

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
SLAVIC, GERMAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

THE SGES NEWSLETTER

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CHAIR’S CORNER

by Nina Vyatkina



Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of the Department,

As we approach the end of 2025, I would like to look back on the new developments at the department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian

Studies (SGES) and many accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff.

This past summer, Mariah Hicks took over as the SGES administrative associate from Wyatt Haywood, who stepped down after many years of outstanding service. With the help of Rosalyn Lucas, our other longtime administrative associate, Mariah has quickly learned the ropes and has been doing an excellent job assisting the Chair, faculty, and students with many facets of the department’s everyday operations. Thank you, Mariah!

I would also like to acknowledge this year’s hard work of the departmental leadership: Oleksandra Wallo as Director of Graduate Studies, RB Perelmutter as Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, Stephen Dickey as Coordinator of Undergraduate Assessment, and Marike Janzen as Director of the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies.

Furthermore, my heartfelt thanks go to all our faculty and graduate student instructors, who continued serving our students and advancing our department’s mission with unwavering dedication and enthusiasm. One of the tangible outcomes of their efforts is the constantly growing number of students who take SGES courses: the number of SGES student credit hours this year as of fall 2025 has reached the all-time high of 5,759! The numbers of our majors and minors are also growing: our program currently serves 32

BA majors, 26 minors, 14 PhD students, and 6 MA students. Look out for our spring 2026 newsletter to read about the outstanding achievements of our students who will be recognized at our yearly awards ceremony in April 2026.

This fall has also been marked by numerous faculty research accomplishments, prestigious awards, and numerous SGES and Max Kade Center events that have engaged both KU and the broader community.

Dr. Marta Pirnat Greenberg, our Lecturer Emerita, received an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Slovenian Studies from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, where she was honored on July 7.

Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky received the 2025 Kansas Board of Regents Faculty of the Year Award. He was recognized for his efforts in public-facing scholarship and educating KU students and the local, national, and international community about the impact of Russia’s full-scale invasion in Ukraine. Dr. Chernetsky was honored at the Kansas Board of Regents meeting in Topeka on September 17.

Dr. Irina Six received the 2025 Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies (CREES) Faculty Service Award. Dr. Six was recognized for her many years of running KU’s top-notch Russian-language program, going above and beyond in helping all students succeed, and co-authoring the national-award-winning *Russian Through Film* textbook.

Several SGES faculty participated in meetings with the delegation from the University of Regensburg (UR), Germany, that resulted in a new strategic partnership agreement signed by the KU Chancellor and the UR President. One of the receptions for the Regensburg guests and KU leadership was hosted at the Max Kade Center and was a big success. As one of the first initiatives of the partnership, SGES faculty Dr. Marike Janzen and Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky won UR fellowships to conduct research there next summer. We are looking forward to more collaborations and exchanges to result from this growing partnership!

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This edition of the SGES Newsletter was edited by Dr. Marike Janzen. Design by Ruthann Mariah Hicks.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our donors. Your generosity makes it possible for us to offer outstanding opportunities to our students and to continue expanding our program. We accomplish so much because of your support, and we are deeply grateful for your dedication to SGES. These are but a few highlights; please read more about these and other milestones and events in this newsletter.

Wishing all of you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

Warm regards,



Professor Nina Vyatkina
SGES Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

by Oleksandra Wallo



In 2025, Slavic graduate students continued to make steady progress towards their degrees, with a few students completing important milestones. In January of 2025, doctoral student Kamila Saifeeva defended her professional PhD portfolio with honors and became ABD. Her excellent dissertation project earned her KU’s competitive Summer Research Scholarship, which permitted Kamila to focus entirely on her dissertation in the summer of 2025. Also in the summer, Kamila’s article “(Sure), Go Ahead, (But): Levels of Approval and Russian Imperatives” was published in *Russian Linguistics* ([read the article here](#)). At the end of Spring 2025, Murad Jalilov successfully passed his MA/PhD qualifying exams and entered the Slavic PhD program. Congratulations, Kamila and Murad!

The summer of 2025 saw several of our graduate students step into new summer teaching roles. While most students taught at KU, doctoral student Andriyana Baran was hired by the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies at Stony Brook University to teach an intensive eight-week course in elementary Ukrainian.

