
PONARS Eurasia Annual Policy Conference

September 21, 2018

BIOGRAPHIES

(Alphabetical)

Mikhail Alexseev is the Bruce E. Porteus Professor of Political Science at San Diego State University. His areas of expertise are migration, ethnopolitical conflict, and post-Soviet Russia. He has been the principal investigator of a multi-year international research project on migration and ethnoreligious violence in the Russian Federation funded by the National Science Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research. He is co-author of *Mass Religious Ritual and Intergroup Tolerance: The Muslim Pilgrim's Paradox* (with Sufian Zhemukhov; Cambridge 2017), author of *Immigration Phobia and the Security Dilemma: Russia, Europe, and the United States* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), and editor of *A Federation Imperiled: Center-Periphery Conflict in Post-Soviet Russia* (St. Martin's Press, 1999). Alexseev received his PhD from the University of Washington.



► “How Do Ukrainians Want to End the Donbas War?” [[Panel 5](#)]

Should Ukraine’s government use military force to reclaim its breakaway territories, impose an economic blockade, negotiate some form of self-rule, or abandon any effort to reintegrate them?

Andrew Barnes is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Kent State University. His research and teaching interests are in post-communist political economies, the politics of international finance and oil, and the links between markets and democracy. His first book was called *Owning Russia: The Struggle over Factories, Farms, and Power* (Cornell University Press, 2006) and his articles have appeared in, among others, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, and *Comparative Politics*. [[Chair: Panel 5](#)]



Samuel Charap is a Senior Political Scientist at RAND Corporation in Washington, DC. His research interests include the political economy and foreign policies of Russia and the former Soviet states; European and Eurasian regional security; and US-Russia deterrence, strategic stability, and arms control. From 2012 to 2017, he was Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Prior to joining the IISS, he served at the U.S. Department of State as Senior Advisor to the undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security and on the Secretary’s Policy Planning Staff, covering Russia and Eurasia. From 2009-11, Charap was Director for Russia and Eurasia at the Center for American Progress. His book on the Ukraine crisis, co-authored with Timothy Colton, was published in January 2017, titled *Everyone Loses: The Ukraine Crisis and the Ruinous Contest for Post-Soviet Eurasia* (Routledge, 2017). [[Discussant: Panel 3](#)]



Volodymyr Dubovyk is Associate Professor of International Relations and Director of the Center for International Studies at Odessa's Mechnikov National University. He has conducted research at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (1997, 2006-07), and the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland (2002). Among Dubovyk's teaching and research interests are U.S. foreign policy, U.S.-Ukrainian relations, theory of international relations, Black Sea regional security, international conflict studies, and the foreign policy of Ukraine. He graduated from the History Department of Odessa State University.



► "Dissecting the Trump Administration's Policy on Ukraine" [[Panel 3](#)]

The "Ukraine policy" of the Trump administration has mostly followed the track crafted by the previous U.S. administration, despite the president's overtures toward the Kremlin. Firm U.S. support for Ukraine is evidenced by more sanctions against Russia and the delivery of lethal weapons, but much depends on Ukraine as it wrestles with corruption and prepares for presidential elections.

Dinissa Duvanova is Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at Lehigh University. Her research explores business-state relations, state regulatory quality, and bureaucratic institutions. She was a recipient of Foreign Language and Area Studies (U.S. Dept. of Education) and German Academic Exchange Service academic fellowships, and a postdoctoral fellowship from the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. After receiving her PhD from Ohio State University, she spent the 2007-08 academic year as a Visiting Scholar at Princeton University's Center for the Study of Democratic Politics. In 2014, she was awarded the Ed A. Hewett Book Prize for outstanding publication on the political economies of the wider Russia region for her book *Building Business in Post-Communist Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).



► "Goals, Plans, and Indicators: How Kazakh Bureaucrats Implement the State Developmental Agenda" [[Panel 6](#)]

The policy priorities of international economic organizations and national developmental objectives have produced a major reconfiguration of Kazakhstan's policymaking and administrative processes in ways that substitute developmental indicators for actual economic goals.

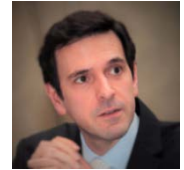
Jordan Gans-Morse is Associate Professor at Northwestern University. His research focuses on corruption, the rule of law, property rights, and political and economic transitions. Although his primary regional expertise is the former Soviet Union, he has conducted research on Central-Eastern Europe and Latin America. He is the author of *Property Rights in Post-Soviet Russia: Violence, Corruption, and Demand for Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and his recent publications have appeared in *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, and *Studies in International Comparative Development*. Gans-Morse received his PhD from University of California-Berkeley.



