languages, Prof. Epstein is himself a master of the word, and in his talk he will analyze a dangerous pseudo-religious ideology, a New Russian Apocalypticism, that has emerged in post-Soviet Russia. His keynote will help us understand its genealogy and perhaps offer a way to navigate out of the encroaching *Russkii mir* and into a new world.

The Midwest Slavic Conference is a place where scholars at all levels gather together to pursue a greater understanding of the East European and Eurasian world—and in so doing, we also create community among people with similar or adjacent academic interests. Join us on Saturday for the 8:30 AM plenary panel—“Shaping East European and Eurasian Culture and History: Forging Authentic Narratives Through AI, Media, and Storytelling Methods”—chaired by Midwest Slavic president Dr. Timothy Pogačar, and throughout the next day and a half for panels and other events, including a Careers Beyond Academia Panel and the REEE Undergraduate Digital Poster Forum. Students, faculty and independent scholars each have their own mixer opportunities on Saturday evening—and don't forget about the Midwest Slavic Association Meeting where you can have an influence on next year's conference theme.

See you there,  
Dr. Angela Brintlinger, CSEEEES Director

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## Conference Location:

All conference events will take place on The Ohio State University campus. On Friday, April 4th, the conference will open with a reception at 5:30 PM in the Grand Lounge of the Faculty Club (181 S. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210) with the keynote immediately following at 6:30 PM in the same room. On Saturday, April 5th and Sunday, April 6th, conference panels will take place on the first, second, and third floors of Pfahl Hall within the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center (2110 Tuttle Park Place, Columbus, OH 43210). Parking is available at the Lane Avenue Garage (2105 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210) and Tuttle Garage (2050 Tuttle Park Place, Columbus, OH 43210) for a fee; please visit [osu.campusparc.com](https://osu.campusparc.com) for more information.

## Registration:

Registration is \$70 for all general attendees who pay during the conference weekend. The registration covers access to all panels, opening reception and keynote, special events, coffee breaks and breakfast, and membership to the Midwest Slavic Association. All attendees are required to check-in at the registration desk at the start of the conference and wear their name badges at all times. The registration desk will be located in the foyer on the second floor of Pfahl Hall in the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center. Onsite registration will be accepted for attendees with payment by cash or check, or online with a valid credit card.

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## The Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at Ohio State and the Midwest Slavic Association would like to thank this year's sponsors.

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- The Department of Linguistics (Ohio State U.)

# Midwest Slavic Conference Program Agenda

## Friday, April 4, 2025

The Ohio State University Faculty Club

5:30 PM—6:30 PM

**Opening Reception**

6:30 PM—8:00 PM

**2025 Midwest Slavic Conference Keynote Address**

"New Russian Apocalypticism" by Dr. Mikhail Epstein (Emory U.)  
*Faculty Club, Grand Lounge*

## Saturday, April 5, 2025

Blackwell Inn and Conference Center

8:00 AM—8:30 AM

**Registration and Breakfast**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

8:30 AM—10:15 AM

**2025 Midwest Slavic Conference Plenary Panel**

"Shaping East European and Eurasian Culture and History: Forging Authentic Narratives Through AI, Media, and Storytelling Methods" with Dr. Molly T. Blasing (U. of Kentucky), Dr. Ludmila Isurin (Ohio State U.) and Dr. Malkhaz Toria (Ilia State U., Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center at Harvard U.), chaired by Dr. Timothy Pogačar (Bowling Green State U.)  
*Pfahl Hall, Room 202*

10:15 AM—10:30 AM

**Coffee Break**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

10:30 AM—12:00 PM

**Panel Session 1**

12:00 PM—1:30 PM

**Lunch Break (on your own)**

1:30 PM— 3:00 PM

**Panel Session 2**

3:00 PM—3:15 PM

**Coffee Break**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

3:15 PM—4:45 PM

**Panel Session 3**

3:15 PM—4:45 PM

**2025 Ohio REEE Undergraduate Poster Forum**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

### Optional Events

5:00 PM—5:30 PM

**Midwest Slavic Association Annual Meeting**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

6:30 PM—8:00 PM

**Student Mixer (undergraduate and graduate student event ONLY)**

*The O on Lane*

6:30 PM—8:00 PM

**Faculty and Independent Scholars Mixer (faculty and independent scholar event ONLY)**

*Budd Dairy Food Hall*

## Sunday, April 6, 2025

Blackwell Inn and Conference Center

8:00 AM-8:30 AM

**Registration and Breakfast**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

8:30 AM-10:00 AM

**Panel Session 4**

10:00 AM-10:15 AM

**Coffee Break**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

10:15 AM-11:45 AM

**Panel Session 5**

### 2025 Program Committee:

- Dr. Keith Doubt (Wittenberg U.)
- Dr. Ljiljana Durasković (U. of Pittsburgh)
- Dr. David Hoffmann (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Jessica Kantarovich (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. James McGavran (Kenyon College)
- Dr. Stephen Norris (Miami U.)
- Dr. Hollie Nyseth Nzitatira (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Timothy Pogačar (Bowling Green State U.)

## “New Russian Apocalypticism”

Keynote Address by Dr. Mikhail Epstein (Emory U.)



Mikhail N. Epstein is a philosopher and a cultural and literary scholar. He is Samuel Candler Dobbs Emeritus Professor of Cultural Theory and Russian Literature at Emory University. He served as a professor at Emory University from 1990 to 2023. From 2012 to 2015, he served as professor and founding director of the Centre for Humanities Innovation at Durham University (UK). Epstein's research interests include new directions in the humanities; contemporary philosophy and religion; the poetics and history of Russian literature; postmodernism; and the evolution of language. Epstein has authored 50 books and over 1,000 articles. His works have been translated into 26 languages. He is a recipient of numerous awards including the Andrei Bely Award (1991), the Liberty Prize (New York, 2000), and the Modern Language Association (MLA) Aldo and Jeanne

Scaglione Prize for the best book in Slavic studies (2023).

## “Shaping East European and Eurasian Culture and History: Forging Authentic Narratives Through AI, Media, and Storytelling Methods”

Plenary Panel Featuring Drs. Molly T. Blasing, Ludmila Isurin, and Malkhaz Toria

Chaired by Dr. Timothy Pogačar (Bowling Green State U., Midwest Slavic Association President)

### Dr. Molly T. Blasing (U. of Kentucky)



Molly T. Blasing is an Associate Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Kentucky. She specializes in modern and contemporary Russian poetry, literary history, and language pedagogy. Blasing is a member of the AI/ML Hub at the University of Kentucky and the MLA Task Force on World Languages and Generative AI, and is a co-founder of C-SAILS, the Consortium for the Study of AI and Language in Slavic. She is a member of the editorial board of Academic Studies Press' book series *Issues in the Teaching of East European and Eurasian Languages and Cultures* and will co-edit with C-SAILS co-founder Kit Pribble (Wake Forest U.) a forthcoming volume from Routledge on Generative AI and the future

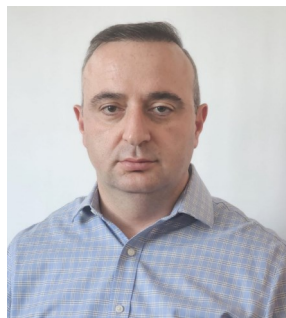
of Russian language teaching and learning.

### Dr. Ludmila Isurin (Ohio State U.)



Ludmila Isurin is a Professor at The Ohio State University. An interdisciplinary scholar whose research encompasses psycho- and sociolinguistics, social sciences and humanities, she is a co-editor of three volumes and the author of three monographs. She has authored numerous chapters and journal articles, including an award-winning article in *Language Learning*.