The entire year of 2025 was full of conference presentations by many of our graduate students. Andriyana Baran participated in a roundtable about using the online open-education Ukrainian textbook PodorozhiUA.com at the AATSEEL Conference in February. She also gave a paper, “ChatGPT as a Conversational Partner: Benefits and Challenges,” at the MWALLT Virtual Conference in March. In October, doctoral student Oksana Vykhopen presented on women and war in Andrei Kurkov’s novel *Grey*

Bees at the Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

She then gave a longer, reworked version of this paper, titled “Ethics and Politics of Care in Andrey Kurkov’s *Grey Bees*,” at the Shevchenko Workshop in Ukrainian Studies in New York, organized by the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Thanks to the networking opportunities at these events, Oksana was invited to join the Communication and Student Outreach Committee of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies. Kamila Saifeeva presented a paper, titled “X ne X Constructions in Russian: The Cases of Hedging and Metonymic Compression,” at the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Conference that took place at KU in October. Finally, three of our graduate students participated in the ASEES Convention this year: doctoral student Marta Kapszewicz gave her paper, “Polish Women’s Strike in Nationwide Press: Critical Discourse Analysis,” at the virtual ASEES in October; and doctoral students Masha Shishmareva and Murad Jalilov presented papers on pain and suffering in nineteenth-century literature at an in-person ASEES panel in November. Murad also took the lead on organizing this panel.



Masha Shishmareva and Murad Jalilov at their ASEES panel in Washington, DC.

Ukrainian graduate students from our program continued their outreach activities through the Ukrainian Student Association, hosting and participating in five different events in 2025, which ranged from a Yavoriv toy-making workshop to a podcast about Ukraine on KU radio.

Last but not least, this fall the ranks of Slavic graduate students grew by five students: Anna Ganitseva and Farrukh Varisov joined the Slavic PhD program while André Aggeklint, Eryn Cannon, and Dakota Morgan entered the REES concentration of our MA program. Anna, Farrukh, André, Eryn, and Dakota – WELCOME!

Kamila Saifeeva and her committee members at the professional PhD portfolio defense.



Slavic graduate students Andriyana Baran and Oksana Vykhopen, together with the Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant from Ukraine, Yuliia Lavrenchuk, get ready for a podcast about Ukraine at the KU student-run radio station KJHK.

KU'S SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN HOLZKIRCHEN 2025

by Andrea Meyertholen

Summer 2025 marked another triumphant return of the Summer Language Institute (SLI) in Holzkirchen to Holzkirchen!

At the beginning of June, twelve highly engaged students from KU and the University of Arkansas brought good humor and positive attitudes to Germany. We first embarked on a two-week trip to visit Berlin and Dresden, before heading down to Bavaria for our homestay in Holzkirchen. We were warmly and ceremoniously welcomed to the city by representatives of the *Freunde der Universität Kansas in Holzkirchen*, Albert Schlegl and Günther Reichenthaler, the mayor of Holzkirchen, Christoph Schmid, the students' host families, and a marching band. During our next five weeks, I met with our twelve wonderful students daily to watch German films, review German grammar, discuss current events, and read German fairy tales.

Some evenings we took part in traditional town cultural events, such as at the local *Trachtenverein*, a society dedicated to the preservation of traditional dress and dance. After learning the intricacies (and prices!) of *Dirndl* and *Lederhosen*, students took to the stage to learn the choreography of knee-slaps and pirouettes typical of traditional Bavarian dance.

This year we forged partnerships with several local schools, including the *Gymnasium Holzkirchen* (high schoolers), the *Staatliche Fachoberschule Holzkirchen* (vocational school), and the *Mittelschule* (secondary school that offers a general education and prepares students for vocational training or further education).

In addition to touring the schools themselves and learning about the various educational pathways in Bavaria, we also met with students learning English at each institution to ask and answer questions about cultural differences and stereotypes. Our day at the *Mittelschule* with younger students was particularly memorable.



These young language learners were paired with KU students to conduct interviews in English, before giving us each a tour of their school in German. Afterwards we played basketball and soccer on the playground!

On Mondays we took learning out of the classroom as we visited cultural sites set in the surrounding countryside. In Salzburg we had a musical tour through the "Mozartstadt," which also included some familiar facades from *The Sound of Music*. We headed into the German and Austrian Alps, first to visit the other two castles built by King Ludwig II, Neuschwanstein and Linderhof; and then to reach the Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden. After ascending the Alpine heights of Berchtesgaden, we descended into the nearby salt mines where we rode no less than two trains, two slides, and an ambient boat ride over an underground salt lake with a light show choreographed to new-age music.