► "Effective Anti-Corruption Messaging: Lessons from Ukraine" [[Panel 3](#)]

Both government agencies and civil society activists widely employ anti-corruption messaging such as billboards, posters, television advertisements, and trainings, but which messages, if any, are effective?

George Gavrillis is an Independent Consultant specializing in international relations, foreign policy, higher education, and oral history. He is a specialist on the Middle East and Central Asia. He recently served as Executive Director of the Hollings Center for International Dialogue, which is based in Washington, DC, and Istanbul, Turkey. In 2008-09, he was an International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations and worked with the United Nations on various policy initiatives on Central Asia and Afghanistan. He is the author of *The Dynamics of Interstate Boundaries* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and has published articles in *Foreign Affairs* and *The New York Times* on topics including Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Israel, and the West Bank.



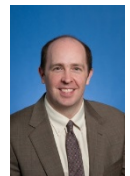
- ▶ “The Cold War, Post-Cold War and the Academy: An Oral History of Russian and Eurasian Studies” [[Lunch Talk](#)]
A look beyond the personalities and institutional origins of Russian/Eurasian area studies programs to explore the institutional pressures, intellectual trends, and university politics that have shaped the discipline. (Co-authored with **Alexander Cooley**, Barnard College, Columbia University.)

Theodore Gerber is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research examines socio-economic stratification, demographic processes, public opinion, and social change in contemporary Russia and other former Soviet republics. Gerber has conducted over 30 original surveys in Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, other former Soviet countries, Iraq, the Philippines, and the United States. He has received over \$4 million in competitively award grant money from the National Science Foundation, the Minerva Initiative, and other U.S. government sources to support his research. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of California-Berkeley. (Co-authored with **Jane Zavisca**, University of Arizona.)



- ▶ “Geopolitical Remittances: Russian Soft Power and Kyrgyz Labor Migration” [[Panel 2](#)]
The emerging image of Central Asian labor migrant experiences to Russia is overwhelmingly negative, which would lead one to expect that migrants return home with critical views of Russian institutions and people—yet, migrant flows persist.

Henry E. Hale is Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. He is Co-director of the PONARS Eurasia program and has spent extensive time conducting field research in post-Soviet Eurasia. His work has won two prizes from the American Political Science Association and he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for his research in Russia in 2007-08. Prior to joining George Washington University, he taught at Indiana University (2000-05), the European University at St. Petersburg, Russia (1999), and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (1997-98). He is Chair of the Editorial Board of *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*. [[Chair: Panel 1](#)]



Olexiy Haran is Research Director at the Democratic Initiatives Foundation and Professor of Political Science at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. He spent six years as a researcher at the Institute of History at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. In 2004-06, Haran served as the Eurasia Foundation’s Regional Vice-President for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. He is interviewed frequently and is the author of numerous publications including *Constructing a Political Nation: Changes in the Attitudes of Ukrainians during the War in the Donbas* (Kyiv: Stylos Publishers, 2017) and *Ukraine in Europe: Questions and Answers* (Kyiv: Stylos Publishers, 2009).



► “On the Eve of the Big Election Year in Ukraine: Winners Take a Toll?” [Panel 3]

Ukraine will hold presidential and parliamentary elections next year amid an ongoing conflict with Russia, a sluggish economy, and the rise of the populism. Will Kyiv make any radical policy changes? Is Moscow expected to intervene? (Co-authored with **Petro Burkovsky**, *National Institute for Strategic Studies*.)

Yoshiko M. Herrera is Professor of Comparative Politics and International Relations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was on the faculty in the Government Department at Harvard University from 1999-07. From 2011-14, Herrera was Director of the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, and from 2012-15 she was Co-director of the International Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From 2012-18, She was the Director of the University’s partnership with Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. Herrera’s research interests include U.S.-Russian relations, politics in Eurasia, nationalism, xenophobia, social identities, international norms, and constructivist political economy. She received her BA from Dartmouth College and MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. [Chair: Panel 4]



Erik Herron is the Eberly Family Professor of Political Science at West Virginia University. From 2001-14, he was a faculty member at the University of Kansas. He served as Program Director at the National Science Foundation (2011-14). His research focuses on political institutions, especially electoral systems. Herron has traveled extensively to conduct research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including a term as a Fulbright scholar in Ukraine and on twelve election observation missions. His articles and research have been published in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and more. He has published three books: *Mixed Electoral Systems: Contamination and its Consequences* (with Federico Ferrara and Misa Nishikawa; Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), *Elections and Democracy after Communism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), and the *Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems* (with Robert Pekkanen and Matthew Shugart; Oxford University Press, 2018).



