The past six months have been eventful for the Institute for European Studies (EURO) here at IU and for Europe itself, reminding us that the continent matters more than ever, both in its own right and in a global perspective. In August I had the pleasure of succeeding Tim Hellwig (Political Science) as Director of EURO, a job that builds on and broadens my primary appointment as a specialist in contemporary French society, politics, and media. Prior to his departure Professor Hellwig secured for EURO a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Award, a three-year grant from the European Union that will substantially enhance our ability to offer lectures, symposia, workshops, course offerings, and other professional development opportunities for students and faculty. IU is now one of only a dozen US universities to be designated as a Monnet Centre of Excellence, and the only new North-American addition to the group in the most recent grant cycle.

Across the Atlantic the second half of 2016 was marked by a wave of growing skepticism toward the European Union in response to ongoing concerns over terrorism and refugees fleeing the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and the rest of the Levant. Though the two phenomena cannot be reliably linked in causal terms, that association has become increasingly common in public mentalities and political discourse, fed by security and economic concerns not only in countries whose economies were already fragile, such as Greece and Italy. Historically stable countries like the United Kingdom, France, and Germany have been tested by the latest crisis as well. Since the November 2015 bombings in Paris, France has operated under a “state of emergency” law that provides the government exceptional policing power and suspends most constitutional protections against search, seizure, and imprisonment. Germany, by far the most generous European nation in welcoming Middle Eastern refugees over the past three years, has seen not only sporadic anti-immigrant riots, but a new challenge to Angela Merkel’s Christian democratic government from right-wing populist party Alternatif für Deutschland, which already holds seats in nine of Germany’s sixteen state assemblies.

There is currently some variety of nationalist, anti-immigrant, anti-European Union movement afoot in virtually all EU countries—an ominous development looking ahead to summer and fall 2017 elections to be held in Germany (legislative), the Netherlands (legislative), and France (legislative and presidential). French National Front leader Marine Le Pen, who currently chairs an international right-wing coalition in the European Parliament, and Russian president Vladimir Putin, who has long funded right-wing populist parties in France and the rest of Europe, were among the first foreign politicians to congratulate Donald Trump on his surprise electoral victory in the US, but it remains unclear to what degree Trump’s presidency will empower like-minded movements. In early December 2016 Austria elected Green Party candidate Alexander Van der Bellen to the presidency over his populist rival Norbert Hofer, in part because of the latter’s anti-EU stance. However, in a national referendum held only days later, Italian voters decisively rejected socially progressive constitutional reforms and economic austerity measures proposed by leftist prime minister Matteo Renzi, who resigned immediately to the jubilation of opponent Matteo Salvini, leader of the conservative, populist Northern League. In so doing, Italians were endorsing the “Brexit” referendum previously
held in the United Kingdom in July, with voters urging the government to withdraw from the EU.

EURO’s programming during the fall semester addressed these developments from a variety of perspectives by bringing together experts from different units across IU and demonstrating EURO’s greatest asset as a non-departmental unit: the breadth and depth of our affiliated faculty. At a September roundtable devoted to Brexit, Tim Hellwig reviewed the social and geographic demographics of the vote, while Frank Hess (Modern Greek / EURO) discussed reaction to the vote in Greece, a country that has suffered substantially from austerity measures designed to keep it a viable member of the EU. European constitutional law scholar Paul Craig (Oxford University) emphasized that national referenda are advisory rather than legally or procedurally binding in the United Kingdom, and that a reversal of course is still possible, subject of course to political pressures on the Conservative government currently led by Theresa May. David Audretsch (SPEA) concurred in his reflections on the potential economic impact of Brexit, suggesting that a “hard” exit from the EU could have seriously negative consequences for the UK, which has long been one of the primary beneficiaries of human and economic capital mobility permitted by the Schengen Agreement. He concurred with Professor Craig’s assessment that the May government might well compromise and pursue a “soft” exit that would involve a selective and strategic renegotiating of migration and trade agreements with key national partners on the continent.