The summer ended bittersweetly, as it always does, with a tear-filled farewell from our hosts and host family. We were feted in style during this past summer's farewell party, for which the students and I also provided the entertainment. Besides compiling and scoring a greatest-hits slide show for the host parents, the students performed original fairy-tale mash-up theater pieces (in German of course!).

Although these amazing events and the wonderful students of this past summer will be tough to top, plans for the 2026 SLI in Holzkirchen are already underway as we look forward to introducing a group of new faces to meet old friends in our Bavarian home away from home.



SGES DEPARTMENT EVENTS FALL 2025

CAPITAL RE-TRANSLATED AND THE LATE MARX: A SYMPOSIUM

On September 18th and 19th, scholars Paul North (Yale), Paul Reitter (The Ohio State University), and Kevin Anderson (UC Santa Barbara) came to KU for an engaging symposium on Reitter and North's new translation of Karl Marx's *Capital, Volume 1* (Princeton 2024) and Anderson's most recent book, *The Late Marx's Revolutionary Roads: Colonialism, Gender, and Indigenous Communism* (Verso 2025).

The symposium began on Thursday evening with a presentation by North on his forthcoming monograph, titled "The Standpoint of Marx's *Capital*," in which North argued—in front of a full house—for a reading of *Capital* that foregrounds its perspectival shifts. On Friday morning, Ari Linden (SGES) and David Smith (Sociology) moderated an in-depth conversation with North and Reitter on the new translation, discussing specific passages and the curatorial and editorial decisions that informed their translation process. Later that afternoon, Kevin Anderson presented on "Marx's Late Writings: Theories of Revolutionary Change and of Alternatives to Capitalism," which focused on Marx's late and lesser-known writings on Russia, India, and the Americas. Akiko Takeyama (WGSS) gave a spirited response to Anderson, interrogating the extent to which his presentation was still limited by its Eurocentric framework. The interdisciplinary audience—consisting of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and emeriti—actively participated throughout the symposium, evidencing the importance of debating and discussing this kind of material at this historical juncture.



Ari Linden introducing Paul North (Yale), Paul Reitter (The Ohio State University) and Kevin Anderson (UC Santa Barbara).



KU SGES HOSTS THE 20TH CONFERENCE OF THE SLAVIC COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION

On October 11–12, KU's Department of Slavic, German and Eurasian Languages hosted the 20th Conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association (SCLA). The conference was organized by SCLA's vice president, Stephen Dickey of SGES, and its president, Dr. Mateusz-Milan Stanojević of the University of Zagreb. The conference featured two plenary lectures, by Dr. Andrea D. Sims of The Ohio State University ("From Forms to Networks: What Can Network Modeling Show Us About Morphological Organization?") and Dr. David S. Danaher of the University Wisconsin-Madison ("The Václav Havel Key Word Project"), and included nineteen papers by specialists from all over the world who presented



on cognitive approaches to several Slavic languages—Russian, Ukrainian, Czech, and Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian. The topics included perennial themes of Slavic grammatical analysis as well as treatments of second-language pedagogy, a paper on Zamyatin's *We* and a comparative analysis of Russian and Japanese aspect.

The conference also featured a paper by our very own doctoral candidate, Kamila Saifeeva, entitled "X ne X Constructions in Russian: The Cases of Hedging and Metonymic Compression" (pictured).

This year's conference was the second held at KU (the first was in 2005) and also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association, which was founded in 2000 in a smoke-filled back room in Charlotte, NC, by Dr. Laura A. Janda (now of the University of Tromsø) and Stephen Dickey, on the latter's proposal that "we need to organize." SCLA has held conferences in America and Europe regularly ever since, and is going strong as ever. Its next conference will be held in 2027 in Rijeka, Croatia.

“WE ONCE WERE A GARDEN” OLHA FILONCHUK VISIT

This fall, our department hosted the Ukrainian artist Olha Filonchuk for a one-month residency supported by a grant from CEC ArtsLink. KU has been collaborating with CEC ArtsLink since 2015, and it has provided us with unique opportunities to bring vibrant and acclaimed artists, curators, and writers to our campus. Filonchuk is the fifth fellow that Slavic, and now SGES, has hosted on campus (one other fellow’s residency was virtual due to the pandemic).

