

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**H**earty greetings and good wishes to returning faculty affiliates and friends of the Melikian Center on the opening of a new academic year.

Unfortunately, the year has not begun quietly. The renewed international violence in Transcaucasia offers all of us a sober reminder of the unresolved conflicts present within the post-Soviet world. What these conflicts also serve to underscore is the importance of the research and training we undertake to advance understanding of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

I am pleased to be able to announce what is reported on at greater length below—namely, the receipt by the Center of two major new research and training grants. One of these significantly broadens the reach of the Center's Critical Languages Institute (CLI); the other expands the range of our programming in the newly independent state of Kosovo.

The Center's "ROTC Language and Culture" award from the National Security Education Program adds a new feature to the Critical Languages Institute's annual training program, providing up to \$250,000 annually for less commonly taught language training and on-site Eurasian practicum experience for twenty ASU and non-ASU ROTC cadets. The "CLI+" program, as it is called, began this summer with twenty ROTC cadets enrolled in intensive Russian, Tatar, Uzbek, and Tajik courses. Not only has the funding expanded the outreach of the CLI to ROTC cadets who might otherwise not be able to fit advanced Eurasian language training into their programs of study, but it has also broadened the range of Central Asian languages offered in the CLI. One of the immediate results of the "ROTC Language and Culture Program" has been an increase in CLI enrollment—a growth that yielded overall 2008 CLI enrollment of more than 100

students for the first time in the eighteen-year history of the CLI.

Late in April the Center also learned that its request for \$750,000 in State Department funding had been approved for implementation in Kosovo of a pilot "kids voting" project. This latest Melikian Center Kosovo project builds upon existing ties with the Kosovar NGO KIPRED (Kosovo Institute for Policy Research and Development) to engage young people in the election process within targeted school systems of Kosovo, including schools with minority Serbian, Turkish, and Roma population. In its most recent parliamentary elections of 2007, only 46% of the registered Kosovo population voted. The project will also test whether, as in the U.S., the "kids voting" process favorably impacts adult voting behavior. The project, now called "Future Voters of Kosovo," has already begun in Pristina, and is being administered there by Marilyn Evans, former executive director of "Kids Voting Arizona" and founding CEO of "Kids Voting USA." It is a pleasure to welcome Marilyn Evans to the Melikian Center.

There have been a few other staffing changes at the Melikian Center. Last year we welcomed Kyle Cowden, an accounts specialist, to the staff. Our 2007-08 graduate assistant Filip Erdeljic will be moving to the History Department where he is completing his graduate studies, and we are joined this year by Andrew Reed, a new graduate student in history with special interests in Russian and Ukrainian religious history. Andrew completed his coursework and M.A. thesis at Cambridge University before coming to ASU this summer. Most of you know that our offices have moved to the northeast corner of the fourth floor of Coor Hall. Come visit us, and join us for an important set of fall programs at the Melikian Center.

-- Stephen Batalden

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director .....	1
Events Calendar .....	1
Project Updates .....	2-4
Fellowships/Deadlines .....	5
CLI News .....	5
Faculty/Staff News.....	5-6
Student News .....	6

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 5 1 p.m.	Fulbright/NSEP App. Mentoring COOR 4403
Sep 19 1:30 p.m.	Armen Liloyan Consul Gen. of Armenia COOR 4403
Sep 23 7 p.m.	ASU Lib. Disc. Series Isaac Babel's <i>Red Cavalry</i> Hayden Library
Sep 26 1 p.m.	Fulbright/NSEP App. Mentoring COOR 4403
Oct 6 12 p.m.	Andrei Cherny <i>The Candy Bombers</i> COOR 4403
Oct 17 12 p.m.	Susana Torres Prieto "Heroic Legends & Nation-Building in Eastern Europe" Coor Hall
Oct 28 12 p.m.	Zilka Spahic-Siljak "Women & Islam in SE Europe" ECA 385 (Marshall Conf Room)
Nov 21 2 p.m.	Odilbek Kattaev <i>A Look at Uzbekistan</i> COOR, room tba
Dec 9 7 p.m.	ASU Lib. Disc. Series Jan T. Gross's <i>Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne</i> Hayden Library
Dec 12 8 p.m.	Victor Agadjanian "Effects of Labor Migration on Women in Rural Armenia" Armenian Cultural Center, Scottsdale

