



# The Graduate Methods Training Workshop

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York

September 30<sup>th</sup> — October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

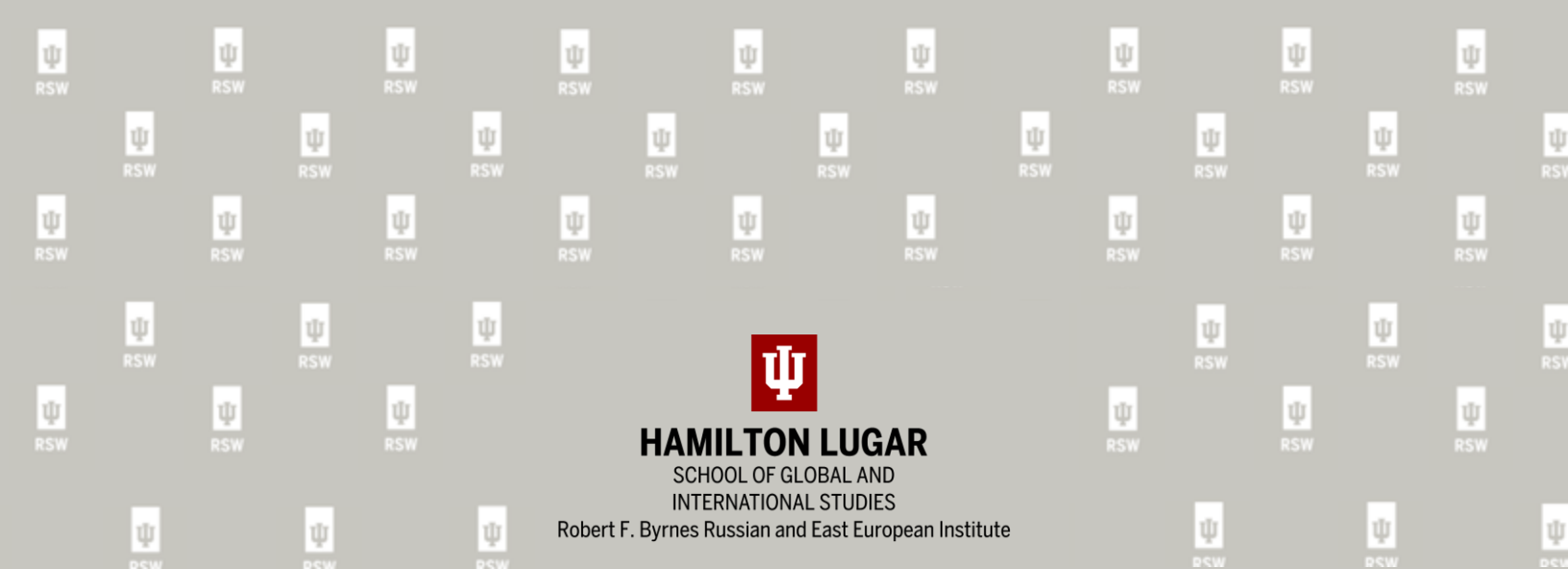
Russian Studies Workshop  
Indiana University Bloomington



**HAMILTON LUGAR**

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute



# Welcome!

Russian Studies Workshop is delighted to host our third Graduate Methods Training Workshop to continue our commitment to preparing the next generation of Russian scholars. This year the GMTW will be taking place virtually, facilitating exchange between doctoral students with faculty experts and fellow colleagues of the Russian studies community. This logistical and financial undertaking would not have been possible without the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York funded the Russian Studies Workshop at the Russian East European Institute in 2016 with the aim of promoting the study of Russia in the social sciences through supporting graduate research and encouraging research collaboration. To meet these goals, RSW has hosted discussion panels, inviting diverse scholars from across the U.S., Europe, and Russia to present their research and meet our students and faculty. We have also provided logistical and financial aid to Russia-focused conferences on campus and at IU's Europe Gateway in Berlin and supporting post-doctoral scholars and graduate students on our campus. But it is the Graduate Methods Training Workshop that central to RSW's mission. By addressing the challenges of doing academic research in Russia, we hope to help make students' research more efficient and effective; by fostering a community of emerging social science and history scholars who study Russia, we hope to encourage an exchange of ideas and research with specialists as well as peers—the next generation of scholars to advance Russian studies. Now more than ever we need new tools and new approaches and we look forward to exploring the challenges together.

Thank you for joining us in this endeavor!

Co-directors of Russian Studies Workshop,

Sarah D. Phillips, Anthropology, Indiana University

Tatiana Saburova, History, Indiana University

# Workshop Procedures

- We will be posting materials about the workshop through Google Drive. If you are not familiar with Google Drive, please orient yourself in the application prior to the workshop so you will be able to access workshop materials. The Google Drive link is:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13njai13NUqIyuiny5cfwdBkaZi9\\_Vsi2?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13njai13NUqIyuiny5cfwdBkaZi9_Vsi2?usp=sharing)

- All workshop events will take place on Zoom. The link we will be using is:

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>  
**Password: rsw22**

- All the times listed in this program are in EDT (New York time), so if you are attending the workshop from other time zones, please note any time differences.
- Some sessions may require you to read or prepare materials prior to the session. Please arrive prepared so that you may gain the most from the workshop experience.
- For the Lightning Round session, please prepare a 3-min "elevator pitch" of your research topic. An elevator pitch is a persuasive, concise introduction that provides the listener with a solid understanding of a project idea.