In mid-November another roundtable on the US Presidential Election in Global Perspective brought together Feisal Istrabadi (Center for the Study of the Middle East), Nazif Shahrani (Anthropology), Dina Spechler (Political Science) to address the links between Donald Trump’s victory and the populist right in Europe; the likely direction of American foreign policy toward Europe, the Middle East, and Russia; the embattled status of Muslims in Europe and the US; and the ability of Russian president Putin to influence Trump as well as affiliated populist movements in Europe in order to regain lost influence on the international stage. Between these bookend events, EURO sponsored a series of research lectures by faculty and graduate students that connected cultural phenomena with social and political issues.

For details, please see the summary on page 7.

To promote EURO’s engagement with undergraduates, I had the pleasure of donning my vampire mask and cape to host a high-definition Halloween screening of Nosferatu (1922), Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau’s timeless classic, after which the audience dined on Avers pizza and played movie trivia in exchange for prizes. The event was also used to publicize the revision of our undergraduate minor and certificate in European Studies, which have been streamlined to be more straightforward and easily customizable to students’ interests.

Drawing from a nearly twenty-year-old pool of funds provided by the Mellon Foundation, EURO was also pleased to award $500 travel grants to five faculty (three from Bloomington, one from Indianapolis, and one from South Bend) and five graduate students (all from Bloomington) for an array of Europe-related projects including presentation of papers at national and international conferences, fieldwork, archival research, and study of less-common languages not offered at IU.

My first semester as director of EURO was made much easier by the devoted and knowledgeable team around me: Assistant Director Liese Hilgeman, Administrative Assistant Megan Immerzeel, and graduate assistants Alex Pieter Baker, Alberto Sostre, and Joe Thurston. I would also like to thank EURO undergraduate advisor Jennifer Ashcraft, whose advice was integral to the revision of our minor and certificate requirements, and to our faculty advisory board for their input on that and numerous other decisions: Hannah Buxbaum (Law), Esther Ham (EURO / Germanic Studies), Frank Hess (EURO / Modern Greek), Hildegard Keller (Germanic Studies), Josh Malitsky (Media School), Jon Risner (Spanish & Portuguese), and Scott Shackelford (Business).

In closing, I would like to invite all our readers to keep up with us by visiting our website (https://euro.indiana.edu) and to help us keep up with you by emailing us your news (euroinst@indiana.edu)

With best wishes for 2017,

Brett Boles
Associate Professor of French Studies
Director, European Studies

Midwest Model European Union April 20-22, 2017
Registration is open!

What EU country will your delegation represent?

Professor Lászlo Borhi, the Peter A. Kadas Chair in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, recently released his new book entitled *Dealing with Dictators: The United States, Hungary and East Central Europe, 1942-1989*. (http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?cPath=1037_1183&products_id=807766)

Prof. Edgar Illas has published the article "Survival, or, the War Logic of Global Capitalism." Décalages 2.1 (2016). (http://scholar.oxy.edu/decalages/vol2/iss1/23/)

Professor Oana Panaïté (Department of French and Italian) was a faculty co-convener for the NEH Summer Institute for College and Universities “Arts of Survival - Recasting Lives in African Cities” organized at IUB in July 2016 and has also edited the volume *Reading Communities. A Dialogical Approach to French and Francophone Literature/Communautés de lecture : pour une approche dialogique des œuvres classiques et contemporaines* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2016).

Professor of Practice Gene Coyle’s first of five spy novels, *The Dream Merchant of Lisbon*, has been translated into Portuguese and published in Lisbon in mid-October -- O Mercador de Sonhos de Lisboa.