**The Melikian Center**  
Coor Hall 4450  
PO Box 874202  
Tempe, AZ 85287-4202

**Tel. 480-965-4188**  
**Fax: 480-965-1700**

**melikiancenter@asu.edu**  
**http://melikian.asu.edu**

## PROJECT UPDATES

### KOSOVO

#### President Sejdiu to visit ASU

The President of Kosovo, **Fatmir Sejdiu**, will visit ASU in October 2008. In 2004, Sejdiu, then a professor at the University of Pristina, spent a semester as a scholar-in-residence at ASU as part of a previous Melikian Center project. Sejdiu became Kosovo's first president in February, 2008.

Details of President Sejdiu's visit will be posted at <http://melikian.asu.edu> as they become available.

#### Transforming Accountancy Education at the University of Pristina

At the end of July, five Kosovar baccalaureate graduates in business and economics ventured onto the ASU campus for a boot camp that prepared them for a year-long intensive master's of accountancy degree in the ASU School of Accountancy. The students are in Tempe as part of a three-year partnership between Arizona State University and the University of Pristina (UP) aimed at reforming undergraduate accountancy training in Kosovo. At the center of this project is the master's of accountancy training for the five Kosovars who will be returning to UP upon completion of their degree program in May 2009 to take teaching positions in a reformed accountancy program at UP.

**Adrian Alo, Arben Avdiu, Arber Hoti, Visar Peci, and Lulzim Zeka**



*Arben Avdiu, Lulzim Zeka, Adrian Alo, Visar Peci, Arber Hoti, future accountancy instructors of Kosovo*

arrived early for the fall 2008 semester in order to participate in the boot camp, taught by Professors **Charles Christian** and **Persy Munshi**. Professor Christian (former director of the ASU School of Accountancy) is also one of the lead project facilitators, along with **Shahin Berisha** (professor of math and science at GateWay Community College) and Melikian Center Director **Steve Batalden**. In addition to the degree programs for the five Kosovar accountants, the project is funding Albanian translation and publication of accountancy and taxation texts for use in the new UP accountancy program. The CLI's Albanian language instructor, **Linda Meniku**, is heading up the translation portion of the project.

Funding for this project (\$450,000) has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development through Higher Education for Development.

#### Future Voters of Kosovo

In April 2008, The Melikian Center, in collaboration with the Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), secured from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) of the U.S. Department of State a grant to implement a comprehensive

"Future Voters" project in Kosovo public schools, based on the "Kids Voting" projects in the United States.

The three-year \$750,000 project will target a cross-section of majority Albanian and minority Serbian, Turkish, and Roma youth. The project will advance democratization and build citizenship in Kosovo by engaging young people between the ages of 12 and 18 in reasoned debate and simulated election voting on the candidates and platforms affecting the future of Kosovo's new governmental institutions. The model for this project is the highly successful "Kids Voting USA," first launched in the state of Arizona and expanded to more than forty states and the District of Columbia.

#### РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

**Eat good food, drink good drink, speak good Russian**

Students of Russian at ASU now have opportunities EVERY WEEK to practice their skills with native speakers and students of ALL LEVELS!

Odilbek Kattaev hosts русский стол at MU first floor food court **Fridays at 11 a.m.** Look for the table with the Russian flag.





To develop the curriculum, train teachers, and oversee the development of what is being called “Future Voters of Kosovo,” the Melikian Center is working with a team of proven leaders in civic education. **Marilyn Evans**, the founder of Kids Voting Arizona and first president and CEO of “Kids Voting USA,” is the Center’s chief of party overseeing project implementation in Kosovo. The project is lodged in the offices of KIPRED, a prominent and highly regarded Kosovar NGO that has extensive involvement in local election monitoring. KIPRED’s director of special projects, **Ilir Dugolli**, will serve as the main KIPRED on-site facilitator for the project. Dugolli earlier spent a semester as a scholar-in-residence at ASU. The project builds off a series of significant Department of State and USAID projects undertaken by the Melikian Center in Kosovo beginning in 2001.

