From the Director

This academic year is an important one at the Harriman Institute. Not only are we celebrating our 70th anniversary, but we are also marking the 25th year since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The post-Soviet era has seen many phases and turns, from post-Cold War triumphalism and the onset of the “transition,” to the return of the post-Communist states to Europe, and attempts to come to terms with post-Socialism and the onset of Communist-era nostalgia. The rise of a more assertive Russia, the conflict in Ukraine, and the current deepening crisis in Russia’s relations with the West have further added to uncertainty about the future and generated competing narratives about the meaning and stability of the so-called post-Cold War order and the challenges associated with statehood and community-building.

To reflect on these developments, we have organized a 70th anniversary seminar series that brings together distinguished members of the Harriman community—faculty, alumni and close friends. The series focuses on key issues in the emerging “post-post” Cold War period, the state of the region, the growing range of experiences encapsulated in the post-Communist world, and our scholarly approaches to their evolution.

We began the series with two talks by former Harriman directors—Robert Legvold and Mark von Hagen. Legvold discussed his new book, Return to Cold War (Polity, 2016), and von Hagen examined the evolution that has taken place from the Cold War to the civilization-al conflict we face today (click here for a full events listing and video links.)

I am pleased to report that during this very special year in our history, the Harriman Institute was selected as one of three institutions to receive a $1 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to strengthen the study of Russia in U.S. universities. The awarded grants, which also went to Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, aim to encourage the universities to build up Russia-relevant training, research, and outreach programs, and facilitate engagement with Russian academic communities and institutions. The award will allow Harriman to build upon its existing collaborative programs and research projects, and will also help the institute promote Russia Studies among new faculty, students and departments across Columbia and the greater New York city academic community.

We are delighted to announce that “Black Sea Networks,” a new three-year teaching and learning initiative at Columbia University, headed by Valentina Izmirlieva, Professor of Slavic Languages and Slavic Department Chair, has launched its website. The project aims to reconceptualize existing programs within a larger Black Sea framework and create multidisciplinary undergraduate and graduate tracks in “Black Sea Studies” at Columbia’s Department of Slavic Languages. As part of the endeavor we co-hosted, with the Slavic Department and the Heyman Center for Humanities, Ivan Krastev for a lecture titled, “Imitation Imperative: Making Sense of the Crisis of Black Sea Europe.” Krastev is one of the leading public intellectuals in Europe today and an expert on Eastern European democracy.

I am also very pleased to announce that we are now hosting in our office space Eurasianet.org, the premier news and analysis website for our region. We look forward to Eurasianet continuing its leadership in post-Soviet affairs commentary and analysis at the Institute. You can read more about the website and its founder and managing editor, Justin Burke, on the following page.

Visit our website for news and details of upcoming events. If you aren't doing so already, please follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook to keep up with news about our faculty, students and alumni and stay updated on our events, fellowship opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you around the Institute!

My very best,
Alex Cooley
Eurasianet.org, a leading non-profit news website, is now hosted by the Harriman Institute. The collaboration between a content-producing news organization and an academic institution is unique to the field of Eurasian studies, and it opens the doors for many exciting possibilities.

“This is a grand experiment and I think it will pay great dividends,” said Justin Burke, EurasiaNet’s managing editor. “The ability of EurasiaNet and Harriman to work closely together will allow both to emerge as the thought leaders that guide debates.”

In late August 2016, not long after Burke moved his operation to its new headquarters at the Harriman Institute, two big developments unfolded in Central Asia. Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan’s leader since its 1991 independence from the Soviet Union, suffered a fatal stroke; and a suicide bomber attacked the Chinese embassy in Kyrgyzstan. Burke, whose enterprise is comprised of only three editors (himself included) had to scramble to respond to the simultaneous crises. But due to EurasiaNet’s emphasis on analysis over immediate news, he had a grace period.

“We had to put our thinking caps on and spend the day planning for coverage for the ensuing days,” he told me in his new office on the 12th floor of the International Affairs Building.

