

EURUS E-Newsletter

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EURUS Alumnus Selected to Observe Ukrainian Elections

EURUS alumnus and former Outreach and Development Coordinator Kim Howson (MA 2011) is currently in Ukraine as a member of Canada's long-term observation mission. Kim has worked previously in Ukraine. Her MA thesis focused on policy responses to human trafficking in Estonia and Finland. Here's what she has to say about her experience in Ukraine so far:

"Mission Canada - Ukraine Elections 2012

On October 28th, voters in Ukraine will go the polls to elect a new parliament. On the ground with them will be 10,000 international observers from a variety of countries and organizations, including Canada. Weeks before the election, Canada also deployed 65 long-term observers (LTO) to all regions of Ukraine as part of "Mission Canada," which is Canada's independent bilateral election monitoring mission. I am in Ukraine as part of this team, and have been working in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast as an LTO since the beginning of September. Dnipropetrovsk is one of the largest cities in Ukraine and is home to the longest embankment in Europe, which stretches 23km along the Dnipro river. The region is also where the Soviets produced the majority of their rockets and ammunition, and Ukraine continues this tradition today - an interesting and historical city to be based in!

What does a typical day for a LTO look like? We may start by meeting with a political candidate and then visit a local newspaper. After this, we will drop into a number of election commissions to see how preparations are coming for election day. Then we may attend a public rally or street meeting with voters. Overall, my role consists of a lot of meetings, attending rallies and public events, and writing a lot of reports. We have been meeting with political parties, candidates, journalists, other election monitors, and all of the election commissions in our region. The most important aspect of our role is to monitor the whole process leading up to election day, and to observe whether events are unfolding in an open and transparent way. We are also busy preparing for the 365 short-term observers that will arrive from Canada in mid-October. In all, lots of work to do!

For more information on Mission Canada, as well as updates on the elections, check out:

<http://www.canademissions.ca/ukraine/>

Dr. Martin Geiger Receives Prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship

Congratulations to Dr. Martin Geiger, who joins the EURUS teaching and research community as a post-doctoral scholar on a prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Banting Fellowship will support work on Martin's project "Smart New Border World: Information Technologies and Security Industries in the Management of Human Cross-Border Mobility in North America and Europe." The Government of Canada awards 70 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships each year to elite postdoctoral researchers from across Canada and around the world, providing them with the support they need to conduct world-class research.

Dr. Geiger joins the EURUS community from the University of Osnabruck (Germany) and its Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS), one of Europe's leading research centres on migration. He is already well-acquainted with EURUS and Carleton, having been a visiting scholar in 2011 through the Centre for European Studies.

Congratulations Dr. Geiger!



Student Profile: Karin Abma

The monthly EURUS newsletter showcases individual students' thesis or major research projects. The focus of this edition's research profile is Karin Abma, a second year EURUS MA student from Calgary, Alberta.

This summer I received a travel/research grant from the Centre for European Studies, which enabled me to go to Berlin at the end of August. Since my research topic is focused on women and consumerism in East Germany, I was able to do some valuable research in the library looking at women's magazines from the 1950s and 60s. Not only was the trip valuable in written research, but since I had never been to Germany before, it gave me an invaluable understanding of the physical geography of Berlin; where the wall stood, what the wall looked like, and even just how streets run and what neighbourhoods look like. I went to various historical museums, including the Palace of Tears, which was a customs point between the two Germanys. I also delved into the realities of a Stasi state by going to their former headquarters which is now the Stasi Museum, and to a former secret Stasi prison to learn more about their methods. I consider all these experiences to have contributed a huge amount to my research since they allowed me to build an understanding of the context of my specific topic. In addition, I was forced to practice the German language, which I have also been learning.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

Oct. 1: "Research in Progress" Pub Night

- EURUS Director and Professor Jeff Sahadeo discusses his current project on racism in late Soviet Leningrad and Moscow, Georgetown Pub

Oct. 3: Celebration for Dr. Martin Geiger

- 1:00 pm EURUS Boardroom

Oct. 16: Atlantic Council of Canada Roundtable

- A discussion on "Ukraine's relations with the EU and the path to NATO," 5:30-9:00 pm Senate Room, Robertson Hall

Oct. 17: Marcel Jesensky on the 20th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Divorce"

For information on events hosted by the Centre for European Studies, please visit

http://www1.carleton.ca/ces/category/events/?ec3_after=2000-11-15&order=desc

Vox Europa Blog Launched

Two members of the EURUS alumni community recently launched *Vox Europa*, a blog that seeks to explain current events and their implications in the EU.

According to the blog's website, "Vox Europa is a forum in which European and non-European voices can come together to discuss the issues that are attracting attention across the continent."

To learn more about Vox Europa and to access the blog, visit <http://voxeuropa.org/>

2012 Job Readiness Workshop

The second annual Job Readiness workshop for EURUS students was held by EURUS Career Consultant and Internship Coordinator Geoff Dubrow on Thursday, September 27. The focus of the workshop was strategies to kick start your job search and find a satisfying career.

In addition to conducting the Job Readiness Workshop, Mr. Dubrow will also be teaching EURR 4206/5301: Internship and Applied Policy Skills in the Winter semester. This course normally comprises participation in an internship once a week as well as regular class hours. Students who have previously completed the course have participated in internships at foreign embassies, various government departments, local NGOs, and in the private sector.

If you are interested in participating in the internship program and course, please send an expression of interest as soon as possible to Geoff Dubrow (geoffdubrow@rogers.com) and Jeff Sahadeo (jeff_sahadeo@carleton.ca).

Congratulations to this year's OGS and CGS Recipients!

Andrew Deaville (MA 1)

Alex Groarke (MA 1)

Giovanna Roma (MA 1)

Victoria Barahona-Salinas (MA 2)

Elise Handy (MA 2)

Please see the EURUS Annual Newsletter (coming in December 2012) for more information on these individuals and their research.