This has been a remarkable year for the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia (WCEE) and its affiliated centers—the Center for European Studies (CES); the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES); and the Copernicus Center for Polish Studies (CCPS). Almost all our activity moved into various online spaces, including Zoom classrooms and webinars, virtual meetings, and social gatherings on platforms that appear to have sprung up for that purpose during the pandemic. Meanwhile, our work continued across all these spaces, and often across many time zones. We were able to bring together large, engaged audiences through the kind of exceptional and varied programming that our centers are known for; we continued to develop regional, national, and local partnerships; we expanded our network of faculty and graduate associates on campus and hosted a CREES Visiting Scholar for the year; and we redoubled our commitment to serving both graduate and undergraduate students through our CREES major or CES minor; and the new Master’s in International and Regional Studies (MIRS), which officially graduated its first cohort in April of this year.

Programming is central to the work we do: it allows us to highlight important scholarship, stay abreast of events and debates as they arise, focus on flashpoints across the regions we track, and strengthen the networks in which we seek to advance cooperation and the production of knowledge. Between the different centers, WCEE hosted over two dozen public talks and presentations, in addition to co-sponsoring numerous events with other units. The image we redoubled our commitment to serving both graduate and undergraduate students through our CREES major or CES minor; and the new Master’s in International and Regional Studies (MIRS), which officially graduated its first cohort in April of this year.

Additional ongoing partnerships included our cooperation with the Ford School here at U-M, with which we are engaged in a 2-year pilot grant for “Developing Future Leaders in U.S.-Russia Relations”—an initiative that could hardly be more timely. We welcomed four outstanding new MIRS students this year, braving the isolation imposed by the pandemic to do so. We welcome them all, and congratulate the first MIRS graduates, Emma Lerman and Haralambos Missier.

One additional note on our outstanding students, whose work WCEE was once again able to support through generous summer research, internship, and FLAS funding: it is not only our students who participate in the inter-university “Race in Focus” series, which elevated conversations about teaching on race and continued disparities while also bringing scholars from underrepresented minorities and research on communities of color to the center stage.

We were fortunate to hear from CREES faculty and alumni on topics ranging from the history of refugees to current politics of migration and displacement; from music in postwar Poland to that country’s populist attacks on the very notion of gender; and from the biography of young Stalin to the work of North American, European, and Russian archives, museums, and collections responding to the COVID pandemic. Throughout, we kept our eye on political developments on the ground, aided greatly by speakers such as Bálint Magyar, a former Hungarian MP and Secretary of Education who had been active in the anti-communist dissident movement before founding Hungary’s liberal party. Magyar provided detailed and compelling analysis of the different paths on which Poland and Hungary are moving away from liberal democracy.

While we certainly missed interacting in person with our speakers and audience, the move from in-person to online programming also had some unexpected upsides—including the opportunity to collaborate in two multi-university colloquia that aligned closely with our own priorities. CREES joined area studies centers across the U.S. to present a fabulous line-up of speakers in the Areas Studies Showcase Series on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. CREES also participated in the inter-university “Race in Focus” series, which elevated conversations about teaching on race and continued disparities while also bringing scholars from underrepresented minorities and research on communities of color to the center stage.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the tireless labor of WCEE staff under the particularly trying conditions of remote work. They quickly and nimbly adapted to recalibrate workflows, move meetings online, and run professional webinars to ensure that the work of the center could continue uninterrupted and as strong as ever. (Not to mention that without their patient help, I would have gotten helplessly lost during my first few months on the job in the alphabet soup of WCEE, CES, CREES, CCPS, WCED, and the various II units.) There are too many individuals involved in keeping these centers vibrant for me to name them all here. They all have my gratitude, but here let me just say how thankful I am that I could rely on the skill, experience, and expertise of Gitta Kohler, Gosia Kowalczyk, Liz Malinkin, and Marysia Ostafin, in particular.

