

CENTER FOR RUSSIA, EAST EUROPE, AND CENTRAL ASIA

CREECA

NEWSLETTER

2017

FALL

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REVOLUTION WORKSHOP



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WI RUSSIA PROJECT



CENTER FOR
Russia, East Europe,
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

TED GERBER

LOOKING BACK
AT THE LAST
YEAR
2017



Ted Gerber
Director, CREECA

Warm greetings to all CREECA alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students! Perhaps it is not surprising, given the dynamic nature of the region of the world we cover, but it seems like every year CREECA's activities grow in scope and depth. 2017 has been no exception. Of course, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, and that was precisely the theme of CREECA's summer 2017 teacher workshop. The positive feedback received indicates that the theme will receive due attention in Wisconsin classrooms this year. Another summer activity that has become a flourishing tradition is Professor Toma Longinović's summer study abroad course, Conflict and Culture, which addresses the complex interplay between different cultures and alternative historical memories in the region. Enrollments have taken off so much that the number of applicants now exceeds the number of available spaces.

This fall the Wisconsin Russia Project (WRP)—made possible by a grant to CREECA from the Carnegie Corporation of New York—has kicked into full swing. It is a pleasure to welcome Paul Dower, who has joined the CREECA community as assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Paul got our weekly Thursday lecture series off to a great start with his presentation on quantifying the value of a human life during the Stalin regime. Two postdoctoral fellows the WRP has brought us, Megan Metzger and Aleksandra Lukina, also gave fascinating lectures on social media around Ukraine's Euro-Maidan and on Russia's demographic trends. Stay tuned for upcoming talks by two other WRP-sponsored postdocs, as well as our usual array of top notch researchers presenting on a wide range of topics. In addition, WRP allows us to host four visiting doctoral candidates from Russia for one semester each, and to support graduate students working on Russia in social science disciplines.

As usual, the contents of this newsletter provide more details about these and the many other activities going on in and around CREECA—and I encourage all to keep up with us by subscribing to our e-newsletter, connecting with us on social media, and checking out the CREECA website: creeca.wisc.edu.

Ted Gerber
Director, CREECA

Marking 100 Years since the Russian Revolution

On July 24-28, 2017, educators from around Wisconsin gathered in Madison to discuss the causes, consequences, and global impact of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

At the workshop, titled *Ten Months that Shook the World: Russia's Revolutions in a Global Perspective*, educators learned about the legacy of the revolution and how to incorporate new information into their current and future lesson plans. David McDonald, the Alice D. Mortenson/Petrovich Distinguished Chair in Russian History at UW-Madison and a specialist on the history of Imperial Russia, led the workshop. He was joined by Francine Hirsch, professor of history at UW-Madison, and by visiting professors from the University of Warwick, Clemson University, and Austin Peay State University.

The workshop participants—17 in total—similarly arrived in Madison from a variety of locales. While some educators were from as close as Madison West High School, others arrived from as far away as the town of Maple, located just off the shores of Lake Superior. The 12 high school teachers, four community and technical college instructors, and one librarian spent five full days at the Madison Concourse Hotel attending presentations, building lesson plans, and becoming familiar with the abundance of primary source materials available at UW-Madison. This included outings to the UW-Madison Cooperative Children's Book Center and the Department of Special Collections at Memorial Library.

Despite its overall focus on the historical legacy of the Russian Revolution, the workshop was intended to appeal to educators in a variety of subjects, such as social studies, geography, politics, communications, and language arts. Steven Marks, Alumni Professor of History at Clemson University, gave a lecture on the development and use of Russian avant-garde art in the formative years of the Soviet Union. Educators also attended a showing of Elem Klimov's *Agony*, a 1985 film that vividly portrays the monk Rasputin and his influence on the Imperial family in the final chaotic months of the Russian Empire.

Throughout the workshop, which was organized by Nancy Heingartner in the Institute for Regional and International Studies and by Kelly Iacobazzi in CREECA, the speakers challenged educators to find creative ways of

bringing the presented lessons back to their students. Instrumental in this effort was Bill Gibson, a teacher in the Social Studies Department at Madison East High School and teacher facilitator for the workshop. The teacher facilitator's task, as Gibson puts it, was "to construct materials that complimented the scholarly presentations and also offer teachers entry points for exploring the meta aspects of this gigantic shift in global politics."

