

 COLUMBIA | HARRIMAN INSTITUTE
Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies



ANNUAL **report** 2024-2025

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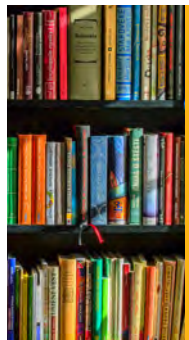
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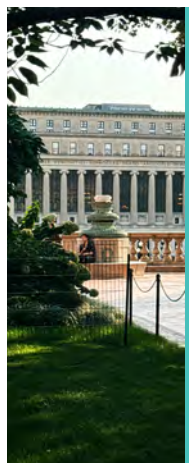
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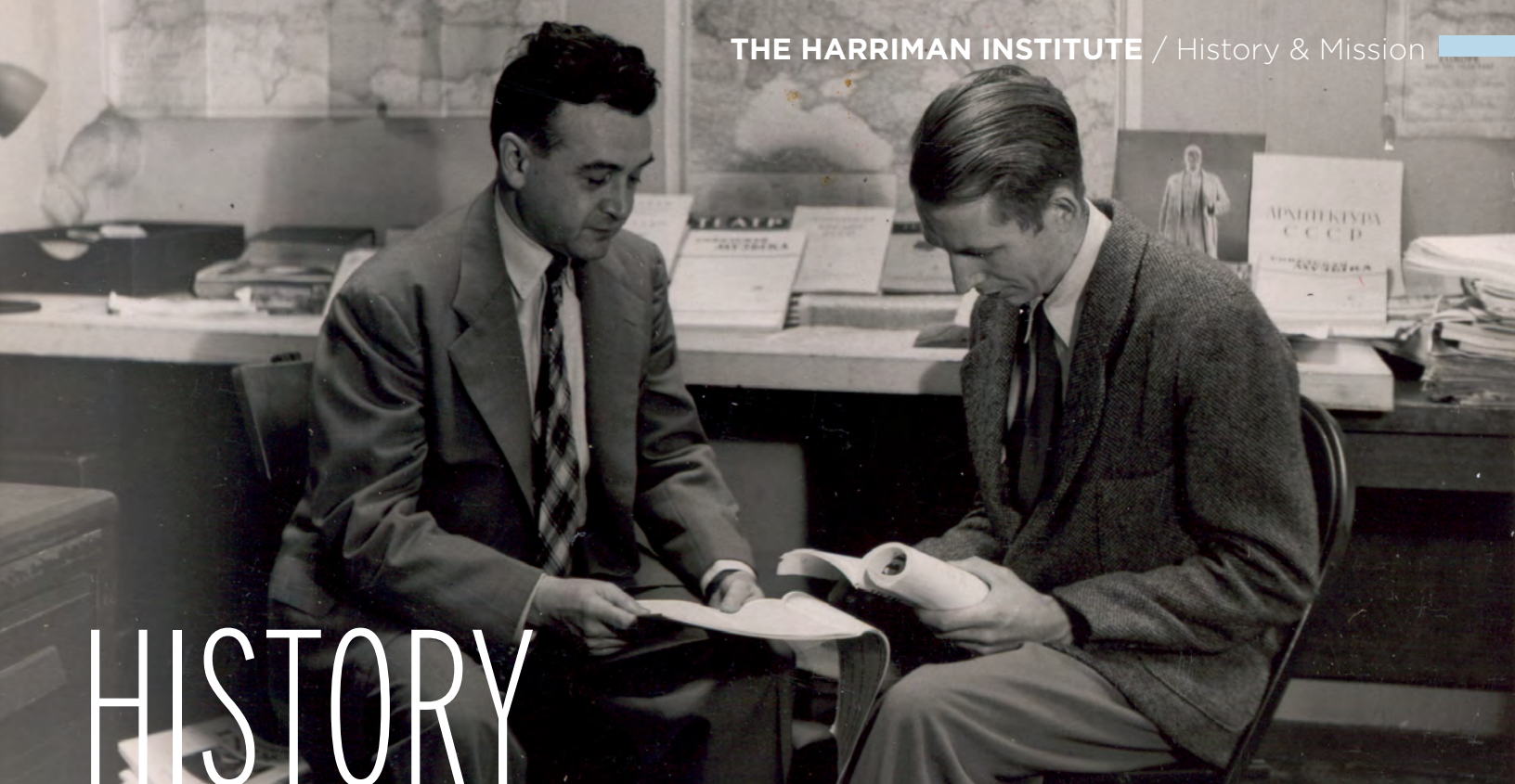
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HISTORY & mission

Established as the Russian Institute in 1946, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University is one of the world's leading academic institutions for the study of Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe. In 1982, the Russian Institute became the W. Averell Harriman Institute for the Advanced Study of the Soviet Union, in recognition both of Governor Harriman's generous endowment of the Institute and his lifetime of distinguished service. Throughout the years our faculty and alumni have made important contributions to academia, and have also played leading roles in public policy, law, diplomacy, business, and the arts. Notable among them are former head of the National Security Council, Zbigniew Brzezinski; former Special Advisor to the Secretary of State, Marshall Shulman; former Ambassador to Russia, Jack Matlock; and former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. The Institute currently houses a diverse multidisciplinary faculty from Columbia's School of Arts and Sciences, Barnard College, the schools of International and Public Affairs, Business, Law, and the Arts, Teachers College. We support teaching, research, and public events that bring together our extraordinary faculty,

students, and alumni. From "brown bag" lectures, book presentations, art exhibitions and film screenings, to scholarly panels and conferences, the Institute provides a constantly evolving forum for intellectual discussion and innovation.

In addition to offering undergraduate and graduate courses, the Institute administers an MA program in Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, which admits approximately 10 students per year. We are committed to training the next generation of regional specialists, who will continue to shape policy, fill leading academic positions, and challenge the accepted truths about how we study our rapidly changing world. The Harriman Institute is a non-profit institution kept alive by the generous contributions of donors. Our numerous endowments account for approximately 90 percent of our revenue.

To learn more about the Harriman Institute, please visit our [website](#). You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#); follow us on [X](#); explore our [YouTube](#) channel; and listen on [Spotify](#).

LETTER FROM **the director**

Valentina Izmirlieva



Dear Friends of the Harriman Institute,

The 2024–25 academic year has been an exciting one at the Harriman Institute. I was proud to announce the launch of the Harriman Library for Contemporary Fiction—a new book series entitled “From Central Europe to Central Asia,” which will be published by Columbia University Press in the coming years. I will lead an editorial network of preeminent translators, literary critics and publishers who will help us bring to the Anglophone public innovative and visionary works of literary prose from the entire “Harriman region.” It will be the first series of its kind in both scope and quality, combining the experience of one of the premier university presses in the U.S. with the Harriman brand of academic excellence.

This new series will complement the flourishing [Harriman Writers-in-Residence](#) program, which has brought to Columbia some of the best contemporary writers from East Central Europe. The program continued strong in the fall with a visit by the celebrated [Romanian writer Mircea Cărtărescu](#), whose novel *Solenoid* (2015) won both the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize (2023) and the International Dublin Literary Award (2024) and was longlisted this year for the International

Booker. While at Columbia, he taught the course “[Postmodernism vs. Tyranny: A Romanian Literary Revolution](#),” and held a public reading in conversation with his translator Sean Cotter. We were honored to have Cărtărescu join the ranks of our Harriman writers.

Another important initiative we continued this year is the Klebnikov Global Fellowship for Russian and Belarusian Media in Exile. Tailor-made for the post-2022 political reality, this program addresses the specific needs of exiled media outlets and is thus the perfect addition to our [Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellowship](#) that focuses on individual journalists. This summer, we successfully launched a pilot online program of the new fellowship, led by Keith Gessen and Andrew Meier in partnership with Columbia Journalism School and the JX Fund. We are committed to continuing our support, led by the conviction that Russophone independent media is a crucial resource for navigating today’s disinformation landscape and, thus, directly contributes to the Harriman Institute’s research and educational missions.

This year we also celebrated the conclusion of a long-term Harriman project focused on advancing studies of Russia across the social sciences at Columbia and beyond. Made possible by a grant of over \$2 million from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and led by former Harriman directors Alexander Cooley and Timothy Frye, with Elise Giuliano, Jack Snyder, Kimberly Marten and myself as co-PIs, this project has been a real boon to the Institute. For nine years, it has allowed us to foster cutting-edge education and research on Russia, precisely at a time when such studies have been seriously impeded by decline of civic and academic freedoms in Russia and escalation of U.S.-Russia hostilities. We are planning a final capstone event for September 2025 to mark the conclusion of this impactful grant cycle with a major international conference on decolonizing Russian Studies.

Most importantly, in the fall we welcomed a vibrant new cohort of nine MARS-REERS students who came to us from Kyrgyzstan and Lithuania, from completing Fulbright programs in Moldova and Azerbaijan, and from Bakhmut where they have assisted in the evacuation of Ukrainian residents. The diversity of their interests is classic Harriman—ranging from human rights and security to history, literature, and musicology. It’s been a pleasure getting to know them this year.