Coming into my role as interim director with limited experience in area studies, this year was eye-opening in many ways. Even if they were all virtual, each “visit” by scholars from around the globe, as well as many interactions with students and colleagues right here on campus, offered lessons in thinking about and across national borders, migration patterns, and political predicaments. This is an exciting scholarly and intellectual space to be in, and even if the politics can be challenging, it is a challenge the center openly embraces. I hope you will join us as we welcome Benjamin Paloff to head CREES; as we welcome Geneviève Zubrzycki back from her sabbatical; and as we continue to grapple with the most pressing issues across Europe and Eurasia in the coming years.

Johannes von Moltke
WCEE Acting Director
Summer Grants for Research and Internships in Europe & Eurasia

Awarded to students for summer research or internships across the region of Europe and Eurasia. Because of current travel restrictions, awards were limited to graduate students who can apply the funding to research through summer 2022.

Faith Bailey, PhD Anthropology, “Examining Race, the Politics of Memory, and Struggles for Recognition and Repair in Kosovo” (Kosovo); Matthew Brown, PhD Anthropology, “Systemic Survey in Western Kosovo” (Kosovo); Nominandri Gousakoff, MPP Public Policy, Internship with Anti Corruption Action Centre (Ukraine);

Albert Hawks, PhD Sociology, “As if You Were a Stranger”: Islam, Transnational Identity, and the Incorporation of Muslim Immigrants into Civil Society” (Turkey); Inara Ismailova, MD Medicine/MPH Health Behavior & Health Education, “Zdorojava Marna” (Russia); Bridget Kelly, PhD Anthropology, “Transylvanian Harvests: Revaluing the Home Garden in Rural Romania” (Hungary/Romania); Ashley McDermott, PhD Anthropology, “Investigating Language Shift in Post-Soviet Bishkek” (Kyrgyzstan); Carrie Morgan, PhD Anthropology/History, “Socialist Academic Practices in Albania through Archival Research and Translation” (Albania/Kosovo); Julian Schultz, PhD Anthropology, “Neo-ethnic Albanian Archaeoaualysis Project” (Albania/Kosovo).

Student Internships

Internship placements in Europe & Eurasia coordinated by WCEE. Because of current travel restrictions, only select virtual internships were possible in summer 2021.

Katelyn Albrecht, BA Anthropology/History, Museum of Nonconformist Art [Russia]; Alec Anderson, BA International Studies, Post-Conflict Research Center (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Emily Anfang, BA Judaic Studies, Galicia Jewish Museum (Poland); Ryan Berger, BS Information, HEC Paris (France); Claire Brady, BA International Studies/Political Science, Culture.pl (Poland); Olivia Evans, BA Creative Writing-Literature/Literature Russian, Tatra Museum (Poland) and Museum of Nonconformist Art (Russia); Natalie Gilbert, BA International Studies, Fullbright Commission (Slovak Republic); Emily Kopp, BA History/International Studies, Tatra Museum (Poland); Colleen Shively, BA History/Political Science, Galicia Jewish Museum (Poland); Brooke Weichet, BA International Studies/Political Science, Culture.pl (Poland) and Subversive Front [North Macedonia]; Anonymous, Museum of Nonconformist Art [Russia]; Anonymous, Tashkent University (Uzbekistan).

NGO Leadership Workshop

The NGO Leadership Workshop is an innovative program designed to strengthen civil society in new democracies by providing management training to non-governmental organizations [NGOs]. The workshop is offered in partnership by WCEE and the William Davidson Institute at U-M.

Two leadership webinars organized on best practices for HR management, conflict resolution, avoiding burnout, and navigating the uncertainty caused by the global pandemic. COVID-19 Relief Grants totaling $50,000 awarded to 11 NGO Leadership Workshop alumni in eight countries.

NGO Emerging Leader Fellowship

Omar Ilyas, MPH Global Health Epidemiology, for a research project on developing metrics to evaluate Paani’s success in addressing Pakistan’s developing water crisis.