Professor Carl Ipsen (Department of History) released his latest book: *Fumo: Italy's Love Affair with the Cigarette*. (http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=25878)

Professor Robert Schneider (Department of History and new EURO Affiliated Faculty member) was a Visiting Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford University (2015-2016), and a Visiting Lecturer, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris (February-March, 2016).
This semester, we at The Institute for European Studies held a panel discussion following the unexpected vote of the British Referendum to leave the European Union, commonly referred to as Brexit. Panelists included David Audretsch (SPEA), who focused on the economic impact of the vote in terms of UK and EU trade deals; Paul Craig (University of Oxford), who provided insight on the legality surrounding the Brexit vote as well as his own British commentary; Timothy Hellwig (Political Science), who examined voter turnout and demographics, comparing rural and metropolitan areas in the UK; and finally Frank Hess (Modern Greek Studies Program), who offered insight on implications on Greece’s relationship with the European Union, and on a broader outlook on the future of the European Union. This was by far the best-attended event, which included many international students with a wide range of differing studies and backgrounds. Students were able to hear from a wide diversity of faculty on the potential ramifications of Brexit and how it could impact their program of study.
Alex Pieter Baker - EURO Graduate Assistant

Alex Pieter Baker is a first year M.A. student and Graduate Assistant at the Institute for European Studies. Originally from Lansing, Michigan, Alex earned his B.A. from Michigan State University’s James Madison College of Public Affairs and International Relations in December of 2015. He studied Comparative Cultures and Politics with a minor in German. He spent a year living in Dessau, Germany during his undergraduate studies. Alex intends to focus his research on the 2017 German federal election and explore the role of right-wing populist parties. Outside of school Alex enjoys traveling, reading, the outdoors, and is an avid sports fan.

Natalia Rodriguez

Natalia was born and raised abroad, spending most of her time living in Mexico, Guatemala and Spain before moving to Indianapolis, Indiana in 2011. At the beginning of 2015, she started working as a project assistant at a consulting firm called Thomas P. Miller & Associates. While working at the firm, she engaged in projects related to economic development, research and analysis and strategic planning. This work alongside her personal experience have contributed to her understanding of how countries and regions develop. After exploring various programs, she decided the Institute for European Studies at IU Bloomington offered the best quality education with a wide variety of classes and professors. Since starting her master’s degree this fall, she has really enjoyed expanding her knowledge of European political economy as well as meeting students with varied educational aspirations. Community engagement has been a large part of her life and she volunteers with nonprofits such as Wheeler Mission, Shepherd Community Center, and Indiana Latino Institute. Recently, she traveled to Lebanon to assist with the Syrian refugees by providing food and clothing. She hopes that her education will enable her to better serve the international community locally and abroad.

Joe Thurston - EURO Graduate Assistant

Joe Thurston is a dual M.A. and M.P.A. graduate student through EURO and SPEA with an anticipated graduation date of May 2018. Joe has focused his studies both in EURO and in SPEA on U.S. and European security and is currently studying Russian as his language of choice. Prior to beginning his dual masters program, Joe graduated from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis in 2014, with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a minor in Public Safety Management. In his spare time Joe enjoys traveling, camping, and watching sports.

**All updates are self-reported. If you have an update you would like included in our next newsletter, please email us at euroinst@indiana.edu**
STUDENT & ALUMNI UPDATES

Rowena Galavitz - MA 2016
In the fall of 2016, Rowena Galavitz began a dual Ph.D. program at Indiana University in Religious Studies and Comparative Literature, where she is the recipient of IU’s Renaissance Studies Fellowship for the 2016-2017 academic year. Rowena is currently engaged in courses about the Renaissance, medieval women writers, and the interpretation of religions. She made a presentation called “Reading Rosa of Lima: The Collages Up, Down, and Sideways” at the GEMELA Conference (Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas, pre-1800) in San Juan, Puerto Rico during late September 2016. She has been invited to curate a book exhibit on Hipólita de Jesús, the subject of her master’s thesis, at the Biblioteca Francisco de Burgoa in Oaxaca, Mexico. Rowena plans to visit Barcelona this summer to do research.

Jeff Heerdink - MA 2016
Jeff Heerdink is currently the Manager of the Hutton International Experiences Program at IU Bloomington’s Hutton Honors College, where he has worked since 2014. In this role he administers IU’s single largest source of funding for undergraduates seeking an international experience and promotes international programming and events within the Hutton Honors College. Jeff is also a second-year master’s student in the IU School of Education’s program in international and comparative education. At the beginning of summer 2016 he travelled to Germany, the Czech Republic, and Poland on a study tour focused on European higher education and student affairs and finished the summer in Belgium with a two-week intensive advanced Dutch language course through the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie).