### Dr. Malkhaz Toria (Ilia State U., Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center at Harvard U.)



Malkhaz Toria (Ph.D. 2009) is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Memory Studies Center in the Caucasus at Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia). He is also a doctoral candidate in sociology at the New School for Social Research (New York City, USA). His research interests focus on theories of history and the epistemology of historical knowledge; tsarist and Soviet imperial legacies and the politics of identity, belonging, and boundary-making in contemporary Georgia; politics of memory and dealing with the totalitarian past in post-Soviet societies; modern museology and memorial culture; the instrumentalization of history and politics of exclusion and ethnic cleansing in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali. He has held fellowships (Fulbright, DAAD, OSF, etc.) at the New School for Social Research, Central European University (CEU), Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL), Humboldt University of Berlin, University of California, Berkeley, the Harriman Institute of Columbia University and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.

**Friday, April 4**  
**The Ohio State University**  
**Faculty Club**

**Registration: 5:00 PM—5:30 PM**  
*Outside the Grand Lounge*

**Opening Remarks and MWSA  
Officer Announcements: 5:30 PM—  
6:30 PM**

*Grand Lounge*  
**Dr. Angela Brintlinger, CSEES Director**

**Dr. Timothy Pogačar, Midwest Slavic  
Association President**

**Keynote Address:  
6:30 PM—8:00 PM**  
*Grand Lounge*

**"New Russian Apocalypticism"**  
**Dr. Mikhail Epstein (Emory U.)**

**Saturday, April 5**  
**Blackwell Inn and Conference Center**

**Registration: 8:00 AM—4:45 PM**  
*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

**Plenary Panel: 8:30 AM—10:15 AM**  
**"Shaping East European and Eurasian Culture  
and History: Forging Authentic Narratives  
Through AI, Media, and Storytelling Methods"**  
*Pfahl Hall, Room 202*

**Moderator: Dr. Timothy Pogačar (Bowling  
Green State U.)**

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Molly T. Blasing (U. of Kentucky)**  
"Faking It: What Fictions of AI Reveal About the  
Future of Human Language"

**Dr. Ludmila Isurin (Ohio State U.)**  
"Media, Mind, and Authenticity"

**Dr. Malkhaz Toria (Ilia State U., Fulbright  
Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center at Harvard  
U.)**  
"Unsettling Contested Narratives: Storytelling and  
the Quest for an Authentic History"

**Coffee Break: 10:15 AM—10:30 AM**  
*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

**Session 1: 10:30 AM—12:00 PM**

**1.A: Threats to Social Solidarity**

*Pfahl Hall, Room 102*

**Chair: Dr. Assel Bitabar (Maqsut Narikbayev  
U.)**

**Dr. Alexandria Wilson-McDonald (Otterbein  
U.)**

"Anti-Gender Actors and the Building of the Hos-  
tile State: A Comparative Analysis of Slovakia and  
Czechia"

**Andrey Ridling (Ohio State U.)**

"The National Question Following 1917: The Case  
of the Udmurt People"

**Yerkebulan Azimkhan (Michigan State U.)**

"Ethnic Homophily as a Measure of Acculturation:  
Online and Offline Friendships of Russians in  
Kazakhstan"

**1.B: REEE Think Tank Showcase I**

*Pfahl Hall, Room 202*

**Chair: Dr. Sunnie Rucker-Chang (Ohio State  
U.)**

**Ricardo Montiel (San Diego State U.)**

"Threads of Folklore: Nastenka and Vasilisa the  
Beautiful in Dostoevsky's 'White Nights'"

**Anwyn Cook (James Madison U.)**

"The Wonder and Curse of Friendship: Choice  
and Loyalty in Post-Revolutionary Russia"

**Lennon Jean Taylor (U. of Georgia)**

"Duty, Privilege, and the Regime: Driving Factors  
in the Life of Anna Akhmatova"

**1.C: Language, Identity, and Cultural Contact  
in the Balkans: Lessons from Montenegro,  
Bosnia, and ex-Yugoslavia**

*Pfahl Hall, Room 230*

**Chair: Dr. Ljiljana Durasković (U. of Pitts-  
burgh)**

**Joseph Horger (U. of Pittsburgh)**

"Montenegro: A Nation and Language Under  
Siege"

**Cody McSherry (U. of Pittsburgh)**

"Sevdah, Bosnian Identity, and the Present-Day  
Spirit of the Ottoman Empire"

**Sava Snyder (U. of Pittsburgh)**

"Nothing Should Surprise Us: Yugoslavia's  
Answer to the Cold War"

**1.D: Shaping Polish Identity**

*Pfahl Hall, Room 240*

**Chair: Dr. Diana Sacilowski (Ohio State U.)**

**Dr. Alena Aniskiewicz (Michigan State U.)**

"Authenticity and Magic': Hearing Poland in  
L.U.C.'s 39/89 *Zrozumieć Polskę*"

**Luke Bendick (Ohio State U.)**

"Populism and Culture: Museum Policy Under the  
Law and Justice Government in Poland"

**Dr. Clare Cavanagh (Northwestern U.)**

"Cold War Studies and the Mystery of the Missing  
Second World: The Case of Czesław Miłosz"

**1.E: Utopia and Dystopia in Russian Litera-  
ture and Beyond**

*Pfahl Hall, Room 330*

**Chair: Dr. Alexander Burry (Ohio State U.)**

**Irina Baskova (Ohio State U.)**

"What are you, *Кысь*?' The Genre of and the Idea  
in Tatyana Tolstaya's *The Slynx*"

**Sarah Hohman (Ohio State U.)**

"The Forgotten Sex: An Analysis of Julia's Role  
in 1984"

*(panel 1.E continues on next page)*

# Saturday, April 5 (cont.)

**Marge Stafford (Ohio State U.)**

“Even Lucretius Could Make a Friend of Me’:  
Classical Reception in Gladkov’s *Cement* (1925)”

## 1.F: Gendering the History of Modern Eurasia

*Pfahl Hall, Room 340*

**Chair: Dr. Stephen Norris (Miami U.)**

**Tara Godwin (Ohio State U.)**

“Feminist Zones of Interaction: Women’s  
Liberation in Estonia, 1887-1918”

**Christopher Leger (Ohio State U.)**

“Wreathing the Revolution: Gendering Socialist  
Identities in Soviet Latvian Cinema, 1958-1970”

**Victoria Paige (Ohio State U.)**

“Modern Martyr: Memorialization of Zoya  
Kosmodemyanskaya in the Russian Federation”

**Nicholas Seay (Ohio State U.)**

“The Kolkhoz Rais: Masculinity and Authority in  
Rural Tajikistan”

**Lunch Break: 12:00 PM—1:30 PM**

*On Your Own*

**Session 2: 1:30 PM—3:00 PM**

## 2.A: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Best Practices in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

*Pfahl Hall, Room 202*

**Chair: Dr. Sunnie Rucker-Chang (Ohio State  
U.)**

**Dr. Kelly Knickmeier Cummings (Howard U.)**

“Cultivating Empathy and Inclusion in the SEES  
Classroom: A Positive Psychology Approach”

**Dr. B. Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz (Howard U.)**

“The Value of Mentoring Research in Areas Outside  
of English”

**Dr. Sunnie Rucker-Chang (Ohio State U.)**

“A Critical Romani Studies Perspective to Slavic and  
East European Studies”

**Dr. Rachel Stauffer (Virginia Polytechnic Insti-  
tute and State U.)**

“Teaching Russian as an Act of Resistance”

## 2.B: Exploring REEE Careers Beyond Academ- ia (Roundtable)

*Pfahl Hall, Room 230*

**Chair: Dr. Danielle Fosler-Lussier (Ohio State  
U.)**

**Michelle McKenzie (Ohio State U.)**

Foreign Language-Enabled Research Analyst at  
Riverside Research

**Elliott Nowacky (U. of Texas, Austin)**

Student Services Coordinator and HLS Military  
Relations Coordinator at the Robert F. Byrnes Russian

and East European Institute at Indiana U.,  
Bloomington

**Elise Stephens (Middlebury College)**

Former Program Officer at Internews

## 2.C: An Authentic Personal Past

*Pfahl Hall, Room 240*

**Chair: Dr. Ludmila Isurin (Ohio State U.)**

**Mikol Bailey (U. of Maryland, College Park)**

“Alcoholic Authenticity? Jews, Burghers, and  
Competing Privileges in Sixteenth-Century Poland”