WCEE Faculty News

Books

The following books by faculty affiliated with WCEE were published in 2020-21.


Grants, Awards, & Promotions

The following are significant accomplishments in 2020-21 reported by faculty affiliated with WCEE.

**CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES**

**Modern European Studies Minor Graduates**

Winter 2021 | Kathleen Sharkey.

**CES Summer Research & Internship Grants**

Awarded to students for summer research or internships to encourage study of Europe and European integration. Because of current travel restrictions, awards to undergraduate students were for virtual research and internships during summer 2021; graduate students can apply the funding to research through summer 2022.

Alec Anderson, BA International Studies (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Vedran Catovic, PhD Comparative Literature (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Serbia); Mertu Chen, BA Economics (France); Joseph Frankl, PhD Classical Art & Archaeology (Greece); Olivia Hintz, BS Earth & Environmental Science (Germany); Tyler Johnson, PhD Classical Studies (Italy); Isabel Matias, BA Anthropology/Psychology (Spain); Mandy Mitchel, MPP Public Policy (France); Caroline Nemeczek, PhD Classical Art & Archaeology (England); Reed Puleo, MMus Performance/Chamber Music Winds (Germany, Switzerland); Sarah Rozenblum, PhD Health Management & Policy/Political Science (England, France); Samantha Schefka, BA Communication & Media (Belgium); Malika Stuerznickel, PhD Anthropology (Germany); Eryn Talevich, PhD Anthropology (France); Christopher Terry, MS Environment & Sustainability (Greece); Brooke Weichel, BA International Studies/Political Science (North Macedonia, Poland); Aidan Woutas, BA German/Political Science (Germany); Shai Zamir, PhD History (Spain).

**CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN, & EURASIAN STUDIES**

**CREES Graduates**

Summer 2020 | REES MA: Elizabeth Compton, Arakel Minassian, Andrew Snow.


**Graduate Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships**

Awarded to U-M graduate and professional school students for study of modern languages and related area studies with support from the U.S. Department of Education and U-M.

Samuel Breazeale, MIRS-REEES (Russian); Amanda Hardy, MIRS-REEES (Ukrainian); Ryan Hoaglund, PhD Slavic (Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian); Katelyn Kasperian, PhD Slavic (Russian); Emma Lerman, MIRS-REEES (Ukrainian); Ashley McDermott, PhD Anthropology (Kyrgyz); Max Shpilband, MIRS-REEES/MPP Public Policy (Russian); Anna Tanalski, MIRS-REEES (Russian); Faith Vuciterna, PhD Anthropology (Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian).

**Undergraduate Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships**

Awarded to U-M undergraduate students for study of modern languages and related area studies with support from the U.S. Department of Education.

Jailene Acevedo, BA International Studies/Russian (Russian); Sumaya Tabbah, BA History/Political Science (Russian).

**Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships**

Awarded to U-M undergraduate and graduate students for intensive language study, or to students from other universities for summer language study at U-M with support from the U.S. Department of Education.

Asher Dvir-Djerassi, PhD Public Policy/Sociology (Bulgarian); Reynolds Hahamovitch, PhD History (Russian); Katelyn Kasperian, PhD Slavic (Russian); Aristea Kola, MIRS-REEES (Russian); Ashley McDermott,* PhD Anthropology (Kyrgyz); Tanya Silverman, PhD Slavic (Czech); Alexandria Spofford, MIRS-REEES (Czech).

* Award deferred from 2020.

**Graduate Student Instructors, REEES 395 & 396**

Awarded for teaching positions in REEES undergraduate courses: REEES 395, Russia and the Soviet Union: Reform, Revolution, and the Socialist Experiment (fall); REEES 396: East Central Europe: Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy (winter).

Albert Cavallaro, PhD History, REEES 395 & 396; Joseph Dierdorf, MS Environmental Policy & Planning, REEES 396; Alexander McConnell, PhD History, REEES 395.