► “War in the Donbas: Attacks on Health Care Infrastructure and Its Implications for Ukrainian State Capacity” [Panel 5]

The devastating scale of damage wrought on health care infrastructure in the armed conflict in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine is described, and the causes and impacts are explained. (Co-authored with **Cynthia Buckley**, *University of Illinois*, and **Ralph Clem**, *Florida International University*.)

William Hill is a Global Fellow at the Wilson Center and Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College. A retired Foreign Service officer, Hill is an expert on Russia and the former Soviet Union, east-west relations, and European multilateral diplomacy. He was posted to Moscow and Belgrade with the Foreign Service, supervised Voice of America broadcasts to the Soviet Union and Europe, oversaw State Department analyses of East Europe during the wars in the former Yugoslavia, and was Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova for seven years (from 1999). He recently published his book *No Place for Russia: European Security Institutions Since 1989* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press/Columbia University Press, 2018). [Discussant: Panel 1]



Volodymyr Ishchenko is Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. He is a founder of *Commons: Journal for Social Criticism* and the *LeftEast* web-magazine. He has authored a number of articles and provided interviews on the radical right and radical left and their participation in the Ukrainian Maidan uprising and the ensuing conflict in Eastern Ukraine. He is currently working on an analysis of the Maidan uprising from the perspective of the sociology of social movements and revolutions theories.



► “Nationalist Radicalization Trends in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine” [[Panel 5](#)]

The lack of a clear institutionalized political and ideological boundary between liberal and far-right forces lends legitimacy to the radical nationalist agenda. Moreover, oligarchic groups exploit radicalizing nationalism, not out of any shared ideology, but because it threatens their interests less than the liberal reformers.

Mark Kramer is Director of the Cold War studies program at Harvard University and Senior Fellow of Harvard’s Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. He has taught at Harvard, Yale, and Brown Universities and was formerly an Academy Scholar in Harvard’s Academy of International and Area Studies and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. Kramer is the author or editor of several books and has written nearly 200 articles on a variety of topics. He has worked extensively in the archives in all the former Warsaw Pact countries and several Western countries. He has been a consultant for numerous government agencies and international organizations.



► “U.S.-Russian Relations and the ‘New Cold War’ Metaphor” [[Panel 1](#)]

If the metaphor of a Cold War is not intellectually sustainable, how can we best understand the deterioration of Russia’s ties with the United States and other Western countries?

Volodymyr Kulyk is Head Research Fellow at the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. He has also taught at Columbia, Stanford, Yale, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and Ukrainian Catholic University. He has had research fellowships at Harvard, Stanford, University College London, University of Alberta, Woodrow Wilson Center, and at other Western scholarly institutions. His research fields include the politics of language, memory and identity, nationalism, ideology, and discourse and mass media in contemporary Ukraine. Among other publications, Kulyk is the author of *Revisiting a Success Story: Implementation of the Recommendations of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities to Ukraine, 1994-2001* (Centre for OSCE Research, 2002) and *Dyskurs ukraïnskykh medii: identychnosti, ideolohii, vladni stosunky* (“*The Ukrainian Media Discourse: Identities, Ideologies, Power Relations*”; Krytyka, 2010). He guest edited a special issue of the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* entitled “Languages and Language Ideologies in Ukraine” (2010).



► “Religion and Geopolitics: Kyiv and Moscow Clash Over the Constantinople Patriarchate’s Decision on Ukrainian Autocephaly” [[Panel 3](#)]

On April 17, 2018, President Poroshenko unexpectedly summoned the heads of the parliamentary factions to tell them that Ukraine was “as close as ever” to obtaining autocephaly for its Orthodox Church. While long cherished by many Ukrainian clergymen, intellectuals, and politicians as an important attribute of nationhood, autocephaly has become likely recently due to a number of domestic and international factors.

Marlene Laruelle is Associate Director and Research Professor at the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. She is Co-director of PONARS Eurasia (Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia) and Director of the Central Asia Program (CAP). Laruelle received her PhD in history from the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Cultures (INALCO) and her post-doctoral degree in political science at Sciences-Po in Paris. She works on ideologies, national identity, and nationalism in Russia.