A native of Kherson, Ukraine, Olha Filonchuk came to Germany as a refugee from Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Originally specializing in stage and costume design, especially in theatre for children, she developed a range of new projects related to questions of memory and identity, as well as erasure and endurance, working with a variety of media, including digital, but also drawn strongly to plants. In this, her artistic research reverberated with that of Alevtina Kakhidze, the acclaimed Ukrainian artist we hosted as a CEC ArtsLink fellow in 2021. Filonchuk more recently returned to Kyiv, but has continued to work on a variety of international art projects. Her latest exhibition resulted from a residency in Przemysl, Poland, where she focused on the traces of gardens near the present-day Polish-Ukrainian border that were part of Ukrainian villages that ceased to exist after Stalin-ordered population exchange between Poland and Ukraine after World War II, and reflected on the echoes of those erasures in the context of Ukraine’s resistance against Russia’s war of aggression. The artist discussed this and other projects in her talk at the Max Kade Center, titled “We Once Were a Garden.”



Filonchuk’s artistic research project at KU focused on sunflowers, a plant with potent symbolism and importance for both Kansas, where it is the state flower, and Ukraine, which is the world’s leading producer of sunflower oil. It included collaboration with faculty in the Visual Art Department, research at the Kansas Collection at the Spencer Research Library, and visits to KU’s field station. The artist also brought from Ukraine vintage homespun cloth which she dyed here using a natural dye derived from a variety of sunflowers used for this purpose by Native Americans, and will use it in creating new artwork. Filonchuk also met on several occasions with KU students and faculty, as well as community members interested in Ukrainian topics, and gave a guest lecture on Ukrainian textile and clothing design to art students. Like the previous CEC ArtsLink residencies at KU, this was a highly rewarding experience for everyone involved.



A piece done by artist Olha Filonchuk. Titled We Once Were An Ocean.

GREETINGS FROM THE MAX KADE CENTER FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES



We had a busy year at the Max Kade Center! In Spring 2025, we hosted and co-sponsored four talks that spoke to issues of authoritarianism and history, the social power of art, and German American relations. In February, we hosted Linda Kinstler, Junior Fellow of Harvard University's Society of Fellows, author of *Come to this Court and Cry: How the Holocaust Ends* (Public Affairs, 2022), who gave a talk titled "The Body of the Crime: Soviet Rehabilitation and the Rewriting of History." Kinstler's talk focused on Soviet, and now Russian, policies and processes of addressing—and not addressing—victims of political repression. That same month, artist and writer Maya Gurantz, Simons Public Humanities Fellow at the Hall Center for the Humanities, gave a talk and performance titled

"The Sunworshippers" about the cult Mazdaznan established by German immigrant to the U.S., Otto Haenisch in the early twentieth century. Gurantz addressed the wide-ranging influence of Mazdaznan, including its significance for the Bauhaus School. In March, the Max Kade Center co-sponsored a talk with the Peace and Conflict Studies Program of the SGES Department: University of California, Davis, art professor Shiva Ahmadi's presentation "Motion and Meaning: Art Beyond Conflict." Ahmadi spoke about the way her work, inspired in part by Persian miniature painting, addresses contemporary geopolitical issues such as flight and resource extraction. Finally, in April, we hosted Timothy Nunan, historian and Professor of Transregional Cultures of Knowledge at the University of Regensburg, Germany, for a talk on

shifting relation between the U.S. and Germany titled "Sick Man of Europe: German Politics and German-American Relations after the 2025 Elections."

In the summer we shifted gears from intellectual activity to renovation! Thanks to funding from the Max Kade Foundation and Professor Emeritus and former director of the Max Kade Center, Frank Baron, we were able to remodel the apartment in the building designated for visiting scholars. We were also able to refinish the floors of the main seminar room and the floor of the upstairs seminar room. This work wrapped up in October, and we were fortunate to have the help of four fantastic student workers during this busy time: Ben Egin, Hannah Kaiser, Abigail Butler, and Eilish Frissell. Ben is from Hamburg, Germany, and his pursuing his Masters of Business Administration here at KU. Hannah is a Psychology major, and Abigail and Eilish are German Studies majors. All four cheerfully pitched in to tackle the sweaty work necessary to help make the renovation possible, including: moving boxes of books and furniture out of rooms that needed to be redone; moving books and furniture back into rooms that had new floors and new paint; and cleaning up construction debris.

In the summer we had to say goodbye to Max Kade Assistant Director, Wyatt Haywood, when he took a position as financial and office manager at the Spencer Museum of Art. Thank you, Wyatt, for your fantastic service to the Max Kade Center!