Burke began his journalism career at the Associated Press’s Detroit bureau in 1987. After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, his longstanding interest in the Soviet Union (he majored in Soviet Studies at Boston University) prompted him to leave his job and move to Moscow as a freelance reporter. Within six months Burke landed a position at the Christian Science Monitor, where he worked first as a staff writer, then Germany bureau chief, until ’95. But the position at the Monitor was too broad in its focus and Burke decided to leave journalism and focus on the post-Soviet region. In 1996, he became associate director of the Open Society Institute’s (OSI) Forced Migration Project.

“My brief stint outside of journalism did not work out,” says Burke; within two years of starting his new position he had transitioned over to the Central Asia Project and convinced OSI to let him start a web news portal about Central Asia and the Caucasus on its website.

By 1999, Eurasianet.org was born. The website, which relies on a network of freelance correspondents across the region, covers developments in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan, Moldova, Mongolia, Turkey, and sometimes Russia. Burke described building EurasiaNet’s correspondent network as a “painstaking” process that involved a lot of trial and error. Because of Burke’s careful attention to story selection and emphasis on analysis over immediate news, which he attributes to his internalization of the editorial philosophies of both the Associated Press and the Christian Science Monitor, it took the site nearly two years to cultivate a steady flow of trusted contributors.

“The news cycle is so compressed that people, in general, are losing the ability to digest what all these events actually mean and what the implications are,” says Burke. “I have always tried to make EurasiaNet into a place where people can stop and read articles that make them think and discuss the implications of developments, and what can be done to address situations that may arise, to anticipate events.” And the tactic worked—since its inception, EurasiaNet has grown into one of the most popular websites devoted to political and economic developments in Eurasia.

Last year EurasiaNet became a fully independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit. That’s when Burke approached Harriman director Alexander Cooley about teaming up with the institute. The website has always had close ties to academia, with scholars both contributing articles and comprising one of its greatest constituencies, and Cooley gladly agreed to host the it in the Harriman office space.

“The combination of a publication like EurasiaNet operating in close proximity to the Harriman is a great way to increase the general knowledge base and bring information about Eurasia to a much larger audience,” says Burke. “The fusion of a news platform and an academic research institution offers a great way to quickly disseminate the latest research on Eurasia and also the latest fresh ideas on how to approach existing dilemmas,” says Burke. “It will be a great benefit to policy makers and practitioners.”

Masha Udensiva-Brenner
NEW HARRIMAN FACULTY

CHRISTOPHER J. CAES, LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES

I hold a Ph.D. in Polish Language and Literature with a designated emphasis in Film Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as an M.A. in Russian Literature and a B.A. in German, both from Ohio State University. I bring to Columbia over a decade of experience in teaching Polish language, culture, and cinema in the United States. I have spent a significant part of my career developing and co-directing the Polish Studies Program at the University of Florida, a successful area studies program with an undergraduate minor, an innovative curriculum of courses in film studies and cultural history, multiple opportunities for graduate-level independent study, and a faculty-led summer study abroad program.

My dissertation, entitled “Subject to Chance: Historical Contingency and Conceptions of the Self in Stalinist-Era and Post-Stalinist Polish Literature and Film, 1950-1960,” examined practical projects of self-reinvention by artists and intellectuals in response to the imposition of Soviet Stalinism in Poland of the late 1940s and early 1950s and subsequently traced the critical and theoretical import of this experience for post-Stalinist discourses of subjectivity in film and popular fiction. The project has since been divided into two separate book-length manuscripts, the first devoted to a sustained examination of the paradoxical artistic and cultural perspectives on human identity and behavior originating from within the twin “revolutions from abroad” of Nazism and Stalinism in Poland 1939-1954, and the second devoted to a reconstruction of postwar and post-Stalinist Polish critical theory, 1955-1968. In the interim, I have also published articles on Polish filmmaker Andrzej Wajda, Polish independent cinema, and Polish fantasy writer Andrzej Sapkowski.

