

# Department of SLAVIC and EAST EUROPEAN LANGUAGES and CULTURES

AUTUMN 2018  
SLAVIC.OSU.EDU

## Letter from the Chair

I am thrilled to bring you our 2018 Slavic newsletter, outlining some of our achievements and offering information about the hard work of our faculty and students. It is exciting to report that Dr. Philip Gleissner (Ph.D., Princeton University), a new assistant professor, has joined our department this fall, as well as new graduate students, while others have graduated and entered the ranks of teaching instructors all across the country. As we continue to improve the quality of our programs, we believe that providing our students with rigorous language training in Russian and other Slavic languages, and with the best tools for critical thought, cultural analysis, and creativity makes the study of Russian and East European languages and cultures one of the most satisfying and stimulating areas in the humanities. In strengthening and expanding our programs, we are guided by two main questions: a more immediate one - what does it mean to teach Russian in today's global world, in which the United States' and Russia's politics and policies intersect in collaboration or conflict?; and a more general one - how can we best educate the global citizen of the 21st century?

We welcome your comments and ideas about how to advance our work and how we can keep our world-wide community of alums and supporters connected. You can reach me at: [hashamova.1@osu.edu](mailto:hashamova.1@osu.edu). We always appreciate your ideas and your support, which makes us stronger and allows us to be creative and daring! If you would like to donate, please click the link below.

[Give to SEELC](#)

With best wishes for peaceful and restful holidays!

Yana Hashamova  
Professor of Slavic and Chair



## In This Issue

Page 2: New faculty member and graduate students

Page 3: Recent graduates

Page 4: New publications

Page 5-7: Faculty updates

Page 7 : Memorial lectures

Page 8: Introduction of SEEJ

Page 9: High School Olympiada;  
Undergraduate experiences

Page 10: Undergraduate experiences

# Welcome to SEELC!

## Dr. Philip Gleissner, Assistant Professor



Philip Gleissner (Ph.D., Princeton University 2018) specializes in the cultures and literatures of socialist Eastern Europe, with an emphasis on print media in the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and the GDR. He is particularly interested in the migration of media: mechanisms that facilitate the circulation of texts within and beyond Eastern Europe.

His current book project is titled "Through Thick and Thin: The Social Life of Journals under Late Socialism." It shows how under the umbrella of state socialism a fragmented literary culture was organized by literary magazines. The book traces how these periodicals moderated multidirectional networks that connected the cultures of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and the West in a dynamic manner.

Professor Gleissner's research relies on digital humanities methodology as a tool for the critical exploration of culture. His ongoing digital project Soviet Journals Reconnected [<http://www.soviet-journals.org/>] explores Soviet magazines through their data.

A volume of correspondence between Russian émigré intellectuals and German publishers in the 1920s, co-edited with Michael Wachtel, is forthcoming in the fall of 2018. He is the winner of the Princeton University Center for Digital Humanities' Dissertation Prize for his work "Through Thick and Thin: The Social Life of Journals Under Late Socialism."

## Anna Zaitseva, Graduate Student



Anna completed her B.A. in World Literature and M.A. in Education at Moscow City University. Prior to coming to Ohio State, she taught English and Russian language at the university level. In 2017, she was a recipient of the Fulbright FLTA grant and spent two semesters working at Western Kentucky University. Her research interests include Second Language Acquisition and Instruction as well as bilingualism.

## Elizabeth McBean, Graduate Student



After completing her B.A. in Modern Languages & Literature (Russian & Spanish) at Kenyon College, Liz spent the 2012-13 academic year as a Fulbright ETA at Orenburg State University in Orenburg, Russia. Liz joins the Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures Department at OSU with several years of experience working in the field of international education in Russia and the U.S. with both American Councils and CIEE (The Council on International Educational Exchange). Her research interests include cultural studies, Russian literature, Russian language pedagogy, and study abroad.

# Congrats, Graduates!



RAY ALSTON, PH.D.