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

### Religious Studies in Sarajevo

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the new **M.A. program in Religious Studies (MARS)** at the University of Sarajevo’s Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (CIPS) had its first year of full operation with twenty graduate students enrolled in the program. The MARS program at CIPS grows out of the Melikian Center’s three-year State Department educational partnership with the University of Sarajevo in the field of religious studies. In the last year of the funded partnership, several Melikian Center faculty affiliates have been offering seminars in the MARS program.

Prof. **Alexander Agadjanian**, faculty associate in the ASU Department of Religious Studies, was the first Center affiliate to travel to Sarajevo to offer instruction in the MARS program. In October 2007, he presented lectures for the course “Ritual, Symbol, and Myth.” Prof. **John Carlson**, assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies

and associate director of the ASU Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict (CSRC), traveled to Sarajevo in December 2007, serving as the course leader for a seminar on “Religion, Violence and Conflict Resolution.” Prof. **Stephen Batalden**, director of the Melikian Center and professor in the History Department, participated in the opening ceremonies for the MARS program in September 2007, and then returned in April 2008 as course leader for a seminar entitled “Religion and Nationalism in Southeastern Europe.” Prof. **Joel Gereboff**, chair of the ASU Department of Religious Studies, traveled to Sarajevo in May 2008 to lead a seminar on religion and social justice. In November 2008, Alexander Agadjanian will return to the Sarajevo MARS program to direct a seminar on contemporary critical theory and religious studies. This Melikian Center educational partnership has been made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

### Faith & Community Exchanges

In January 2008, The Melikian Center hosted a delegation of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian community leaders from Bosnia and Herzegovina for a three-week seminar, which successfully engaged the religious leaders from southeast-

ern Europe with their counterparts in Arizona. The syllabus for the seminar drew the Bosnian religious leaders into sustained discussions of civil society issues confronting the faith communities of Arizona. The visits included working sessions with the local Catholic diocese, with the Jewish community, and with local Muslim leaders. Highlights of the visit included the two forums on “A Common Word” held at the Armenian Cultural Center in Scottsdale and in Coor Hall on the ASU Tempe campus. “A Common Word” is the landmark document penned by 138 international Muslim clerics calling for reconciliation with other faiths within the Abrahamic tradition. Participating Bosnian delegates evaluated highly the presentation by Professor **David Kader** of the ASU Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law on the “free exercise” clause and the “non-establishment” clause of the first amendment of the U.S. constitution. There was also a riveting session held at the law offices of Lewis & Roca, which addressed the landmark “sanctuary” trials involving Arizona religious communities in the mid-1980s. The “sanctuary” session featured the main pro bono lawyer for the religious communities, long-time Lewis & Roca partner **Peter Baird**, and one of the jailed defendants, the retired pastor of Southside Presby-



*Faith & Community exchange participants in Sarajevo (left to right): David Kader, Lucy Flaaten, David Brokaw, Warren H. Stewart Sr., Rebecca Bostic, Garth Bostic, Marcie Lee, Jan Flaaten, Zilka Spahic-Siljak, Dina Sijamhodzic-Nadarevic, Dermana Seta, Jannah Scott*

terian Church in Tucson, Arizona, the Reverend **John Fife**.