**Dr. Keith Doubt (Wittenberg U.)**

“Inscriptions on Bosnia’s Medieval *Stećci* and  
Mikhail Bakhtin’s Notion of Heteroglossia”

**Dr. Shawn McAvoy (Patrick & Henry  
Community College)**

“What is this blue vault that we see above us and  
call heaven?: Ignatij Bryanchaninov and the Logic of  
His *Mystarstva*”

**Dr. Diana Sacilowski (Ohio State U.)**

“A ‘Real’ Pain: Exploring Questions of ‘Authentic’  
Engagement with Poland’s Jewish Past”

## 2.D: Ukrainian Identity through Art and Politics

*Pfahl Hall, Room 330*

**Chair: Dr. Marianna Klochko (Ohio State U.)**

**Dr. Anastasiya Andrianova (North Dakota  
State U.)**

“Ukraine’s ‘Invisible Battalion’: Gender and Body  
Politics in the Veteranka Movement”

**Dr. Heather Fielding (U. of Wisconsin-Eau  
Claire)**

“Anti-Colonial Justice and Ukraine’s  
Postapocalyptic Survival in Olha Matsiupa’s *The Fish  
Road*”

**Dr. Alisa Ballard Lin (Ohio State U.)**

“Christian and Theatrical Authenticity in  
Ukrainian *Vertep*”

**Hanna Protasova (Western U.)**

“Towards a Multidirectional Memory: How  
Ukrainian Literature Reflected on the Holocaust in the  
1940s–1960s”

## 2.E: Reexamining Russian Writers: Dostoevsky and Zamyatin

*Pfahl Hall, Room 340*

**Chair: Dr. James McGavran (Kenyon College)**

**Dr. Alexander Burry (Ohio State U.)**

“Dostoevsky’s ‘Dream of a Ridiculous Man’ as  
Proto-Science Fiction”

**Kelly Gallagher (Ohio State U.)**

“Perverse Confessions in Poe’s Tales and  
Dostoevsky’s *Notes from the Underground*”

**Eleanor Grazier (Ohio State U.)**

“Religious Temptation in the Guise of ‘The Green  
Fairy’: The Garden of Eden and Absinthe in  
Zamyatin’s *We*”

**Coffee Break: 3:00 PM—3:15 PM**

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

**Session 3: 3:15 PM—4:45 PM****2025 Midwest Russian, East European and Eurasian (REEE) Undergraduate Digital Poster Forum***Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer***Judges: Dr. Molly T. Blasing (U. of Kentucky) and Dr. Malkhaz Toria (Ilia State U., Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Davis Center at Harvard U.)****Isabella Marie Folio (Bowling Green State U.)**

“Do Not be Deceived: the Danger of Bad Faith in ‘The Meek One’”

**Matthew Ployhart (Clemson U.)**

“Expert Designs or Fragile Understanding? The Competence of American Diplomacy and Influence in the Creation of the First Yugoslav State”

**Cristina Sirbu (Gustavus Adolphus College)**

“Chernobyl Crisis”

**Isaac Steinmeyer (The College of Wooster)**

“El Menen Jer Kindiktesh’: Mining Nationalism in the Kyrgyz Republic”

**3.A: REEE Think Tank Showcase II***Pfahl Hall, Room 202***Chair: Dr. Kelly Knickmeier-Cummings (Howard U.)****William Ince (U. of Kansas)**

“Remedy for The West: Russia's Plan in Africa”

**Christian Milford Oritz (U. of Miami)**

“Transnational Solidarity Between Latin American Countries: How the Comintern Fostered Interactions Between Leftists in Mexico and Cuba”

**Leah Peterson (Howard U.)**

“Red Soil: The Environmental and Economic Costs of Soviet Agricultural Policies”

**3.B: Authentic Voices in Music and Movement***Pfahl Hall, Room 230***Chair: Dr. Matthew Boyd (Ohio State U.)****Dr. Sasha Drozzina (Ohio State U.)**

“Monetochka’s Voice and How It Displays Her Authentic Antiwar Stance”

**Jay Hadfield (Ohio State U.)**

“Indie Rock in Exile: The Search for Russian Identity in the Music Videos of Arseny Morozov”

**Dr. Elena Yushkova (U. of Kentucky)**

“American Dance Festival Brings Modern Dance to Russia Through Exchanges of the 1990s”

**3.C: Innovations and Challenges in Slavic Language Pedagogy (Roundtable)***Pfahl Hall, Room 240***Chair: Dr. Ljiljana Durasković (U. of Pittsburgh)****Dr. Ljiljana Durasković (U. of Pittsburgh)****Dr. Renáta Kamenárová (U. of Pittsburgh)****Dr. Frane Karabatić (U. of Texas, Austin)****Dr. Anna Karpusheva (U. of Pittsburgh)****Dr. Kathleen Manukyan (U. of Pittsburgh)****3.D: Identity and Educational Practices in Central and Eastern Europe***Pfahl Hall, Room 330***Chair: Michelle Verbitskaya (Ohio State U.)****Meg Brosneck (Ohio State U.)**

“Alternative Education in the Holocaust: Informal Schooling and Self-Education among Jewish Students in Nazi-Occupied Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Lithuania”

**Mariana Kellis (U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)**

“Serfs as Intellectuals and Social Critics: Freedom, Education, and Status in Pre-Emancipation Serf Narratives”

**Aneta Sobieraj-Skorski (Pomeranian School)**

“Echoes of the Past: Han’s Insights into Polish Authenticity, Identity, and Education”

**3.E: Propaganda in Art, Prose, and Film***Pfahl Hall, Room 340***Chair: Dr. Yana Hashamova (Ohio State U.)****Sophonisba Franecki (Bryn Mawr College)**

“‘In French, Left-Handed, no Address’:

Unspeakable Desire in *Seventeen Moments of Spring*”**Michael Hansen (U. of Wisconsin - Eau Claire)**“‘What’s the Point of Hauling Stuff Around?’: Serhiy Zhadan’s *The Orphanage* and the ‘Post-Soviet Loser’”**Enes Tastan (Ohio State U.)**

“Grandfathers and Grandsons: Ancestor Motifs in Posters of The Great Patriotic War”

**Lejla Vesković (Ohio State U.)**

“Unveiling Zenithism: The Russian Notebook”

**Midwest Slavic Association Meeting:****5:00 PM—5:30 PM***Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer***Student Mixer: 6:30 PM—8:00 PM***The O on Lane**352 W Lane Ave, Columbus, OH 43201***Faculty and Independent Scholar****Mixer: 6:30 PM—8:00 PM***Budd Dairy Food Hall**1086 N 4th St, Columbus, OH 43201***Sunday, April 6  
Blackwell Inn and Conference Center****Registration: 8:00 AM—11:45 AM***Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer***Session 4: 8:30 AM—10:00 AM****4.A: Layered Narratives in Eastern Europe: Identity, Art, and Religion****Chair: Dr. Gardner Bovington (Indiana U., Bloomington)***Pfahl Hall, Room 202**(panel 4.A continues on next page)*

# Sunday, April 6 (cont.)

**Brittany Jánosi (Indiana U., Bloomington)**  
“Authenticity in Satire, Humor, and Hungarian Civil Discourse”

**Ryan McCrea (Indiana U., Bloomington)**  
“Estonia’s Push for Baltic Identity in the Post-Soviet Future”

**Sydney Verel (Indiana U., Bloomington)**  
“Authenticity in Bosnian Jewish Identity at the End of the Twentieth Century”