I would like to emphasize that having such impressive student cohorts year after year would not

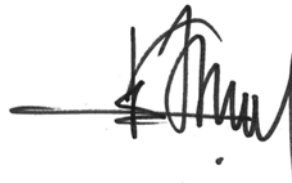
have been possible without the financial support we continue to receive from many individual donors among you. Your generosity is crucial for the success of our educational mission, for the excellence of the Harriman MARS-REERS program, and for the Institute’s commitment to the best students and scholars working on our region in these critical times. We are all in your debt!

The 2024–25 academic year was the last of my current term as the Harriman Director. It was a whirlwind of a term, full of challenges, transformative events and unforgettable experiences. We managed to accomplish a lot together, despite all difficulties, and it has been such a privilege to be part of the team.

I am deeply honored that the members of the Executive Committee elected me for another term, to begin in 2026. In the meantime, I will take a sabbatical to work on a monograph about the militarization of Russian Christianity under Putin, with a residential fellowship at Columbia’s Institute for Ideas and Imagination in Paris. I am profoundly grateful to my colleague Jack Snyder, who will lead the Institute as Acting Director while I am away.

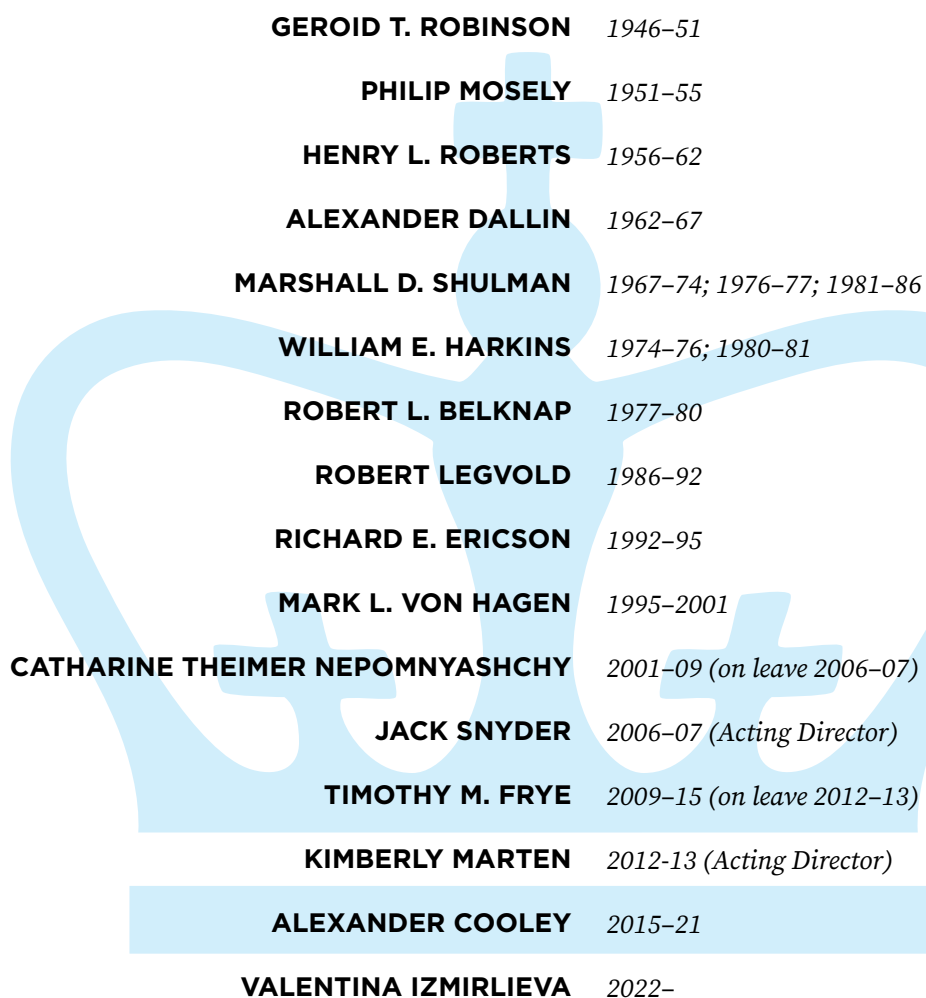
I urge you to read about our rich calendar of events and programs in the body of this annual report. I am proud of the work we have done and trust that the upward trajectory of the Harriman Institute will continue next year under Jack’s capable leadership!

Warmly,



Valentina Izmirlieva

DIRECTORS OF **the harriman institute**



GEROID T. ROBINSON	<i>1946–51</i>
PHILIP MOSELY	<i>1951–55</i>
HENRY L. ROBERTS	<i>1956–62</i>
ALEXANDER DALLIN	<i>1962–67</i>
MARSHALL D. SHULMAN	<i>1967–74; 1976–77; 1981–86</i>
WILLIAM E. HARKINS	<i>1974–76; 1980–81</i>
ROBERT L. BELKNAP	<i>1977–80</i>
ROBERT LEGVOLD	<i>1986–92</i>
RICHARD E. ERICSON	<i>1992–95</i>
MARK L. VON HAGEN	<i>1995–2001</i>
CATHARINE THEIMER NEPOMNYASHCHY	<i>2001–09 (on leave 2006–07)</i>
JACK SNYDER	<i>2006–07 (Acting Director)</i>
TIMOTHY M. FRYE	<i>2009–15 (on leave 2012–13)</i>
KIMBERLY MARTEN	<i>2012–13 (Acting Director)</i>
ALEXANDER COOLEY	<i>2015–21</i>
VALENTINA IZMIRLIEVA	<i>2022–</i>

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA



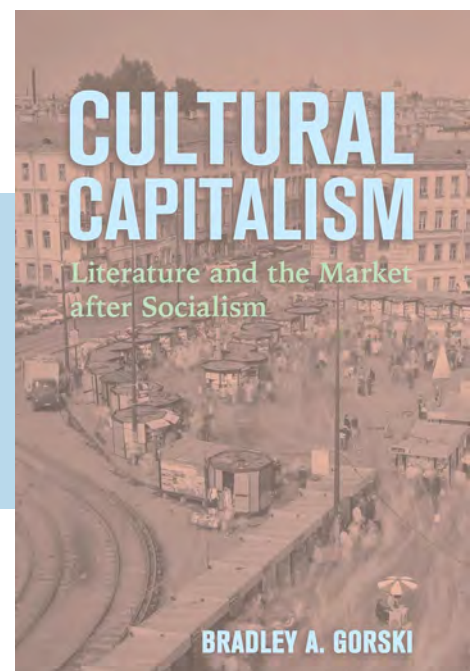
STUDIES OF **the harriman**

**A legacy of support for cutting-edge research,
reporting, and public commentary.**

The Institute sponsors the Studies of the Harriman Institute in the belief that their publication contributes to scholarly research and public understanding. In this way the Institute, while not necessarily endorsing their conclusions, is pleased to make available the results of some of the research conducted under its auspices. More than 200 titles have been authored by Institute faculty, visiting scholars, fellows, and alumni and have appeared under the Institute's imprint. Titles are searchable by author, title, and subject through the Academic Commons website or CLIO, the Columbia Libraries' catalog.

During the 2024-25 academic year, we added the following to the Studies of the Harriman Institute:

Cultural Capitalism: Literature and the Market After Socialism,
by Bradley Gorski (Cornell University Press, 2025).



HARRIMAN **magazine**



In the latest issue of *Harriman Magazine* we looked back in time, using gained wisdom and hindsight to reframe how we see some of the events that culminated in Communism's collapse in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "Reframing the Communist Transition" is a thought-provoking collection of essays, articles, fiction, poetry, and photography that reminds us history is ever-changing, and helps us to learn lessons for today.

Explore the 2025 issue of
Harriman Magazine at:

[harriman.columbia.edu
/harriman-magazine](https://harriman.columbia.edu/harriman-magazine)

Or pick up a copy in
our atrium!

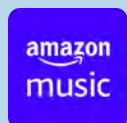


BEYOND *the* SCOOP

A HARRIMAN MAGAZINE PODCAST

In the first season, editor **Masha Udensiva-Brenner** interviewed editor-in-chief Ann Cooper about her experiences covering the end of the Soviet Union for NPR, how we might reframe that period, and some of the articles in the 2025 issue of *Harriman Magazine*; **Simon Shuster**, Senior Correspondent at *Time Magazine* and author of, *The Showman: Inside the Russian Invasion of Ukraine That Shook the World* and *Made a Leader of Volodymyr Zelensky—An Insider Account*

of the War and the Making of a Leader, about the book, the current state of affairs, and some of the historical context that brought us here; and **Jeffrey Trimble**, a former executive at the U.S. Board of Broadcasting Governors and *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, about the rise and fall of U.S. international broadcasting. A bonus episode with Latvian Investigative journalist and former Harriman Visiting Scholar **Inga Springe** was released this summer.