Katharine Kessler
This semester, Ms. Kessler is finishing up her course work and writing her Master’s thesis, focusing on early works of German author Franz Kafka and French author/artist Jean Cocteau. Following her thesis defense and graduation, she will be moving to Goodfellow AFB, in San Angelo, TX. There, she will attend training for her job as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force.

**All updates are self-reported. If you have an update you would like included in our next newsletter, please email us at euroinst@indiana.edu**
EURO FALL LECTURE SERIES - A REVIEW

By Joe Thurston

The Institute for European Studies’ Fall 2016 Lecture Series started off with a presentation titled “Poster Art in World War I France: A Contested Field of Cultural Production,” by Brett Bowles, Director of the Institute for European Studies and professor of French and Italian. Director Brett Bowles gave an engaging lecture on the history of World War I French posters, offering insight in the changes seen throughout the war by bringing in original posters he restored himself. Director Brett Bowles’ talk was followed by a presentation by Alexandra Cotofana, Anthropology, titled “The Magic & The Secular In European Politics Case Study From Romania.” Cotofana’s presentation focused on the history of witchcraft in Romania and the intersection of witchcraft and politics. Next, EURO hosted a Halloween screening of Nosferatu, a classic 1920’s silent horror film directed by F.W. Murnau. Prior to the screening, Director Brett Bowles gave a brief background of the film to the audience emphasizing the role the orchestra played in this historic film. Next Amy Aiyegbusi, European Studies, presented the research she conducted in Germany after being awarded a Mellon Grant this past year. Titled “German Women in Hip Hop: Exploring Techniques of Positivism, Provocation, Egalitarianism, and Esteem,” Aiyegbusi’s talk focused on the role women have played in the German Hip-Hop scene throughout the years, paying particular attention to the messages they send through their music.

Following Aiyegbusi, Andrew Asher, Anthropology, discussed the role social media, particularly twitter, played in the 2013 Ukrainian protest of the government suspension of European Union and Ukraine Association agreement in a presentation titled “Presentations of Protest: Twitter Images and Activism during Ukraine’s Euromaidan.” Next the Institute for European Studies hosted a panel discussion titled “The World Reacts: A Discussion Forum on The US Presidential Election in Global Perspective.” Panel members included Director Brett Bowles; Feisal Istrabadi, Founding Director Center for the Study of the Middle East; Nazif Shahrani, Anthropology; Dina Spechler, Political Science; and David Audretsch, SPEA. The panel focused on a variety of topics including US-Russian relations and foreign policy; the European reaction to the election results; and US trade policy and the impact on world financial markets. Concluding the Fall 2016 Lecture Series was Marco Arnaudo, French and Italian studies, whose presentation focused on the development of European board games and the phenomenon’s increasing popularity. Overall, we are very pleased with the lecture series presentations this semester and look forward to next semester’s lectures.

BALKAN CONFERENCE

By Alex Pieter Baker

On September 27th Indiana University hosted Professor Theodora Dragostinova of Ohio State University. The event was sponsored by the Modern Greek Program, the Institute for European Studies, Departments of History and Slavic Languages and Literatures, and The Russian and East European Institute. Professor Dragostinova’s work focuses on minority and refugees in the Balkans, comparative nationalism and communism, the global Cold War, and comparative European migration. During her visit she gave a talked titled, “Cooperation and Goodwill: Culture and Regional Cooperation in the Cold War Balkans.”

The talk examined the complex relationship between culture and politics during the Cold War in the Balkans. Following the talk, Dragostinova and other faculty members whose research and work focuses on the region, including our own Frank Hess, hosted a graduate student workshop on new and emerging trends in Balkan scholarship. Students from a variety of disciplines attended the workshop and gained valuable insight into a wide range of issues, from contemporary Greece to Ottoman history.
In 2004, having successfully defended my thesis, “Economic Change and Regional Voting in Spain” and armed with an MA in West European Studies from IU, I left with a sense of confidence, relevant knowledge and a support network of academics, classmates and others.