**Alfred G. Meyer Prize**

The Meyer Prize is awarded at the end of each academic year in recognition of distinguished undergraduate research and writing in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Abigail Miya, BA History, “Diversity in Sixteenth Century Siberia.”
CREES Visiting Scholar
CREES regularly collaborates with U-M units and external sponsors to host visiting scholars studying Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia.

Cynthia Buckley, professor of sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. 2020-21.

CREES Alumni
Graduates from CREES and other U-M academic programs have gone on to distinguished careers—here are some updates from the past year. Alumni are encouraged to send news of their achievements to crees@umich.edu.


Elizabeth Compton (MA REES ‘20) is starting a PhD in political science at the University of Texas.

Jill Dougherty (BA Russian ‘70) hosted The Ambassadorial Series, a docuseries featuring interviews with eight former U.S. ambassadors to Russia and the Soviet Union, 2021.

Robert F. Goeckel (BA ‘73, MPP ‘74) was named SUNY Distinguished Professor in November 2020.


Kaley Hanenkrat (MA REES/JD Law ‘20) is the assistant district attorney in Brooklyn, NY.

Yvonne Howell (PhD Slavic ‘90), professor of Russian at the University of Richmond, translated and edited Alex Diabas’s Moments of Happiness (Cherry Orchard Books, 2021).

Austin Jersild (MA REES ‘89) received a National Research Award from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research, 2021-22.

Kelly McGee (MA REES ‘11) is deputy director and director of membership for the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

William C. Potter (MA Political Science ‘70, PhD Political Science ‘76) was elected to the Russian Academy of Sciences as a foreign member in the category of Global Issues and International Relations (2020), and was appointed to the International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe (2020).

Jessica Robbins (PhD Anthropology/Graduate Certificate REES ‘13) published Aging Nationally in Contemporary Poland: Memory, Kinship, and Personhood (Rutgers UP, 2020) and was promoted to associate professor at Wayne State University.

Monica Sender (BS Psychology/REES ‘09) is the Azerbaijan desk officer in the Office of Caucasus Affairs and Conflicts, U.S. Department of State.

Paul W. Werth (PhD History ‘96), professor of history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, published 1837: Russia’s Quiet Revolution (Oxford UP, 2021).

Copernicus Center for Polish Studies

Copernicus Master’s Fellowship
Awarded to an incoming or current Master’s student at the University of Michigan whose research focuses on Poland.

Christopher Chorzepa, JD Law; Arina Vlasova, MIRS-REEES.

Excellence in Polish Language Award
Awarded to the top undergraduate student studying Polish in the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures.

Minh-Quan Nguyen, BSE Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering.

Copernicus Polish Language Scholarships
Awarded to undergraduate students who successfully complete two semesters of Polish language courses at the University of Michigan.

Margaret Dominic, BA Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience; Anna Fifelski, BA Creative Writing-Literature; Caroline Freels, BA Creative Writing-Literature; Sarah Gondek, BA LSA; Robert Grasinski, BSE Computer Science; Julia Janeski, BA LSA; Tessa Krajewski, BA LSA; Minh-Quan Nguyen, BSE Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering; Emma Peplinski, BA Film, Television, & Media; Michelle Ptak, BA Psychology; Patrick Pullis, BA Political Science; Jonah Sobczak, BA Film, Television, & Media; Maxwell Wadley, BS Biochemistry.

CCPS Visiting Scholar
CCPS regularly collaborates with U-M units and external sponsors to host visiting scholars studying Poland.

Alena Aniskiewicz, postdoctoral fellow, U-M. 2020-21.
WCEE 2020-21 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER


OCTOBER


NOVEMBER

Nov 6-8 Annual Copernicus Lecture. An Interview with Agnieszka Holland. Agnieszka Holland; Johannes von Moltke, U-M; Benjamin Paloff, U-M. Sponsor: CCPS.