Uniting my teaching across courses is the consistent effort to complicate Polish national interpretive paradigms, which often remain beholden to partisan political, ethnic, and gender histories. My focus, rather, is the conceptual legacies of Polish history, the goals, forms, and strategies, which people in Poland of varying backgrounds have invented under the pressure of the unique, often exceptional historical circumstances of the past two centuries to tell themselves and the world around them.

CATHERINE EVTUHOV, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

I am delighted to be joining the History Department and Harriman Institute this fall. I am a native of Southern California, where I grew up in a Russian-speaking family in the 1960s. Following undergraduate and post-graduate studies at Harvard and the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Paris, I had the good fortune of working with Nicholas Riasanovsky, Martin Malia, and Reginald Zelnik at UC Berkeley in the golden age of the 1980s.

I began my career as an historian of ideas, focusing on the life and thought of the Marxist-turned-religious philosopher, Sergei Bulgakov, as a prism through which to understand the Russian Silver Age (1890s-1920s) as an historical epoch. During my years in the History Department at Georgetown University, where I taught from 1992, I became increasingly interested in the roots of the Silver Age in the vibrant society of Russia’s provinces in the late nineteenth century. Over the past two decades I have mostly been immersed in what I have called Russia’s “European century.” My research includes a synthetic history of Russia’s long nineteenth century and an in-depth study of one province in nineteenth-century Russia, through which I sought to achieve a new understanding of Russia as a whole, by ultimately integrating its many constituent parts. Portrait of a Russian Province: Economy, Society & Civilization in 19th-Century Nizhni Novgorod received the Wayne S. Vucinich Prize for “the most important contribution to Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in any discipline of the humanities or social sciences” by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in 2012.

In considering Russia’s place in the world, I began with a “traditional” focus on France, Germany, and England; over the years I have become increasingly interested in pushing the boundaries of Europe
out to include its geographical peripheries—most notably Spain and the Ottoman Empire. At George-
town I directed a number of dissertations in the fields of Black Sea history and Russian-Ottoman rela-
tions, as well as Russian history and the history of ideas.

Currently I am working on two books, *Russia in the Age of Elizabeth* (1741-61), and a short study of
the philosopher Vladimir Soloviev. I am also involved in an international project whose goal is to
establish and disseminate the burgeoning field of Russian environmental history.

JESSICA MERRILL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES

I received my Ph.D. from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UC Berkeley in 2012. Since then I have held postdoctoral fellowships at the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University (2012-13) and at Stanford University as a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities (2013-16). During this time I revised my dissertation as a book, *Folklore Study and the Rise of Modern Literary Theory: Russian Formalism and Czech Structuralism*, which presents a new understanding of the origins literary theory as a modern discipline. The book takes an intellectual historical approach, focusing on the role of scholarly institutions in shaping literary theorists’ thinking. This allows for new explanations of foundational work in modern literary theory, including Viktor Shklovsky’s work on plot structure, Roman Jakobson’s understanding of poetic language, and cultural semiotics as it was first conceived in the Prague School. Some of my research on Shklovsky has been published in *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie* (2015), and an article on the concept of poetic language is forthcoming in *Poetics Today*.

In addition to my work on literary theory, I have written on twentieth-century Russian and
Czech literature and culture. My article, “The Stalinist Subject and Mikhail Bulgakov’s *The Master and Margarita*” (*The Russian Review*, 2015), argues that the narrative structure of Bulgakov’s novel allows the reader to inhabit a Stalinist subject position as defined by historians such as Igal Halfin and Jochen Hellbeck. I also have an article on interwar Czechoslovakia forthcoming in *Slavic Review*, “High Modernism in Theory and Practice: Karel Teige and Tomáš Baťa.”

