

EURUS E-Newsletter

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Student Research Profile: Elise Handy

Note: The monthly EURUS newsletter showcases individual students' thesis or major research projects. The focus of this edition's research profile is Elise Handy, a first year MA student in the Russia/Eurasia stream of the EURUS program. Elise is in the beginning stages of developing her research project.

"Samizdat" is a Russian word which means self-publishing. During the late Soviet Union thousands of documents ranging from poetry and novels to political and scientific works were illegally typed, copied and distributed through underground networks in order to escape censorship. Much like the grey market, samizdat met the needs neglected by the planned intellectual environment of the Soviet Union.

I chose to study the samizdat movement because I am fascinated with the interplay between intellectual life and dissent in the Soviet Union. Networks of samizdat transformed literature and writing into a means of dissent and gave new significance to reading as a widespread counter-culture act. I intend to investigate how Soviet citizens personally defined and read samizdat through researching and reading these documents, and through a series of interviews with individuals who were active in samizdat networks throughout the Brezhnev Era. I hope to discover whether samizdat documents were more strongly associated with the idea of "truth" and how the experience of reading these unofficial documents was compared and contrasted with the reading of official publications.

Course Profile: EURR 4003/5003: Social and Political Perspectives in Europe

The purpose of the course is to permit students to examine contemporary change in Europe from the bottom up, with a particular focus on issues related to identity, social inclusion/exclusion, social policy, migration, changing gender identities, and the boundaries of Europe. Discussions revolve around the current processes of European integration, with an eye to understanding social and political linkages between developments within individual nation-states, globalization, and European integration processes. The assumption of the course is that European integration has a significant impact on people but also that social forces help shape the direction of the European integration project.

Weekly themes of the course are: European Identity; National Identity and Citizenship; Representation, Participation, and Democratic Deficits in Europe; Democratic Deficits in the EU and Euroscepticism; Diversity and Identity; Political Extremism, Marginalization, and Right-Wing Movements; Diversity in Europe and Immigration Policies; Social Inclusion and the Social Welfare State; Social Inclusion/Exclusion and European Integration; Europeanizing Gender; and Europe's New Boundaries. Course requirements include: four reaction papers involving analytical reflection on the course readings for the week concerned; an oral presentation related to the topic of a particular class session; and a term essay/research paper. This course is taught by Professor Joan DeBardeleben.

2012 European Union Study Tour and Internship Program

Each summer a select group of Carleton students travel to Europe to participate in the three-week long European Union (EU) Study Tour and Internship Program, which provides a unique opportunity for students from a variety of disciplines to immerse themselves in the EU and European institutions. In addition to receiving course credit, students have the opportunity to experience “face to face” contact with presenters and seminar leaders from the ranks of those actively involved in the day to day work of the EU, other European institutions, diplomatic representations (including Canada) to the EU, and significant civil society organizations. Students experience the EU in action – by attending a hearing at the European Court of Justice, sessions at the European Parliament and European Commission, and media conferences, to name only a few.

Following the three-week study tour, a select group of students participate in internships with European institutions, diplomatic representations to the EU, or civil society organizations. These internships usually range from two to six months in duration. In the past students have participated in internships in Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Latvia, and Germany. This year’s participants in the study tour and internship program include: 3 MA students from EURUS; 2 MA students from NPSIA; 1 MSW student from Social Work; and 1 BA student from Communications. The Centre for European Studies (European Union Centre of Excellence) provides grants to students with financial need to help defray a part of the tour cost.

For more information about the EU Study Tour and Internship Program, visit www.carleton.ca/eurus/current-students/travel-research-opportunities/eu-study-tour-2012/

Upcoming EURUS and CES Events

March 2: Politics of the Middle Class in Pre-Election Russia: Professor Leonid Grigoriev, Robertson Hall

March 6: EU Ambassador to Canada speaks to students about the Arctic, Canal Building

March 6: 2012 Canada-EU Business Lecture, Robertson Hall

March 7: Turkey and Post-National Europe: No Easy Road to Accession, Dunton Tower

March 14: The 2012 Russian Election: What to expect from the next Putin Era, Dunton Tower

March 20: Women, Children and Citizens in the Russian Election Campaigns of 2011-2012, Loeb Building

March 29: 2012 Canada-EU Law Lecture, Dunton Tower

For more information on upcoming events, visit carleton.ca/eurus/events or contact Kim Howson at kim_howson@carleton.ca

Upcoming elections in the European, Russian and Eurasian Region

March 4: Russia, Presidential

March 10: Slovakia, Parliamentary

March 12: Switzerland, Referendum

March 25: Slovenia, Referendum

April 22: France, Presidential (First Round)

April: Greece, Parliamentary (Tentative, Snap)

April: Moldova, Referendum