My journey post-Indiana led me to Buenos Aires where I began a PhD program. During my nearly two years in Buenos Aires, I taught European Union History & Politics, studied international politics, worked in sales for an animation company and even married someone from that country. As I decided to not pursue the PhD program, I started thinking about the next part of my career.

An opportunity arose in Indianapolis with a law firm where they need someone fluent in Spanish and who had a grasp of European countries, most notably Spain. With the advanced classes in language, culture at IU and the confidence during my travel abroad in Seville, I successfully landed the job and was immediately brought onto projects.

At the time, there was negotiation between the legislature, governor's office and the Spanish-Australian Consortium for the lease of the Indiana Toll Road for 3.85 billion dollars.

By understanding the language and their business practices, I was able to provide insight not only for the firm which represented the client, but also to inform the Spanish business on how to approach legislators.

Having completed nearly 8 years of executive level leadership at the state level (including directly working for two Governors) and working for a multi-national company, there are a few takeaways on what my Master's Degree prepared me for.

First, academic rigor and openness to new ways of thinking has served me well. Second, although I never directly worked for an NGO, Government or Business from Europe, in each of my positions, I have worked with several international bodies, businesses and NGOs which are either located in Europe or have members from European countries. Finally, it spurred a lifetime passion and interest to continue to understand how the world works. This has served me well in all my roles both personally and professionally and will continue to guide me.
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Maria Bucur

By Alberto Sostre

Professor Maria Bucur is the John W. Hill Chair in East European History and Gender Studies at Indiana University. Although she currently teaches East European history, her upbringing during the communist period in Romania sparked an early disinterest in history as a discipline. Moreover, the ruling party often manipulated historical narratives to favor the communist regime. Professor Bucur’s pre-university interests revolved around theatre instead of history. She even sought admission to film school, much to the disapproval of her parents. In 1985, Professor Bucur and her family emigrated from Romania to the United States. After graduating from high school in 1987, she commenced her undergraduate studies at Georgetown University.

At Georgetown, Professor Bucur experienced an early period of uncertainty of what to study, something many students face when pursuing a bachelor’s degree. She studied Russian and took courses in international relations, but did not find such an academic path particularly engaging. A professor by the name of Richard Stites, who has since passed away, revitalized her interest in history. Professor Stites’ innovative method of teaching cultural history of the Soviet Union, gripped Professor Bucur in a way that made history more enjoyable.

In December 1989, Professor Bucur attempted to return to Romania, but was not able to cross the border. She finally entered Romania on December 21st, and arrived in Bucharest by car a day later. As a witness to the Romanian Revolution, her worldly perspective changed to one of optimism. Professor Bucur saw history being made before her eyes by ordinary citizens, and saw a glimpse of hope for Romania. This momentous event allowed Professor Bucur to appreciate how historical change can occur from the bottom up.

Professor Bucur returned to the United States with a renewed interest in pursuing an advanced education in history as a lifelong vocation. Against the wishes of her advisor Professor Stites, she decided to pursue her graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The university had one of the best historians of Romanian history in Keith Hitchins amongst its faculty. Professor Hitchins became Professor Bucur’s advisor and gave her wide-open access to his private collection of scholarly works.

Professor Bucur wanted to focus on nationalism, but shifted her research interests to gender issues and feminism. After taking several graduate courses, she noticed that a focus on women’s is-

Professor Bucur initially wanted to write a dissertation centered on feminism during the inter-war period in Romania. However, she altered her topic after coming across the journal The Bulletin for Eugenics and Biopolitics amongst Professor Hitchins’ collection. Professor Bucur realized that the journal focused heavily on issues of gender, health, reproduction, and politics revolving around the body. Her dissertation thus transitioned to focusing on eugenics in Romania during the inter-war period with women as a central theme for her thinking of the topic.