**Tabor Walls (Indiana U., Bloomington)**  
“Finding Authenticity in Ukraine’s Evolving Orthodoxy”

## 4.B: Undergraduate Research in East European and Eurasian History

*Pfahl Hall, Room 230*

**Chair: Andrey Ridling (Ohio State U.)**

**Houye Lyu (U. of Wisconsin – Madison)**  
“Between Slavery and Corvée: Labor Regime in Qing-Ruled Xinjiang”

**Anastasija Mladenovska (Miami U.)**  
“The Authentic Lie: Concealment, Survival, and Betrayal in the Yugoslav and Post-Yugoslav Landscape”

**William Slabodkin (Ohio State U.)**  
“Islamic Nationalism versus Soviet Imperialism in the Basmachi Movement”

## 4.C: (In)Authentic Soviet Experiences

*Pfahl Hall, Room 240*

**Chair: Dr. Dima Arzyutov (Ohio State U.)**

**Dr. Diego Benning Wang (Kean U.)**  
“Epic Indigenization: Literature and Nation on the Soviet-Finnish Borders under Stalinism”

**Dr. Garret McDonald (Kenyon College)**  
“The Questions of Madness: Expertise, Psychiatric Power, and (In)Authentic Narratives of Punitive Psychiatry in the Soviet Union”

## 4.D: Gender in Film and Memoir

*Pfahl Hall, Room 330*

**Chair: Dr. Jennifer Suchland (Ohio State U.)**

**Gunel Alasgarova (Ohio State U.) and Turana Abdullayeva (U. of Sheffield)**

“Unfinished and Insufficient: A Co/Autoethnographic Exploration of Gender Education through Societal ‘Norms’, and Post-Colonial Impact”

**Dr. Kristen Fort (U. of Michigan)**  
“Make Azerbaijan Gender Confused Again! Homosexuality and Gender Expression in Late Soviet Caucasus and Central Asian Childhood Memoirs”

**Devon Rancourt (Ohio State U.)**  
“Representations of Beekeeping, Gender, and Agency in Blerta Basholli’s *Hive* and Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov’s *Honeyland*”

**Aleksandra Shubina (Ohio State U.)**  
“Within Tradition and Beyond Tradition: Self-

Sufficient, Strong, and Dangerous Women in Animated Films from the Urals (Late Soviet Period)”

## 4.E: Slavic-American Cultural Relations

*Pfahl Hall, Room 340*

**Chair: Dr. Angela Brintlinger (Ohio State U.)**  
**Enrico Davanzo (U. degli Studi “G. D’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara)**

“American Robots in the Age of Renewed Authenticity: 1980s America in Borislav Pekić’s Novel *Atlantida*”

**Ga-young Kim (Indiana U., Bloomington)**  
“America for Russian Constructivists: A Study of the Journal *SA* (1926-30)”

**Sophie Papp (Ohio State U.)**  
“I don’t speak Russian, but I know Russian’: Culture, Identity, and *Anora*”

**Siobhán Seigne (Ohio State U.)**  
“Anthropomorphizing Wealth and Class in Disney’s *The Aristocats* and V. Bordzilovski and Y. Prytkov’s *The Millionaire*”

## Coffee Break: 10:00 AM—10:15 AM

*Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer*

## Session 5: 10:15 AM—11:45 AM

### 5.A: Resisting Hegemony: Authenticity and the Other

*Pfahl Hall, Room 202*

**Chair: Dr. Alexander Burry (Ohio State U.)**  
**Dr. Joanna Getka (U. of Warsaw)**

“Nation and ‘Non-Nation’: Authenticity vs. Russian Propaganda Narrative About Ukraine and Russia in the Context of Russian Schizofascism”

**Mack Noxon (U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)**

“Playing Circassian: Imitation and Ambivalence in *A Hero of Our Time*”

**Semen Sinelnikov (U. of Latvia)**  
“Role Interchangeability and Moral Ambivalence in Sergei Dovlatov’s ‘The Zone: A Prison Camp Guard’s Story’”

**Dr. Olga V. Solovieva (Nicolaus Copernicus U.)**

“Authenticity or Irony: Dostoevsky in Thomas Mann’s *Reflections of a Non-Political Man*”

### 5.B: Deportation During World War II

*Pfahl Hall, Room 230*

**Chair: Dr. David Hoffmann (Ohio State U.)**  
**Dr. Ian Lanzillotti (Washington & Jefferson College)**

“The Politics and Legacies of Deportation and Resettlement in the Soviet Caucasus: Klukhori District and the Fates of Svan, Kartachai, and Balkar Communities”

**Arthur Mengozzi (U. of Michigan)**

“For Our Sake or Theirs? Ukrainian Child Abductees under Nazi and Russian Occupation”

**Sascha Rohde (Ohio State U.)**

“In Written Witness: Images of World War II’s



Eastern Front History through Red Army Diarists' Words"

### 5.C: Treacherous Waters: Politics and Diplomacy

*Pfahl Hall, Room 240*

**Chair: Dr. Marko Babić (U. of Warsaw, Ohio State's Spring 2025 Fulbright Slavic Scholar)**

**Dr. Assel Bitabar (Maqsut Narikbayev U.)**

"Multivectoral Diplomacy in Action: Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy Post-February 2022"

**Dr. Pawel Maciag (U. of Warsaw)**

"Integration of Migrants from Ukraine into Polish Society: International Law, Opportunities, and Challenges. Authenticity at the Level of Global Phenomenon"

**Dr. Jerry Pankhurst (Wittenberg U.)**

"More Than Mere Complicity: Russian Orthodoxy's Partnership with Russian State Aggression"

**Justin Tomczyk (Stanford U.)**

"Coming Undone? A Decade of Eurasian (dis) Integration"

### 5.D: Authenticity in Translation

*Pfahl Hall, Room 330*

**Chair: Dr. Kathleen Manukyan (U. of Pittsburgh)**

**Quinn Cline-Cook (Ohio State U.)**

"Troublesome Translations: Subtitling the

Subtleties of Formality in Russian Films"

**Olivia Kennison (Brown U.)**

"Euripides on the Russian Stage: Silver Age Translations and Performances of *Hippolytus*"

**Dr. Timothy Pogačar (Bowling Green State U.)**

"Original Forms and Authenticity of Personal Names in Translation"

### 5.E: Phonological, Lexical, and Cultural Transformations

*Pfahl Hall, Room 340*

**Chair: Dr. Ljiljana Duraskovic (U. of Pittsburgh)**

**Lindon Dedvukaj (Ohio State U.)**

"The Dialectal Split of Gheg and Tosk Albanian: A Case of Contact-Induced Phonological Change"

**Dr. Ivana Eterović (U. of Zagreb)**

"On Authenticity in Historical Folk Linguistics: View of the South Slavic Dialect Landscape in Croatian Protestant Corpus"

**Dr. Inna Stupak (U. of Tuebingen)**

"Lexical Similarity and Cultural Authenticity: A Comparative Study of Ukrainian and Russian Noun-Pairs Using Contextualized Word Embeddings"

**We would like to thank the following people who made this year's conference possible.**

#### 2025 Student Volunteers

- Luke Bendick (Ohio State U.)
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- Kelly Gallagher (Ohio State U.)
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- Dr. Timothy Pogačar (Bowling Green State U.), President
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- Emma Pratt (Ohio State U.), Treasurer
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#### Special thanks to the following community members and faculty

- Dr. Dima Arzyutov (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Alisa Ballard Lin (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Angela Brintlinger (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Alexander Burry (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Clare Cavanagh (Northwestern U.)
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- Giga Kokaia
- Michelle McKenzie (Riverside Research)
- Dr. Richard Pratt (New Mexico State U.)
- Dr. Sunnie Rucker-Chang (Ohio State U.)
- Dr. Alexandria Wilson-McDonald (Otterbein U.)

# The Midwest Slavic Association

The Midwest Slavic Association (MWSA) supports Slavic, East European, and Central Asian studies in the Midwest region of the U.S. and beyond. All registered conference attendees receive membership through their registration fee. To learn more about the MWSA, please visit their website:

<https://slaviccenter.osu.edu/about/mwsassoc>.

