Dr. David Abramson
Foreign Affairs Analyst
Office of Analysis for Russia and Eurasia
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
US Department of State

David Abramson is an analyst at the US Department of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. In 2008-09 he was a Woodrow Wilson International Center Public Policy Scholar working on transnational trends in Islamic education and their impact on the future of Islam in Central Asia. He published his findings with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute in Washington:


Abramson received his doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from Indiana University where he specialized in community and conflict in post-Soviet Uzbekistan. Before coming to Washington, Abramson spent four years at Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies and directed the undergraduate Development Studies major. Abramson has lectured and published on Islam in Uzbekistan, religious-secular tensions, the politics and culture of foreign aid to Central Asia, the role of religion in US foreign policy, and anthropologists working in security and the military.
Ms. Heidi Bludau  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Anthropology  
Indiana University – Bloomington

Title VIII Research Topic: *Engendering Czech Healthcare Migration: How Migration Activities Increase Women’s Agency in Global Labor Markets*

Heidi Bludau is a PhD Candidate in Anthropology at Indiana University and Teaching Fellow at Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis. She holds a BA in Anthropology and a Master of Education from Texas A&M University. Her research interests focus on migration and globalization, post-socialism, and Medical Anthropology. Her dissertation concerns migrant healthcare workers from the Czech Republic and the role of international recruitment firms as mediators between migrant laborers and the global market; she is especially interested in the ways that migration activities engender agency in both nurses and recruiters. An excerpt of her dissertation, “Producing Transnational Nurses: Agency and subjectivity in global health care labor migration recruitment practices,” will be published this spring in *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, in a special issue titled “Health and Care Work in Postsocialist Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.” Bludau conducted dissertation fieldwork in Prague, Czech Republic in 2008-09, funded by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant and she participated in the 2010 Junior Scholars Training Seminar, co-sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEEER).

Ms. Aimee Clancy  
Deputy Director  
Education Programs Division  
IREX

Aimee Clancy has more than twelve years of experience in the field of international development, including nine years managing IREX education programs for young participants. Clancy currently provides
oversight and technical expertise to the US State Department’s Global Undergraduate Exchange Programs in Eurasia and Central Asia and Pakistan, bringing to her roles nine years of dedication to undergraduate students, a vast network of university contacts, and a nuanced understanding of Eurasian and Central Asian cultures. She also provides oversight and leadership to IREX’s international education and higher education programs. Previously, Clancy served as a recruiting manager responsible for college applicant and interview systems and as the director and an advisor at the US Education Information Center administered by IREX in Moscow. She has also acted as a liaison between visiting delegations from the Former Soviet Union and Special American Business Internship Training offices. She holds an MA from Georgetown University in Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies and a BA from Kalamazoo College.

Dr. Katalin Fábián
Associate Professor
Department of Government and Law
Lafayette College

Katalin Fábián studies the intersection of gender and globalization as they influence various policy processes of emerging democracies. She has published extensively on gender equality and women’s political activism in Central and Eastern Europe. She edited Globalization: Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe (Elsevier Press, 2007). She also served as the editor of a special issue of Canadian-American Slavic Studies that focused on the changing international relations of Central and Eastern Europe. Her book Contemporary Women’s Movements in Hungary: Globalization, Democracy, and Gender Equality (The Johns Hopkins University Press and Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2009) is the first volume in European and North American scholarly circles to analyze the emergence and political significance of women’s activism in Hungary.

With the support of a Title VIII short-term travel grant from IREX, she
conducted research among government officials and activists of NGOs that support victims of domestic violence in Slovenia. This research led her to contribute chapters to and edit the volume on *Domestic Violence in Postcommunist States: Local Activism, National Policies, and Global Forces* (Indiana University Press, 2010) which focuses on the transnational connections between the various European and Eurasian postcommunist movements against domestic violence. Her current research is a cross-national study on how domestic violence was recognized in Central and Eastern Europe that analyzes why Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia adopted comprehensive laws against domestic violence while Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, and Lithuania resisted external expectations and internal pressure for formal recognition.