Listen and subscribe
wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://harriman.columbia.edu/beyond-the-scoop-podcast/>

LIBRARY REPORT

NEWSNOTES NO. 29 **fall 2024**



Pages from the UNRRA Album

CURRENT PRINT ACQUISITIONS

In FY24, Columbia received 8,017 new Slavic, East European and Eurasian-language titles in traditional formats via our approved vendors. Distributed over a wide range of languages, the four largest languages for intake are Russian (more than 1,800 titles), Bulgarian (900), Bosnian (853), and Romanian (900).

Ukrainian intake included 534 recent titles from our principal vendor, Alexandra Isajevych. That puts us ahead of FY 2023, but behind FY 2022, before the impact of the invasion on publishing was fully apparent.

In addition, Cornell received on approval 3,903 new vernacular-language print titles, of which the majority were Russian (2,011), Romanian (440), and Serbian (484).

All of these figures exclude counts for materials firm-ordered at the request of faculty or students, nor do they include serial or gift material. Nor do they include intake for non-Slavic & East European language material pertaining to the region.

Acquisitions budgets have remained steady at both institutions, which is no small feat given the campus disruptions and added financial burdens of the past year.

However, retirements and resulting fallow positions in tech support services, as at other institutions, raise concerns regarding our ability to process new acquisitions. Most especially in some of the less-commonly taught languages. Increasingly we are looking towards greater vendor involvement in the provision of quality cataloging records and “shelf-ready” materials.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

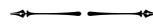
As mentioned in previous *2CUL Newsnotes*, we are constantly expanding access to e-books, specifically from Russia and Ukraine. In the case of Russian materials, this enables us to avoid tariffs levied on print materials physically brought to the U.S., and enables us to avoid duplicative acquisitions by focusing on certain high-profile publishers in e-format and NOT acquiring print copies.

Through EastView’s e-book program, we gained access to 567 Russian academic press titles not otherwise held in print, and 338 Ukrainian titles with 2023–2024 imprint dates. Cornell affiliates use of e-books increased a robust 5.4% to 741 users consulting 654 items in the past FY; Columbia’s e-usership decreased slightly.

Robert Davis is delighted to report that Columbia affiliates now have access to a second database

of Russian e-books, BiblioRossica, a project of Academic Studies Press in Boston. It describes itself as a “digital library for academics and scholars that offers expertly selected collections devoted to the most relevant areas of modern Slavic and Jewish Studies. Our ever-growing collection includes over 24,000 titles of scholarship, with thematic collections spanning works in history, philosophy, linguistics, art, sociology, and more. Most of these books don’t reach readers outside Russia and are not available online. New titles become available shortly after print publication, along with the most significant books from recent years.”

Coverage is particularly strong for modern fiction, as well as in areas such as business, cooking, language instruction, textbooks, etc. that are not represented in the more strictly academic EastView e-book approval offerings.



In the area of digital databases, Columbia acquired from EastView the digital archives for:

- [*V Novom svete*](#). Founded in 1995, it was the most popular weekly newspaper in the Russian-American community for 27 years.
- [*Znamia*](#). Originally launched in January 1931 under the name LOKAF, an acronym for the Literary Association of the Red Army and Navy, the journal was officially rebranded as *Znamia* in 1933. In 1986, *Znamia* underwent a significant transformation, evolving into one of Russia’s most widely-read literary journals and serving as a herald of the Perestroika movement.
- [*Izvestiia RAN. Seriiia literatury i iazyka*](#). Published by the Soviet/Russian Academy of Sciences since 1940, with a

focus on research in the fields of literature, linguistics, and philology.

- Acquired jointly with the Starr East Asian Library, the digital backfile for [*Far Eastern affairs*](#). Published since 1972 by the Russian Academy of Science’s Institute for China & Contemporary Asia, this Russian journal—translated into English—provides multidisciplinary content on the histories, cultures, politics, and economics of China, Japan, the Koreas, and Southeast Asia through a Russian lens.

Columbia also added access to [*Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics Online*](#) (Leiden: Brill, 2020–).

ANTIQUARIAN PURCHASES

Columbia purchased seventeen issues of [*Radians’ke mystetstvo*](#) (Kyiv, 1928–1932) published by the Kyiv District Trade Union Council, with the stated objective of being a political and propaganda weekly covering theater, drama, rural clubs, and other cultural activities in the area. Several issues have striking photomontage cover designs. Copies are quite scarce, with OCLC finding no institutional holdings worldwide.

Also, just acquired with the assistance of the Primary Resources Fund was a unique collection of eight albums containing 826 mounted photographs, dated ca. 1881–ca. 1913, taken by French and German expats living in pre-revolutionary Russia. The albums document life and activities of several Moscow-based expat families, who were involved in the local small businesses and enterprises, factory owners. One family owned the chemical factory

'Karl Bloesch,' which existed in Moscow from the 1890s until 1919 when it was nationalized. Another factory featured in the photos is the French-owned, Moscow-based paint factory of G. Lombard.

Depicted are businesses, including factories and the locals who staffed them, photos of historical events, landmark architecture and a variety of photos of Russian scenery and people in various occupations. Also depicted are scenes from a village close to Perm, mining encampments in the Ural mountains, street scenes of Batumi and Sebastopol, Yalta and Constantinople.



Album VIII includes photos of Moscow after the 1905 revolution, as well as photos of the militia on the streets of Odesa during the uprising.

This acquisition directly complements existing Russian photographica held by the Bakhmeteff, initially documented by Hee-Gwone Yoo in "Russian, Soviet and East European Photographs in the Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Columbia University: A Note on Albums," *Slavic & East European Information Resources*, 23(1-2): 208-227 (2022).

Columbia's Manuscripts and Archives holdings also expanded during the spring semester.

- [The Paul H. Aron \(1921-1991\) Papers](#). He was an economist who was an authority on Japanese investments, served as a Russian-English interpreter for the American, British and Russian members of the Allied Control Commission for Austria.
- [The Leonid Plyushch \(1939-2015\) Papers, 1970-2015](#), "consists of books, correspondence, documents, drafts, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs and printed material. The papers document the life and work of Plyushch, a Ukrainian political activist and mathematician, a member of the Initiative Group for Human Rights in the USSR and a victim of Soviet punitive psychiatry."
- [The General Belá Király \(1912-2009\) Papers, 1950s-1980s](#), "include personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, and materials related to two organizations he was involved with, the Hungarian Freedom Fighters and the Program on Society in Change. The papers are from Király's time in the United States (circa 1957 to 1989)."

Improved finding aids are now available for:

- [The Konstantin Ivanovich Globachev Papers, 1880-1958](#). Globachev was chief to the Petrograd Department of the Okhrana, the Tsarist secret police, in the two years preceding the 1917 Russian Revolution. Included are his correspondence typescript memoirs, personal documents, copies of photographs and biographical materials. Globachev's memoirs give a detailed account of events in Petrograd in the period 1914-1920.
- [The Aleksei Fedorovich \(1871-1958\) and Liubov Aleksandrovna \(1885-1964\) Girs Papers, 1913-1963](#). Girs graduated from the Corps of Pages and started his military career at the Preobrazhensky Regiment, in which he served for ten years until he left military service. He began his civic activity as Marshall of district nobility in the city of Kovno, and then in the Minsk provinces. From 1909, he served as governor of Kyiv when there was an attempt on Stolypin's life. Transferred to Minsk as governor from 1912 to 1915. In 1915, Girs was governor of Nizhny Novgorod. The Girs family emigrated to Estonia, and in 1924, they moved to France.
- [Political Printed Ephemera, 1875-1922](#). "Most items concern various political and revolutionary groups, such as the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDRP), the Party of Socialist-Revolutionaries (PSR), the Jewish socialist Bund, the Polish Socialist Party, and the Anarchist-Communists. The materials document activities of the organizations and include flyers, leaflets, event announcements, newsletters, appeals, articles, bulletins, etc. The bulk of the material was printed in western Europe in the

period 1906–1914; later materials chiefly concern Russia in 1917–1930. There are also handwritten materials, including meeting notes and agendas. While most materials in the collection are in Russian, there are also items in Polish, Yiddish, Ukrainian, German, and French.”

Columbia’s **Burke Library** at Union Theological Seminary processed [YMCA and YWCA Records](#), 1925–1949. The collection includes pamphlets, questionnaires, records, and history of the Y in different parts of the world including Czechoslovakia and Poland.

GIFTS

Columbia Business School alumnus **Grigor Acenov**, and **Goryana Lenkova** donated a collection of titles translated into Bulgarian by the distinguished poet Grigor Lenkov (1938–1977).

Dr. David Aubrey, a former Senior Scientist from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution donated a large collection devoted to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions. He had previously headed UNDP/World Bank projects in both regions. Some 198 titles represented additions to the Columbia and ReCAP collection.