***We are looking to reenergize our membership! Please join us on Saturday evening for our annual member meeting at 5 PM on the 2nd floor foyer!***

**President: Dr. Timothy Pogačar, Bowling Green State U.**

Timothy Pogačar received degrees from Georgetown University and the University of Kansas, where he wrote a dissertation on Russian literature and the journal *Iunost*. He joined the faculty of Bowling Green State U. in 1985 and chaired the Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages from 1998 to 2017. He has edited the journal *Slovene Studies* since 1994. As an executive council member of the Society for Slovene Studies, he took part in the launch of the Slovene Research Initiative at The Ohio State University. Pogačar has translated seven contemporary novels from Slovene. His most recent book translation is of Ivan Tavčar's novel *The Visoko Chronicle* (2022). Pogačar has published articles on Tavčar, emigration, and his American émigré relative (2021); and two articles on fiction in the Slovene-American newspaper *Prosveta* (2021). Current research topics are sound preferences for personal names in translation and translated fiction in twentieth-century Slavic-American periodicals.



## 2025 Midwest Slavic Association Student Essay Prize Competition

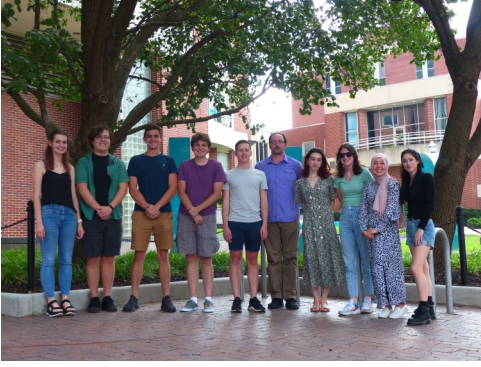
The Midwest Slavic Association, with support from the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), is now accepting submissions for its annual essay prize competition for undergraduate and graduate students. Students can submit a paper on any topic related to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies to the Midwest Slavic Association for consideration. The best undergraduate paper received will win a one-year membership to ASEEES, and the graduate winner will receive a one-year membership to ASEEES, as well as then being considered for the ASEEES Graduate Student Essay Prize national level competition. The graduate winner of the ASEEES Student Essay Prize at the national level wins travel, lodging, and registration for the Annual ASEEES Convention and membership for the following year. The prize is presented during the awards presentation at the Annual Convention.

Undergraduate paper submissions can be in a variety of formats, including: conference paper, thesis, course paper, or article. They should be no longer than 20 double-spaced pages including notes and bibliography. Entries must be submitted electronically and written in English.

Graduate essay submissions can be of several formats: expanded versions of conference papers, graduate level seminar papers, Master's thesis chapters, or dissertation chapters. The student should indicate what type of paper they are submitting and provide an abstract. Essays should have a minimum word count of 7,500 and a maximum word count of 14,000 (25 to 50 pages approximately) inclusive of footnotes and bibliography. Submissions must be written in English, double-spaced, and include footnotes or endnotes.

***All submissions are due on Thursday, May 1, 2025*** and should be emailed to [cseees@osu.edu](mailto:cseees@osu.edu). Students who wish to submit an essay should have participated in the Midwest Slavic Conference, or be from an institution in the Midwest (defined as any college or university in the states of **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin**). With your submission, please also include a short bio of the author, an abstract of the essay, and indicate the format of the essay. Please visit ASEEES' website for full information on the national level competition: <http://aseees.org/programs/aseees-prizes/graduate-student-essay-prize>.

# Considering Graduate School for East European and Eurasian Studies?



The Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies offers a two-year, interdisciplinary, terminal M.A. program in Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies. It provides students with a deep background in the culture, history, and politics of Eastern Europe and Eurasia, an opportunity to achieve advanced language skills, and the option to create a specialization in a country or region of their choice (Russian foreign policy, Polish social movements, or Central Asian security studies for example).

In addition to our regular M.A. program, students can also choose to pursue dual degrees. For students interested in both area studies and public administration, CSEEEES and the John Glenn College of Public Affairs offer a dual degree in public affairs and Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies for those who are interested in careers in policy development and implementation, and/or non-profit work. CSEEEES has also partnered with the Center for Bioethics in Ohio State's College of Medicine to offer a dual degree program that is ideal for students who want to combine their regional expertise with particular issues related to medicine and ethics.

Find out more about CSEEEES' MA program and dual degree programs at: <https://slaviccenter.osu.edu/ma>.

## Check out the programs and resources from this year's co-sponsors!



**FLAS**   
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- Turkish
- Uzbek

Under the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program, the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (CSEEEES) at The Ohio State University offers summer and academic year fellowships for students who are pursuing a degree and need advanced training in language and area studies. The fellowship seeks to enhance students' language skills and knowledge of a foreign country or region through coursework.



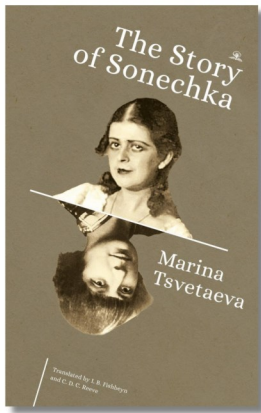
The Polish Studies Initiative (PSI) supports Ohio State students, postdocs and faculty studying and/or researching Polish language, culture and other disciplines related to Poland. Funds are used for PSI's annual grant and scholarship competitions which help to facilitate travel for study abroad programs, internships and research both domestically and internationally. Learn more about PSI at [go.osu.edu/polishstudies](https://go.osu.edu/polishstudies)

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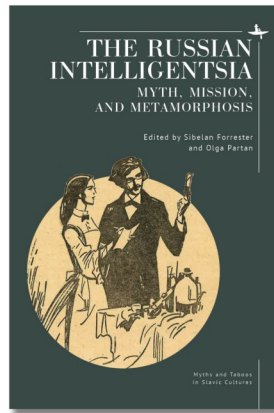


**The Story of Sonchka**

MARINA TSVETAEVA

Translated by I. B. FISHBEYN and C.D.C. REEVE

March 2025 | 9798887198057 | PB

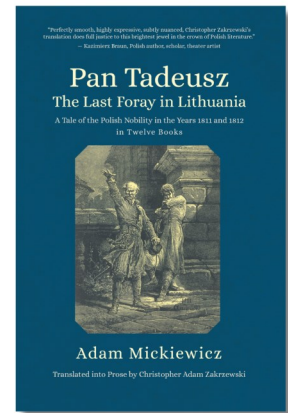


**The Russian Intelligentsia**

*Myth, Mission, and Metamorphosis*

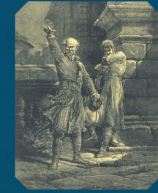
Edited by SIBELAN FORRESTER and  
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**Pan Tadeusz**  
**The Last Foray in Lithuania**

A Tale of the Polish Nobility in the Years 1811 and 1812  
in Twelve Books



Adam Mickiewicz

Translated into Prose by Christopher Adam Zakrzewski

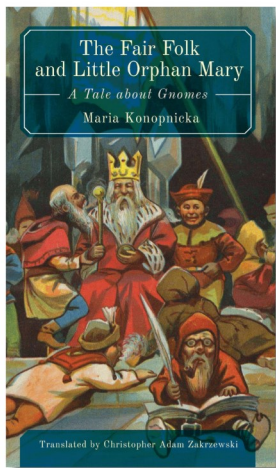
**Pan Tadeusz. The Last Foray in Lithuania**

*A Tale of the Polish Nobility in the Years 1811 and 1812 in Twelve Books*

ADAM MICKIEWICZ

Translated with commentary by  
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**The Fair Folk and Little Orphan Mary**