I look forward to expanding on these interests through my teaching at Columbia. I will be offer-
ing a graduate seminar on Slavic Literary Theory in spring 2017, and am developing new courses on
twentieth and twenty-first century Russian literature and on Central European literature and culture.
Yana Gorokhovskaia completed her Ph.D. in political science at the University of British Columbia in Aug. 2016. She is interested in the dynamics of Russia’s modern electoral authoritarian regime as well as other aspects of the Communist legacy in Eastern Europe. Her dissertation, “Elections, Political Participation, and Authoritarian Responsiveness in Russia,” relies on both qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze subnational elections, public mobilization, and political engagement in Russia. Broadly, Yana’s dissertation makes three contributions. First, using a dataset of socio-political protest across Russia’s regions, Yana shows that Russian elites are responsive to public demand making and that elections in so-called “noisier” regions are both more competitive and more tightly controlled. On the one hand, regime-backed candidates tend to have a harder time avoiding run-off elections in regions with a recent history of protest. On the other hand, opposition candidates tend to be disqualified before the election at higher rates in these same regions. This finding suggests that electoral malpractices in electoral authoritarian regimes are tailored in such a way as to avoid damaging the perceived legitimacy of the regime. Second, using original, in-depth interview data with activists and politicians conducted in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Yana shows that the involvement of previously apolitical non-elite actors in organized politics in an authoritarian state is motivated by protest waves and facilitated by education, training, and organization provided by civil society. Once in office, these opposition-minded individuals tend to rely on hyper-legalistic methods for combating small-scale corruption, a finding that contrasts with prevalent arguments in the literature on informal politics in post-Soviet states. Lastly, Yana argues for the expansion of the framework of the “uneven playing field” of authoritarian elections to include efforts by the regime to promote rather than stifle competition.

Yana’s two main projects at the Harriman Institute expand on her dissertation research. The first project analyzes the economic drivers of voter turnout across Russia’s regions. Voter turnout has been shown to be a powerful tool for an authoritarian regime. Recent research suggests that employees or members of sectors that are highly economically dependent on the state are vulnerable to mobilization efforts in support of United Russia (UR). Yet we do not understand the relative strategic importance of each set of vulnerable populations nor whether mobilization efforts are uniform across types of elections or over time. This projects aims to answer these questions by analyzing the variation in turnout across Russia’s regions and across different election types from 2005 to 2015. The second project uses social network analysis and draws on articles about Russian civil society that use qualitative methods published in the last ten years in leading regional study journals to analyze the structure and density of Russian civil society as well as to determine which sources scholars of Russia tend to rely when drawing conclusions about political dynamics in that country.

Edward Lemon submitted his Ph.D. dissertation, “Governing Religion and Security in Tajikistan and Beyond,” at the University of Exeter in July 2016. His dissertation examines the ways in which the government of Tajikistan’s campaign against Islamic extremism has become transnational. Since 2002, the government of Tajikistan has deployed its security apparatus outside of the state’s territorial borders at least 49 times, intimidating, kidnapping and monitoring its citizens. He uses the term “transnational authoritarian security governance” to refer to these border-spanning security practices. In his dissertation, he traces the emergence of this form of governance during the Soviet Union, the power relationships that it involves, and the ways in which those who are affected by it can resist.

As a fellow at the Harriman Institute, Lemon will revise his dissertation for publication as a monograph. As well as conducting further fieldwork, he plans to expand the scope of his study to include cases involving Uzbekistan. In addition, he will continue ongoing research projects on Central Asian fighters in Iraq and Syria, resistance to security governance, and the relationship between authoritarianism and security.