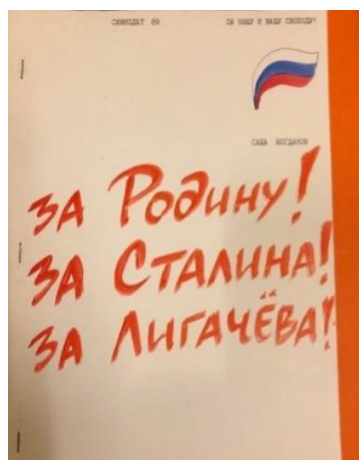
Jeri Laber, a founder and Executive Director of Helsinki Watch (later Human Rights Watch), donated additional materials pertaining to the organization’s early activities in the Soviet Union.

Natalya Bernadskaya of *The New Review/Novyi zhurnal* donated *Biryuzovy dozhd* (Kyiv: Summit-Book, 2021) by New York author Polina Breyter (born in Odesa, Ukraine), and *Vremya Surka* (Moscow: “Vremya,” 2022) by Vladimir Grjonko (born in Baku, Azerbaijan).

The children of **Professor Cynthia Hyla Whittaker** donated

her collection to Columbia, which included thirteen 18th- and 19th-century imprints lacking in our holdings, among them *Kratkoe opisaniie Rossiskago Gosudarstva* (Saint Petersburg, 1787); and the rare journals *Utrenniaia zaria* for 1841 and 1843, and [*Sievernaia?*] *Minerva: zhurnal* (1807).

Barnard alumna **Dr. Molly Wesling** donated five examples of samizdat poetry produced by Sasha Bogdanov. Specifically, “Chellendzher kommunizma,” “Dorogaia Raisa Maksimovna!,” “Mavzoleinoe,” “Rossiia 1989,” and “Za Rodinu! Za Stalina! Za Ligachëva!” All were published in Leningrad by the Vol’naia



rossiiskaia tipografiia. Dr. Wesling bought the items from the poet onsite in St. Petersburg in 1989.

Mark Haag donated two early 19th century Russian imprints that represented lacunae in our holdings: Evgenii (Bolkhovitinov), Metropolitan of Kyiv & Galicia (1767–1837) *Slovar’ istoricheskii o byvshikh v Rossii pisateliakh dukhovnago china, Grekorossiiskoj tserkvi* (Saint Petersburg: Tip. N. Grecha, 1818), and *Sochineniia V.A. Ozerova*, Ch. I & II (Saint Petersburg: Ivan Glazunov, 1816–1819).

As in past years, **Paul Michael Taylor** has given Columbia both Central Asian, and Ukrainian titles

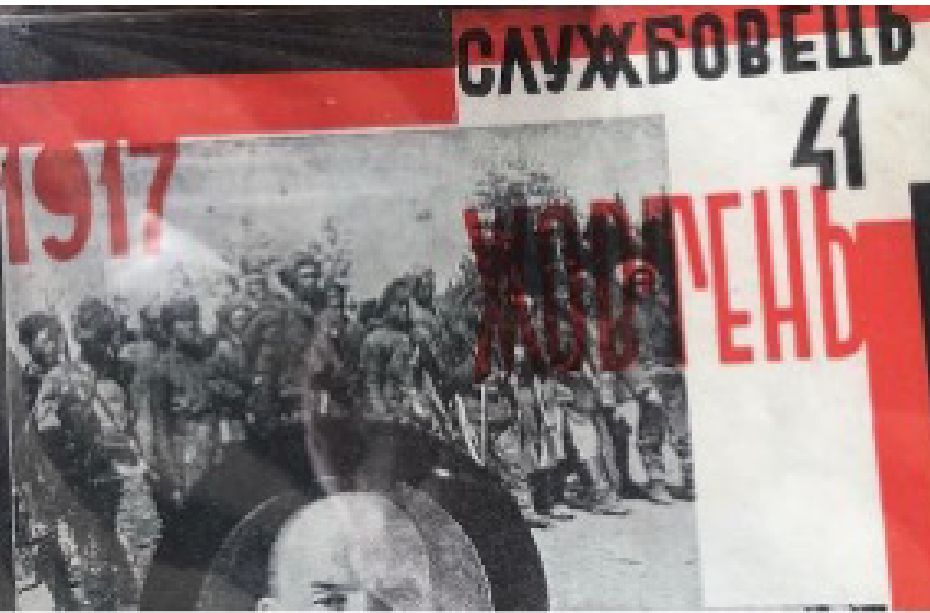
that are not widely held by peer libraries.

The **Abraham J. Heschel Center** for Catholic-Jewish Relations at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin donated the book *Wartime Rescue of Jews by the Polish Catholic Clergy: The Testimony of Survivors and Rescuers*, compiled and annotated by Ryszard Tyndorf with the assistance of Zygmunt Zieliński (Lublin: Wydawnictwo KUL, 2023).

PUBLICATIONS

Thomas Keenan and Robert Davis provided “[Russian and Eurasian Studies](#),” Chapter 9 in: Brian Vetruba & Heidi Madden, eds. *Handbook for European Studies Librarians*.

An article by Robert Davis will appear in the next issue of *Slavic & East European Information Resources* devoted to the 125th anniversary of Slavic and East European collecting at The New York Public Library: ‘No Matter Who You Are or What Your Business’: NYPL’s Slavic Collections @ 125.



Sluzhbovets: Orhan VUK ta Kharkivs'koi okruzhnoi filii profspil'ky radotorshluzhbotstiv [Civil Servant: Organ of the All-Ukrainian & Kharkiv Regional Trade Union] (Kharkiv, 1925-1931)

NEWSNOTES NO. 30 winter/spring 2025

CURRENT APPROVAL ACQUISITIONS

At the halfway point of the Fiscal Year, our mostly-in-country vendors continue to send along carefully selected materials according to our subject profile. As of this writing, Columbia has received from Botimpex (Tirana): 336 titles; Bouchal (Budapest) 144; Derex (Bucharest) 403; EastView (Minneapolis, but with offices throughout the former Soviet

Union) 363; Isajevych (Kyiv/Lviv) 288; Kozmenko (Moscow/Erevan) 709; Lexicon (Warsaw) 101; MIPP (Vilnius) 67 (most in Russian); Regula Pragensis (Prague) 112; Serbica (Toronto) 67; Sofia Books (Sofia) 503; and University Press (Sarajevo) 438. To date, these represent an expense of \$138,473 at a per-unit average of \$39.62. Cornell has thus far received 795 titles from Kozmenko, 116 from MIPP (mostly Russian), 135 from Serbica, and 649 from EastView (in various languages).

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Columbia added a newly-published [ProQuest module](#) (Collection 63) of the Digital National Security Archive (DNSA-63): *U.S.-Russia Relations: From the Fall of the Soviet Union to the Rise of Putin, 1991-2000*.

According to its published description:

“This curated collection of documents covers the formative period of U.S.-Russian relations from the birth of the new Russia in December 1991 through January 2001. It captures the highest peaks of cooperative relations under presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton as well as the first notes of discord under Vladimir Putin. The product of years of archival research and hundreds of targeted Freedom of Information Act requests, this unparalleled collection features a full set of memoranda of conversations between Yeltsin, Putin, and Clinton; correspondence between the top leaders; hundreds of high-level memos from members of the Clinton administration; and analyses and assessments of the defense capabilities of the new Russia. Among other core topics, the set closely tracks negotiations on nuclear arms reductions, nonproliferation, and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan and their dismantlement in Russia. The collection also covers the Russian wars in Chechnya and Russian participation in peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia. Many documents deal with one of the most controversial issues in U.S.-Russian relations – the expansion of NATO to Eastern and Central Europe.”



Mystets'ka trybuna [Art Tribute] (Kharkiv: All-Ukrainian Union of Art Workers, 1930-1931)

Robert Davis is also at this very moment in the process of acquiring access to two interesting electronic resources for Columbia. The first is a searchable AI-generated English translation of the long-running journal *Iskusstvo kino* (Moscow, 1931-2023), which will open the content of the journal to readers without a knowledge of Russian.

The second is a collection of forty-seven Russian-language newspapers, 2014-2023, published in the occupied territories of Eastern Ukraine. A description is found [here](#).

Both resources will be available to current affiliates via the EastView platform.

ANTIQUARIAN PURCHASES

Columbia acquired two interwar Ukrainian titles reflecting the design aesthetics of the day:

- *Sluzhbovets: Orhan VUK ta Kharkivs'koi okruzhnoi filii profspil'ky radotorshluzhbotstiv* [Civil Servant: Organ of the All-Ukrainian & Kharkiv Regional Trade Union] (Kharkiv, 1925-1931). Twenty-six issues, specifically for: 1926: 15, 21, 26, 31. 1927: 7, 42. 1928: 3, 4, 25, 33, 41, 47. 1929: 25, 41, 42, 43, 46. 1930: 2, 8, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 28. Only partial holdings at the Ukrainian National Library, Kyiv and the Russian State Library, Moscow.
- *Mystets'ka trybuna* [Art Tribute] (Kharkiv: All-Ukrainian Union of Art Workers, 1930-1931). Four issues, specifically for: 1930: 2, 6, 10, 11. No holding institutions in WorldCat.