After defending her dissertation in 1996, Professor Bucur accepted a position at Indiana University. Over her twenty-year career at Indiana University, she has become a pioneering historian in the fields of eugenics and gender studies. Professor Bucur is also an affiliated faculty member for both the Russian and East European Institute and the Institute for European Studies.

When asked how she manages her academic and personal life, Professor Bucur said that one must consider their professional development in stages. Students who plan on pursuing a doctoral degree must prepare themselves for a strenuous regimen of hard work. Without outside support, pursuing such a path may seem quite lonely and alienating. Thus, Professor Bucur advises students to find an activity that they find enjoyable. In her case, music provides some solace from the rigors of academia.
Since obtaining tenure, Professor Bucur has seen her life become more divided between various components. She does not think of her professional and personal life as being in balance with each other, but rather coexisting in separate realms. Compartmentalization helps Professor Bucur separate her work from her time with family.

Professor Bucur’s first publication focused on eugenics, but she changed her focus in her second book, Heroes and Victims: Remembering War in Twentieth-century Romania. Her interest transitioned to the juncture between how governments and their representatives sought to represent the memory of the two world wars. She believes that the Romanian state has not successfully convinced its citizens that it is representative of the masses as a result of the government’s memory practices. Professor Bucur continues to focus on gender issues, and is collaborating on a book with a colleague in Romania. This work in progress touches upon how communism and post-communism in Romania have reshaped gender and citizenship.

Professor Bucur has taught various courses at Indiana University. Her topics range from general surveys on 19th and 20th century Eastern Europe to undergraduate seminars on life during communism and memory and war.

Next semester she will teach a course on gender and citizenship. Due to her affiliation with the Gender Studies department, Professor Bucur also teaches courses about international debates on feminism. For graduate students, Professor Bucur teaches courses on historiographies of Eastern Europe, themes of Romanian history, introduction to the historical profession, and comparative feminism to name a few. At the introductory level, she attempts to further the appreciation of students for the diversity of case studies embodied by Eastern Europe. A central theme of her courses highlights the relationship between great powers, colonial powers, imperial powers, and smaller populations, and the dynamic between marginality and centrality.

Beyond her various publications, Professor Bucur spearheaded the founding of the School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University. She has received numerous National Endowment for the Humanities grants to pursue research, and was a scholar in residence at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington D.C.

As a researcher, Professor Bucur understands that her purpose is not solely to write books, but rather to communicate ideas. In the classroom she is able to test these ideas and learn from the ideas of her students. As a professor, Bucur finds it fulfilling seeing the light spark in her students’ eyes as they grasp newfound information about a topic. Having such a connection with her students is what continues to drive Professor Bucur’s curiosity and desire to communicate her knowledge and ideas to others.

Professor Bucur believes that learning is possible anywhere, but the advantage for undergraduates of being in a college environment is being amongst others with similar curiosities. Such an environment can help further nourish these curiosities. College is an opportunity to test intellectually and morally who you are as individual. Her advice to graduate students is to attend office hours and to better familiarize themselves with the faculty who are professionalizing them outside of the classroom.

Open communication will help the faculty member provide helpful advice to the student, and provide a strong base to advocate for him or her. Most importantly, Professor Bucur advocates graduate students to not isolate themselves in the library. She recommends students to find a strong support group outside of their immediate field that will keep them going during times of hardship.
The Institute for European Studies was a community sponsor of this year’s 23rd annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. The event, which features musicians and artists from all around the world and takes place in downtown Bloomington, was held from September 15th-18th. The weekend featured a bit of rain, but it was not enough to put a damper on the festivities. Crowds showed up in numbers to see fan favorites, such as Movits!, a Swedish swing & hip-hop group. Other European artists included: Altan, an Irish folk band; Aallotar, a blend of Finnish and American folk music; Federspiel, an Austrian brass band; Lautari, a Polish ethno-Jazz ensemble; My Bubba, a minimalist Scandinavian folk duo; and Söndörgő, a Balkan tamburitza group. Along with art and music, the event featured Bloomington’s new blossoming food truck scene, which features a variety of culinary tastes from around the world. The Lotus festival, named after and held in honor of Quinten “Lotus” Dickey, has become somewhat of a staple in the Bloomington community, growing each year in popularity and size. For one weekend every year members of the community are able to come and experience live music, art, and food, from cultures they would not normally come into contact with.