Edward has spent almost three years living and working in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. His research has appeared or is forthcoming in Central Asian Affairs, Review of Middle East Studies, Foreign Affairs, Central Asian Survey, First World War Studies, Central Asian Survey and The RUSI Journal. Lemon wrote the Tajikistan chapter for Freedom House’s “Nations in Transit” report in 2015.
Joseph MacKay completed his Ph.D. in political science, specializing on international relations and political theory, at the University of Toronto, in July 2015. His postdoctoral research will focus on the role of legitimacy in inter-imperial relations, during periods of imperial expansion. The project develops a typology of ways in which empires claim legitimate rule over their peripheries, defining empires as either universalist, asserting a unique right to rule; competitive, asserting membership in an elite club of imperial powers; or mimetic, making no such systematic claims, and instead mirroring the authority claims of others. Since empires will lose legitimacy if their actions are inconsistent with these claims, such claims made before subordinates likely constrain imperial policymaking. Consequently, interactions between imperial cores will likely be shaped by imperial commitments at the periphery. The project explores these ideas in the context of imperial expansion into Central Asia, with a focus on the British, Russian, and Chinese empires, interacting with one another and with the region's indigenous power structures. Previously, MacKay's doctoral research, entitled “Experimental Wars: Learning and Complexity in Counterinsurgency,” concerned individual-level foreign policy learning processes, in the context of complex policy problems, with a focus on counterinsurgent warfare.


Louisa McClintock completed a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago in 2015. Her research focuses on how local, national and international communities have sought and seek to address “difficult pasts” characterized by political violence and mass atrocities, with a special emphasis on twentieth-century Germany, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Her dissertation, “Projects of Punishment in Post-War Poland: War Criminals, Collaborators, Traitors, and the Re-Construction of the Nation” analyzes how the development of “technologies” of retribution designed by socialist elites and legal personnel inherited from the prewar period intersected with the larger project of socialist regime transition in postwar Poland. In doing so, she shows how the courtroom became a site of ethno-national state construction. During her time at the Harriman Institute, she plans to expand the theoretical and temporal scope of her dissertation by using the institutional transformation of the “Main Commission to Investigate Crimes Against the Polish Nation” as a frame to link Poland’s immediate postwar projects of punishment to more recent post-socialist efforts to punish the crimes of communism.

Maria Ratanova completed her Ph.D. in Slavic literature at Harvard University in May 2016. She specializes in the history of the Russian avant-garde. Her dissertation is titled “Soviet Political Photomontage of the 1920s: The Case of Gustav Klucis.” In this project she explores the origins of this particular trend of Soviet Constructivism, its modernist message and political underpinnings, as well as its complex interrelationships with avant-garde tendencies in poetry, theater, and film in the 1920s. She argues that Soviet political photomontage, often perceived as an aesthetic compromise to meet the needs of a mass audience, was in fact an iconoclastic and provocative genre—the result of the Constructivists’ search for an analytical art form to interpret modern political reality. She believes that Soviet political photomontage, born around the time of Lenin’s death in 1924, was a response both to the tyranny of the emerging Lenin cult and the grip of the realist painting tradition employed by artists in the 1920s and 1930s to support and promote the cult of the communist leader. She particularly focuses on the work of Gustav Klucis, a Latvian artist, who became a pioneer of Soviet political photomontage. As a postdoctoral scholar at the Harriman Institute, Ratanova will expand her research into the 1930s. Ratanova is also a dance critic and historian. Her research has appeared in the anthologies: Modernism in Kyiv: Jubilant Experimentation (Toronto, 2010), Avangard i teatr 1910-1920kh godov (Moscow, 2008), Khudozhestvennaya kultura russkogo zarubezhia: 1917-1939 (Moscow, 2008), and other publications.
Rune Steenberg is a trained anthropologist and human geographer. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Freie Universität Berlin and has subsequently been a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Dahlem Research School of Freie Universität Berlin and Crossroads Asia Fellow at Bonn University. Steenberg has conducted research in Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang since 2007. In southern Kyrgyzstan, he examined social interaction around the annual walnut harvest and the networks of Uyghur traders from western Xinjiang. He has followed these networks to their villages of origin around Kashgar city, where he found marriages to be a central institution for their success in business and more generally social organization beyond markets and state institutions. At the center of Rune’s research is a focus on conceptualizations of social relations and their expression and constitution in spatial, bodily, verbal and exchange practices.