GIFTS

Adam Drozdek donated twelve Polish books lacking in our ReCAP collections, dating from 1955-2017.

Stephen Kit of Ontario donated his mother's reminiscences of the village of Korchmyn (published in 2002 as Volume 3 of the Library of Zakerzonnia by the Association of Ukrainians "Zakerzonnia."). The volume comprises both the memoirs of Anna Leskiw-Kit and the transcribed memoirs of her brother, Mykhailo Leskiw, who was a soldier in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

Professor **Liza Knapp** added a number of Russian and English titles lacking in ReCAP holdings.

Paul Michael Taylor of the Smithsonian donated additional volumes from his personal library

lacking from our holdings. The items cover many languages and subject areas.

Michael Biggins donated a book in English about Bucharest as a topic in Romanian literature (Brussels, 2002).

Former Columbia Libraries staff member **Enerel Dambiinyam** donated a publication on the subject of her father, the renowned Buryat/Mongolian architect Dambiinyam Bandi. Enerel translated, edited, and compiled this book to accompany an exhibition in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to commemorate his 100th birthday.

Cornell's President White Professor of History and Political Science (*Emeritus*) **Matthew Evangelista** donated rare titles picked up in Tomsk some two decades ago.

ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Columbia's Bakhmeteff Archives:

- Supplemented its holdings of the [papers of the artist Serge Hollerbach](#) (1914-2019). Five additional boxes of material were donated after his death.
- [Aleksandr Shteinberg papers, 1956-2005](#) includes "Correspondence, books with inscriptions, and research notes of a Russian immigrant from Leningrad/St. Petersburg who befriended many Russian dissident poets such as Joseph Brodsky, Lev Losev, Aleksandr Kushner, among others. The majority of this collection consists of books with inscription of significant scholarly value. Some of those inscriptions may shed light on the creative methods of Russian dissident poets."

STUDY AT HARRIMAN



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & graduates

MA IN REGIONAL STUDIES: RUSSIA, EURASIA, AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Harriman Institute administers the Master of Arts in Regional Studies—Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe (MARS-REERS) through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for those wishing to focus on a multidisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe (the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Balkans).

2025 GRADUATES:

Elias Allen
Irene Jang
Mackenzie Jones
Adam Kovarskas
Emma Larson
Leo Levine
Boyang Liu
Alena Struzh
Gemma Taylor
Daniel Thomas

SIPA REGIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Students of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) may fulfill SIPA's requirement for a specialization, which requires the completion of a total of three graduate-level post-Soviet and/or East Central European courses (at least 3 credits each), one of which must be a seminar or colloquium. Courses must be chosen from a minimum of two disciplines. The Institute encourages SIPA students to consider regional specialization and completing the Harriman Institute Certificate.

2025 GRADUATES:

Sara Brouda
Mitchell Denning
Daria Osipova
Daniel Pcsolyar
Janessa Singley

WORK STUDY AND PROGRAM ASSISTANTSHIPS

Under the Work-Study Program, students (U.S. citizens or those with permanent resident status) may work up to 20 hours per week during the academic year (September–May) and up to 35 hours per week during the summer. The Institute hires student workers and program assistants each year, ideally those interested in the region. This year, we say farewell to **Elias Allen (MARS-REERS)**, **Leo Levine (MARS-REERS)**, **Farhan Mahin (BA, Columbia College)** and **Janessa Singley (MIA, School of International and Public Affairs)**, who have worked for us during their studies at Columbia.

FACULTY **funding**



Aleksandar Boskovic (editor)

PUBLICATION GRANT

Cinepoetry: A Slavic Avant-Garde Anthology



Alexander Cooley

PUBLICATION GRANT

Authoritarian Snapback



Mark Lipovetsky

PUBLICATION GRANT

The Trickster's Modernity: Cynical Narratives in Soviet and Post-Soviet Culture



Jessica Merrill

PUBLICATION GRANT

Time Loops: The History of a Narrative Form



Timothy Williams

FIRST BOOK SUBVENTION GRANT

Masks of Anamnesis: The Fragmented Self in the Poetry of Aleksandr Blok and Nikolai Gumilyov

STUDENT **funding**

ACADEMIC YEAR

15

STUDENTS AWARDED
ACADEMIC YEAR SUPPORT

81%

MARS-REERS GRADUATES
RECEIVING SUPPORT

Through a rigorous application and selection process, the Harriman Institute annually awards student funding to cover partial or full tuition, stipends, research travel, language study, and internship support for Columbia University students studying our region. The following students were awarded grants for the 2024–2025 academic year.

ISAAC HENRY ERGAS FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to outstanding students conducting research in Turkic and Central Asian Studies.

RECIPIENT

Emma Larson

JOHN N. HAZARD FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to graduate students who have shown excellence in the study of the rule of law in Russia.

RECIPIENT

Boyang Liu

PEPSICO JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP

Awarded for a period of one academic year to outstanding Certificate and/or MARS-REERS candidates.

RECIPIENTS

Yulia Kim
Ararat Sekeryan
Nickolas Khimerik

PROGRAM ASSISTANT FELLOWSHIP

Support awarded to second-year SIPA and MARS-REERS students, who provide program support to the Harriman Institute.

RECIPIENTS

Elias Allen
Leo Levine
Janessa Singley
Daniel Thomas

MARS-REERS FELLOWSHIP

Provides partial tuition for outstanding MARS students.

RECIPIENTS

Elias Allen
Sonya Bandouil
Jordan Dickens
Mackenzie Jones
Janat Kalmakova
Leo Levine
Gemma Taylor

MOSELY/BACKER FELLOWSHIP

The Mosely/Backer Fellowship is awarded to outstanding graduate students in the field of Soviet/Post-Soviet Studies.

RECIPIENT

Kasiet Toktomusheva

SHKILNYK FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to one graduate student concentrating in Ukrainian history and/or social sciences.

RECIPIENT

Daniel Thomas

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Provides research support to juniors and seniors who have a serious interest in the post-Soviet and/or East-Central European regions, to assist them in researching and writing their senior theses or an equivalent major research project.

RECIPIENTS

Karel Ruiz
Josephine O'Brien

VOLODYMYR AND LYDIA Z. BAZARKO FELLOWSHIP

For a student whose research focuses on Ukraine, its culture, politics, economics or history.

RECIPIENT

Daniel Thomas

SEASONAL RESEARCH

30
STUDENTS **IN** **15**
COUNTRIES

In addition to academic year funding, the Harriman Institute also supports research travel, language study, and internship support for Columbia University students during the summer or school breaks. The following students were awarded seasonal grants for the 2024–2025 academic year—most of them fulfilled during Summer 2024.

PEPSICO RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

Awarded annually to support semester and summer travel to and research in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

RECIPIENTS & DESTINATIONS

Elias Allen	<i>Kosovo</i>
Dillon Banis	<i>Poland</i>
Kirill Chmel	<i>Armenia</i>
Kaden Jenkins	<i>Poland</i>
Leo Levine	<i>Poland</i>
Boyang Liu	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
Alexander Maier	<i>Uzbekistan</i>
Nicholas Natzke	<i>Mongolia</i>
Alena Struzh	<i>Georgia and Lithuania</i>
Gemma Taylor	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
Vick Singh	<i>North Macedonia</i>
Daniel Thomas	<i>Poland</i>
Azat Bilalutdinov	<i>Bulgaria</i>
Ararat Sekeryan	<i>Turkey</i>
Leon Ristov	<i>North Macedonia</i>
Irina Chernykova	<i>Kazakhstan</i>

SUMMER LANGUAGE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS

Awarded to Columbia undergraduate and graduate students for intensive study of the languages of Russia, Eurasia, and East Central Europe in either the region or the U.S.

RECIPIENTS & DESTINATIONS

Tatiana Krasilnikova	<i>Poland</i>
Ziqian Zheng	<i>Poland</i>
Laura Topolski	<i>Poland</i>
Eric Sanchez	<i>USA</i>
Mackenzie Jones	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
Emma Larson	<i>Kazakhstan</i>

PADMA DESAI FELLOWSHIP

Supports travel and living expenses for summer research, travel, language training, or internship opportunities for undergraduates and/or graduate students whose interests include Russian and/or Soviet Studies. Students from the fields of Economics, Political Science, and History may apply.

RECIPIENTS & DESTINATIONS

Charis Marantzidou	<i>Bulgaria</i>
Marie Miller	<i>Mongolia</i>

SUMMER GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN RUSSIAN, EURASIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN DIASPORA STUDIES

Supports summer research focusing on diasporas of different Slavic, Eurasian, and East European nations in the United States and other nations. This fellowship is meant specifically for those who are traveling to a location outside of Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe.

