

# The Summer Research Laboratory in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Research Workshop- Call for Proposals

## Northern Convergence:

### Peoples, Environment and Politics in Russia's Arctic and Sub-Arctic

#### Organizers:

Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer, Georgetown University

Vera Solovyeva, George Mason University and American Museum of Natural History

The Summer Research Laboratory (SRL) on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia is pleased to announce the theme of this year's Research Training Workshop, "Northern Convergence: Peoples, Environment, and Politics in Russia's Arctic and Sub-Arctic."

In these unstable times of climate change and geopolitical testing, Russia's Arctic and sub-Arctic have become increasingly significant. What happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic, as a recent National Academy of Science symposium proclaimed. This workshop explores the implications of instability and the potential for sustainable multiethnic communities in Siberia and the Far East. We pay particular attention to Indigenous peoples, historically left out of conversations about development but increasingly part of long-term planning. Legally defined "small-numbered peoples" in Russia number over 40 groups, many of whom live in the North. In addition, according to United Nations definitions, Indigenous peoples numbering over 50,000 with their own republics within Russia should also be included. These larger groups have gained a degree of negotiated sovereignty in the post-Soviet period, but that self-determination has become threatened, especially in the past decade.

The workshop leaders approach critical issues of ecology, politics, and community well-being on the basis of academic and practical experience. Dr. Marjorie Balzer, with long-term fieldwork in West Siberia with Ob-Ugrians and in Russia's Far East, brings sociocultural anthropology perspectives, while Dr. Vera Solovyeva, an Indigenous Sakha (Yakut) scholar, combines Indigenous perspectives with biology and climate science degrees.

The workshop will include discussions of participants' research, as well as reading crucial multidisciplinary sources for discussion and critique. While themes will partially depend on participant interest, background topics will include: How does climate change impact the Northern Sea Route and its surrounding communities? What can we learn from the long-term experiences of Indigenous survival in permafrost regions? How are ecology activist movements impacting civil society in Russia? What does Russia's nominally federal structure mean for residents of republics vs. regions? Russian language knowledge is welcome, not mandatory.

To apply for this Research Training Workshop, please send a short letter of application and current CV or resume to [reeec-srl@illinois.edu](mailto:reeec-srl@illinois.edu) by April 14, 2022.

This workshop will take place during the annual Summer Research Laboratory at Illinois. US citizens are eligible to apply for affiliation with the SRL, should they wish to extend their visit to Champaign-Urbana to work with our Library's famous Russian, East European, and Eurasian collections and services. Affiliation with the SRL includes a travel stipend; dormitory housing for up to 12 days; and a \$1,000 research stipend. In addition, SRL affiliation offers:

- Research support for general and specialized queries throughout the Summer and beyond.
- Associates may also request a personalized bibliographic session with the Slavic Reference Service (in-person or through Zoom).
- Access to digital and database collections of our Library for an extended period.
- A free of charge duplication service for University of Illinois Library materials. Restricted to 20 pages per request and subject to copyright restrictions.

Please note that participants that are interested in applying to The Summer Research Laboratory (SRL) can still be admitted on a rolling basis.

More details about the SRL and to apply can be found here:

<https://reeec.illinois.edu/research/summer-research-laboratory>

Workshop Deadline: April 14, 2022

Workshop Dates: June 15-17, 2022



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