Join the Max Kade Center email list to stay up to date with events, collections updates, and other news!

In the fall we were able to take up scholarly activity once again. In September, Professor Ari Linden of the SGES department hosted a well-attended symposium, "*Capital* Re-translated and the Late Marx," on a new translation of Karl Marx's *Capital*. Scholars from Yale, The Ohio State University, and University of California, Santa Barbara, came to share their expertise. In October, we were pleased to have Ukrainian artist Olha Filonchuk, CEC ArtsLink, artist in residence at KU, give a talk on her work titled "Tracing Connections: We Once Were a Garden." (Please see Professor Linden and Professor Chernetsky's write-ups of these events in this issue of the newsletter for more detailed information.)

During the fall, we also continued to host various groups. The Kansas Association of Teachers of German once again held their annual "Deutsches Wochenende" at the Center. Detlev Weber's classes GERM 201, Intermediate German and GERM 315, Magic, Murder, and Monsters in German Literature, visited the Center to learn about the Max Kade Center's collections.



FACULTY UPDATES



2025 was a busy year for Prof. **Vitaly Chernetsky**. He was invited to contribute the chapter titled “Literatures of Ukraine” for the Oxford Handbook of Ukrainian History, scheduled to be published in 2027. The Handbook of Ukrainian Literature, which he is co-editing with four other colleagues for Academic Studies Press and which will come out in 2026, received a grant from the Lysiak-Rudnytsky Program run by the Ukrainian Institute. Prof. Chernetsky contributed the preface to Extractions, the English-language volume of collected poems by the prominent Ukrainian-American poet Yuriy Tarnawsky, published in September. He gave a keynote address at a translation studies symposium at Davidson College, guest lectures at the University of Toronto and the University of Munich, as well as two online guest lectures for the Ukrainian Institute London. Prof. Chernetsky delivered papers at a conference on the Ukrainian film director Kira Muratova that accompanied the comprehensive retrospective of her work at the Lincoln Center in New York, as well as at a conference on Russophone writing outside Russia at the University of Konstanz. He presented at the AATSEEL, ALTA, and ASEEEES conventions, as well as at the ICCEES congress, which took place in London this year. This was the final year of his service on the ASEEEES Executive Committee, as the association’s immediate Past President, and the first year of his service as President of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the US, a Ukrainian-American research and educational nonprofit headquartered in New York. At the Shevchenko Scientific Society, he co-organized a new young researcher workshop, which took place this fall and featured among the presenters one of our department’s graduate students, Oksana Vykhopen. Prof. Chernetsky is a recipient of the 2025 KBOR

Faculty of the Year Award; he was also awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the Global Coalition for Ukrainian Studies, presented at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington in November.



Stephen M. Dickey has been working again on an upcoming book on the evolution of Slavic verbal aspect. He presented a paper entitled “Segmentative Verbs in Croatian and Serbian” at the 20th Conference of the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association at KU in October, which he organized as the vice president of the association. Then in November, invited by the graduate students of Indiana University’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, he gave a lecture on his aspect work entitled “An Epistemic Approach to Aspect and Verbal Reference in Slavic.” This year, after a long pause, he revised and revived SLAV 316: The Peoples and Cultures of Southeastern Europe through Film, which has been a great experience all around.

Marc L. Greenberg has continued editing the Brill Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics, the online edition of which is nearly complete. The print edition is scheduled for late 2026. He has been co-editing a collaborative thematic volume, *Languages, Nations, and Standardization in Slavia: So Similar and Yet So Different*, the ideas for which germinated during a KU-based collaboration in Spring 2022 with visiting professors Motoki Nomachi (Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University) and Mate Kapović (University of Zagreb). The volume is under contract with Amsterdam University Press and is expected to appear in 2026 with contributions from scholars in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech



Republic, Finland, Italy, Japan, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the UK, and the US, including from the editors themselves. In September he gave a plenary talk at the 5th biennial meeting of the Cetinjski filološki dani (Montenegro) entitled “Što je u imenu? Zapažanja o kvazietnonimima na osnovu jezičkih posebnosti” (‘What’s in a name? Observations on quasi-ethnonyms based on language peculiarities’), which he reprised in English at the SGES Colloquium in November as “Slavic Shibbolethnonyms.” (A “shibbolethnonym” is a name for a group of people that is formed around a dialect peculiarity.) He served on several committees, including the College’s General Research Fund, the Austrian Science Fund, and the Škrabec Foundation (Slovenia). In Fall 2025 he began the first semester of phased retirement.