During his time in Berlin, Steenberg has taught courses on the history of anthropological theory, methods of social anthropology, methods of human geography and Uyghur language. At the Harriman Institute, Steenberg will explore nuances in the language of giving at life-cycle rituals in a more comparative perspective across post-Soviet and Chinese Central Asia and its multiplex interaction with state institutions. As an extension of this research he has recently started to explore the meanings and social significance of money lending, money transfer, monetization and financialization among Uyghurs in Xinjiang and beyond. A further strand of his research interest concerns the historical development of Uyghur kinship practices and conceptualizations in Xinjiang. Steenberg has also been working in eastern China and Indonesia.


In Fall 2016 the Harriman hosted Mark Serman’s “Urban Poetry,” an abridged collection of the photography of Mark Serman, with works from his birthplace of Leningrad, USSR, and New York City, where he settled after his forced emigration in 1977.

A small sampling from Serman’s “Roofs of St. Petersburg” and “New York” appears in the Spring 2017 issue of Harriman Magazine.
Mark Andryczyk (Ukrainian Studies Program) is editor and compiler of The White Chalk of Time: The Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series Anthology, to be published later this year by Academic Studies Press. The project is being supported by a NEH grant awarded to the Borderland Foundation for Academic Studies and a grant from the Harriman Institute.


Tanya Domi (SIPA) was interviewed by the Bosnian Service of Voice of America regarding the U.S. elections (Nov. 9, 2016). Domi appears at 13:39-16:59. She is Eurasian adviser to Freedom House for their Freedom in the World annual report and analyst for their Freedom of the Press for country reports on Macedonia and Montenegro. She presented a paper at the International Conference on Bullying, creating safe schools for LGBTI students, hosted by Civil Rights Defenders, a Swedish IGO, Belgrade (Sept. 16, 2016); and moderated a panel on the “State of the International LGBTI Human Rights Movement,” sponsored by Belgrade Pride and Civil Rights Defenders, Belgrade (Sept. 17, 2016).


Timothy Frye (Chair, Political Science) discussed the evolving U.S.-Russia relationship and the implications of Trump’s appointment of Rex Tillerson to the position of secretary of state on NY1 (Dec. 13, 2016). Frye contributed a piece on Trump’s apparent reversal on Russia and Crimea to Salon.com (Feb. 18, 2017).

Elise Giuliano was awarded a Tymkiw Ukrainian Studies Faculty Research Grant to conduct research in Kyiv and Kharkiv on popular attitudes among the population in eastern Ukraine since Maidan (June 2016). The research addresses why a portion of the population supported pro-Russian separatism in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk but not in Kharkiv, at the beginning of the crisis in 2014. She was invited to participate in a workshop at the London School of Economics (entitled Citizen Preferences, Political Mobilization, Institutional Change, and Regime Stability in Russia and Ukraine), where she presented the paper “Understanding the Origins of Support for Separatism in Donbas” (Jun. 2016). In August, she presented the paper at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Giuliano is also researching the appearance of political parties that span ethnic communities and presented a paper on the subject (“Why do Inter-Ethnic Parties Emerge in Ethnically Divided Party Systems? Explaining Most-Híd in Slovakia,” co-authored with Abel Ravasz) at the ASN Annual Convention at Columbia University.

Radmila Gorup’s (Slavic Languages) colleagues and former students published a volume in her honor: Scholarship as the Art of Life: Contributions on Serbian Literature, Culture, and Society by Friends of Radmila (Rajka) Gorup, edited by S. Vladiv-Glover (Slavica, 2016).

Robert Jervis (Political Science)
received the Inaugural Distinguished Scholar Award from the Foreign Policy Section of the American Political Science Association.

Edward Kasinec (Research Scholar) is the guest editor of Slavic & East European Information Resources’ special issue devoted to Russian Art and Visual Resources in Research Collections Outside of Russia: The Hoover Institution, Stanford Libraries, and the Slavonic Library in Prague (July-Sept 2016).