Dissertation title: "Singing the Myths of the Nation: Historical Themes in Russian Nineteenth-Century Opera"

Dissertation advisor: Alexander Burry

Current Position: Lecturer at The Ohio State University



MICHAEL O'BRIEN, M.A.

Advisor: Helena Goscilo



ANASTASIIA GORDIIENKO, PH.D.

Dissertation title: "Russian Shanson as Tamed Rebel: From the Slums to the Kremlin"

Dissertation advisor: Helena Goscilo

Current Position: Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona



NINA HAVIERNIKOVA, PH.D.

Dissertation title: "Dialect Contact in Slovakia"

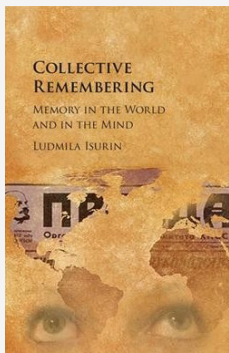
Dissertation advisor: Brian Joseph, Daniel Collins (co-advisor)

Current Position: Program Coordinator, Foreign Languages Individualized Instruction Learning Center



# Catching up with Faculty

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



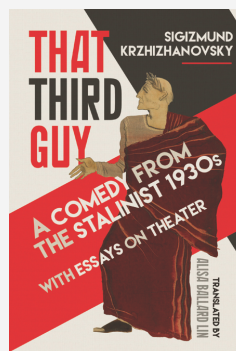
*Collective Remembering: Memory in the World and in the Mind*, by Ludmila Isurin (Cambridge University Press, 2017)



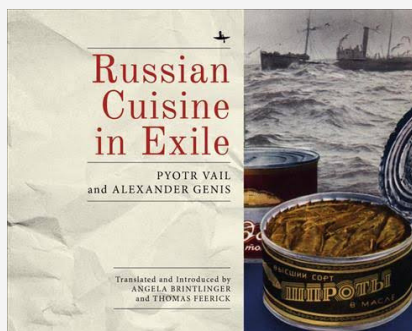
*Russian Aviation, Space Flight and Visual Culture*, edited by Helena Goscilo and Vlad Strukov (Routledge, 2017)



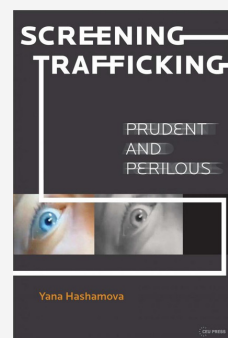
*Integration, Identity and Language Maintenance in Young Immigrants: Russian Germans or German Russians*, co-edited by Ludmila Isurin and Claudia Maria Riehl (John Benjamins Publishing, 2017)



*That Third Guy: A Comedy from the Stalinist 1930s with Essays on Theater* by Sigizmund Krzhizhanovskiy, translated and edited by Alisa Ballard Lin (University of Wisconsin Press, 2018)



*Russian Cuisine in Exile*, by Alexander Genis and Pyotr Vail, translated by Angela Brintlinger and Thomas Feerik (Cambridge University Press, 2017)



*Screening Trafficking: Prudent and Perilous?* by Yana Hashamova (Central European University Press, 2018)

DR. LUDMILA ISURIN



Dr. Isurin participated in a 6 week visiting fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies at Ludwig-Maximilians Universität Munchen (May-June 2018), where she gave talks and conducted a workshop for Ph.D. students. She also was invited to give a talk at the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago (April 2018), as well as to participate in a workshop on Language and Emotion at Fondation de Treilles, France (May 2018). Later she also spoke at the Institute of Slavonic Studies, University of Innsbruck, Austria (June 2018).

