

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

(CREES) is dedicated to advancing and disseminating interdisciplinary knowledge about the peoples, nations, and cultures of Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, past and present. Through its own academic programs and its support of area-focused training and scholarship across U-M's schools and colleges, CREES helps meet the nation's ongoing need for experts with deep contextual knowledge who are proficient in the region's languages. Through its public lectures, conferences, and other events, CREES serves as a local, state, Midwest, and national resource on the region.

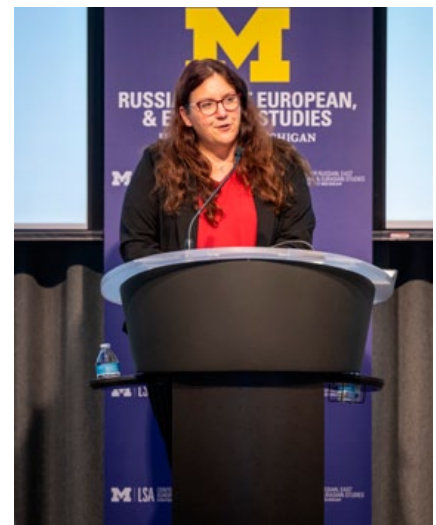
FROM THE DIRECTOR We at CREES had an eventful academic year in 2023–2024. We also acknowledge that it was another difficult year as our students, faculty, and broader community continue to grapple with all the challenges in the region that we engage with and learn from. The war in Ukraine grinds on, political repression in Russia grows grimmer, and volatile political situations are evident throughout the region. This past year served as yet another reminder of the importance of our commitment to our academic and community partners across the region, as well as on the U-M campus. Our continued passion for “all things CREES” was evident in our academic programming, including in the REEES course offerings and our public lectures.

Our programming this year reflected a diverse series of events touching upon many current events and presenting opportunities to learn from the past. Our first CREES Noon Lecture was delivered by Timothy Nunan, who focused on the history of Russia and Shi'a Islamist Movements from the 1970s to the present. Later in September, we had the pleasure to host Dmitry Bykov for an evening lecture on Russian and Ukrainian satire. It was wonderful to see not only our students and faculty, but so many attendees from the local community. In October, Megan Buskey talked about her recently published book that examines her own Ukrainian family history.

This provided insight into history and allowed for reflection on current events in Ukraine as well. In November, CREES was excited to present, in association with University Musical Society, the powerful performance of the Ukrainian folk-punk quartet DakhaBrakha at Hill Auditorium and to also host a special backstage meeting for our students. As part of the LSA Arts and Resistance Theme Semester, CREES was honored to host a November event on Ukrainian Poetry and Resistance. Poets Alex Averbuch, Oksana Maksymchuk, and Max Rosochinsky joined Svitlana Rogovyk for a moderated panel discussion. Later in November, Thúc Linh Nguyễn Vũ delivered a fascinating lecture on her research on Polish socialist travelogues and documentary photography in Vietnam. To culminate our fall semester, Maša Kolanović delivered the second annual Borka Tomljenović Lecture, established by a generous gift from Professor Emerita Katarina Borer in honor of her mother, a longtime member of the university community.

Our Winter semester also included many critical conversations. Karrie Koesel kicked off our noon lecture series with a timely presentation on political and patriotic education in Russia and China. As part of WCEE's “Focus on Ukraine” series in February, Olha Kostetska joined us via Zoom from Kyiv for a CREES Noon Lecture on the public health challenges during war-time, for which she is working on the

frontlines. Her lecture also highlighted the opportunities for post-war recovery and resilience in the Ukrainian public health system. In March, we welcomed Togzhan Kassenova for her interdisciplinary presentation on nuclear politics in Kazakhstan and the historical and political implications of ridding itself of nuclear weapons. Halina Goldberg delivered the final CREES Noon Lecture, in which she treated us to learning about (and listening to!) the history of Polish Jewish culture through music. In addition to the noon lectures, CREES had the honor to host two evening lectures featuring independent Russian journalists living in exile. Mikhail Zygar presented a lecture on his latest book *War and Punishment: Putin, Zelensky, and the Path to Russia's*



Invasion of Ukraine. And Elena Kostyuchenko gave a book talk on her award-winning *I Love Russia: Reporting from a Lost Country*, during which I had the opportunity to join her on stage for a bilingual reading and to moderate a discussion afterwards.