Kimberly Marten (Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Political Science, Barnard, and Director, Harriman Program on U.S.-Russia Relations) was very busy over winter break after the Obama administration expelled 35 Russian intelligence operatives. She appeared on “CBS This Morning: Saturday” (Dec. 31, 2016), NPR’s new show “The 1A” (Jan. 3, 2017) and NPR’s “The Takeaway” (Dec. 30), and wrote the piece “Why Trump Should Welcome Obama’s New Russian Sanctions” for the Huffington Post (Dec. 30).

Earlier in 2016 Marten wrote “What Russia’s Olympic Ban Means for Vladimir Putin” for The Monkey Cage blog of the Washington Post (June 20). She was an invited guest on WNYC radio’s “The Takeaway” show on September 19, and appeared on a panel of scholars (alongside Harriman’s Tim Frye) on “The September 2016 Russian Duma Elections: What Happened and What Does It Mean?” at NYU’s Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia on Sept. 21. She published “Putin’s Ideology of Multipolarism” as part of a book review roundtable on Bobo Lo’s Russia and the New World Disorder, in Asia Policy 22 (July 2016).

At the XVI International Dostoievsky Symposium in Granada, Spain (June 2016), Deborah Martinsen (Slavic) gave the closing keynote – “Crime and Punishment: Reading the Moral Emotions.” She was invited to give a paper at the Crime and Punishment at 150 conference, which took place in Vancouver, BC (Oct. 20-22, 2016). She also served as a consultant for the BBC World Book Club program on Crime and Punishment (Nov. 2016).

Amra Sabic-El-Rayess (Teachers College) wrote on radicalization for the Huffington Post in June 2016, and published “Favor Reciprocity Theory in Education: New Corruption Typology” in the International Journal of Educational Development” (Sept. 2016), which is listed as the fifth most downloaded article for the journal by Science Direct. She was interviewed by China’s Xinhua press agency in August 2016 about the upcoming U.S. elections.

During his summer 2016 research trip in Ukraine, Yuri Shevchuk (Ukrainian) gave public lectures on language policy and language identity at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the National Taras Shevchenko University; he also lectured in Kirivihrad, Kirovohrad, Vinnytsia, Rivne, and presented a paper on “Ukrainian Language and Identity since the Revolution of Dignity,” at the ASEES-MAG conference in Lviv. In Sept. 2016 he delivered the paper “The Policy of Russian-Ukrainian Language Mixing and Its Implications” at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Media appearances included several radio interviews in Ukraine, including a 90-minute interview on Radio Kultura.

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Michael Stanislawski’s (History) *Zionism: A Very Short Introduction* was published in December 2016 by Oxford University Press. The book was published with the support of a publication grant from the Harriman Institute.

David Stark (Sociology) received a grant from the European Research Council to study “Diversity and Performance: Networks of Cognition in Markets and Teams.” Stark is the senior investigator for the grant, which will run through 2021. Conference presentations include the keynote address “The Structure of the Situation is a Network of Attention” at the annual DRUID Conference, Copenhagen (Jun. 2016); and “Attention Networks in Financial Markets,” Conference on Economic Futures: Imaginaries, Narratives, and Calculation, held at the Institut d’études avancées, Paris (Mar. 2016).

Edward A. Allworth (1920-2016)

Edward Alfred Allworth, Professor Emeritus of Turco-Soviet Studies at Columbia University and member of the Harriman Institute faculty for over a half-century, died at St. Luke’s Hospital in Manhattan, on October 20, 2016.

Professor Allworth was founding director at Columbia of both the Program on Soviet Nationality Problems (1970) and the Center for the Study of Central Asia (1984). The Central Eurasia Studies Society had planned to honor Edward Allworth at their upcoming conference in November 2016 with the CESS Lifetime Service to the Field Award.