As the leader of the daily breakout sessions for participants, Gibson emphasized the importance of using a mix of visual media, references to contemporary popular culture, and the connections between historical events in space and time as a means of keeping children and young adults interested in the material.

When asked about the many challenges faced by teachers and how to overcome them, Gibson stated that "History is intimidating to both learn and teach." His aim as teacher facilitator was "both practical in offering useful materials for teaching about the Russian Revolutions and their legacies, and also to provide teachers with the means to teach this stuff with humility and confidence." Gibson, according to Iacobazzi, "really found fun and engaging ways to include the Russian Revolution in the classroom. We were so lucky to have him."

As the workshop came to a close, the educators were optimistic about implementing new insights into their lessons. "It was a grand workshop: rich, fun, and collegial," Gibson said. "I give it an 11 out of 10. I'm glad my colleagues found the breakout sessions helpful." Another high school teacher remarked that it was "one of the most intellectual workshops I've ever attended." Gibson admits that finding class time to adequately cover complex historical events and their consequences can be difficult, but he does plan to study the Russian Revolution in more depth with his AP European History course this year. "The trick for us," he said, "is how to cover so much introductory ground in a survey course while staying attentive to the rich and detailed dynamics in which these massive events occur."

Due to the overwhelmingly positive responses from participants, plans are already underway for a similar event next year. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Prague Spring, CREECA is partnering with the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to hold a three-day workshop for educators on *68.77.89: Czechoslovakia from Invasion to Revolution*. The tentative dates for the workshop are July 11-13, 2018. Educators are encouraged to contact Kelly Iacobazzi for more information.



STEVEN MARKS, ALUMNI PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute

STUDY A CENTRAL EURASIAN LANGUAGE THIS SUMMER AT UW-MADISON!

June 18 – August 10, 2018

The Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute (CESSI) is an eight-week summer intensive language program for undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and professionals. CESSI currently offers courses in the following languages:

- Kazakh
- Tajik
- Uyghur
- Uzbek

Additional languages may be added with sufficient student interest.

Funding opportunities are available for eligible applicants, including Title VIII Fellowships for graduate students, researchers, and working professionals. Visit cessi.wisc.edu for more details, or email cessi@creeca.wisc.edu.

Priority application deadline:
February 1, 2018



STUDY ABROAD IN CROATIA

CONFLICT & CULTURE IN

ROVINJ

Every summer, Tomislav (Toma) Longinović, professor of Slavic, Comparative Literature, and Visual Culture, travels with 16 UW-Madison students to the idyllic coastal community of Rovinj, Croatia for a unique one-month learning experience. We sit down with Professor Longinović to discuss the goals of the study abroad program and the lessons we can learn at the intersection of cultures.

"I still *feel* like I'm Yugoslavian, despite the fact that the country no longer exists," says UW-Madison professor Toma Longinović. "I always go between Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia to visit my friends, and we still behave like it's the same country. We try to defeat the political divisions."

The study abroad program led by Longinović, called "UW Conflict and Culture," brings students to the westernmost corner of the Balkans in what is now Croatia. The Istrian Peninsula, where the city of Rovinj is located, has long been a place where competing cultures collide. In the 20th century alone, the region was controlled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Italy, and Yugoslavia. This multicultural legacy is still evident today in the demographics of Rovinj. Many residents speak Italian and send their children to Italian-language schools, and several others are bilingual in Croatian and Italian.

The processes of cultural exchange in Istria have created what Longinović describes as a unique "hybrid culture" worth studying. He explains, "It has this rich history of different empires ruling over it... So how do these three European cultures exist in one location? That is the topic of my course—to study that interaction."



“GOING OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND IMMERSING MYSELF IN ANOTHER CULTURE TAUGHT ME HOW TO OPENLY COMMUNICATE.”

For the four-week duration of the program, students are housed in apartments and attend class at the Center for Historical Research in central Rovinj. Lessons take an interdisciplinary approach, and include readings in history, political science, and literature. However, students engage with most of the course material outside the classroom. “We have field trips where we actually visit the locations that we read about,” says Longinović. One such excursion is to the neighboring city of Pula, which contains one of the largest surviving Roman amphitheaters dating from the first century. The goal, as Longinović describes it, is to “try to comprehend the complexity of what I call a micro-culture and its specificities, because it’s surrounded by this macrocultural giant... the German, Slavic, and Romance.”