Panayotis League: Lecture and Musical Performance

By Alberto Sostre

From October 27 to 28, 2016, ethnomusicologist, performer and composer Panayotis (Paddy) League came to Indiana University to present a two-part lecture/performance series: “Shades of Eros: Greek Songs of Love and Loss” and “Matters of Taste and Time in Anatolian Greek Music.” These events were made possible through the co-sponsorship of the Modern Greek Program, the Institute for European Studies, and the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. The series commenced with an introduction to the distinct musical traditions of the various Greek islands. Panayotis elaborated on the themes of love and loss in Greek folk songs. On day two of the series, Panayotis touched upon how the use of the culinary terms “heaviness” and “drunkenness” create a co-habitation between the musical and culinary traditions of the Lesvian community. This sensory symbiosis plays an integral part in the music and steps of the Zeibéikiko, the representative music and dance genre of Lesvian tradition. Heaviness in Zeibéiskiko is representative of temporal manipulation; an anchor point where objects move around. Drunkenness relates to a sense of danger and masculinity in Anatolian-Greek society. The consumption of traditional ouzo prior to a performance helps add value. Without the threat of danger or exaggeration, the performance loses some of its appeal.

Study Abroad in Greece!
May 14 - June 3
EURO-W 406
Food Cultures of Greece
Incredible Iceland

By Joe Thurston

For the last three years I have seen various travel posts regarding the interesting cuisine, friendly people, and drastic landscapes of a small Island country in Europe: Iceland. This past summer I was fortunately able to make it over to Iceland at the end of a teaching assistant position in Europe. My plan was simple: rent a car, camp as much as possible, and road trip around the Ring Road (the main highway that circles the island) for two weeks.

The Ring Road can be seen here in red and circles the Island.

For a college student like myself on a tight budget, a great way to save money in Iceland is by camping. As long as property isn’t clearly marked and fenced off you can pitch a tent just about anywhere.

For an island the size of Ohio, Iceland offers a wide range of incredible landscapes. From glacier lagoons, to black sand beaches and the endless waterfalls, chances are Iceland has something to offer for anyone who is looking to experience nature up close.

Iceland sits directly on top of two tectonic plates, the Eurasian tectonic plate and the North American tectonic plate. Essentially, Iceland has been formed by these tectonic plates over millions of years and has some of the most active volcanoes and hot springs in the world. As these volcanoes explode, the landscape is transformed over and over again, offering different and ever-changing scenery to visitors. Examples of this can be seen in the following pictures.

Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon

Svartifoss and the basalt columns were shaped from volcanic lava millions of years ago.
Another great way to see Iceland is through the multiple excursion companies located around the island. Offering a competitive price, these excursion companies will take you places you simply cannot get to on your own. For example, I splurged on a whale watching tour in northern Iceland. Frankly I didn’t want to get my hopes up and be disappointed if I didn’t see any whales, however to my amazement we saw an entire pod of Humpback whales, approximately sixteen of them.

Volcanic black sand beaches along the western coast of Iceland.

At the end of the whale watching tour we were able to fish for cod on our way back into town.

Strange things are happening in the West nowadays. While the populations in most Western countries became more hostile towards Vladimir Putin and Russia since the 2014 annexation of Crimea, political forces that are calling for a renewal of the relations, end of the “Cold War rhetoric,” termination of the sanctions, or even recognition of Crimea as part of Russia, have made - or will make - huge electoral successes.