- ▶ “Testing Causes of U.S. Favorability Decrease in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan” [[Panel 6](#)]
How can we interpret the collapse of U.S. favorability in Central Asia? Several hypotheses are tested with a focus on Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan involving youth demographics, English proficiency, and Russian news consumption. (Co-authored with **Eric McGlinchey**, George Mason University (also presenting), **Wendy Chen**, George Mason University, and **Dylan Royce**, George Washington University.)

Jeffrey Mankoff is Deputy Director and Senior Fellow with the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program. He is the author of *Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power Politics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009) and a frequent commentator on international security, Russian foreign policy, regional security in the Caucasus and Central Asia, ethnic conflict, and energy security. He was an Adviser on US-Russia relations at the U.S. Department of State and a Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. From 2008-10, Mankoff was Associate Director of International Security Studies at Yale University. In addition to his policy research, Mankoff teaches courses on international security and Central Asia at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. [[Discussant: Panel 5](#)]

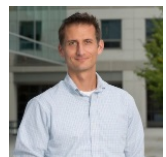


Erica Marat is Associate Professor at the College of International Security Affairs of the National Defense University. She is an expert on security issues in post-communist countries with a focus on military, national, and regional defenses, as well as state-crime relations. Before joining the College of International Security Affairs, Marat was a Visiting Scholar at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center. She is the author of *The Politics of Police Reform: Society against the State in Post-Soviet Countries* (University of Oxford Press, 2018).



- ▶ “Kazakhstan: A New Citizen, Policed” [[Panel 6](#)]
President Nazarbayev hopes his legacy will include transforming a post-Soviet population into modern, open-minded, and law-abiding citizens. However, the tragic death of a young athlete in Almaty re-ignited the conversation about whether the administration can handle the nation’s changing socio-economic landscape.

Eric McGlinchey is Associate Professor in the Department of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University. His areas of research include comparative politics, Central Asian regime change, political Islam, and social mobilization. McGlinchey is the author of *Chaos, Violence, Dynasty: Politics and Islam in Central Asia* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011). His current book project explores social protest in Central Asia.



- ▶ “Testing Causes of U.S. Favorability Decrease in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan” [[Panel 6](#)]
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E. Wayne Merry is Senior Fellow for Europe and Eurasia at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, DC. In twenty-six years in the United States Foreign Service, he worked as a diplomat and political analyst specializing in Soviet and post-Soviet political issues, including six years at the American Embassy in Moscow, where he was in charge of political analysis on the breakup of the Soviet Union and the early years of post-Soviet Russia. Merry has served at the embassies in Tunis, East Berlin, and Athens and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York. In Washington, he served in the Treasury, State, and Defense Departments. In the Pentagon, he served as the Regional Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia during the mid-Nineties. He also served at the Headquarters of the US Marine Corps and on Capitol Hill with the staff of the U.S. Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe. [\[Discussant: Panel 2\]](#)



Viatcheslav Morozov is Professor of EU-Russia Studies at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at the University of Tartu, Estonia. He Chairs the Council of the University's Centre for EU-Russia Studies (CEURUS) and the Programme Committee of the Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies. Before moving to Estonia in 2010, he taught for 13 years at St. Petersburg State University in Russia. Morozov works on issues of Russian national identity and foreign policy. His book *Russia and the Others: Identity and Boundaries of a Political Community* (Moscow: NLO Books, 2009) introduces neo-Gramscian theory of hegemony to Russian identity studies. His recent research aims to reveal how Russia's political and social development has been conditioned by the country's position in the international system, an approach laid out in his most recent monograph *Russia's Postcolonial Identity: A Subaltern Empire in a Eurocentric World* (Palgrave, 2015).



- ▶ "Russia and the 'Western' Rules: On the Cultural Aspects of Great Power Misconduct" [\[Panel 1\]](#)
When facing the hegemonic West, Russia often puts aside the "civilized" rules of international interaction and behaves like a trickster peasant trying to deceive a powerful landlord. Popular identification with the peasant is an important source of political legitimacy. (Co-authored with *Xymena Kurowska*, Central European University and Aberystwyth University, and *Anatoly Reshetnikov*, Central European University.)