Another vital aspect of the program is the study of what Longinović calls disputed “places of memory.” Each change of power in Istria was accompanied by a change in historical perspectives and the official story of the region and the people who inhabited it. The memories of individuals and the accounts of local cultures, however, sometimes resist these changes. The struggle for historical memory was particularly fierce under the rule of Fascist Italy and, subsequently, Communist Yugoslavia. “We read about places of memory... and go visit those locations to look at the memory sites and struggle for memory between these two ideas,” says Longinović.

The marks of past struggles largely go unnoticed in today’s Rovinj. The city is now better known for its bustling seaside markets, to which thrifty shoppers from Italy are known to flock in search of cheaper goods, and for its booming tourist industry, which now rivals that of the well-known Dalmatian coast fortress-city

of Dubrovnik. The size of the city—fewer than 15,000 residents—is ideal for students abroad who want to enjoy their time outside of class without the hassles of big city life. UW-Madison senior Haley Feller, a sociology major and summer 2017 program participant, warmly remembers spending time at the local market. “I loved to watch the interactions between the locals who lived there,” she said, adding, “I also liked to see how it differed from our local markets here in Wisconsin... The local vendors were also always so willing to talk with me and let me try their products, making me feel very welcome and excited to be there.”

Longinović agrees that Rovinj is a perfect place for UW-Madison students to get a taste of Europe. “It’s ideal for students who sometimes have never traveled abroad to come to Europe and meet a small town that is also very cosmopolitan,” he said. “It’s so small, but there are also so many cultures in one location.” Feller notes that intercultural experiences from the study abroad program have changed her communication style. “Forcing myself to go out of my comfort zone and immersing myself in another culture that I knew very little about taught me how to openly communicate with others and be less timid,” she said.

Professor Longinović, who holds a position at Rovinj’s Center for Historical Research where classes take place, also has his own personal history with the city. “I used to go there as a kid, since I was two years old,” he explains. A mass exodus of Italian residents after the 1956 resolution of the post-World War II Trieste crisis, which granted control of most of Istria to Yugoslavia, left much of Rovinj abandoned. “Rovinj became somewhat of a ghost town, and then in the socialist times they actually decided to turn [it] into an artists’ colony.” Longinović’s father, along with several friends, pur-

chased and renovated a centuries-old run-down building and traveled there from Belgrade every summer. “So I was very connected with this place,” he concludes.

The UW Conflict and Culture study abroad program has grown considerably since it began in 2005. According to Longinović, recruiting young people to study in the Balkans was once more difficult. “It was very challenging in the beginning to convince people to go there—the former Yugoslavia—because of the negative portrayal of the country due to the wars of the 1990s,” he said. “It was difficult to convince people, parents and so on, that it is safe actually. In this part of Croatia there was no war.”

As time has passed, however, the positive experiences of past participants have spread by word of mouth. “Now, we have more students [applying for the program] than we can take,” says Longinović. In addition, the experience for student and instructor alike has continued to evolve. “Every year I feel like I’m growing, and my students are growing and learning in this place,” he says. “By this experience, they come out with a different understanding of what Europe is and what the former Yugoslavia was. And they meet other people there, which is a great experience for them.”

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in applying to the summer 2018 “UW Conflict and Culture” program should contact International Academic Programs. The deadline for applications is February 2, 2018.

For more information on “UW Conflict and Culture,” visit: studyabroad.wisc.edu.

CREECA Welcomes **PAUL CASTAÑEDA DOWER**

In fall 2017, Paul Castañeda Dower joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics as an assistant professor. This new tenure-track faculty appointment accomplishes one of the main objectives of the Wisconsin Russia Project: to strengthen Russia-focused research and interdisciplinary collaborative efforts at UW-Madison.

Arriving in Madison, Paul Castañeda Dower immediately joined the activities of CREECA and delivered the inaugural talk in the fall 2017 CREECA lecture series with a presentation on “The Value of a Statistical Life in a Dictatorship.” In it, Dower detailed the economic measures he used to estimate the trade-off between monetary costs and fatality risk in the Soviet Union under the Stalin regime.

Dower received his BA from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and his MA and PhD in Economics from New York University in New York City.

CREECA spoke with Dower about his previous work, academic interests, and life in Madison.

What brings you to UW-Madison?

I was excited about this position because a lot of what I do is related to issues of land tenure, and the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in particular has a very strong tradition and history of working on those issues. So it seemed like a great match from my perspective. I feel very fortunate.

Where were you before this?