A groundbreaking researcher and connector of scholars, Allworth made his first tour of Soviet Central Asia and Russia in 1957 as one of the early unsponsored American visitors. As a faculty member of Columbia University’s Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures, Professor Allworth headed a series of official exchanges between American and Soviet scholars to the Soviet Union in 1983 and 1985. Later he was invited to the region by the Academy of Sciences in the USSR and the Uzbek and Kazakh academies to study a variety of subjects in the region, ranging from Central Asian firearms to Uzbek and Kazakh theater and drama. His own papers (now in the New York Public Library) include extensive and rare collections on Soviet Afghanistan, the Crimean Tatars, Tajikistan and the “Uzbek Intelligentsia Project.”


Edward Allworth was born on December 1, 1920, the son of Edward and Ethel (Walker) Allworth. He received his bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University, a master’s degree from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University (1959). After working at both Reed College and the Ford Foundation, Professor Allworth returned to Columbia. His long-standing contribution to Columbia University spanned decades of teaching a wide variety of courses on Central Asian studies, including language, literature, history and politics, and culminated in 1984 when he established a Center at what was then the Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures to focus on the study of contemporary Central Asia. Beyond his impressive body of research and scholarly accomplishments, Professor Allworth is widely known for his infectious enthusiasm for Central Asian studies and his dedication to students. He mentored dozens of accomplished researchers and scholars from around the world and introduced the rich culture and history of the region to countless more.

A memorial gathering was held at the Harriman Institute on January 20, 2017, to celebrate Professor Allworth’s life and career.
In August 1954, four graduate students from Columbia’s Russian Institute—Gay Humphrey, Ted Curran, Jeri Lidsky, and Francis B. Randall—set off on an eight-week journey across the Soviet Union. They became, effectively, the first student tourist group to visit the USSR, just seventeen months after the death of Stalin and before Khrushchev had consolidated power. Although photography was carefully controlled in the USSR, they were allowed more or less free access to all, save military and other secure installations.

Equipped with camera and film provided by CBS (and according to her obituary, by NBC as well), and Kodachrome provided by Time Magazine (the undeveloped film was, alas, ultimately confiscated from Ms. Lidsky at the border), their observations and footage created a sensation back in the U.S.

Following their return, the students became celebrities, with Ms. Humphrey appearing with Eric Sevareid on CBS’s “The American Week,” and articles in the New York Times, Ladies’ Home Journal, and other publications. Ms. Humphrey and Mr. Curran went on the lecture circuit, with well-received presentations at many universities throughout the country.

In May the Columbia library was contacted by Marcella Matthaei, the daughter of the late Gay Humphrey Matthaei, an author, film producer, and interior designer. Matthaei had discovered after her mother’s death in 2010 a cache of materials connected with Humphrey’s travel to the Soviet Union. The collection includes miscellaneous documents and clippings pertaining to the trip, some 70 still photographic prints depicting Soviet street life, and, remarkably, reels of 16mm film shot during her journey. This gift has opened up an interesting chapter in the historical narrative of the Russian (now Harriman) Institute.

Matthaei also put the Libraries in touch with RI graduate Francis Randall, who subsequently donated his set of the films, along with a copy of his travel diary, which has proven invaluable in situating the locations and subjects encountered in the films. The Gay Humphrey Matthaei and Francis B. Randall collection of photographs, films and clippings is now available in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library under the call number MS#1773. The Libraries will seek to create a digital copy of the films in the near future, to better facilitate use by researchers.


March 31. All-day policy conference that includes participants from both the U.S. and Moscow’s Primakov Institute of World Economics and International Relations (IMEMO). Advanced Ph.D. students from the U.S. and Russia, as well as scholars starting out in the profession, will present and discuss policy memos drawn from their academic social science and international relations research.

May 4-6. Association for the Study of Nationalities 22nd World Convention. For more information and registration, visit the ASN website: http://nationalities.org/
Oleg Vassiliev: Metro Series & Selected Works on Paper from the Kolodzei Art Foundation

On view through March 10, 2017, at the Harriman Institute Atrium, 420 West 118 Street, 12th Floor.