Mariya Omelicheva is Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College of the National Defense University. Her disciplinary background is in the fields of international relations, foreign policy analysis, and comparative politics. Her research focuses on a variety of transnational phenomena, such as democracy and autocracy promotion, counterterrorism and security assistance, Islamic radicalization, and the nexus of trafficking and terrorism. Her regional expertise includes Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Georgia. Omelicheva's current project is on the terrorism-trafficking nexus in Eurasia and utilizes GIS-enabled methods (along with other advanced tools) for visualizing and analyzing the intersections of these spheres.



- ▶ "'Armed Underground': Diffused and Fragmented Terrorist Networks in Russia's North Caucasus" [\[Panel 4\]](#)
Some observers have concluded that terrorist threats in Russia have mutated from a localized and homegrown problem into an ISIS-inspired international one. However, this misconstrues the complex nature of terrorist violence in the country, the majority of which remain homegrown and localized. (Co-authored with *Lawrence P. Markowitz*, Rowan University.)

Maria Popova is the Jean Monnet Chair of and Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at McGill University, Canada. She works on the intersection of politics and law and has written about the rule of law, judicial reform, political corruption, populist parties, and the legal repression of political dissent under authoritarianism. Her book about Russian and Ukrainian courts during the 1990s-2000, *Politicized Justice in Emerging Democracies* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), won the 2012-13 American Association for Ukrainian Studies prize for best book in the fields of Ukrainian history, politics, language, literature, and culture. Popova's current research projects focuses on post-Maidan judicial reform in Ukraine, the prosecution of political corruption in the Balkans and East Central Europe, and the weaponization of law by populists and authoritarians across the post-communist region. She holds a BA in Government and Spanish from Dartmouth College and an MA and PhD in Government from Harvard University. [Chair: Panel 3]



Scott Radnitz is Associate Professor in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies and Director of the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. He researches post-Soviet politics with an emphasis on Central Asia and the Caucasus, specializing in topics such as protests, identity, and informal politics. He is currently writing a book on the political uses of conspiracy theories in the post-Soviet region. Radnitz is the author of *Weapons of the Wealthy: Predatory Regimes and Elite-Led Protests in Central Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2010). He has contributed to journals including *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Democracy*, and *Post-Soviet Affairs*. He is on the Advisory Council of the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center.



- “The Unstrategic Logic of Fifth Column Claims in Russia and the Near Abroad” [Panel 2]
Results are reported from the first effort to collect and analyze claims about fifth column activity in the post-Soviet period. The data come from a larger project on conspiracy theories in the region and cover a sampling of time periods associated with critical events from 1995 to 2014.

Sean Roberts is Associate Professor of the Practice of International Affairs and Director of the International Development Studies Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. His areas of expertise are development theory, democracy development, media and development, culture and politics, indigenous rights, Central Asia, former Soviet Union, and China. Roberts has conducted ethnographic fieldwork among the Uyghur people of Central Asia and China during the 1990s, he has published extensively on this community in scholarly journals and collected volumes. In addition, he produced a documentary film on the community entitled *Waiting for Uighurstan* (1996). He has worked at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Central Asia and as a Senior Program Officer at the Center for Civil Society and Governance at the Academy for Educational Development where he managed a peace-building project in Darfur, Sudan and an anti-corruption project in Moldova. He received his PhD from the University of Southern California. [Chair: Panel 6]



Peter Rollberg is Director of the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. Born in Halberstadt, Germany, in 1959, he received his PhD in Slavic Studies from the University of Leipzig in 1988. After teaching at Duke University, he joined the faculty of George Washington University in 1991. His fields of expertise are Russian and Eurasian literature and film history. [Chair: Lunch Talk]



Paul Stronski is Senior Fellow in the Russia and Eurasia Program of The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His research focuses on the relationship between Russia and neighboring countries in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Until January 2015, He served as a Senior Analyst for Russian domestic politics in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Stronski was director for Russia and Central Asia on the U.S. National Security Council staff from 2012-14, where he supported the president, the national security advisor, and other senior U.S. administration officials on the development and coordination of policy toward Russia. He worked as a State Department analyst on Russia from 2011-12, and on Armenia and Azerbaijan from 2007-10. A former career U.S. Foreign Service Officer, he served in Hong Kong from 2005-07. [\[Discussant: Panel 6\]](#)



Mikhail Troitskiy is Dean of the School of Government and International Affairs at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), Associate Professor at MGIMO, and IMARES Program Professor at the European University at St. Petersburg. In 2009-15, he worked as Deputy Director and Program Officer at the Moscow office of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He was Deputy Dean of the MGIMO School of Political Affairs in 2007-09. Troitskiy has held visiting fellowships at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and Cambridge and Oxford Universities. He has published in English and Russian on international security, negotiation theory, conflict resolution, arms control, Russian foreign policy, and U.S.-Russian relations. His opinion pieces have appeared in *The International New York Times*, *American Interest*, *Survival*, and *Yale Global*. Recently, he co-authored and co-edited (with Fen Osler Hampson) *Tug of War: Negotiating Security in Eurasia* (McGill-Queen's University/CIGI Press, 2017).