*A Tale about Gnomes*

Maria Konopnicka

Translated by Christopher Adam Zakrzewski

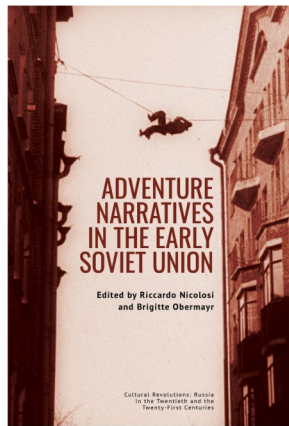
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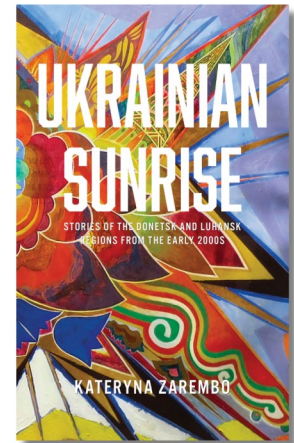
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KATERYNA ZAREMBO

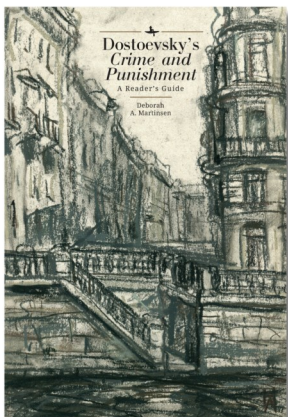
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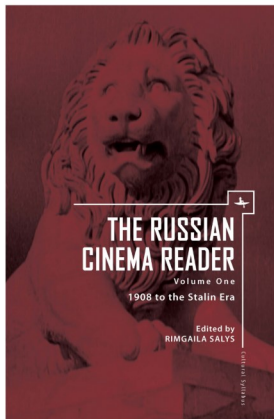
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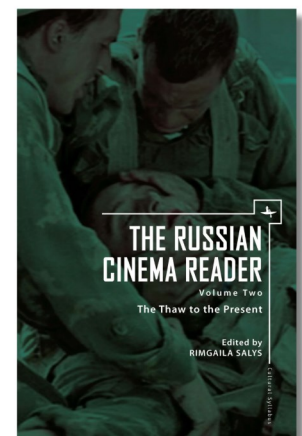
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- **Media that have been destroyed or forcibly closed** (Novyi Fokus)
- **Regional and city-based publications with rare and unique content** (Dovod, DOSH, Chernovik)
- **Cultural media** (Colta, Otechestvennye zapiski)





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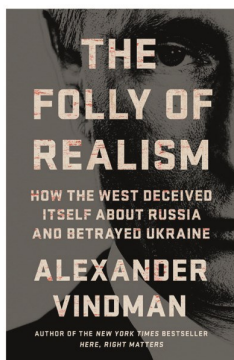
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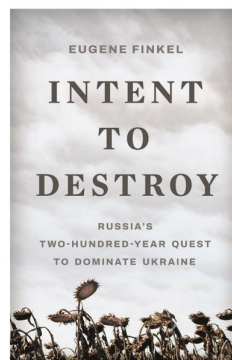
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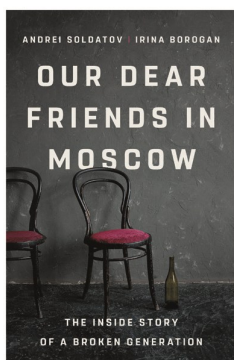
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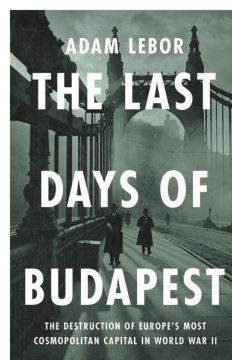
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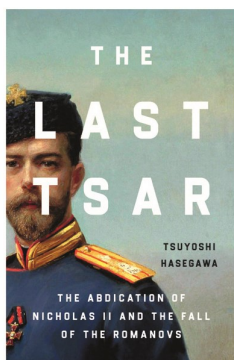
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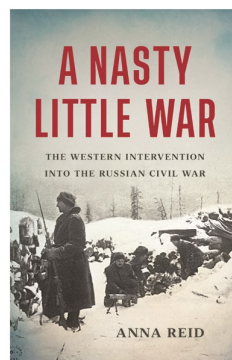
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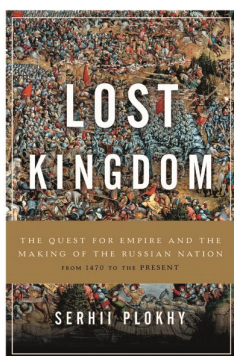
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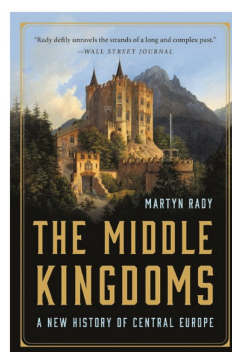
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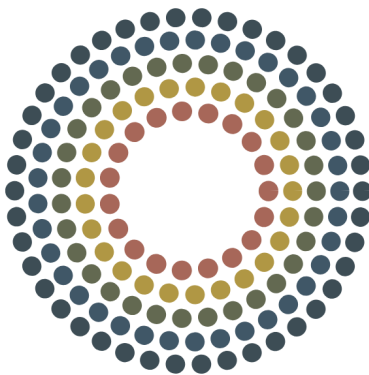
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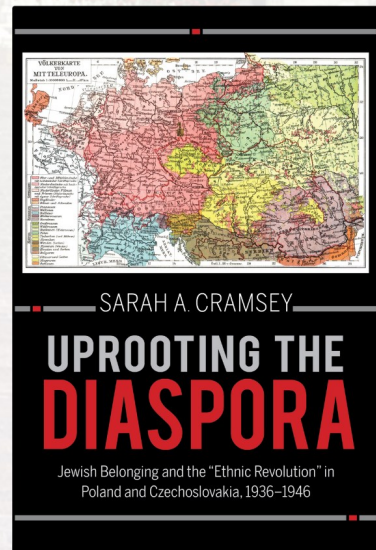
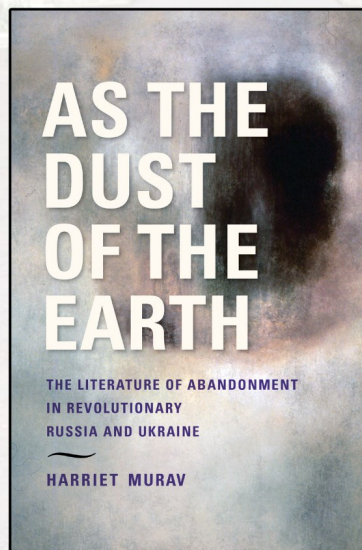
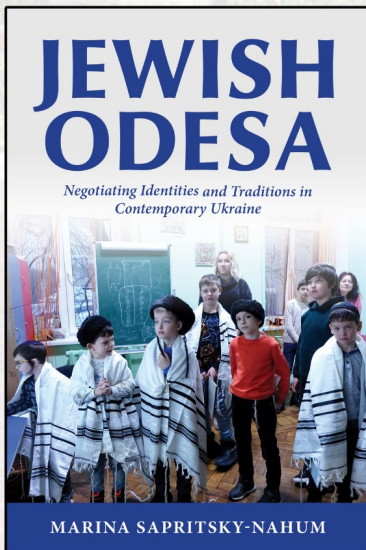
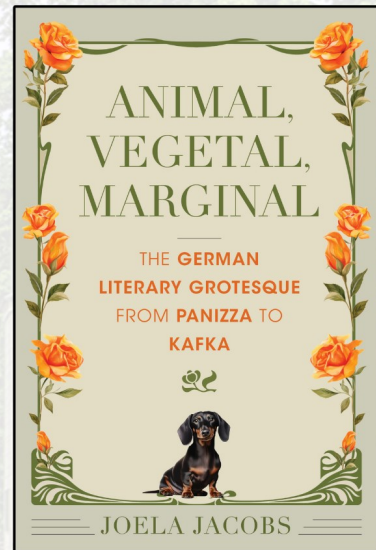
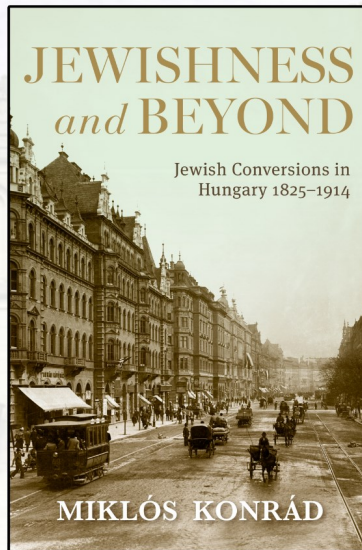
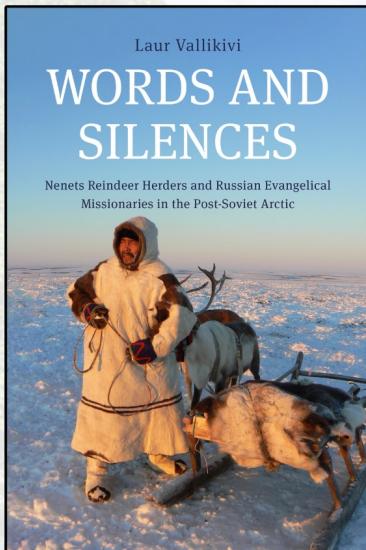