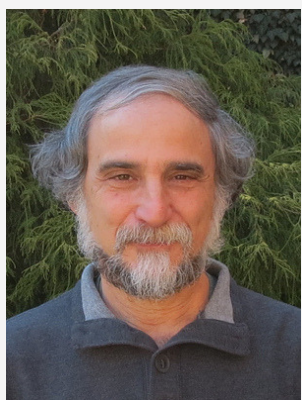
Dr. Isurin is the recipient of a Mershon Grant for the ongoing manuscript project tentatively titled "Conflict in Ukraine: Russian and the US digital media in the construction of memory and the 'other'".

He gave the Keynote Address, entitled "Greek e-business: What the augment reveals about continuity and change" at a conference held at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, "A Glimpse into Greek Linguistics: Investigating the Past, the Present and the Future of the Greek Language", in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

While in Ljubljana, he delivered two invited lectures, in the Department of Slavic Languages of the University of Ljubljana, entitled "The Balkan Languages (Lessons in Areal Linguistics, Genetic Linguistics, and Language Contact): I. Background to the Sprachbund; II. The Substance of the Sprachbund". He gave a paper as an invited participant in a Workshop - "Romance Languages and the Others: The Balkan Sprachbund" - organized by the University of Zurich, 24 May 2018. His paper was entitled "Eastern and Western Romance in the Balkans - The contrasting but revealing positions of the Romanian languages and Judeo-Spanish".

Along with three colleagues (Alexander Novik [St. Petersburg], Andrey Sobolev [St. Petersburg], and Aristotle Spiro [Athens]), he presented a paper at the 21st "Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore" held in Billings, Montana, 26 May 2018; the paper was entitled "'Brokedown Palasa' Rebuilt: An Updated Field Report from Southern Albania"

DR. BRIAN JOSEPH



In May 2018, Dr. Joseph took part in four conferences and gave several invited lectures, all with Balkan themes, as follows:

Dr. Joseph additionally gave a keynote address at the 5th Patras International Conference of Graduate Students in Linguistics (PICGL 5), entitled "Eyes, ears, mouth, teeth ...: Echoes of Indo-European Cultural Semantics in Albanian", Patras, Greece, 31 May 2018. He gave two invited lectures at the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Federico II University of Naples): "Mouth, Eyes, Ears, Teeth ...: Indo-European Cultural Semantics as Echoed in Albanian" (June 4, 2018), and "Balkan and other Language Contact Perspectives on the Greek Dialects in Albania" (June 5, 2018).

He did fieldwork on the Greek of southern Albania for three days (May 31-June 2), interviewing and recording several speakers.

In conclusion, Dr. Joseph presented two lectures at a training course in "Sociolinguistics Today: Methods for the Analysis of Ancient and Modern Languages", held at Università per Stranieri di Siena (Italy): "Minority Languages in the (Mostly) Modern Balkans: Social and Linguistic Aspects – Background on Languages and Minorities", 14 June 2018; and "Minority Languages in the (Mostly) Modern Balkans: Social and Linguistic Aspects – Case Studies (Jewish Languages, Aromanian)", 15 June 2018

DR. ANDREA SIMS



Dr. Andrea Sims published an article in the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics* on Slavic morphology: Sims, Andrea D. 2017. Slavic morphology: New approaches to classic problems, illustrated with Russian. *Journal of Slavic Linguistics* 25(2): 491-526.

She was invited to give a research talk on the "Interactions between directional syncretism and defectiveness." as a part of the Interaction of Grammatical Building Blocks colloquium series, at the Institute for Linguistics, University of Leipzig (December 2017). In addition, Dr. Sims delivered the Keynote talk at the 17th *Texas Linguistic Society Conference* (September 2017) on the "Morphological connectivity in the mental lexicon: Does 'irregular morphology' exist?"

Dr. Sims was the Student Life guest speaker for Slavic Food & Culture Night at Smith-Steeb Hall (October 2017)

Dr. Sims has also joined the new Complexity Community of Practice, affiliated with the Translational Data Analytics Institute.

Dr. Sims is also the faculty advisor for the new student-run Slavic Club was established for all students at OSU who are interested in the history, politics, and cultures of Eastern Europe, or who want to participate in a community of Eastern European students. In a single year, it has grown to have 73 members!