In July ceremony in Ljubljana, Slovenia, lecturer emerita **Marta Pirnat-Greenberg** received the Toporišič award (Toporišičevo priznanje) for her lifetime achievements in teaching and researching Slovene language, as well as for her support of international student/institutional exchange and cooperation. The award is given by the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana and the Center for Slovene as a Second Languages. Details of her contributions that were considered for the award are available in a linked document on the award website. Below is a picture from the ceremony at the opening of the 61st annual Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture, taken at the Cukrarna, Ljubljana. A substantially revised edition of her *Colloquial Slovene* (Routledge) will appear in December 2025.



In 2025 **Marike Janzen** continued her service as Director of the Max Kade Center for German American Studies (see separate write-up on the Max Kade Center in this issue of the newsletter). In spring, she taught GERM 336, The German Transatlantic Experience. In the summer, Professor Janzen was in residence at the University of Regensburg as a Leibniz ScienceCampus visiting professor for six weeks. While there, she gave a talk titled “‘Freedom’ and ‘Refugeedom’ at the Goethe Institute in Exile.” During the summer, she was also able to attend the Anna Seghers Society annual conference, where she participated on a panel titled “Die Aktualität von Anna Seghers—eine US-amerikanische Perspektive” (“The Relevance of Anna Seghers—a U.S. Perspective.”) She was also invited to give a talk at the 2025 Graz International Summer School at Seggau (GUSEGG). In connection with the summer school theme of “Time, Temporality, Transition: State-Society-Religion,” she gave a talk titled “Exile as Trope and Experience in Germany’s Cultural Sphere” on a panel focusing on the topic “Temporality and Citizenship”. In the fall, Professor Janzen was the recipient of a CARES (Career Advancement/ Research Enhancement Semester) fellowship from KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The CARES fellowship supported her continuing work on a book project tentatively titled *Exile, Freedom, and Citizenship in Berlin’s Literary Sphere*.

2025 has been a productive year in teaching for **Ari Linden**. In the spring, he taught a new, upper-division course titled “Marxism and Critical Theory,” and had great success with a mixture of students from



German, Philosophy, and other humanities disciplines. He also advised a cohort of 8 graduating students from German and Slavic in the first iteration of our combined Capstone Seminar. The students produced research papers on a wide variety of topics—from a comparison of German and American attitudes toward pain management, to contemporary Russian war propaganda in its online gaming culture, to non-German conscripts fighting for the Nazi regime during WWII—which they presented at symposium in front of their peers and faculty at the end of the semester. This fall he taught his largest First Year Seminar to date on “Marx and Marxism in German Culture and Beyond.”

Research-wise, the year kicked off with the publication of a volume he co-edited, *Karl Kraus and National Socialism: Citing Violence, Inciting Critique* (De Gruyter 2025). The volume also includes an essay he authored on the relationship between Kraus and the Frankfurt School philosopher, Theodor Adorno. Another essay he wrote, “Adorno on Actually Existing Socialism,” was published in August with *New German Critique*, a highly respected journal in our field. And in June he submitted an article manuscript, “Value and Research, Knowledge and Action: On Doing Critical Theory Today,” currently under review with *Diacritics*. Over the summer he also worked on his second book project, tentatively titled *On the Dialectics of Nature and Need: Marx, Adorno, and Ecosocialism*. In September, he presented a paper titled “Lukács as Theorist of Cringe” at the 49th Annual German Studies Association Conference in Crystal City, VA; he intend to turn this conference paper into a longer article this coming spring. Last but not least, he organized—with the amazing help of Mariah Hicks and Ben Egin—a highly successful symposium in September titled “Capital Re-translated and the Late Marx,” which brought scholars and translators Paul North, Paul Reitter, and Kevin Anderson to the Max Kade Center for two days of stimulating presentations and conversations.

As DUS in the spring, he enjoyed regularly meeting with students from our program and providing



guidance regarding their academic careers. He also enjoyed planning and participating in our commencement and award ceremony in May. He just completed his first semester as Interim Director of Jewish Studies. It has been a fulfilling experience working with colleagues both new and old. He hopes to continue to build on these relationships and this experience in the coming semester, as well as create stronger ties between Jewish Studies and SGES.