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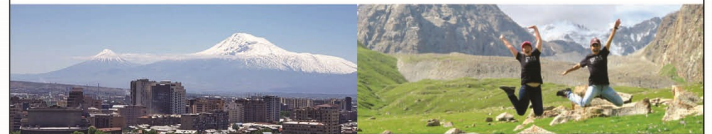
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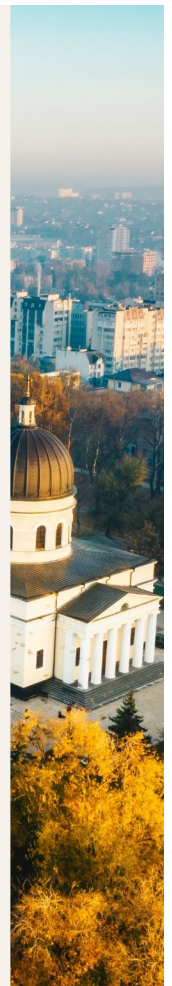
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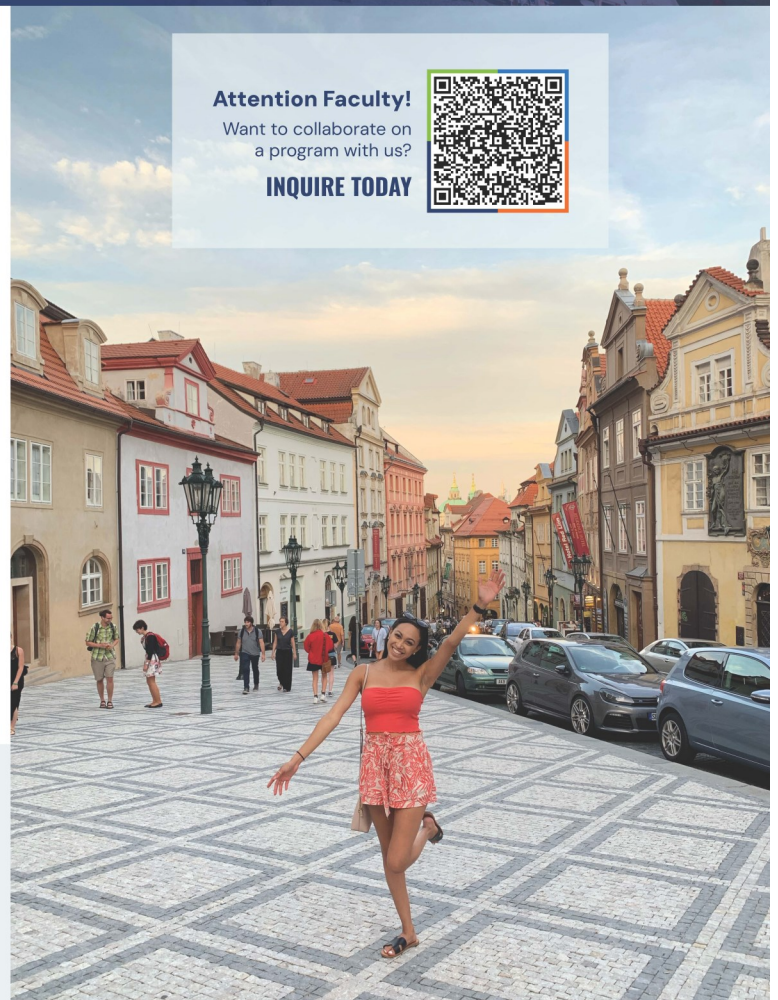


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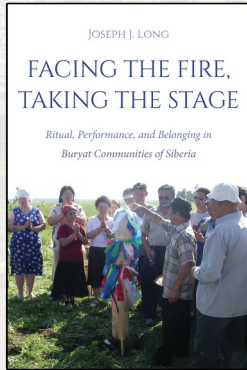
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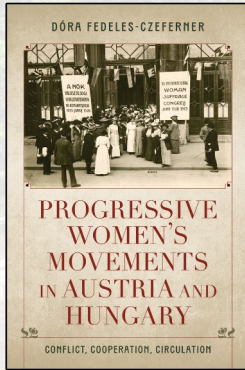


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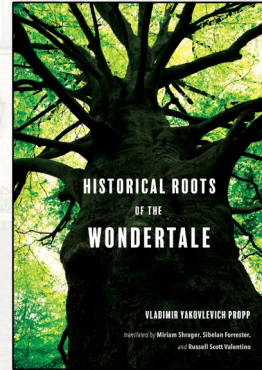
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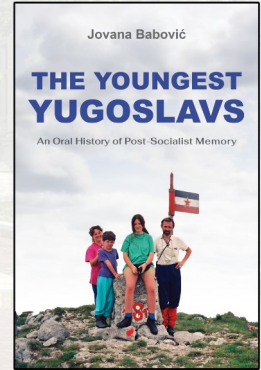
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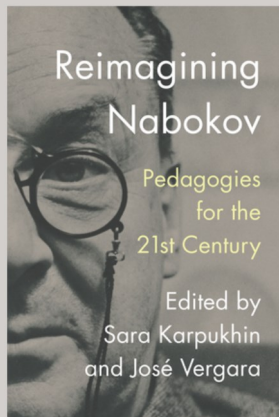


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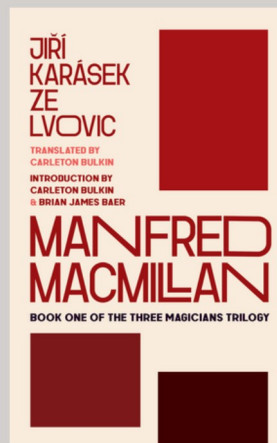
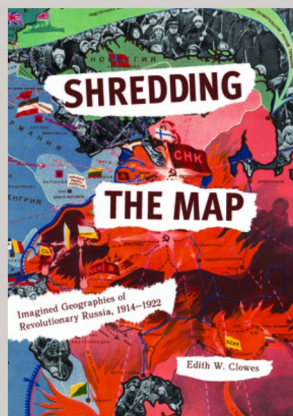