RECIPIENTS & DESTINATIONS

William Debnam	<i>France</i>
Leila Stadler	<i>Argentina</i>
Azat Bililutinov	<i>England, France, Turkey</i>

MARS-REERS INTERNSHIP FELLOWSHIPS

Supports MARS-REERS students doing an internship.

RECIPIENT & ORGANIZATION

Gemma Taylor	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
Irene Jang	<i>Bulgaria (remote)</i>
Emma Larson	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
Elias Allen	<i>Serbia</i>
Boyang Liu	<i>Bulgaria</i>
Jordan Dickens	<i>USA</i>



VISITOR PROGRAMS



Harriman Human Rights Advocate: Bojana Jokić

President of the Board of Directors; LGBT Forum Progress (Montenegro)

Founded in 1989, the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) is a unique and successful model of human rights capacity building. HRAP capitalizes on its affiliation with Columbia University and its location in New York City to provide grassroots leaders the tools, knowledge, access, and networks to strengthen their organizations and promote human rights.

HRAP's comprehensive program of advocacy, networking, skills-building, and academic coursework provides advocates the opportunity to hone practical skills, develop a deeper understanding of human rights, and foster mutually beneficial relationships with organizations and individuals in their fields.

Bojana Jokić has been the President of the Board of Directors of LGBT Forum Progress since 2016. The mission of LGBT Forum Progress is to create a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment in Montenegro for all LGBTQI+ people through community development, social and health protection, political and economic participation, representation and advocacy. Bojana has been a member of the National Team for Coordinating the Implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Quality of Life of LGBTI Persons in Montenegro, the Trust Team of the LGBT Community and the Police Directorate, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights' Commission for Allocating Funds for Financing NGO Projects/Programs in the area of "protection and improvement of human rights of LGBTI persons," and the team for monitoring hate speech on the internet.

Paul Klebnikov Civil Society Fellowship: Farida Rustamova

The Paul Klebnikov Civil Society Fellowship helps bring to the Harriman Institute highly qualified Russian journalists and civil society professionals who are known for their independence, integrity, and objectivity. The Institute arranges an extensive visit with experts, policymakers, and professionals in New York to benefit the fellows and their work in Russia.

The Fellowship is made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Paul Klebnikov and the Paul Klebnikov Fund. The program honors the memory of Paul Klebnikov, the American journalist and editor of *Forbes Russia* who was assassinated in Moscow in 2004.

Farida Rustamova has been working in political journalism for more than 10 years. She has worked at the most prominent independent media in Russia (*RBC*, *Meduza*, *TV Rain (Dozhd)*, *BBC Russian Service*). As a correspondent, Rustamova has worked on articles and investigations about Putin's family, high-ranking officials, and other members of the political elite. Rustamova worked for several years as a reporter in the Russian parliament and government. Her essays were published by *The New York Times* and *Financial Times*. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine she has been running *Faridaily*, a media project focused on Russian power.



POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS & faculty research

The Harriman Institute postdoctoral fellowships allow junior scholars to spend a 2-year term in residence at Columbia University in New York. All scholars are assigned a faculty mentor. Postdoctoral scholars are expected to concentrate on their own research and writing; to give a brownbag seminar on their research; teach one course; and to be active participants in the Institute's scholarly community and events. The Institute provides funds to sponsor workshops, conferences, and special events planned by scholars around their particular interests.



Alexandra Birch

Mellon Teaching Fellow at the Harriman Institute; Lecturer in History

Dr. Alexandra Birch is a professional violinist and historian who works comparatively on the Nazi Holocaust and Soviet mass atrocity, including the Gulag, through the lens of music and sound. She holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of California Santa Barbara. Previously, she was a fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Wilson Center, and the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute, where she released CDs of recovered music and finished her first book *Hitler's Twilight of the Gods: Music and the Orchestration of War and Genocide in Europe*.



James Meador

Mellon Teaching Fellow at the Harriman Institute; Lecturer in Anthropology

Dr. James C. Meador is a linguistic anthropologist and anthropological historian of Sino-Russian borderlands studying social semiotics of empire. Their work examines Russian, Chinese, and Manchu language materials to understand imperial diversity through processes of contact and social transformation. Their dissertation project "Making Chinese Orthodox" reconstructed the origins and union of two independent traditions of Orthodox Christianity in China through the bilateral Russian and Chinese state-sponsored revival of the Chinese Autonomous Orthodox Church. They hold a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan.



Renata Mustafina

Postdoctoral Research Scholar in Russian Politics

Dr. Renata Mustafina is a law and society scholar with research interests in authoritarian legality, legal mobilization, and defense lawyering in repressive settings, as well as in critical approaches to human rights. Her book manuscript, tentatively titled “Against Impossible Odds: Defensive Legal Mobilization in Russian Protest-Related Prosecutions,” ethnographically studies the legal aftermath of opposition protests. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Sciences Po.



Stefan Szwed

Marie Curie Global Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Stefan Szwed is Marie Curie Global Fellow at the Harriman Institute and Ca'Foscari University of Venice. His research project, “Democracy Support Practice After the Third Wave: Adapting to Change?” focuses on the effectiveness of election observation by intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations. He was Fellow in Rule of Law and Democracy at International IDEA in Stockholm and European University Institute in Florence, and previously Research Associate at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford and Mairie de Paris Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre de recherches internationales (CERI) at Sciences Po. He holds a D.Phil. (doctorate) in International Relations from Oxford (St. Antony's College).



Anastasiia Vlasenko

Petro Jacyk Postdoctoral Research Scholar in Ukrainian Studies;
Lecturer in Political Science

Dr. Anastasiia Vlasenko is the Petro Jacyk Postdoctoral Research Scholar in Ukrainian Studies. She is a recent HURI Research Fellow at Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute and a recent Postdoctoral Fellow at the NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. Vlasenko studies legislative politics and democratization with a specialization in the politics of Ukraine. Her monograph project, “Legislators in Networks: Corruption, Clientelism, and Law Making” investigates how legislative networks formed through parliamentary aids can affect rent-seeking behavior in the Ukrainian parliament. Vlasenko received her Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Florida State University in 2022.



Taylor Zajicek

Mellon Teaching Fellow at the Harriman Institute; Lecturer in History

Taylor Zajicek is a historian of Eurasia, the Middle East, and the places that unite them. Zajicek's writing is based on archival research in six languages across seven countries. This fieldwork has been sponsored by various external grantors. At the Harriman Institute, Zajicek is also working on a desert history of Central Asia and a digital humanities analysis of 1,300 Soviet conservation posters. Zajicek earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2023.

VISITING scholars

Bringing the world's regional scholarship to New York

The Visiting Scholar Program at the Harriman Institute offers doctoral candidates, faculty members, and scholars whose research focuses on Russia, Eurasia, and East-Central Europe the opportunity to use Columbia's resources to further their research and scholarship. A visiting appointment is a non-stipendiary position lasting between one month and one year, with an option to extend for up to one additional year. Visiting scholars receive Columbia University library access and borrowing privileges, a temporary Columbia University ID card, and an email address.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the Visiting Scholars Program.

SCHOLAR	DATES	HOME UNIVERSITIES	PROJECT
Dilafroz Akhmedova	Sept. 2024–Feb. 2025	Tajik University	<i>The Monetary System of the National Economy</i>
Anna Dzabagina	Sept. 2024–July 2025	University of Warsaw	<i>Sapphic Modernism in Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian Literature: Cultural Transfers and Intersections (1848–1933)</i>
Olena Nikolayenko	Sept. 2024–Dec. 2024	Fordham University	<i>Labor Unions and Democratization in Belarus</i>
Aliaksei Lastouski	Oct. 2024–Apr. 2025	European Humanities University	<i>Post-Colonialism and Belarusian Historical Narrative: A Possible Theoretical Renewal</i>
Peter Csuderlik	June 2025–Aug. 2025	Eötvös Loránd University	<i>A Transatlantic Central European Third Way: A Register of Oscar Jászi's (1875–1957) Archival Legacy at Butler Library (Columbia University)</i>
Benning (Diego) Wang	Sept. 2024–Sept. 2025	Princeton University	<i>Persianate, Turkic, Uzbek, and Soviet: Recreating Alisher Navoiy in Soviet Uzbekistan</i>
Lukasz Kozuchowski	Jan. 2025–Apr. 2025	University of Warsaw	<i>A Distant Cry for Help. Perception of the Uniate Question in the United States' Diplomacy and Public Opinion (1905–1915)</i>
Stsiapan Stureika	Aug. 2024–Nov. 2024	European Humanities University	<i>From Global to Local: Transformation of Heritage Concepts in Eastern Europe and Belarus</i>
Lenka Ptak	August 2024	University of Wrocław	<i>Morphological and Phonological Constraints on Suffixational Derivation of English, Polish, Czech, and Slovak Adjectives of Possibility</i>
Elena Shably	Aug. 2024–Aug. 2025	Harvard University	<i>A History of Ukraine</i>
Jiyoung Min	Sept. 2024–Feb. 2025	Korea Institute for International Economic Policy	<i>The Impact of Western Sanctions on Russian Firms</i>
Elizaveta Yuzhakova	Mar. 2024–Sept. 2024	Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum	<i>The Russian Alien: Shifting Identities of Russian-Speaking Artists in New York</i>
Yukiko Tatsumi	Apr. 2024–Oct. 2024	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	<i>Translations in the Russian Empire: A Study of the Structure of Information Flows across National Boundaries in the Nineteenth Century</i>
Esuna Dugarova	Jan. 2024–Dec. 2024	Global Buryat Academy	<i>Power, Identity, and Agency: The Buryat-Mongolian Transnational Community in the Eurasian Space</i>
Magdalena Gibiec	May 2025–Nov. 2025	University of Wrocław	<i>Transnational Connections of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists on Emigration</i>
Jennifer Goetz	Dec. 2024–Nov. 2025	Columbia University	<i>Developing Soviet Photography: From Military Mobilization to Family Photo-Albums, 1934–1956</i>
Damian Bebnowski	Apr. 2024–June 2025	University of Łódź	<i>Polish Economics in the USA, 1945–1989</i>
Arnola Richard	Apr. 2024–June 2025	Muskingum University	<i>The Difference a Subculture Makes? Evaluating Biographies of Russian PMC Players</i>
Marek Eby	Feb. 2025–Aug. 2025	New York University	<i>Displaced Knowledges</i>
Aigerim Alzhanova	Sept. 2023–Aug. 2024	Al-Farabi Kazakh National University	<i>Crisis Communication on Social Media: What Types of Messages Get the Attention</i>