Nina Vyatkina continued her research in instructed second language acquisition and corpus-based language teaching and learning. She co-authored an article with Dr. A. Jakob Johnson, the 2024 SGES PhD graduate, that was published in the peer-reviewed CALICO Journal. The article is based on Johnson’s PhD dissertation and demonstrates the effectiveness of using digital games in teaching Russian. Prof. Vyatkina’s



editorial work included serving as an Associate Editor of the Cambridge Core journal ReCALL published by the Cambridge University Press (ranked 4th among 303 Linguistics journals worldwide) and co-editing a section on corpus-based language learning for The Palgrave encyclopedia of computer-assisted language learning that includes ca. 60 entries. Prof. Vyatkina also presented papers at two major international conferences: the American Association for Applied Linguistics conference in Denver, CO, and the European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning conference in Milan, Italy.

In 2025, **Oleksandra Wallo** organized a roundtable, “New Developments in Teaching and Learning

Ukrainian,” for the virtual 2025 Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL). As part of this roundtable, she gave a presentation, “Teaching Advanced Ukrainian through Literature: Texts and Tasks,” which reported on her research into and experience of teaching contemporary Ukrainian short fiction in KU courses of advanced Ukrainian. In March 2025, she was one of the invited presenters in the KU Red Hot Research series and gave a short talk about contemporary Ukrainian women dramatists, which is part of her current book project on Ukrainian New Drama. As a member of the Organizing Committee for the biennial Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference, Dr. Wallo worked with colleagues to organize this conference in October of 2025 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and presented a paper there, titled “Drama as Testimony: Bearing Witness to Russia’s War against Ukraine.” Dr. Wallo also participated in the 2025 ASEES Convention in Washington, DC, where she presented on Serhiy Zhadan’s 2020 play *A Harvest Truce* and was one of the speakers in the roundtable, “Resilience and Reinvention: Contemporary Ukrainian Theatre in Times of War.”

At KU, Dr. Wallo has enjoyed serving as a faculty mentor and supervisor to the Fulbright FLTA from Ukraine Yuliia Lavrenchuk and working together with GTAs Andriyana Baran and Oksana Vykhopen to continue building and growing the Ukrainian Language Program. The Fall 2025 semester set a record for the number of students enrolled in the courses of Ukrainian at KU – a total of 18 students across various levels. Dr. Wallo has also enjoyed serving as a faculty advisor to the Ukrainian Student Association founded by SGES graduate students last year.

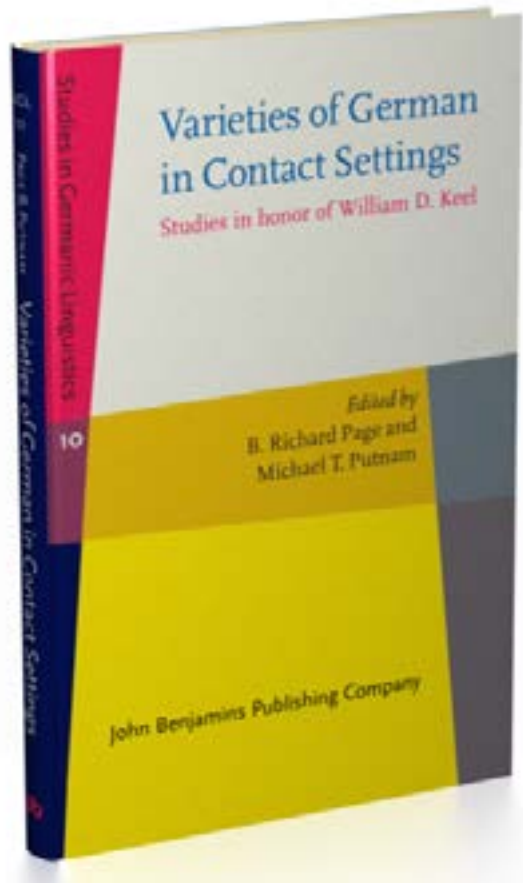


Dr. Wallo presenting on Serhiy Zhadan’s play A Harvest Truce during 25 ASEES Convention in



Oleksandra Wallo at the University of Illinois Main Library during the 2025 Dmytro Shtohryn International Ukrainian Studies Conference.





Varieties of German in Contact Settings: Studies in honor of William D. Keel has been published. Edited by B. Richard Page and Michael T. Putnam both alumni of the SGES Department. Congratulations!

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