**Ms. Cassandra Hartblay**
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow  
Department of Anthropology  
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Title VIII Research Topic: *Deploying the Discourse of Motherhood: Parents of Children with Disabilities and Advances in Civic Lobbying and Third Sector Politics in the New Russia*

Cassandra Hartblay is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (PhD Student) in Cultural Anthropology at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (UNC). Her research considers local movements for education for children with disabilities as indicative of citizenship practices in contemporary Russia. She has most recently conducted summer fieldwork in Saint Petersburg and Petrozavodsk, where parent-activists draw on local, regional, national, and international resources to push for inclusion for their special needs children. Hartblay has worked as an advocate and organizer for disability justice in the United States. Most recently before coming to UNC, she worked with CEC ArtsLink in New York, hosting and promoting award-winning young writers, filmmakers and contemporary dancers from Russia as part of the Open World Program.
Ms. Julia Hon  
Program Associate  
Education Programs Division  
IREX  

Julia Hon joined IREX in November 2010 and works on research support programs for US scholars, as well as the University Administration Support Program. She recently completed a master’s degree at the University of Washington - Seattle in International Studies, concentrating on the society, politics and history of Russia and the South Caucasus. She also holds a BA from the University of Wisconsin in Russian Language and Literature. Hon has worked in Argentina, Georgia and Russia, where she held a Fulbright English teaching fellowship at Moscow State Regional University.

Ms. Emira Ibrahimpašić  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Anthropology  
University of New Mexico

Title VIII Research Topic: Women Living Islam in Post-War Bosnia and Herzegovina  

Emira Ibrahimpašić is a PhD Candidate at the University of New Mexico’s Department of Anthropology. Her dissertation project explores the religious lives of Muslim women of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This project contributes to a growing body of literature on Muslim women and Bosnia’s Muslims in general. Ibrahimpašić’s project is a result of over 20 months of research in the region and an extensive knowledge of the history, culture and language.
Dr. Peter Kabachnik  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
Department of Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy  
College of Staten Island, City University of New York

Title VIII Research Topic: *Traumatic Masculinities: The Gendered Geographies of Georgian IDPs from Abkhazia*

Peter Kabachnik received his MA in Geography from Rutgers University and his PhD in Geography from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA). Kabachnik is a political and cultural geographer, whose interests lie in the way that people interact with places, and the interplay between place and identity more generally. He focuses on geographies of displacement, or the various ways that people are affected by, and deal with, the harsh circumstances surrounding the need to leave one’s home. He is currently collaborating on a National Science Foundation (NSF) interdisciplinary project (led by Drs. Joanna Regulska and Beth Mitchneck) examining internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Republic of Georgia. Some of the themes that Kabachnik looks at are: how IDPs conceptualize home, by examining how they think about their former homes in Abkhazia and the way they live in their current living spaces; the geopolitical factors that shape the discourses that fuel the conflict; and how changing gender roles create a perceived challenge to dominant masculinities. His dissertation research, “The Place of the Nomad: Situating Gypsy and Traveler Mobility in Contemporary England,” also explores displacement by examining how the mobility of Gypsies and Travelers is constructed, constrained, and stigmatized. Due to a shortage of legal caravan sites, Gypsies and Travelers are being evicted from places where they try to fulfill their basic human right to home. He is also beginning a research project examining national identity construction and state-building practices in the *de facto* Republic of Abkhazia.
Ms. Liliya Karimova
PhD Candidate
Department of Communication
University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Title VIII Research Topic: *Islamic Revival in the Post-Soviet Space: The Case of Tatar Muslim Women in the Central Russian Republic of Tatarstan*

Liliya Karimova is a PhD Candidate in Communication at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. Her dissertation explores the rise of Muslim piety among Tatar women in the central Russian Republic of Tatarstan, where she is originally from. Karimova received a Diploma of Higher Education in Philology with specialization in teaching of Russian, English, and Literature from Kazan State University, Kazan, Russia. She continued her graduate education at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS, where she obtained Master’s degrees in English, Professional Writing, and Rhetoric and also in Communication. While focusing on communicative, interactive, and performative aspects of Muslim Tatar women's identities in her dissertation, Karimova is also interested in issues of identity, gender, women’s roles and rights, ethnic/religious minorities, Islam, religion, and other social phenomena in Eurasia.

Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast
Director
Gender and Peacebuilding Center of Innovation
United States Institute of Peace

Kathleen Kuehnast joined the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in January 2008 as Associate Vice President of the Grant Program following a 15-year career in international development, where she worked extensively with the World Bank managing international research projects and advising policymakers (government and non-government) on social development concerns, with a focus on gender-related concerns. She
has worked in a similar capacity with the Asian Development Bank, the German Technical Cooperation Agency and the UN Development Program. Her ongoing work continues to be focused on the increasing socio-economic disparities in Central Asia and the impact on local level conflicts.