VISITING FACULTY program

The Harriman Institute has occasional visiting faculty positions available. During the 2024–2025 academic year, we filled three positions.

FALL 2024

Gábor Egry

Ivstán Deák Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages

SPRING 2025

András Vadas

Ivstán Deák Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History

Serhiy Bilenky

Visiting Assistant Professor of History





WRITER in residence

Mircea Cărtărescu



The Harriman Institute's Writer in Residence Program brings renowned writers from Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe to Columbia for an extended visit. The initiative was launched in 2013 by graduate students from the Department of Slavic Languages eager to discuss literature with living authors from the region. Writers in Residence teach a short course, meet with students and faculty, and participate in notable public events that allow the writer to present their work to a broader audience and to facilitate a cross-cultural dialogue.

Mircea Cărtărescu, awarded the Dublin Literary Award (2024) for his novel *Solenoid*, has won over 20 international prizes, including The *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize (2023), The FIL Prize (2022), The Thomas Mann Prize (2018), The Austrian State Prize (2015), The Mondello Prize (2024), and The Formentor Prize (2018). He is a poet, novelist, literary critic, journalist, Professor Emeritus at the University of Bucharest, member of the Romanian Writers' Union, Romanian PEN and the European Cultural Parliament. He has published over 40 books and a large number of articles. Cărtărescu's work has been translated into over 25 languages.

He is Doctor Honoris Causa of the Universities of Constanța, Bacău, Cluj, Timișoara, of the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, and the International University Menendez Pelayo in Santander, Spain.

At the Harriman Institute, Mircea Cărtărescu taught the four-week course "Postmodernism vs. Tyranny: A Romanian Literary Revolution."



RESEARCH CENTERS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & engagement

BALKANS

12 EVENTS HELD
16 EXPERTS HOSTED

Columbia University has been the training ground and intellectual home for many prominent scholars and specialists on the Balkans. Through its Balkans Studies Program, the Harriman Institute fulfills its mission of training academic experts on the region and providing a public forum to discuss important issues relating to the Balkans.

CENTRAL ASIA

6 EVENTS HELD
8 EXPERTS HOSTED

The study of Central Asia at Columbia is closely linked to the teaching and research of Edward A. Allworth (1920–2016), distinguished pioneer in Central Asian Studies. The Harriman Institute holds an annual lecture in Allworth's honor, funds the Central Eurasian Studies Society's Edward Allworth Lifetime Achievement Award, and supports student groups, courses, and events about Central Asia.

EAST CENTRAL EUROPE

18 EVENTS HELD
26 EXPERTS HOSTED

The Institute on East Central Europe at Columbia University was established in 1954; in 2017, the East Central European Center was officially integrated into the Harriman Institute. Co-Deputy Directors **Christopher Caes** and **Aleksandar Bošković** spearheaded event programming, student activities, and language study.

RUSSIA

42 EVENTS HELD
90 EXPERTS HOSTED

The study of Russia in all disciplines, from literature and culture to history and politics, has always been a central mission of the Harriman Institute. Today, some of our programs include a New York-Russia Public Policy Seminar Series funded by **Carnegie Corporation of New York** and led by **Prof. Alexander Cooley**; a U.S.-Russia Relations Program led by **Prof. Elise Giuliano**; and a Contemporary Culture Series founded by **Prof. Mark Lipovetsky**.

UKRAINE

33 EVENTS HELD
46 EXPERTS HOSTED

Under the leadership of Research Scholar **Mark Andryczyk**, the Harriman Institute's Ukrainian Studies Program aspires to build a vibrant and multifaceted program that integrates Ukrainian studies into broader intellectual and policy agendas while promoting research and scholarly work on contemporary Ukraine in the United States.

EVENT **highlights**

TRIBUTES TO FORMER DIRECTORS

On September 19 and 20, 2024 the Harriman Institute hosted two tributes to former directors.

On September 19, a book launch celebrating the posthumous publication of Catharine Theimer Nepomnyashchy's essays in *From Pushkin to Popular Culture*, featured Mark Lipovetsky, Emily Johnson, Irina Reyfman, Carol Ueland, Stephanie Sandler, Marijeta Bozovic, Angela Brintlinger, Nancy Condee, and Lev Oborin.

On September 20, a panel discussion celebrating the publication of Mark von Hagen's collected works in Ukrainian translation, featuring Valentina Izmirlieva, Maria Pryshlak, Frank Sysyn, and Maria Sonyvtsky.



September 19, 2024



September 20, 2024

Fall 2024



M.I. Pupin Pulitzer Prize Conference

EAST CENTRAL EUROPEAN CENTER

October 4, 2024

Valentina Izmirlieva (Columbia University), **Dmitri Basov** (Columbia University), **Gordana Vunjak-Novaković** (Columbia University), **Joanna Rios** (Columbia University)

The Njegoš Endowment for Serbian Language and Culture at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, hosted an event to commemorate the centennial of the Pulitzer Prize awarded to the celebrated Serbian-American scientist, Michael Idvorsky Pupin, for his autobiography *From Immigrant to Inventor*. The event featured speeches on the significance of Pupin and his work, the screening of a short film about Pupin, and the awarding of certificates of appreciation to participations and representatives of the Pulitzer Foundation



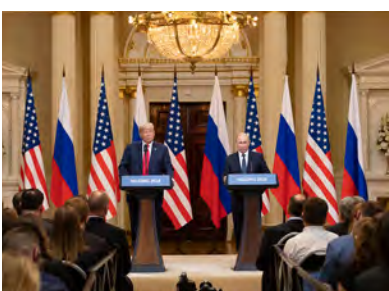
Sonic Shatterzones: Hearing the Intertwined Spaces and Music of Nazi and Soviet Atrocity

DIRECTOR'S SEMINAR SERIES

November 15, 2024

Alexandra Birch (Mellon Teaching Fellow at the Harriman Institute; Lecturer in History)

In four case studies, Birch provided examples of how we can hear the Holocaust, the Gulag, Terror, and exile. She discussed Weinberg's sonic fragments taken to Tashkent and covertly buried in his violin sonata during a peak of Soviet antisemitism in 1948. These pieces describe the Gulag between field recordings of Karlag and the recovered music of Nosyrev and Zaderatsky, look at the overlap between Nazi and Soviet occupation of indigenous space, and discuss how we can hear the Holocaust in the Soviet context with recovered music and through sound



Election Debrief: What Will a Second Trump Term Mean for US-Russia Relations?

NEW YORK RUSSIA PUBLIC POLICY SERIES

November 18, 2024

Angela Stent (Georgetown), **Kathryn Stoner** (Stanford), **Volodymyr Dubovyk** (Odesa I. Mechnikov National University), **David M. Herszenhorn** (*The Washington Post*)

This panel discussion with foreign policy experts and academics explored the potential impact of a second Trump presidency on US foreign policy toward Russia. Key questions included: How could these results shape US support for the war in Ukraine? Might Donald Trump transform US sanctions policies? What implications could there be for NATO?