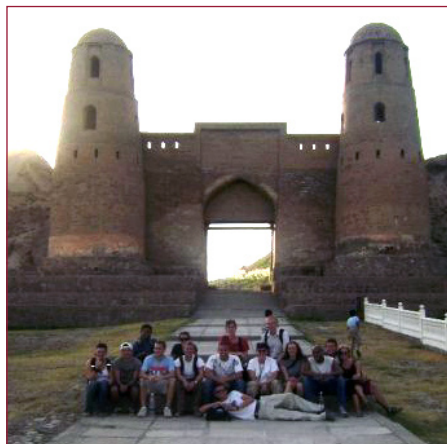
In June 2008, a seven-member delegation from Arizona travelled to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) for an eleven-day seminar similar to the one held in Arizona, including visits to the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities of BiH. Participating in the Arizona delegation were the Rev. **Jan Flaaten**, executive director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council; Ms. **Jannah Scott**, policy advisor on faith and community initiatives for Arizona governor **Janet Napolitano**; Pastor **Warren H. Stewart, Sr.**, senior pastor of the First Institutional Baptist Church of Phoenix; Imam **Sabahudin Ceman**, presiding cleric of the Islamic Community of North Phoenix; **Marcy Lee**, faculty associate in the ASU Religious Studies Department; **Rebecca Bostic**, Xavier High School teacher and reporter for the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Sun*; and Professor David Kader of the Sandra Day O'Connor Law School.

Highpoints of the visit included working sessions at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, at the Inter-religious Council of BiH, and at the Jewish Community of Sarajevo, this last being capped by a viewing of the Sarajevo Haggadah at the BiH National Museum. The Arizona delegation also were included in a ritual observance at the Sufi center in Blagaj, paid visits to Serbian Orthodox and Catholic monasteries in Herzegovina, and attended a performance of religious music by the celebrated Pontanima Choir, an internationally recognized choral ensemble representing all three Abrahamic traditions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Melikian Center Assistant Director **David Brokaw** and Director **Stephen Batalden** accompanied the Arizona delegation.

## MULTI-REGION

### Development Assistance & Job Creation

The Melikian Center recently completed an evaluation of the impact on job creation of U.S. Government aid



*CLI+ students visiting the fortress in Hisar, Tajikistan, July 2008*

programs in the countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Applying data models suggested by a review of the literature to survey data gathered in Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, and Macedonia, the year-long investigation found that for most of the post-Soviet period it was possible to document a significant positive effect of U.S. assistance in the medium term. More interestingly, the report identified factors affecting the impact of aid, including: location, timing, and size of enterprise receiving assistance.

These findings will be featured in a panel at the 2008 conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

The ASU analysis was headed by Professor **Josef Brada** of the W. P. Carey School of Business.

"Assessing the Impact of U.S. Government Assistance on Job Creation" was made possible by a \$275,000 award from USAID through Higher Education for Development.

## CLI + ROTC

This summer the ASU Critical Language Center opened its doors to ROTC cadets from across the nation as part of the National Security Education Program's "ROTC Language and Culture Training" project.

With \$500,000 in funding for the 2008 and 2009 CLI sessions, the CLI+ROTC project ("CLI+" for short) is ASU's contribution to a 12-university effort to

expand the cadre of officers in the United States military familiar with the languages and cultures of nations of strategic importance.

Cadets in the ASU program study Russian, Tajik, Tatar, or Uzbek for eight weeks at the CLI, then travel to Tatarstan (Russia) or Dushanbe (Tajikistan) for in-country training. In 2008, 14 cadets participated in the Tajik and Uzbek programs. Seven participated in the Russian and Tatar programs.

## RUSSIA

### Public Policy & Labor Migration

In February 2008, the Center welcomed three colleagues from the Moscow State University (MSU) School of Public Administration (SPA) for a two-week intensive seminar, "Public Policy Issues Relating to Migration in Arizona and Moscow." Sessions included a two-day mini-seminar on disseminating public policy research, a meeting with Mayor **Phil Gordon**, discussions about border cities with city officials from Nogales, Arizona, and a session with officials from the town of Guadalupe, Arizona. The ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy Research was instrumental in planning the two-week seminar. Morrison Institute director **Rob Melnick** and assistant director **Nancy Welch** led a two-day session on disseminating public policy research. In May, **Stephen Batalden**, Rob Melnick, and Melikian Center faculty affiliate **Victor Agadjanian** paid a reciprocal visit to Moscow State University to meet with colleagues and present papers at the MSU SPA sixth annual international conference on public administration.

The partnership with the MSU SPA focuses on workforce development, including policy issues pertaining to legal and illegal labor migration. As part of this project, the Center has worked with the MSU SPA to develop in Moscow a very successful new public policy research center patterned after the Morrison Institute—namely, the MSU Center for Strategic Innovation.