As a recipient of the Mellon Foreign Fellowship at the Library of Congress (2000) and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Fellowship (1999) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, she has studied and written extensively on the impact of post-Soviet transition on Muslim women of Central Asia.

Kuehnast holds a PhD in socio-cultural anthropology, focused on gender and transition in Central Asia from the University of Minnesota. Her master's degree in education is from the University of St. Thomas. She is a member of the American Association of Anthropology.

**Ms. Liz Malinkin**  
Program Associate  
Kennan Institute  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Liz Malinkin is a Program Associate at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where she has been on the staff since 2007. After graduating from Carleton College in 2001, with a BA in history, she lived in Vladimir, Russia for two years and studied Russian language, history, literature, and politics at Vladimir State Pedagogical University. In April 2006 she received an MA in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan after writing her thesis on ethnic minorities in the Moscow workforce. Her current research focuses on migration issues in Russia as part of a three-year research grant on which the Kennan Institute is collaborating with Cynthia Buckley of the University of Texas. Malinkin also manages the Kennan Institute's program on the Centers for Advanced Study and Education (CASEs) in Russia and is the liaison for the Kennan Moscow and Kyiv Projects.
Mr. Randal Mason  
Director of Strategic Development  
IREX  

As the Director of Strategic Development at IREX, Randal Mason coordinates new business outreach to individual donors, foundations, and corporations. He is also Chair of IREX’s Gender Community of Practice, which was created to share and deepen the organization’s knowledge and expertise around gender in international development. Before rejoining IREX in July 2010, Mason was an independent consultant for four years, providing training, facilitation, and new business support to domestic and international nonprofits. From 2003-2006, he was Director of IREX’s Civil Society Division and oversaw the organization’s anti-trafficking and women’s empowerment programs. Prior to that, he headed IREX’s Development Division, helping the organization’s annual revenue grow from $21 million to $45 million.

Ms. Lauren McCarthy  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  

Title VIII Research Topic: Russian Law Enforcement’s Implementation of Anti-Trafficking Laws  

Lauren McCarthy is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin - Madison specializing in Comparative Politics and International Relations with a minor in law. Her dissertation “Trafficking (In)justice: Law Enforcement’s Response to Human Trafficking in Russia will be completed in August 2011 and is based on interviews conducted in 2007-2008 with the support of a Fulbright Institute of International Education fellowship. In fall 2011, she will be starting as Assistant Professor of Political Science in Legal Studies at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. She received a BA from the College of Social Studies at
Wesleyan University in 2001 and an MA from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 2005. Her research interests include law, human trafficking and policing in the post-Soviet space.

Mr. Timothy Nunan
MPhil Student
Corpus Christi College
University of Oxford


Timothy Nunan is an MPhil Candidate in Economic and Social History at Corpus Christi College of the University of Oxford, where he is a Rhodes Scholar. He completed his AB in German at Princeton University with a focus on interwar intellectual history, and spent a year in Göttingen and Berlin on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2008-2009 to translate, edit, and prepare for publication *Writings on War* (Polity: 2011), a collection of books by the controversial jurist Carl Schmitt on problems of international law in interwar Europe. He spent the autumn on a Title VIII - IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) grant to Moscow and Dushanbe, where he did archival fieldwork for his dissertation on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. His articles and reviews have appeared in *Ab Imperio, The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review, Europe and Asia Studies*, and *Slovo*.

Dr. William Pomeranz
Deputy Director
Kennan Institute
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

William Pomeranz is the Deputy Director of the Kennan Institute, a part of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars located in Washington, DC. In addition, Pomeranz has taught Russian law at the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies, Georgetown University. Prior to joining the Kennan Institute, Pomeranz practiced international law in the United States and Moscow, Russia. He also served as Program Officer for Russia,

Pomeranz received his JD cum laude from American University in 1998. In addition, he was awarded a PhD in Russian History from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, where he wrote his dissertation on the emergence and development of the pre-revolutionary Russian legal profession (the *advokatura*). Pomeranz's research interests include Russian legal history as well as current Russian commercial and constitutional law.