The electoral victory of Donald Trump whose extensive ties to Russia via his political statements, business interests, and his consultants, is well-known and well-documented. Also, they were well-exploited by the Clinton campaign. In a presidential debate, Hillary Clinton went as far as to label Donald Trump as the “puppet” of Vladimir Putin. But this result seems surprising if we take a look at the public opinion. According to Pew's poll, 25 percent of the registered voters in the US said that Russia is an adversary, and 48 percent of them said that Russia is a “serious problem.” While Trump supporters were definitely less hostile towards Russia, almost two-thirds of them also perceived Russia as highly problematic. Still, Donald Trump won the US elections.

In the United Kingdom, traditionally one of the most important adversaries of Russia on the European scene, the Leave campaign had unexpected success on the referendum despite the ideological, and, as it turned out, financial connections between Russia and the Brexit camp in general, and Nigel Farage’s UKIP in particular. We can expect similar results in the upcoming elections in Europe in the next year. Norbert Hofer, the delegate of the far-right FPÖ party with extensive ties to Russia, has a good chance to win in the presidential election in Austria. Marine Le Pen, who received funds from a Kremlin-close bank for her EP campaign, is currently leading the polls before the presidential election in France. AfD in Germany, a radical right party that published its manifesto in Russia as way to target ethnic Russian voters in Germany, is on the rise. The Radical Left Die Linke that is calling for abolishing NATO and creating a military alliance from “Lisbon to Vladivostok” instead, is also gaining steam. Geert Wilders, who also expressed his admiration towards Vladimir Putin’s Russia several times, can gain votes in the Netherlands.

2016 was definitely the year of Putin, with Brexit, the election of Donald Trump, and pro-Russian presidents elected in Bulgaria and Moldova. Of course, Russia is not to blame for all the West’s ills. Putin wants only to pour salt in the wounds that are already there, he is not creating the wounds himself. Still, electoral successes of leaders with a populist, authoritarian stance who are admiring Vladimir Putin definitely tells us something about the partial successes of Russian soft power – the “hard power in Velvet Gloves.”

It might be unsuccessful in winning the hearts and minds of entire nations - but successful in winning their leaders’. Beside attraction, the main element of soft power, it applies repulsion, confusion, and relies on active measures as well – see for example, the cyberattacks and e-mail leaks in the US presidential campaign. While Russia is getting weaker itself, it can still exert influence on political and policy processes on the West - that definitely became weaker and divided as a consequence of multiple (economical, political and refugee) crises. Russian soft power offensive targets the fringes, hoping that they will become mainstream. And we see it is happening.

A spectre is haunting Europe — the spectre of pro-Putin populism. How to deal with it - this is still a big question pretty much unanswered. While there has been research by think-tanks and journalists on the successes of Russian soft power influence, very little has real academic depth that helps with understanding the processes the West experiences. The topic is on the table, and academic institutions should pick it up.
Peter Kreko’s, “Russian Soft Power Tools Need More Attention in the US and Europ Alike” - Continued

(This article is partially based on a presentation of the author at the event Beyond Propaganda: Russian Soft Power in the West on October 19, 2016).

A Base for Your Activities in Europe
The IU Europe Gateway Office is housed at the new Council on International Educational Exchange Global Institute (CIEE)—Berlin. With an office suite and access to space within the CIEE building, the Gateway offers:

- office space for visiting faculty and administrators
- meeting space for conferences and workshops, student recruitment activities, and alumni events
- classrooms and student housing for short-term study abroad programs
- open space for lectures, receptions, and concerts

Funding
IU’s Office of the Vice President for International Affairs offers matching funds of up to $5,000 in commitments from other IU units to support activities at the Gateway.

Contact: Hannah L. Buxbaum, Academic Director
hbuxbaum@indiana.edu
812.855.4350

IU’s Global Gateway Network
The IU Global Gateway Network promotes and supports the engagement of IU’s faculty, students and alumni with the world through global gateway offices that help the IU community.
http://global.iu.edu

Institute for European Studies
GA 4004
355 North Jordan Avenue
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47405-1105

Mellon Travel & Research Grants
For students & faculty focusing on Europe

The Mellon Grant is ending
FINAL COMPETITION IS
SPRING 2017

Applications due: April 1st
Visit https://euro.indiana.edu/opportunities/graduate-funding/mellon.html for more info.