In addition to our own events, we were pleased to co-sponsor important lectures and series that focused on our region, both on the U-M campus and externally. This included co-sponsoring the multidisciplinary virtual event series “Queer Focus: Gender and Sexualities in Eastern Europe and Eurasia.” We also celebrated a return to in-person conferences by co-sponsoring the 2023 Annual ASEES Convention and hosting a reception. It was great to see many of our faculty, students, alumni, and friends of CREES in Philadelphia!

A key part of CREES are the students, including the MA students, graduate student associates, and the BA students. We were delighted to have three new MA students start the REEES specialization this year. And we are very proud of Timothy Olson, who completed the program this May. We look forward to welcoming seven new MA students in August. CREES continues to build community among the graduate students through lunches with guest speakers, happy hours, and coffee chats to discuss and process current events.

I was honored to be appointed Director of CREES this past fall. CREES also welcomed an Associate Director, John Branch, Ross School of Business, and we thank him for his service to the educational and curriculum aspects of CREES. We are grateful to Liz Malinkin, who continues to oversee our day-to-day operations as Academic Program Manager. We also appreciate the entire WCEE staff who repeatedly lent their talent to ensuring our events were a success. I look back with gratitude for what we accomplished this year and the community that fuels the work of CREES.

Elizabeth J. King

CREES Director

Scholars at Risk Teaching 2023-24

For the 2023-24 academic year, CREES invited WCEE Scholars at Risk Fellows—Oksana Chabanyuk, Yurii Kaparulin, Katerina Sirinyok-Dolgaryova, and Kseniya Yurtayeva—to teach new REEES courses open to both undergraduate and graduate students. The courses had “meet-togethers” with Political Science, Public Policy, Slavic Languages & Literatures, and Architecture.

“Each of the Ukrainian scholars’ teaching and student mentorship has greatly enriched our curriculum, and their engagement with CREES events has added significantly to our community,” CREES Director Elizabeth King commented. The scholars themselves also appreciated their experience teaching U-M students. Sirinyok-Dolgarova noted, “I loved the diversity we had in class: there were students of different ages, genders, education levels (undergraduate and graduate), and racial and cultural backgrounds, which enhanced the learning environment.” Yurtayeva was impressed with her students’ deep understanding of Ukrainian culture just after one semester.

We are grateful that U-M students will have more opportunities to take courses with three of the scholars this coming academic year.

Courses

“Architecture of Soviet Ukraine” and “Urban Concepts in Eastern Europe XIX-XX Centuries” – Oksana Chabanyuk

“The Crime of Genocide in the History of Ukraine (XX-XXI Centuries)” – Yurii Kaparulin

“Propaganda and Disinformation in the Russia-Ukraine War” – Katerina Sirinyok-Dolgaryova

“Theory of Hybrid Conflicts in the Context of the Russia-Ukraine War” – Kseniya Yurtayeva



“REEES courses taught by the WCEE Fellows allow students to engage with critical questions on Ukraine, keeping our focus on the country as it combats Russian military and political aggression.”

Arthur Mengozzi

Ph.D. student in Slavic Languages and Literatures [MIRS-REEES MA '22]

CREES Graduate

Winter 2024 | MIRS-REEES

Timothy Olson

Graduate Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships

Awarded to U-M graduate and professional school students for study of modern languages and related area studies with support from the U.S. Department of Education and U-M.

Samantha Farmer, PhD Slavic (Ukrainian)

Aristea Kola, PhD Slavic (Croatian)

Lisandri Kola, Master of Science in Information (Croatian)

Mara Kuhne, MIRS-REEES/MPP Public Policy (Russian)

Alexandra Luckau, MIRS-REEES (Russian)

Timothy Olson, MIRS-REEES (Russian)

Ekaterina Olson Shipyatsky, PhD Political Science (Polish)

Thomas Pazik, MIRS-REEES (Polish)

Undergraduate Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships

Awarded to U-M undergraduate students for study of modern languages and related area studies with support from the U.S. Department of Education.

Atara Kresch, BA Art and Design (Yiddish)

Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships

Awarded to U-M undergraduate and graduate students for intensive language study, or to students from other universities for summer language study at U-M with support from the U.S. Department of Education.