► “The Politics of U.S.-Russian Arms Control” [\[Panel 1\]](#)

For arms control to work, the intentions of the engaged parties need to be transparent. In U.S.-Russian relations, arms control has rarely, if ever, helped to reduce conflict in other areas; rather, it has followed preceding thaws in the mutual relationship.

Joshua A. Tucker is Professor of Politics, affiliated Professor of Russian and Slavic Studies, and affiliated Professor of Data Science, at New York University. He is the Director of the NYU Jordan Center for Advanced Study of Russia, one of the Co-founders and Co-directors of the NYU Social Media and Political Participation (SMaPP) laboratory, and a co-author/editor of the award-winning Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*. He specializes in the study of mass political behavior, including elections and voting, the development of partisan attachment, public opinion formation, and mass protest. Through his research at the SMaPP lab, Tucker has been at the forefront of efforts to explore the effects of social media on political participation and politics, as well as developing methods for utilizing social media data to study politics in new ways. He is co-author of the recently published book *Communism's Shadow: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Political Attitudes* (Princeton University Press, 2017).



► “The Use of Twitter Bots in Russian Political Communications” [\[Panel 2\]](#)

Abundant anecdotal evidence suggests that authoritarian regimes have recently become increasingly active in their use of social media for disinformation and propaganda via bots and trolls. Different types of coordinated bot activity for both pro-regime and anti-regime accounts are revealed. (Co-authored with *Richard Bonneau, Sergey Sanovich, and Denis Stukal, New York University.*)

Anar Valiyev is Associate Professor at ADA University in Baku. His areas of expertise are public policy of post-Soviet republics, democracy and governance, and urban development and planning. In 2017, he was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins University. Valiyev received his BA and MA in History from Baku State University, his second MA from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, and his PhD from the School of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville, Kentucky.



- ▶ “U.S. Disengagement from the South Caucasus: A Holy Place Is Never Empty” [[Panel 4](#)]
As the United States disengages from the South Caucasus, which is hungry for investments, Russia, Turkey, Iran, and China are looking at the region far more attentively.

Cory Welt is Analyst in European Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. He was Associate Director and Research Professor of International Affairs at the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, where he also Co-directed the PONARS Eurasia program. He was previously Associate Director and Director of the Eurasian Strategy Project at Georgetown University, where he was also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Foreign Service, and Deputy Director and Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia program at CSIS. He received his PhD in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his BA and MA from Stanford University. [[Discussant: Panel 4](#)]



Alexandra Yatsyk is Visiting Researcher at the University of Warsaw and at the Polish Institute of Advanced Studies. She has been a Visiting Fellow or Lecturer at the Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala University; Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna; University of Tartu in Estonia; University of Tampere in Finland; Center for Urban History of East-Central Europe in Lviv, Ukraine; and IERES, George Washington University. Yatsyk received her PhD in Sociology from Kazan State University and has run the Kazan Center for Cultural Studies of Post-Socialism. Her areas of expertise are in post-Soviet nation building, sports and cultural mega-events, biopolitics, art politics, and refugee crises. She is the author or co-author of *Lotman’s Cultural Semiotics and the Political* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2017), *Mega-Events in Post-Soviet Eurasia: Shifting Borderlines of Inclusion and Exclusion* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), *New and Old Vocabularies of International Relations After the Ukraine Crisis* (Routledge, 2016), and *Boris Nemtsov and Russian Politics: Power and Resistance* (Ibidem Verlag & Columbia University, 2018).



- ▶ “To Hack and Ban: Russia’s Cyber Activism at Home and Abroad” [[Panel 2](#)]
Russian international and domestic cyber policies are expressed through two recent cases: the state-sponsored, disruptive, cyber activities targeting U.S. political processes and the restrictive policies concerning online freedoms for Russians as shown by the Kremlin’s actions against Telegram.