The U.S. Department of Education International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office administers Title VI (domestic) and Fulbright-Hays (overseas) grant and fellowship programs that strengthen foreign language instruction, area/international studies teaching, and research, professional development for educators, and curriculum development at the K-12, graduate, and postsecondary levels. The National Resource Centers (NRC) program provides grants to establish, strengthen, and operate language and area or international studies centers that will be national resources for teaching any modern foreign language. Grants support: instruction in fields needed to study the area/studies centers; and instruction and research, professional development for educators, and curriculum development at the K-12, graduate, and postsecondary levels.

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships program provides allocations of academic year and summer fellowships to institutions of higher education or consortia of institutions of higher education to assist meritorious undergraduate students and graduate professional and other fields of study; and instruction and research, professional development for educators, and curriculum development at the K-12, graduate, and postsecondary levels.

Professional centers have the responsibility of building and maintaining a strong and vital cadre of faculty who can teach and conduct research in the modern foreign language. Without the support of this cadre, the educational mission of higher education in modern foreign language will suffer. The full spectrum of foreign language study can only be provided to a wide range of students if the faculty directing this study are themselves well-prepared and motivated. The number of students qualifying for such study is determined by the availability of well-prepared faculty. This is a problem that exists everywhere in the United States. While the number of students who study foreign language has declined, the number of faculty who can teach these languages has declined even faster. This is a critical problem that must be addressed to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in foreign language study.

This is an urgent problem. It is a problem affecting every state, every U.S. rural, suburban, and urban community. It is a problem caused by a variety of factors, including the retrenchment of foreign language study at the K-12 level, the lack of foreign language study in many colleges and universities, and the low salaries and poor working conditions of many foreign language faculty.

Area Studies Showcase Lecture Series: Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia

Presented by the 2018-2021 U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center and Foreign Languages and Area Studies grant recipients for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia

All Lectures will be streamed virtually - free and open to the public.

Imagining the Next Global Economy
RAWI ABDIEL
Associate Professor of International Management at Harvard Business School; Director of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

Tuesday September 15
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

The Caucasus: From Geopolitics to Geopoetics
HARSHA RAM
Associate Professor, Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

Tuesday September 22
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

Anatomy of a Successful Forgery: The Czech Manuscripts
DAVID COOPER
Assistant Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Tuesday September 29
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

American Literary and Cultural Diplomacy during the Cold War: Kurt Vonnegut in the USSR
SARAH PHILLIPS
Associate Professor, Department of Russian and Eastern European Studies, Indiana University

Wednesday October 7
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

Aging Nationally in Contemporary Poland: Memory, Kinship, and Personhood
JESSICA ROBBINS
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Wayne State University

Wednesday October 14
1:00pm CST
11:00am PST

Outsiders, Others, and Outsiders: Examining antiziganism and race-making in Albania
CHRISTIANE WRIGHT
Assistant Professor of Slavic & Eurasian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

Wednesday November 12
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

Jobs for Orphans, Taxes for Kulaks, and Love of Tractors: Collectivization Oral Histories from Uzbekistan
MARIANNE KAMP
Associate Professor of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University

Thursday November 19
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

Musical Evolution and The Other: State-Sponsored Musical Evolutionism in the USSR and the Center of Post-Soviet Crimean Tatar Indigenous Music
MARIA SONTEY
Assistant Professor of Music, University of California, Berkeley

Thursday December 3
1:00pm CST
11:00am PST

Ukrainian Nationalism in the Age of Extremes
DR. TREVOR ERLACHER
Associate Professor at the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Thursday December 10
1:00pm CST
11:00am PST

Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg: Revisiting the International Military Tribunal on its 75th Anniversary
FRANCINE HIRSCH
Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of History, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Thursday December 10
5:00pm EST
2:00pm PST

Hetiap’s Discontents: Russian Émigré and the Quest for Freedom
FAITH HILLIS
Associate Professor of Russian History and the College, The University of Chicago

Thursday December 10
4:00pm EST
1:00pm CST

The Cold War from the Margins: Socialist Bulgaria on the Global Cultural Scene
THEODORA DRAGOSTINova
Associate Professor of History, The Ohio State University

Tuesday December 10
2:00pm EST
11:00am PST

*Each center will host their own lecture via their personal social media channels. Please consult the host center for any necessary accommodations. Click on any lecture to go to that center’s webpage for more information. If you miss a lecture, it will be available online afterwards through the host center.