

EURUS E-Newsletter

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Student Research Profile: Meredith Mackay

Note: The monthly EURUS newsletter showcases individual students' thesis or major research projects. The focus of this edition's research profile is Meredith Mackay, a second year MA student in the European stream of the EURUS program.

"My research is focused on the two language policies currently in place in Catalonia, Spain. I'm looking at the objectives of these policies and how they have influenced Catalan language use in the region. I became interested in the linguistic situation in Catalonia during my undergraduate exchange in Barcelona. I lived there for two academic semesters, and what immediately struck me was a very complex linguistic situation that closely mirrors that of Quebec.

I think Catalonia is a very interesting case of language policy and planning as well as linguistic rights in a pluralist state. What makes it so interesting is that Catalonia has been victimized by repressive dictatorships throughout Spain's history, most notably under Francisco Franco's dictatorship from 1939 to 1975. During this time, Catalan was forbidden to be used in the public sphere or to be taught in schools. Since democratization in Spain, Catalonia has begun a nation building project of its own whereby it has implemented language policies to protect and promote its language. I am using discourse analysis in my research as a tool to closely analyze the language policies in hopes of pinpointing how the government has gone about protecting its language, what the effects of the policies have been on different sectors of society, and how these policies contribute to the overall nation building process."

Interview with Professor Piotr Dutkiewicz on the ongoing protests in Russia

Nationwide protests have taken Russia by storm since elections to the State Duma were held in the country on December 4, 2011. Allegations of vote fraud have brought tens of thousands of Russians to the street. After breaking for holidays in December/January, protesters are expected to stage a massive demonstration in central Moscow on February 4. This takes place one month ahead of the country's scheduled presidential elections on March 4. Former EURUS director and member of the Valdai Club Piotr Dutkiewicz shares his views on these protests and what they mean for Russia.

Interviewer: Did these protests take you by surprise?

PD: Yes. But I was surprised not by the fact that there were protests. I met with opposition members during the Valdai meetings [November, 2011] and they indicated that some section of society would be upset. So we could have expected something. What was surprising was the scale – 30,000-100,000 people protesting in Moscow.

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Course Profile: EURR 4202A/5202W: Nazism and Stalinism

Nazism and Stalinism left an indelible mark on the histories of Europe, Russia and Eurasia in the twentieth century, and the memories and legacies of these political regimes are still subjects of controversy in the region today. This course, taught jointly by Professors Jeff Sahadeo and James Casteel, engages in a comparative study of the politics, society, and cultures of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union under Stalin. The goal of the course is to read these two histories in tandem, comparing and contrasting the regimes, pointing to both similarities and differences. Such an approach is particularly relevant for studying the two cases, since both regimes coexisted at the same historical moment and interacted with each other especially during the Second World War, one of the most violent conflicts that Europe had witnessed for centuries.

Together, the students and professors explore the following themes: governance, state and society, culture and everyday life, gender and sexuality, modernization, civilizations and cultural exchange, violence and terror, race and empire, wartime encounters, genocides, and postwar reconstruction and memory cultures.

Interviewer: Why did these protests happen?

PD: This is a complex situation. There is no one social denominator. The protesters are liberals, nationalists, anti-globalists, people of all ages. The real question is: what links them? For this there are 3 explanations:

1. The years 2000-2008 gave Russians confidence, especially the middle class. They now feel that they do not have a fair share of the wealth.
 2. People feel that bureaucratic corruption is a problem.
 3. Political stagnation: people want some change and don't see it coming.
- Plus there is the alleged [vote] fraud.

Interviewer: What impact will these protests have on the upcoming presidential election?

PD: The impact will not be too big. Most likely, Putin will become president in the first round, definitely in the second round. But, people sense political change. This will have a huge impact in the next election [2018].

Interested in doing field work in Russia or the European Union? Check out these funding opportunities:

Magna Bursary for Russian Studies

Open to graduate and advanced undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines, the Magana Bursary provides funding to students for field research, language training, or other scholarly travel expenses (conference presentation, workshop).

Students studying Russia and/or Russia's relations with the outside world are encouraged to apply.

Full details are available on the EURUS website: <http://www6.carleton.ca/eurus/current-students/travel-research-opportunities/magna-bursary-for-russian-studies/>

Graduate Travel-Research Grants on the European Union

Are you studying the European Union, European Integration, or EU-Canada Relations? Carleton University's Centre for European Studies invites applications from graduate students for travel and/or research grants to support research in member state countries of the European Union.

Full details are available on the EURUS website: <http://www6.carleton.ca/eurus/current-students/travel-research-opportunities/ces-travel-research-grants/>

Upcoming EURUS/CES Events

Feb.2, 2012 – Prof. Li Sin, “China’s Relations with Central Asia: Past & Present” Dunton Tower 2017, 1:00-2:30PM

Feb. 9, 2012 – “The Euro Crisis: How it all started and where it might lead” Senate Room, 608 Robertson Hall, 4:30-6:00PM

Feb. 14, 2012 – Galya Diment, “Samuel Koteliensky: A Journey from the Pale Settlement to the Heart of Bloomsbury” Dunton Tower 2017, 3:00-4:30PM

Feb. 15, 2012 – “The Russian Elections and their Aftermath: A Conversation with Piotr Dutkiewicz” Dunton Tower 2017, 3:30-5:00PM.

For more information on EURUS events, go to <http://www6.carleton.ca/eurus/events/>

Contest: New Logo Design

EURUS is holding a contest for a new logo design. The contest is open to all current and former EURUS students, as well as faculty and staff. We are looking for a logo that represents the Institute's geographic areas of focus and includes “EURUS” in the design. A \$250 cash prize will be offered to the winner.

The deadline for submissions is March 1st, 2012. Please e-mail any submissions to Kim Howson (kim_howson@carleton.ca).