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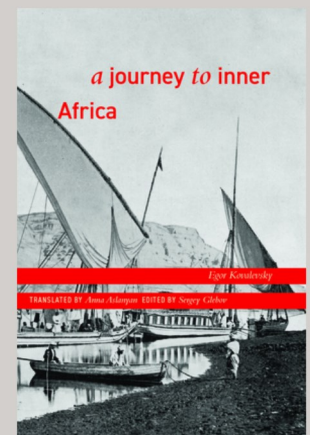
**Reimagining Nabokov:  
 Pedagogies for the  
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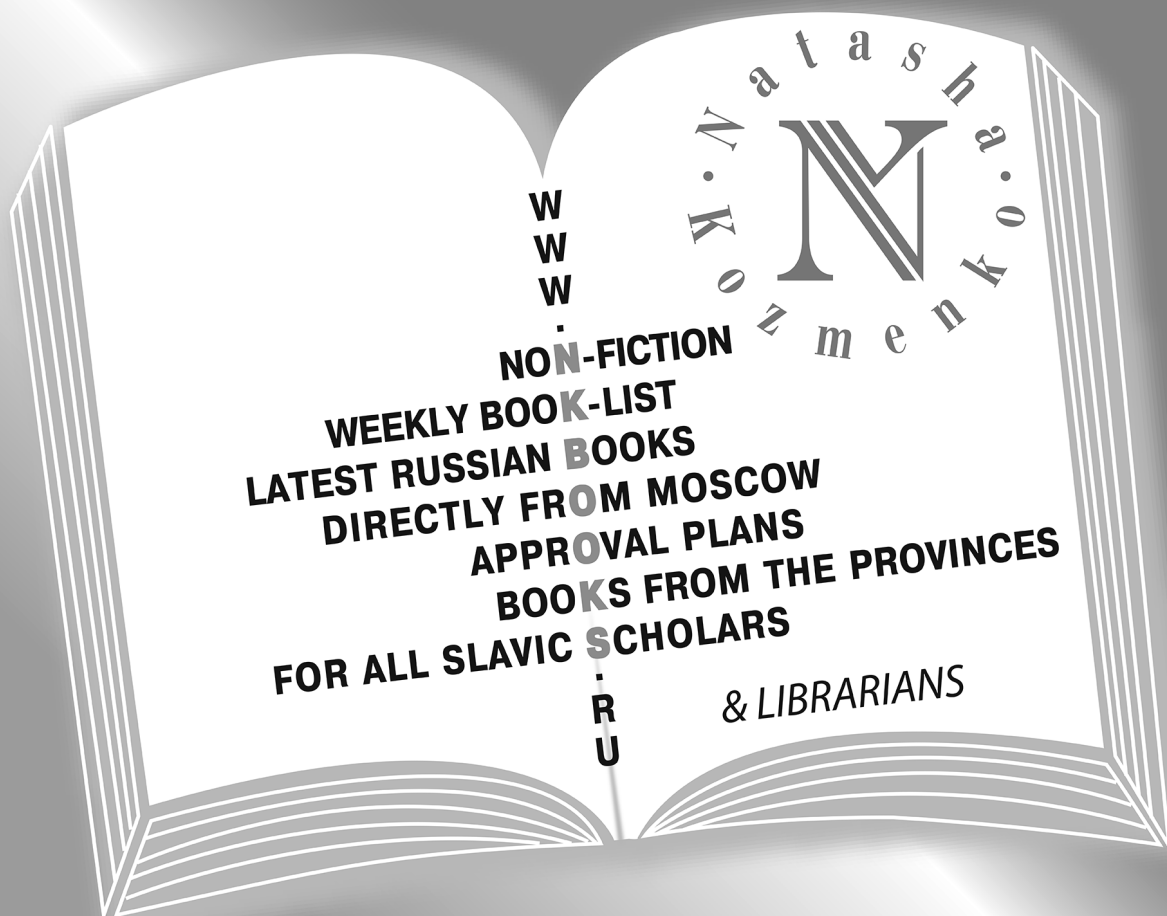


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  - The Department of History (Ohio State U.)
- The Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures (U. of Kentucky)
  - The Department of Political Science (Ohio State U.)

## 2025 Midwest Slavic Conference

	<b>Friday, April 4</b>		
	<b>The Ohio State University Faculty Club, Grand Lounge</b>		
<b>5:30-6:30</b>	<b>Conference Opening Reception and Midwest Slavic Association Announcements</b>		
	<b>Saturday, April 5</b>		
	<b>Pfahl Hall, Room 202, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>		
<b>8:30-10:15</b>	<b>Plenary Panel</b>		
<b>10:15-10:30</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK, Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>		
	<b>Pfahl Hall 102</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 202</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 230</b>
<b>Session I</b> <b>10:30-12:00</b>	Threats to Social Solidarity	REEE Think Tank Showcase I	Language, Identity, and Cultural Contact in the Balkans: Lessons from Montenegro, Bosnia, and ex-Yugoslavia
<b>12:00-1:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break (on your own)</b>		
<b>Session II</b> <b>1:30-3:00</b>		Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging- Best Practices in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies	Exploring REEE Careers Beyond Academia (Roundtable)
<b>3:00-3:15</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK, Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>		
<b>Session III</b> <b>3:15-4:45</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer</b>	REEE Think Tank Showcase II	Authentic Voices in Music and Movement
	2025 Midwest Russian, East European and Eurasian (REEE) Undergraduate Digital Poster Forum		
	<b>Sunday, April 6</b>		
	<b>Pfahl Hall 202</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 230</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 240</b>
<b>Session IV</b> <b>8:30-10:00</b>	Layered Narratives in Eastern Europe: Identity, Art, and Religion	Undergraduate Research in East European and Eurasian History	(In)Authentic Soviet Experiences
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK, Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>		
<b>Session V</b> <b>10:15-11:45</b>	Resisting Hegemony: Authenticity and the Other	Deportation During WWII	Treacherous Waters: Politics and Diplomacy
<b>Additional Events</b>			
<b>Saturday</b> <b>5:00-5:30</b>	Midwest Slavic Association Meeting Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center		

## 2025 Midwest Slavic Conference

<b>Friday, April 4</b>			
<b>The Ohio State University Faculty Club, Grand Lounge</b>			
<b>Midwest Slavic Keynote Address by Dr. Mikhail Epstein</b>			<b>6:30-8:00</b>
<b>Saturday, April 5</b>			
<b>Pfahl Hall, Room 202, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>			
<b>“Shaping East European and Eurasian Culture and History: Forging Authentic Narratives Through AI, Media, and Storytelling Methods”</b>			<b>8:30-10:15</b>
<b>COFFEE BREAK, Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>			<b>10:15-10:30</b>
<b>Pfahl Hall 240</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 330</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 340</b>	
Shaping Polish Identity	Utopia and Dystopia in Russian Literature and Beyond	Gendering the History of Modern Eurasia	<b>Session I 10:30-12:00</b>
<b>Lunch Break (on your own)</b>			<b>12:00-1:30</b>
An Authentic Personal Past	Ukrainian Identity through Art and Politics	Reexamining Russian Writers: Dostoevsky and Zamyatin	<b>Session II 1:30-3:00</b>
<b>COFFEE BREAK, Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>			<b>3:00-3:15</b>
Innovations and Challenges in Slavic Language Pedagogy (Roundtable)	Identity and Educational Practices in Central and Eastern Europe	Propaganda in Art, Prose, and Film	<b>Session III 3:15-4:45</b>
<b>Sunday, April 6</b>			
<b>Pfahl Hall 330</b>	<b>Pfahl Hall 340</b>		
Gender in Film and Memoir	Slavic-American Cultural Relations		<b>Session IV 8:30-10:00</b>
<b>COFFEE BREAK, Pfahl Hall, 2nd Floor Foyer, Blackwell Inn and Conference Center</b>			<b>10:00-10:15</b>
Authenticity in Translation	Phonological, Lexical, and Cultural Transformations		<b>Session V 10:15-11:45</b>
<b>Additional Events</b>			
Student Mixer, The O on Lane (352 W Lane Ave, Columbus, OH 43201)			<b>Saturday 6:30-8:00</b>
Faculty and Independent Scholars Mixer, Budd Dairy Food Hall (1086 N 4th St, Columbus, OH 43201)			<b>30</b>



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