This project is made possible by a



\$207,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

## CLI NEWS

The 2008 summer Critical Languages Institute experienced its largest enrollment, up 20 percent from last year. One hundred and twelve students attended 14 courses covering nine languages (three levels of Albanian; two levels each of Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, and Russian; and one level each of Macedonian, Polish, Tajik, Tatar, and Uzbek).

In addition to classroom instruction, highlights of the summer included talks by **Gregory Melikian** on his experience in the European theater in WWII, **Amy**



*James Eichelberger (University of Northern Texas) & Michael Steuart (ASU) studying Uzbek with the CLI Dushanbe practicum*

**Newhall** of the University of Arizona on Central Asian architecture, **Lori Malone** of the CIA, **Laurie Wax** of IIE, **Anthony Vanchu** of TransTech International on teaching astronauts Russian at the Johnson Space Center, **Mark von Hagen** of the ASU History Department on national identity in Putin's Russia, **Adam Tanner** of Reuters, on his experiences as a foreign correspondent, and **James Melikian**, local collector of rare Armenian books and artifacts.

The annual multicultural event showcasing student talent (from violin concertos to depictions of Tatar dating rituals) was very popular, as were the weekly films and videos and talks by students and instructors on topics ranging from Islamic Law in Bukhara to pragmatics in English and Slavic.

## 2008/09 FLTA FELLOW

Please join us in welcoming **Odilbek Kattaev** as this year's Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant. A native of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Odilbek will be teaching elementary and intermediate Uzbek and leading the ASU Russian table for the next year. When he is not teaching, Odilbek will be studying History and Educational Psychology at ASU.

Odilbek's background is in second-language instruction. In Uzbekistan he teaches English to Korean, Iranian, and Turkish students attending Westminster University in Tashkent and the Tashkent

International School. Odilbek says he is looking forward to teaching ASU students his native language. If for no other reason, he says it will be a great luxury to be able to teach students with whom he shares a common language.

If you have not yet met Odilbek, please drop by Coor Hall 4461 (or come to Russian conversation hour) and introduce yourself.

## FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

**Eugene Clay** and **Agnes Kefeli** were awarded an IHR seed grant for their project "From the Volga to the Salt River: Christian and Muslim Spiritual Songs

## MAJOR FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT DEADLINES 2008/09

Kennan Short-Term Grants	Sep 1, Dec 1, Mar 1, Jun 1
SSRC Eurasian Fellowships	Sep 1
NEH Documenting Endangered Languages	Sep 15
NEH Summer Stipends	Oct 1
NEH Teaching Dev.	Oct 1
Title VII Travel	Oct 1, Jan 15
NEH Digital Humanities	Oct 8
NEH Collab. Research	Nov 5
SSRC Diss. Fellowships	Nov 5
ACLS E European Fellowships	Nov 12
IREX Fellowships	Nov 15*
IREX Indiv Adv Research	Nov 17
ACLS Indiv Summer	Jan 16
NSEP Grad Fellowships	Jan 29
ACLS Conf/Travel	Jan 30
IREX Travel	Feb 1*
IREX Short Term	Feb 2
NSEP Undergrad Fellowships	Feb 11
NCEER Programs	Feb 13
Ed Hewett Fellowship	Mar 13
Carnegie Research Fellowships	Apr 30

\*2007/08 dates

## 2008/09 FELLOWSHIPS

The CLI is proud to announce the following fellowship awards for the 2008-2009 academic year:

### NSEP FELLOWS

- **Francine Banner, Russia**
- **Laurie Dermer, Russia**
- **Matthew Jacobs, Bosnia-Herzegovina**
- **Derek Kedziora, Kyrgyzstan**
- **Sara Schwalm, Russia**

### FULBRIGHT FELLOWS

- **Natalia Anker-Lagos, Tajikistan**
- **Emily Falkner, Slovakia**

*Advising sessions for the 2009-10 NSEP & Fulbright competitions begin on September 5. Please notify students of this opportunity.*

of Russia.” Clay was also selected as a fellow for an NEH institute for the summer sponsored by the New York Public Library on: “Sources for Russian and Soviet Visual Culture 1860-1935 Study, Teaching and Education.”