In May 2018 Dr. Sims sat on the committee for Katja Kolbasova, who completed her M.A. paper "Lexical borrowing as an index of membership in a Community of Practice: A case study of Russian immigrants in China" in May 2018. She received the M.A. degree in August 2018.

In Spring 2018, Dr. Sims' thesis advisee Michelle McKenzie (double major in Russian and Linguistics) was awarded an Undergraduate Research Scholarship for her B.A. thesis research comparing frequency effects on the semantic transparency of derivational morphology in Russian and English. She also received a Schwartz Award from SEELC.

DR. ANGELA BRINTLINGER



At the 2018 MAG Annual Convention in Lviv, Ukraine in June, Dr. Brintlinger was a featured speaker on a roundtable about the future of the humanities in 21st century higher education.



Dr. Brintlinger also published 3 articles in 2017-18 (in Russia, Canada, and the UK) and has a fourth coming out this autumn in Germany in a volume on the enemy in contemporary film. She is also editor of a new book series entitled "Modern Biographies" with Academic Studies Press.

Articles listed below in reverse order of publication (Germany, UK, Canada, Russia):

"A Murky Business: The Post-Soviet Enemy" [in volume on the enemy in contemporary film, ed. by Marzena Sokolowska-Paryż and Martin Löschnigg], forthcoming with de Gruyters, 2018;

"Lives, Facts, Things: Biography in Russia in the 1920s," in *Slavonic and East European Review* special issue on biography, ed. Polly Jones, January 2018, 94-116;

"Mothers, Father(s), Daughter: Svetlana Aleksievich and The Unwomanly Face of War" in special issue of *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, "Aleksievich and her Times," ed. Heather Coleman, Autumn 2017.  
DOI:10.1080/00085006.2017.1379114;

"SD: The Secret of Kinship and Accidental Twinning, or how S. Dovlatov Entered the Life and Work of S. Dixon" (in Russian), in *Vse sekrety mira: Tainy v literature i iskusstva* (All the World's Secrets: Enigmas in Literature and Art), St. Petersburg, Tver', Russia (Izdatel'stvo Mariny Batasovoi, 2017) 149-161.

DR. ALISA BALLARD LIN



Dr. Ballard-Lin published *That Third Guy: A Comedy from the Stalinist 1930s with Essays on Theater* by Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, translated and edited by Alisa Ballard Lin, with University of Wisconsin Press in August 2018.

DR. YANA HASHAMOVA



Dr. Hashamova finished her work on the Humanities and Arts Discovery Theme Pilot Project (Global Mobility and Migration) and was invited to join the leadership theme of the Global Arts and Humanities first focus area, Migration, Mobility, and Immobility (2018-2020).

She was also interviewed by BiTelevision (Chicago-Sofia). "Contributions of Bulgarian Scholars to the Advancement of World Science." (<http://www.bitelevision.com/golyamoto-intervyu-balgarskiyat-prinos-v-svetovna-nauka-misiya-na-chetirima-profesori-v-ohajo/>)

Dr. Hashamova additionally gave the following invited presentations:

"Western Media Coverage of Refugees,"  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of the  
Individual and Society;

"Russian Leaders in Film in the Times of Stalin  
and Putin," Ohio University;

"What is Women's Cinema and How Does it  
Look in the Balkans and Central Asia," Keynote  
address, Film Festival and Symposium on Balkan  
and Central Asian Women's Films, University of  
Pittsburgh;

"Representations of Female Subjectivity in  
Balkan Cinema: Discourse of Repression or  
Counter-identification?," 50 Years Comparative  
and World Literatures at the University of Illinois,  
Urbana-Champaign.

DR. JENNIFER SUCHLAND



Dr. Suchland was invited to the symposium  
Transnational Solidarities: Gender and  
Sexualities beyond Geopolitics at the University  
of Gothenburg (May 2018). She presented  
"Learning from Past Conditional Temporalities:  
Reflections on Radical Solidarities and the  
"Negro Question.""