If you have any questions or technological issues that arise during the workshop, please feel free to contact Maria Fokina at [mfokina@iu.edu](mailto:mfokina@iu.edu), or email [rsu@iu.edu](mailto:rsu@iu.edu)

# Program

## Thursday, Sep 29

4:00 pm — 5:00 pm

### Meet and Greet (Optional)

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Grab a drink of your choice and join us for an informal introduction with GMTW 2022 students and faculty, and GMTW 2018 and GMTW 2020 alumni!

## Friday, Sept 30

9:00 am — 9:20 am

### Introductory Remarks

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Dr. Sarah Phillips and Dr. Tatiana Saburova, Indiana University Bloomington

9:25 am — 10:45 am

### Session 1: Doing Research on Russia and Beyond

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Moderator: Dr. Sarah Phillips, Indiana University Bloomington

Participants:

Dr. Tatiana Saburova, Indiana University Bloomington

Dr. Catherine Wanner, Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Ted Gerber, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Susan Smith-Peter, The City University of New York

10:45 am — 11 am

### Break

# Program

## Friday, Sept 30

11 am – 1 pm

### **Session 2: Libraries, Databases and Online Searching**

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

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2.1: Joe Lenkart and Kit Condill, University of Illinois-Urbana  
Champaign

2.2: Wookjin Cheun and Veronika Trotter, Indiana University  
Bloomington

1 pm – 1:45 pm

### **Lunch break**

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

### **Session 3: Textual and Content Analysis**

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Dr. Maria Sidorkina, University of Texas at  
Austin

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

### **Break**

3:45 pm – 4.45 pm

### **Informal Conversation and Q&A with former and current RSW postdoctoral fellows**

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

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Dr. Stanislav Budnitsky, Kennan Institute,  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Alexandra Novitskaya, RSW Postdoc,  
Indiana University

Dr. Meagan Todd, University Colorado-  
Boulder

Dr. John Romero, <sup>5</sup>University of North Georgia

# Program

## Saturday, Oct 1

9 am – 9:15 am

### De-brief from Day 1

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

9:15 am – 10:45 am

### Session 4: Working in Archives Remotely and On Site

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Dr. Tatiana Saburova, Indiana University Bloomington

10:45 am – 11 am

### Break

11 am – 12:45 pm

### Session 5: Rethinking fieldwork, today and tomorrow: interviews and ethnography in the 21st century

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Dr. Lauren McCarthy, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. Julie Hemment, University of Massachusetts Amherst

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm **Lunch break**

# Program

## Saturday, Oct 1

1:30 pm—3 pm

### Session 6: Data Basics

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Dr. Kelly O'Neill, Harvard University

3 pm—3.15 pm

### Break

3.15 pm—4:45 pm

### “Lightning Round”

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

Password: rsw22

Dr. Gardner Bovington, Indiana University Bloomington

Dr. Michael de Groot, Indiana University Bloomington

Dr. Sarah Phillips, Indiana University Bloomington

Dr. Alexandra Novitskaya, Indiana University Bloomington

4:45 pm—5:15 pm

### Wrap up, debrief, and participant survey

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/88626147993>

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# Session descriptions

## **Session 1/Roundtable: Doing Research on Russia in 2022 and beyond**

Roundtable on the challenges of doing research in Russia, post-pandemic and amid sanctions/access issues/political unrest, ethical quandaries etc. The field and professional expectations now, in light of decolonizing Russian and Soviet Studies and rethinking the legacies of the Russian and Soviet Empires.

## **Session 2: Libraries, Databases and Online Searching**

In an environment of limited resources for conducting research in-country, we must make the most of opportunities to access documents and data “from home.” This panel explores how to use libraries and archives from abroad, looking at:

- The location of archival resources (domestic vs. overseas, e.g.)
- Finding aids (Putevoditeli, inventories, catalogs, etc.)
- Russian studies doctoral research strategies and support via SRS and Summer Research Laboratory (archival research, etc.)
- Types of Online Resources for Russian Studies (emphasis on digital resources from the region)
- What can be done using existing library catalogs and subscription databases while conducting research “from home” (i.e., in the U.S.).

## **Session 3: Textual and Content Analysis**

With lack of opportunities to do on-the-ground fieldwork in Russia, some may turn to textual and content analysis of media, documents, existing interviews and speeches, etc. What tools exist to facilitate such work? What are potential pitfalls, and how to avoid them? This session with also focus on tracking “digital footprints”.

## **Session 4: Working in Archives Remotely and On Site**

How to access archives in Russia on site and remotely and where to go if you can't travel to Russia (which mostly the case if you are not in Russia now): your archival plan A and Plan B.

- Pre-ordering files: how does it work and who can be contacted if you need archival documents?
- Technologies: What can you use in the libraries and archive and how to organize your archival materials?
- Secrets of the search: How to find what you are looking for? Collections, inventories, items (practical training).
- More about available archival databases and e-projects.



# Session descriptions

## **Session 5: Rethinking fieldwork, today and tomorrow: interviews and ethnography in the 21st century**

This panel will explore the tools, problems, and challenges around conducting interviews in and about Russia using a variety of approaches, including online ethnography and virtual interview platforms. The session will also consider ethical and safety considerations, interviewing people from Russia at home, and people from Russia in exile.

## **Session 6: Data Basics**

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you thought of your sources as data? What does “good” data look like, and what do humanists do with it? In this hands-on session we will explore ways to adapt some of the core principles of data organization to your project. We will learn to identify and clean messy data, and test strategies for expressing context and meaning.