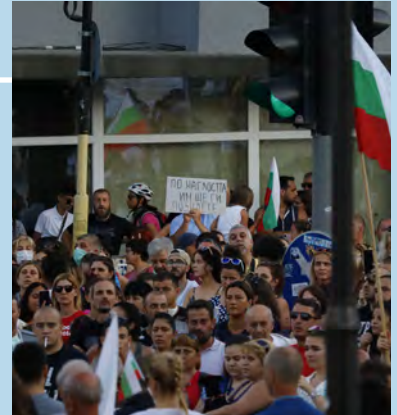
DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS AND TRANSFORMATION

Launched in Spring 2025, a new series of webinars, “Democracy in Crisis and Transformation,” offered perspectives on hot political issues from across our region. Nutsa Batiashvili, Ia Eradze, Tamta Khelvashi, and Luka Nakhutsrishvili discussed Georgia’s post-election crisis and mass resistance.

Nadia Shabani, Zahari Iankov, Dávid Vig, Peter Čuroš, and Atanas Politov discussed warnings and lessons about the changing environment for civil society in Hungary, Slovakia, and Bulgaria. The series sought to engage an international audience in a focused continuous conversation, and was especially addressed to the diverse community of Harriman alumni around the globe.



Nutsa Batiashvili, Ia Eradze, Tamta Khelvashi, Luka Nakhutsrishvili
February 20, 2025



Nadia Shabani, Zahari Iankov, Dávid Vig, Peter Čuroš, Atanas Politov
May 7, 2025

Spring 2025



The Crimea We Don't Know

UKRAINIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

March 3, 2025

Rory Finnin (University of Cambridge)

The 2025 George Shevelov Memorial Lecture was given by Rory Finnin. Finnin discussed the Crimean Tatars, who are recognized as an indigenous people of Ukraine. He also explored the literature and culture of this Crimea hidden from our view, paying special attention to key Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian writers.



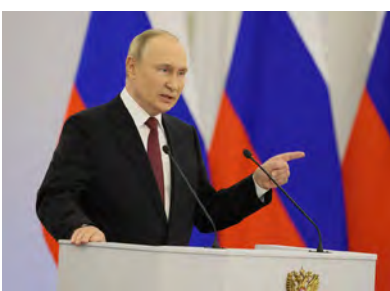
The Cold War, Russia-China Relations, and the Making (and Unmaking?) of Southeast Asia

BORTON-MOSLEY DISTINGUISHED LECT. SERIES

April 8, 2025

Bilahari Kausikan (Former Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, former Chairman, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore)

Southeast Asia is not a natural region but a geopolitical construct. ASEAN defines the region, and it was profoundly influenced by Cold War dynamics as they played out in Southeast Asia. What does a Cold War organization do after the end of the Cold War? Furthermore, how does ASEAN operate after it expanded to include Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia which were mired in Cold War proxy civil wars and in which the communist or proto-communist parties emerged victorious?



Russia After Putin

CONFERENCES

April 25, 2025

Organized by **Elise Giuliano** (Columbia University) and **Kimberly Martin** (Columbia University)

This conference presented and discussed the first public findings from a project supported by Columbia’s Harriman Institute and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Rather than trying to predict how or when Vladimir Putin will eventually leave the halls of Kremlin power, the goal was to assess what will happen inside Russia in the aftermath of his inevitable departure, and what the implications will be for Russia and the world. This conference brought together top academic analysts with deep knowledge of particular sectors of the Russian political system.

HARRIMAN **exhibits**



Tetiana Levitskaia

September 3, 2024–October 17, 2024

Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation

This exhibition featured a selection of works on paper and paintings by the prominent nonconformist artist Tatiana Levitskaia (b. 1944 in Kyiv, Ukraine). It offered a glimpse into her creative process and celebrated her artistic journey. Levitskaia studied design at the Moscow Textile Institute. In 1969, Levitskaia met her future husband, artist Borukh (Boris Shteinberg, 1938-2003). Drawn to experimental art, Tatiana and Borukh were part of Moscow's lively artistic underground.

Children of the War

October 28, 2024–December 12, 2024

Photographs, drawings, and text by
Michel Gérard and Marina Tëmkina

This exhibition focused on the traumatic consequences of war for children's psyches. What images and feelings does our conscience carry throughout life? Why do we, the children of the war and post-war period baby boomers, return to this experience of the family and collective traumas again and again? The exhibition included paintings by Michel Gérard as well as Marina Tëmkina's cycle of twelve texts "Children Who Starve" about the psychological self-negation as a result of food deprivation that children of the war experience.





Lens on a Century

January 21, 2025–March 14, 2025

Curated by Edward Kasinec

Documentary Photographic Albums From the Slavic, East European and Eurasian Collections of The Hoover Institution Library & Archives, Stanford University

The Slavic, East European and Eurasian archival collections of the Hoover Institution Library & Archives have long been regarded as one of the premier resources of their kind outside the homelands. Perhaps less well appreciated are Hoover's extraordinary holdings of tens of thousands of photographs, both "loose" prints and in hundreds of collector-assembled albums found in collections relating to the vast expanse of the Caucasus, the Balkans, Eastern and Central Europe, the Baltics, and of course, Russia and the former Soviet Union. This exhibit in twenty-five panels sought to provide a "lens" on a period from circa 1899 to the post-World War II era as prisms through a necessarily very small selection of documentary photographic albums chosen from the hundreds found within the Hoover's archival collections.

An infinite archive

March 25, 2025–May 16, 2025

Elidor Mëhilli

Elidor Mëhilli's work captured Tirana's bewildering transition from communist-era central planning to neoliberalism. The collapse of the party-state in the early 1990s triggered a mass migration to the periphery of the city, which was ill-equipped to handle it. Ordinary residents transformed into amateur architects, converting ground floors into shops and adding illegal floors to prefabricated blocks. Various governments have tried to dominate the city, but Tirana tends to defy them, pursuing an unruly life.

In a process that began with earlier shows at galleries at Cornell University (2005) and Princeton University (2007), Mëhilli explored the transformation of familiar places of his teenage years, like the raw graffitied façade of a housing block that served as a backdrop to a playground and a mysterious kiosk stuffed with old books that has somehow survived the decades of turmoil.



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in memoriam

Mourning the loss of a colleague



Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier (1926–2024)

Adjunct Associate Professor Emerita of Art History and Archaeology

Beloved colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend, Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier, passed away peacefully at the Cape Cod home of her daughter, Lisa Valkenier, on November 13, 2024. It was her 98th birthday.

Elizabeth Kridl, daughter of Manfred Kridl, renowned scholar and professor of Polish Literature at Wilno University, came to the United States in 1941 with her mother and brother, to join her father who had left Poland and was then teaching at Smith College. Kridl left Smith College in 1948, the same year that Elizabeth graduated from the college, for Columbia University, where he held the Adam Mickiewicz chair until his retirement in 1955. Elizabeth went to Yale University and earned her M.A. in history (1949). It was at Yale that she discovered her love for Russian history while taking a seminar with George Vernadsky. Elizabeth pursued her study of Russian history at Columbia—the seminar on medieval Russia with Michael Cherniavsky led to her choosing a topic in art history for her dissertation. She earned the Certificate of the Russian Institute in 1951, and received her Ph.D. in History at Columbia in 1973.

Valkenier's three seminal books on Russian art history were all published under the aegis of Studies of the Russian/Harriman Institute. In the first, *Russian Realist Art. The State and Society: The Peredvizhniki and Their Tradition* (Ardis, 1977), her considerably revised and expanded dissertation, Valkenier ventured beyond the Peredvizhniks' heyday and traced their influence into the twentieth century as a model for socialist realism.

Valkenier's initial contacts and experiences in the USSR date back to a 10-day Intourist trip to Moscow in 1958. She returned the following year as a guide for the American Exhibit, an experience she writes about in "Cultural Exchanges: A Personal Reflection" (Harriman Magazine, Fall 2021). Valkenier returned to Moscow in 1967 in the capacity of research assistant to Philip Mosely, director of the European Institute and Valkenier's cherished mentor. With Mosely's introductions she met highly placed Soviet experts with whom she maintained contact for the next 30 years, which ultimately yielded her second book, *The Soviet Union and the Third World: An Economic Bind* (Praeger, 1983).

Her next book in art history, *Ilya Repin and the World of Russian Art* (Columbia University Press, 1990), is not simply a biography of the foremost Peredvizhnik, but also an insightful look at the distorting lens of Soviet historiography. *Valentin Serov: Portraits of Russia's Silver Age* (Northwestern University Press, 2001), a study of Repin's best-known pupil set against the background of the transition from realism to Russian modernism and the interplay of art and social history during Russia's Silver Age, completes the cycle. In 2008, Valkenier, together with Wendy Salmond, was guest editor of a special issue of *Experiment: A Journal of Russian Culture: Russian Realist Painting. The Peredvizhniki: An Anthology*, a compilation of documents in English translation.

The year 2014 saw the publication of *From Realism to the Silver Age: New Studies in Russian Artistic Culture: Essays in Honor of Elizabeth Kridl Valkenier* (Northern Illinois University Press). Edited by Rosalind Blakesley and Margaret Samu, the volume collects 13 essays by Western and Russian scholars, who develop major themes inspired by Valkenier's work.

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