She also was invited to the Queer Russia  
Symposium at Davidson College in March,  
where she spoke on "Political Homophobia in  
Russia and the Racial Investments of Anti-Queer  
Rhetoric."

Dr. Suchland's article was also recently  
published: "The LGBT Specter in Russia:  
Refusing Queerness, Claiming "Whiteness."  
Gender, Place and Culture, 2018, p.1-16

# SEELC Memorial Lectures

SEELC was honored to put on the 21st  
Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture and the  
9th Hongor Oulanoff Memorial lecture this past  
year.

In 1997, Professor Brian Joseph became the  
first appointed Kenneth E. Naylor Professor,  
and established an annual Lecture on South  
Slavic Linguistics in Kenneth Naylor's memory  
that brings leading scholars in the field to OSU  
each spring to give a public lecture and to  
speak in Professor Joseph's South Slavic and  
Balkan classes. Each lecture is subsequently  
published as a monograph article in the Naylor  
Lecture Series.

This year's Naylor Memorial Lecture,  
"Language Planning and Its Limits: the Case of  
Croatian" was given by Dr. Keith Langston  
(University of Georgia). Next year's Naylor  
Memorial Lecture will take place April 4, 2019,  
in the Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center  
as a preliminary event of the 2019 Midwest  
Slavic Conference.

The Hongor Oulanoff Memorial Lecture was  
established in 2010, with the purpose of giving  
students the opportunity to hear a guest  
lecturer speak on Russian literature, especially  
from the Soviet period. This year's lecture,  
"Soviet Things and Post-Soviet People: How to  
View Socialist History Now", was given by Dr.  
Serguei Oushakine (Princeton University). Next  
year's Oulanoff Lecture will take place in  
October, with more details coming later in the  
Spring 2019 semester.

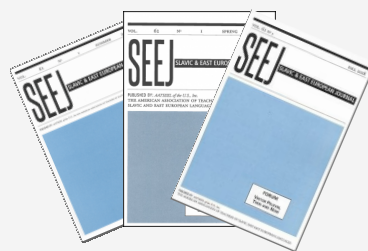


# Introduction of the Slavic and East European Blog

Shortly after relocating to Ohio State, the editorial team of the Slavic and East European Journal (SEELJ) introduced the Slavic and East European Blog (SEEB) as an opportunity for junior scholars (faculty, graduate students, and outstanding undergraduates) to publish articles, essays, interviews, and translations on a variety of different topics.

Among others, these topics have included exploring how Russian specialists can contribute to the public humanities, advice for teaching Russian Studies in the age of Trump, and obstacles English-speaking audiences face when reading about Russia.

Scholars interested in writing 1000–1500 word pieces for the Slavic and East European Blog are encouraged to submit their ideas at [this link](#), or you can email the editors directly at [seej@osu.edu](mailto:seej@osu.edu).



## High School Russian Olympiada

On March 3, 2018, SEELC hosted the annual High School Olympiada of spoken Russian. Nearly 40 students from high schools across Ohio came to Columbus to compete in the competition. Students are divided into their respective language skill levels, and participate in activities such as reciting poetry and talking about Russian culture. While students are on a break from the contest, they get to watch Russian cartoons and music videos, along with sampling some Russian candies.

The Olympiada is a great opportunity not only for students to test their language abilities and see some of the Ohio State campus, but also for teachers to meet with SEELC staff and share some of the successes and challenges that they have had in the classroom. Keep an eye on the SEELC calendar for more information on the 2019 Olympiada!