DECEMBER

Dec 2 CREEES Noon Lecture. “Curating COVID: Material and Visual Cultures of the Pandemic.” Alexandra Archikhopova, RANEPA; Sara Blair, U-M; Sarah Gensburger, French National Center for Scientific Research; Alexandra Lord, Smithsonian Institution. Sponsors: CREEES, CES, Humanities Collaboratory, MSP, WCIEE.

JANUARY

Jan 18-19 CES Film. At Second Glance (Auf den zweiten Blick). Sheri Hagen, director. Sponsors: CES, ATGS, GLL.

Jan 21 Slavic MLK Colloquium. “To Travel a Different Road.” Eli Rosenblatt, U-M. Sponsor: Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, CREEES, FCJS.


FEBRUARY

Feb 1 CCPS Lecture. “Gender Politics and the Populist Moment: Will the East Save the West?” Agnieszka Graff, University of Warsaw. Sponsors: CCPS, CREEES, Women’s and Gender Studies Department.


Feb 3 Lecture. “‘Sister Scholars: The Emergence of Orthodox Girls’ Education in Interwar Poland.’” Naomi Seidman, U-M. Sponsors: FCJS, CCPS, CREEES.


Feb 12 Lecture. “New Directions in Research: Race, Gender, and Indigeneity in the American Arctic and Siberia.” Kathryn Graber (PhD Anthropology ’12), Indiana University; Olga Ulgurgasheva, University of Manchester. Part of the series Race in Focus: From Critical Pedagogies to Research Practice and Public Engagement in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Sponsor: CREEES.


Feb 26 Conversations on Europe. “Mobilizing Black Germany.” Tiffany Florvil, University of New Mexico; Kira Thurman, U-M. Sponsors: CES, GLL.

MARCH


Mar 2 Seminar. “Careers with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.” John A. Young (BA REES/Russian ’86, JD Law ’90), UNHCR. Sponsors: Program in International & Comparative Studies, CREEES.


Mar 9 Lecture. “Reviving Democracy, Globally and Locally.” Habibie Han, Johns Hopkins University; Amb. Michael McFaul, Stanford University; Dan Slater, U-M. Sponsors: Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, CREEES.


Mar 19 Annual Distinguished Lecture on Europe. "At Least We Don’t Do That Here." How Europe (Mis) Understands Black America. Gary Younge, University of Manchester. Sponsor: CES.


APRIL


Apr 6 Lecture. "Opposition to Nazi Rule in Experience and Memory." Mark Roseman, Indiana University. Sponsors: FCJS, CES, CREES, HIST.


Apr 14 CREES Noon Lecture. "Poland and Hungary: Two Autocratic Attempts to Overthrow Liberal Democracy." Bálint Magyar, Central European University. Sponsors: CREES, CCPS.

Acronym Key:

ATGS – Alamanya: Transnational German Studies
CCPS – Copernicus Center for Polish Studies
CES – Center for European Studies
CREES – Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies
FCJS – Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
FSPP – Ford School of Public Policy
GLL – Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures
HIST – Department of History
MSP – Museum Studies Program

WCEE SUPPORT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions to WCEE in 2020.

Kabcenell New Europe Initiative Fund
Gifts totaling $5,000

NGO Leadership Workshops
Gifts totaling $100,000

Center for European Studies Strategic Fund
Gifts totaling $325

Copernicus Endowment for Polish Studies
Gifts totaling $11,295.55

Amelia Kulesa Konopka Endowed Fund in Polish Studies
Gifts totaling $300

CREES Endowment
Gifts totaling $3,980

Czech Studies Fund
Gifts totaling $550

Southeast European Studies Endowment Fund
Gifts totaling $750

In accordance with guidance from the Office of University Development, we are no longer including donor honor rolls in our publications. The donations noted above support the critical work of WCEE, and directly support student and scholar research.
GOVERNANCE

CES Advisory Committee
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Scott Spector, Germanic Languages & Literatures/History/Judaic Studies
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