I was at Florida International University in Miami for two years. Before that I was at the New Economic School in Moscow, Russia. I was there for seven years.

So one focus of your research interests is on land tenure... could you tell us a little more about that?

Land tenure is basically the rules that govern how you can use the land, what you can do with it, how you can transfer it. And there's lots of variation in these rules across the globe. Typically in more traditional kinds of land tenure systems, there are quite a lot of restrictions on who can use the land and whether they can transfer it to someone else.

In Russia, I studied the late Imperial period. There you have a lot of rules about who has access to land in the Russian peasant commune. There were periodic redistributions of land according to who needed land, but also according to who was paying their taxes and other things like that.

Next semester you are teaching Foundations of Development Economics. Will the course address Russia or Eurasia?

Yes, certainly we will talk about different development strategies. Russia and the Soviet Union stand as a very different type of development strategy than the U.S. or Western Europe. I think looking at that comparative context is important. We'll be looking at a bigger picture view of development in the long run, not just short term. Also, I think the transition experience is relevant. Typically, most introductory development courses don't really cover it that much, but I might work in some more material.

How are you enjoying Madison?

This is the first time I've lived in the Midwest. I really like it, it's a neat place. I love how accessible things are and all the different activities. I mean, it's easy to get on the lake or go to the forest, but at the same time you have some urban amenities. There is all kinds of music all the time. We showed up in the summertime, and there were festivals everywhere.

The university has so much going on. I've been busy working with the department and CREECA, but there are new events every day that seem interesting to me.

Is there anything else you wanted to say?

Something that also was attractive about this position was this relationship with CREECA. Economists are maybe not great at being interdisciplinary, so I like being around non-economists who are interested in similar topics. I like to collaborate. There is a lot of scope for collaboration and criticism from lawyers, sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, etc. on topics that economists work on. There are types of criticism that other fields can bring to move economics forward, and there are criticisms that push economics aside. I'm obviously more interested in the types of criticisms that can help us move forward. I think CREECA has a great crew of scholars, and I'm happy to be an economist in this group.

UPDATE



Paul Castañeda Dower at the CREECA lecture series, September 2017.

WISCONSIN RUSSIA PROJECT IN FULL SWING

Thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, CREECA has launched the Wisconsin Russia Project, an interdisciplinary social science initiative to promote research and outreach on Russia and collaboration with the Russian academic community. The Wisconsin Russia Project (WRP) funds several graduate and postdoctoral fellowships for talented researchers recruited from Russian and U.S. institutions. In fall 2017, CREECA welcomed three postdoctoral research fellows, one visiting graduate student from Russia, and three UW-Madison graduate research assistants. Scholars in the WRP have actively presented their work at CREECA's weekly lecture series. More fundamentally, they are also making connections and building a new network of researchers on Russian social science that will translate into expanded scholarly knowledge of Russia's economy, society, politics, culture, and institutions. Additional postdoctoral and pre-doctoral fellows from Russia will begin their work in Madison in spring 2018. In July 2018, the WRP scholars will gather in Madison for a two-day conference on current social science on Russia.



Postdoctoral scholar Megan Metzger presents her research on social media and the EuroMaidan protests, October 2017.

For more on the Wisconsin Russia Project, visit russiaproject.wisc.edu.

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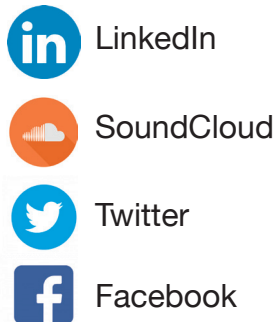
We thank the many alumni, professors, staff members, and friends who have generously given to CREECA to support our mission of research, teaching, and outreach. Private gifts ensure that CREECA maintains its excellence as one of the leading centers for the study of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia. Donations support research grants for graduate students, training in critical world languages, and lectures and cultural events that impact the wider community. Gifts of any size are most welcome and gratefully appreciated.

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Professor emeritus David Bethea with students in the Pushkin Summer Institute, summer 2017.



At the January 2017 opening of the Chazen Museum exhibition "Holy Mountain: Icons from Mount Athos."

A CESSI student reads a Uyghur-language newspaper, summer 2017.



Soloist Anna Gubenko and members of the UW-Madison Russian Folk Orchestra at the RFO's twentieth anniversary concert on April 8, 2017 in Mills Hall. Photo credit: Maria Pavlova/MDP Studio.