**Dr. Michele Rivkin-Fish**
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Michele Rivkin-Fish is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Her work explores how reproductive issues illuminate political, economic, and cultural transformations in Russia. She has published articles on the intersections between Russian fertility politics, gender and nationalism, and the ways new innovations in for-fee medical services and the attending stratification of opportunities get legitimized by cultural narratives about injustices of the Soviet past. She is the author of *Women’s Health in Post-Soviet Russia: The Politics of Reproduction*, winner of the Heldt Prize for Best Book in Slavic Women's Studies and the Eileen Basker Memorial Prize of the Society for Medical Anthropology, and the co-editor, with Elena Trubina, of *Dilemmas of Diversity: Analyses of “Cultural Difference” by US and Russian-Based Scholars*. Rivkin-Fish’s current work explores comparative facets of the US and Russian health care crises.
Ms. Zlatina Sandalska
PhD Candidate, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Southern California

Title VIII Research Topic: *Parodic Male Societies in Russian Culture*

Zlatina G. Sandalska is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Southern California. Her dissertation traces the common sources for a series of parodic Russian male writers’ groups, namely, Sergei Dovlatov’s circle of the 1960s and 1970s; the Serapion Brotherhood (1920s), Koz'ma Prutkov (1850s), Arzamas (1820s), and Peter the Great’s Wild Synod (1689-1725). She holds a BA in Mathematics from University of California Berkeley and an MA in Comparative and World Literature from San Francisco State University, where she wrote a master’s thesis on Juan Rulfo and William Faulkner. Her other research interests include Russian - American literary connections.

Dr. Judyth Twigg
Professor
School of Government and Public Affairs
Virginia Commonwealth University

Judy Twigg is Professor and former Interim Director at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also currently serving as a Senior Associate (non-resident) for the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and a consultant to the World Bank and the United States government. Additionally, she is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies at Georgetown University. Her work focuses on issues of health, demographic change, and health systems reform in Russia, as well as evaluations of health reform and communicable disease control projects across the former Soviet
Union, sub-Saharan Africa, and other parts of the world. She chairs the Public Health Working Groups of the Civil Society Summit that took place during the Obama - Medvedev presidential summits in Moscow in July 2009 and Washington in June 2010. She has testified as an expert witness before the US Congress and has been a member of several Congressional and other US government advisory groups on Russian affairs. She was a member of the 2005 Council on Foreign Relations Task Force on US - Russia Relations, and one of twelve recipients of the 2005 State Council on Higher Education in Virginia’s Distinguished Faculty Award. Twigg is the Faculty Liaison for VCU’s ongoing partnerships with Moscow State University St. Petersburg State University in Russia. Twigg’s most recent book, *HIV/AIDS in Russia and Eurasia*, a two-volume edited set, was published by Palgrave/MacMillan, and she is currently working on a project comparing health systems reform in Russia, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Georgia. She holds a BS in Physics from Carnegie Mellon University, an MA in Political Science and Soviet Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD in Political Science and Security Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Dr. Jennifer Utrata**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Comparative Sociology  
University of Puget Sound

**Title VIII Research Topic:** *Single Motherhood and the Gender Crisis in Post-Soviet Russia*

Jennifer Utrata is an Assistant Professor in the Comparative Sociology Department at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2008. Her dissertation fieldwork on Russian single-mother families was supported by Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad and SSRC Eurasia Program Dissertation Write-Up Fellowships. Utrata has published on Russian nonresident fatherhood and has a manuscript on gender and age relations in single-mother families under review at *Gender & Society*. Years before graduate
school, Utrata served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan, which first sparked her interest in post-Soviet families and gender relations. Currently she is revising her dissertation into a book manuscript entitled *Women without Men: Single Mothers in the New Russia*.

**Ms. Sophia Wilson**  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Political Science  
University of Washington

Title VIII Research Topic: *Women’s Rights and Law Enforcement in the Post-Soviet World*

Sophia Wilson is a PhD Candidate at the University of Washington, specializing in Comparative Politics, Public Law and the Post-Soviet World. After attending medical school in Ukraine, she immigrated to the US and decided to follow her own passions instead of her parents’, earning her BA degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Political Science from Utah State University. She completed MA degrees in Political Science at Utah State and the University of Washington; her theses examine the effects of institutional provisions and charismatic leadership on press freedoms in the post-Soviet world. Wilson’s doctoral dissertation, *Human Rights and Law Enforcement Behavior in the Post-Soviet World*, examines why judges and police violate legal code. She conducted fieldwork in Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Ukraine, having received grants from IREX (Individual Advanced Research Opportunities) and Chester Fritz. She was also a FLAS fellow and studied Persian language and Middle East Politics, and received a dissertation writing grant from the University of Washington graduate school. Currently, she is lecturing Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Women’s Rights courses at the University of Washington.