**Lee Croft** and sophomore mathematics major Samuel Comi announce the discovery of the first Russian Cyrillic alphamagic square. The third-order array (74, 50, 92/ 90, 72, 54/ 52, 94, 70) has several unique properties and is also the first non-Roman-alphabet alphamagic square. A description of the process of this discovery, “Russian Alphamagic Squares” by Lee B. Croft and Samuel Comi has been accepted for publication in the next issue of *WORD WAYS: The Journal of Recreational Linguistics*.

**Agnes Kefeli** received one of the 12 Library of Congress Kluge fellowships. She continues her work on matters related to Islam in Tatarstan.

**Aleksandra Gruzinska's** book *New Interpretations in the History of French Literature: From Marie de France to Beckett and Cioran* was published by Edwin Mellen Press.

**Don Livingston** has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in Russian in the School of International Letters and Cultures.

**Laurie Manchester's** book *Holy Fathers, Secular Sons: Clergy, Intelligentsia, and the Modern Self in Revolutionary Russia* has been published by Northern Illinois University Press. Her article, “Commonalities of Modern Political Discourse: Three Paths of Activism in Late Imperial Russia's Alternative Intelligentsia,” was published in *Kritika* in Fall 2007. She received a short-term travel grant from the Kennan Institute in 2007 for her new book project, *The Colonial World through Russian Eyes*.

**Danko Sipka** was named to the national board to select U.S. State Department Title VII research fellows in Southeastern Europe. He has also been invited to give a keynote address at the Third International Conference on Slavistics. His *Dictionary of Bosnian/Croatian/ Serbian-English False Cognates* was published in 2008 by Dunwoody Press.

The Melikian Center is pleased to welcome **Kyle Cowden** to the staff. Kyle joined us in January 2008 as an accounts specialist. Before coming to the Center, he

was an accountant in the ASU Financial Services office. He received a B.S. in accounting from DeVry University in Phoenix and an M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management in Scottsdale.

## STUDENT NEWS

Once again Professor **Lee Croft** of the School of International Letters and Cultures has set a standard for collaborative research publication with his students. Their recently published work *RUS-SIA: The Missionaries' Tales* features essays by Croft and students **Andrew T. Gunn, Christopher D. Johnson, Electronica Kolasa, Scott C. Legler, Heather Nyhart, S. Zachary Tanner, and Travis Webb**.

**Natalia Anker-Lagos**, has received a Fulbright fellowship to study in Tajikistan in 2008/09. She was designated an American Council of Teachers of Russian “National Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate,” and won the ASU Libraries' Student Book Collecting Contest for her collection of books on Tatar language and politics. defended in the spring of 2008 her Honors Thesis on “Jadidism in Tatarstan,” and earned a Russian and East European (REES) Studies Certificate.

**Elena Bashmakov**, finance major, is the winner of the 2008 ASU Dmitrii Krioukov Memorial Translation Contest.

**Steven Cottam**, history and religious studies major, defended his Honors Thesis on “Ecumenism and the Armenian Apostolic Church.” Steven, who also has worked occasionally as a student assistant in the Melikian Center was awarded the REES Certificate.

**Erin Hutchinson**, history and global studies major, defended her Honors Thesis on “Language Policy in Post-Soviet Armenia.”

**Scott Legler**, Russian major, has been awarded the REES Certificate.

**Kelsey Olson**, Russian major, achieved Certificate Level I on the Russian State Exams.

## 5th Annual Conference: ROCKY MOUNTAIN EUROPEAN SCHOLARS CONSORTIUM

“Europe's Diversity”  
October 10-11, 2008  
University of Arizona



This multidisciplinary conference provides a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of the shifting shape and meaning of Europe. Scholars are invited to share their work and to interact with colleagues from throughout the Intermountain West.

See <http://europe.arizona.edu/conference> for details and registration.

RMESC is sponsored by the European Studies Group of the University of Arizona.