## Updates from Undergrads

*Every year, DSEELC awards scholarships and professionalization grants to undergraduate students. Several of our students used their awards to head abroad this past summer. Hear a little bit about their experiences!*

SYDNEE WILKE  
THIRD YEAR

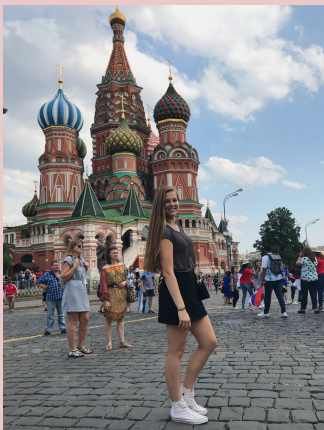
RUSSIAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

As a student double majoring in Russian and International Studies, I knew the best way for me to learn in both of those fields would be to study abroad. I chose a two-month language intensive program through American Councils and was fortunate to spend my summer living and learning in the heart of Moscow. Before my study abroad, I did not know a lot about Russian people or culture. A lot of the ideas I had in my head about Russia were based off of common stereotypes and preconceived notions. Getting the chance to live amongst Russians and their culture was super eye opening and taught me a lot I never expected to learn.

Being in Russia for the World Cup was especially exciting. Moscow was alive with people from so many different nations cheering in the streets and celebrating soccer. The city was exactly the opposite of what I expected; instead of a cold, dark, harsh city, Moscow was radiating energy and full of excitement. The people were so welcoming and hospitable and eager to share their history and culture. The architecture of Moscow is so diverse and intricate, and the city is full of incredible murals and displays of art. Getting to see this first hand opened my eyes to the reality of how wonderful Russia truly is.

My study abroad experience was also extremely valuable for learning the language as well as the culture. I got to study at an actual Russian university and interact with fellow students. My professors spoke only in Russian, which challenged me to expand my vocabulary and engage with them as much as possible. At first, I did not realize how much of a challenge immersion into another language would be, but as the summer went on, I became more and more comfortable in my ability to communicate. I feel as though I am overall a better, well-rounded Russian student after spending time in a real Russian classroom environment.

Study abroad can often be expensive but there are ways to go about funding this incredible opportunity. I received funding through Ohio State's Second Year Transformational Experience Program that helped to offset the cost of my study abroad. As well, the Russian department here at Ohio State offers many scholarships for students pursuing study abroad. I received the Radley M&P Scholarship Award and I am so thankful to the department for assisting in making this dream of studying abroad a reality.



*Sydnee Wilke at Red Square  
in Moscow, Russia*

MEERA CRONBAUGH  
SECOND YEAR  
RUSSIAN AND ECONOMICS



*Meera Cronbaugh at  
Moscow's Park Zaryadye*

The jolt of маршрутки (minibuses), the sweetness of арбуз (watermelon) bought from a grandma on the roadside corner, the warmth of Russian chatter flowing over my soul - each of these together made up a great summer spent in Russia. Having spent my middle and high school years in Moscow, it was special and perspective-building to make a return the summer after my first year at Ohio State.

Visiting Russia with eyes fresh from my first year at OSU revealed a new perspective of my home. Places that I was used to had new meaning; not only as familiar to me, but also as places with context, purpose, and rich history.

In Moscow, a friend and I visited the new Park Zaryadye in the rain (now listed in TIME's "The World's 100 Greatest Places 2018"). We walked along the river overlook along with hundreds of our closest friends - mostly FIFA fans buzzing with World Cup fever. I saw the Wall of Sorrow in Moscow, too. This memorial, built just last year, remembers those affected by Stalin's political repressions.

The main purpose of my trip to Russia, however, was the three weeks I spent volunteering at, and learning about, a small business that runs with the goal of positively impacting their local community. I not only got to have a glimpse at the inner cogs and gears of this small company, but my Russian language was stretched in new ways. As an Economics and Russian language major, this was an ideal combination. This experience layered reality over top the things I've been learning in the classroom at Ohio State; bringing perspective and depth to my education here. I'm incredibly grateful to the support of the Department of Slavic and East European Studies, through the Radley M&P scholarship which enabled me to go on this trip, and through their faculty!