Genni Driker, MIRS-REEES (Polish)

Brett Wolff, MBA (Russian)

Fiona Wu, PhD History (Yiddish)

Graduate Student Instructors, REEES 395 & 397

Awarded for teaching positions in REEES undergraduate courses: REEES 395, Russia and the Soviet Union: Reform, Revolution, and the Socialist Experiment (fall); REEES 397: Communism and Capitalism in Eastern Europe (winter).

Ryan Comrie, JD Law, REEES 397

Elaina Karpenko, MIRS-REEES, REEES 395

Irene Promodh, PhD Anthropology, REEES 397

Anna Tanalski, MSI, REEES 395

CREES Research, Internship & Fellowship Awards

Awarded to students in REEES-related undergraduate and graduate degree programs for summer or semester-long research projects or internships at institutions and businesses in Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union.

Christopher DeCou, PhD History, "The Stars in Their Eyes" [Mongolia]

Ryan Hoagland, PhD Slavic Languages and Literatures, "Beyond Prohibition: Eastern European Drug User Writing" [Serbia]

Hana Majusak, PhD SEAS, "The Violent Present: Assessing the Impacts of Landmines in Bosnia" [Bosnia and Herzegovina]

Megan Savoy, PhD Anthropology, "Exploring the Impact of Darkhad on Mongol Empire" [Mongolia]

Julian Schultz, PhD Anthropology, "Neolithic Albanian Archaeofaunal Analysis Project (NAAAP)" [Kosovo, Albania]

Southeast European Studies Award

Hana Majusak, PhD SEAS, "The Violent Present: Assessing the Impacts of Landmines in Bosnia" [Bosnia and Herzegovina]

CREES Alumni

Graduates from CREES and other U-M academic programs have gone on to distinguished careers—here are some updates from the past year. Alumni are encouraged to send news of their achievements to crees@umich.edu.

Louis Albertini (MA REES '13) is the Head of Product Marketing at Glide (San Francisco).

Daina Stukuls Eglitis (MA REES '93, PhD Sociology '98) is president-elect of the academic organization, Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS).

Karen J. Evans-Romaine (PhD Slavic '96) was the President of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) from 2023-2024 (2-year term).

Diane Koenker (PhD History '76) retired from University College London and ended her term as Director of UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies in 2023. She is now professor emerita at UCL and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mark Matossian (BA REES '87, BSE AeroEng '87, MSE AeroEng '88) ran a successful experiment on the Intuitive Machines IM-1 lunar lander in early 2024 through his startup, Lonestar Media Holdings, and is planning their next mission to the Moon in November 2024.

Colleen O'Shea (BA REES '07) is starting a new job as Associate Conservator of Antiquities at the Getty Villa in September 2024.

William C. Potter (PhD Political Science '76) was appointed a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the UN Institute of Disarmament Research.

Douglas Rogers (PhD Anthropology '04) received a Guggenheim Fellowship for Fall 2024 to work on his book project *Eating Oil: An Earthly History*.

Paul Saunders (MA REES/Political Science '92) was appointed President of the Center for the National Interest in January 2024. Some of his recent publications include "Russia's Global Energy Role: War, Sanctions, and the Energy Transition" and "Restoring America's Nuclear Energy Leadership and Exports." Both reports are available through the Energy Innovation Reform Project, where he was president through December 2023.

Harry R. Wilkinson (MA REES '73) retired from J.P. Morgan Chase as a bank executive.

CREES Reception at ASEES

CREES hosted a reception at this year's annual ASEES convention in Philadelphia for the first time since our 60th anniversary celebration in 2019. We were thrilled to mingle with approximately 50 attendees, including alumni, current faculty and students, as well as former and future speakers in the CREES and WCEE event series. Both the CREES and WCEE Directors gave welcoming remarks as well as an overview of each centers' activities and new initiatives. We also had a drawing for CREES and WCEE t-shirts and other branded swag that we hope our alumni and friends will use proudly!

CREES Executive Committee

Barbara A. Anderson, Sociology

Pamela Ballinger, History

John Branch, CREES Associate Director, Business

Lilit Gizhlaryan, MIRS-REES MA student

Elizabeth J. King, CREES Director, Public Health

Benjamin Paloff, Comparative Literature/Slavic Languages and Literatures

Alicia Ventresca-Miller, Anthropology



CREES guest speaker Elena Kostyuchenko with MIRS-REES MA students and Elizabeth King

