Scholar**Forum**

Social Movements

Regional Focus:
EASTERN EUROPE

Essays and creative works by
Open Society Scholarship Programs'
grantees and alumni

Contents

Dear Readers,

The past few years have seen great changes in Eastern Europe. Russia's annexation of Crimea has set the stage for a new phase in the region—one where Russia's sphere of influence is enveloping its near neighbors and compromising their sovereignty. Other nations on Russia's rim have looked on with alarm, naturally worried about their sovereignty.

In the world at large, grasssroots social movements and online activists are encouraging social change. These movements are capturing the attention of audiences around the world, including our scholars and alumni.

Though the foci of this edition—Eastern Europe and social movements—can be written about seperately, many of the essays in this edition exhibit a melding of these two subjects. Inevitably, recent events in Ukraine feature heavily in all sections, including the open forum of the Academic Showcase. However, there are other contributors who offer unique insights, such as the stimulating effects "marginality" has had on the Belarusian cultural and intellectual elite. This edition also features a variety of photographs, ranging from the recent Moldovan elections, to Roma housing settlements in Serbia. Toward the back, we've included brief alumni updates to highlight where they are active and what they are working on. Where email addresses are provided, we encourage you to build contacts and networks in the fields and regions of relevance to you.

We hope you enjoy this issue discussing Eastern Europe and social movements, and welcome any suggestions, comments or letters to the editors you may have, to scholarforum@opensocietyfoundations.org. In addition, please feel free to email us for full references of any of the texts.

Happy Reading,

Open Society Scholarship Programs

Social Movements

Gender and Social Activism against Street Sexual Harassment in Egypt

Nihal SAID, Egypt
Middle East Rule of Law, 2012-2014

The 2011 wave of protests in Egypt provided fertile ground for social movements to work on an array of problems and advocate for social change. A significant Egyptian social issue that began to be addressed at the time was the pervasiveness of sexual harassment of women in public spaces. A 2013 United Nations study found that approximately 99 percent of Egyptian women have encountered some form of harassment. This harassment is often endured in silence and with resignation. Indeed, 48 percent of women who were subject to harassment said that they did not report its occurrence, with a similar percentage reporting that harassment made them afraid of going out in public (UN Women, 2013).

Background on Street Sexual Harassment in Egypt

Although street sexual harassment has long been an issue in Egypt, the crackdown on the anti-Mubarak "Kefaya" movement that started in 2005 and continued through the 2011 protests, ushered in a new period where the issue of street harassment became politicized. This type of politicization is often seen once an issue is brought into public discourse through increased media coverage and its association with political events (Posel, 2005). Due to this politicization, different Egyptian social and political actors focused on trying to produce both behavioral and legislative change, including changes in the quality and consistency of police efforts to stop harassment.

Street sexual harassment started to be politicized as the public reacted to several crucial events in recent Egyptian history. In 2005, the government committed grave violations against anti-Mubarak protesters who were affiliated with the "Kefaya" ("Enough") social movement. The government started using thugs to harass both male and female protestors to deter them from political participation (Rizzo et al, 2012). This politically-motivated harassment resurfaced

after the 2011 revolution in the form of mob assaults against female protests in Tahrir Square and at other protest hubs, as well as performing virginity tests on female protesters in March 2011.

Another form of politicized harassment can be seen in incidents that have taken place during public feasts or holidays. One prominent example was the widely publicized mob assault incident

"Harassment is often endured in silence and with resignation"

that took place during the 2006 Eid El Fitr (the Islamic religious feast after Ramadan), where a group of men publicly assaulted women outside a movie theater in Downtown Cairo in the presence of the police and without regard for the women's dress code, nationality, and/or age. Even though this incident might be considered "social" because the victimized women were not involved in political action, the media and blogger/activist coverage of this issue gave it a politicized tone and broke the usual silence on this social issue. These incidents, among others, motivated Egyptians—especially young people—to address the problem of the "acceptability of sexual harassment in the street."

My Research on Anti-Harassment Social Movements

In summer 2013, I began a qualitative study of the work done by three initiatives involved in the social movement to address street sexual harassment. These initiatives were founded and mostly operated by young people, and used innovative communication tools to address street sexual harassment. The core of the research involved interviewing the initiatives' founders, organizers, and volunteers.

The three movements I studied were: HarassMap, the BUSSY project, and the Imprint Movement:

- HarassMap started operating in late 2009 and maps incidents reported using mobiles and the internet and charts them on a map of Egypt. It circulates this information on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.
- The BUSSY Project began in 2006 and uses invisible theater (Boal, 1979) and monologue performances to address social and political issues revolving around the social construction of gender. The use of invisible theater was practiced by the BUSSY project in its "Street Harassment Experiments" which portrayed realistic street harassment scenes in order to provoke bystanders to intervene.
- The Imprint Movement was initiated by political activists in 2012 and uses community dialogue and mobilization to raise awareness of and promote intervention in seasonal violent harassment, such as the Eid incidences noted earlier, which it fights under the banner of creating an "Eid Free of Harassment."

These initiatives were founded on the premise of involving men and women in fighting street sexual harassment. However, my findings suggest that the politicized nature of harassment in Egypt affected their mode of operation. Specifically, the initiatives' activities became divided along gendered lines: a fact that may provide unique insights into activism in Egypt.

Preliminary Research Findings

In my interviews, I noticed that the activists' framing and practice of their activities tends to disassociate them from feminist ideology, instead casting their activities as "social" or "political," rather than "feminist" in order to ensure the inclusion of men.

For example, the BUSSY Project started off as an arts activity using monologue performances mirroring The Vagina Monologues, which started in the United States. For cultural reasons, its founders named it BUSSY Monologues (the Arabic alphabet does not contain an equivalent of the letter "p"), despite the fact that the activities were not deliberately targeted at women. Most of the performers were women and the stories were about women. With the occurrence of the 2011 revolution, the BUSSY Project added another set of mono-

Promoting the Marginality: The Borderland Status of Belarusian Intellectual Elites

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Global Supplementary Grants Program, 2013-14
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Belarus, located on the borders of Europe and at the crossroads of various linguistic and cultural traditions, is a place where Catholic and Orthodox civilizations meet. These important factors affected the formation of Belarusian intellectual elites. Belarusian people were often not considered as living in a fully-fledged nation, and Belarusian intellectuals, even by themselves, were considered as marginal and not influential within society.

In this short essay, I will focus on the notion of marginality in regard to Belarusian cultural and intellectual elites, since the concepts of center and periphery have recently been acquiring new meaning and the terms are becoming increasingly fluid. I am going to demonstrate that being from a "borderland" is not only a fate but a privilege that enables a unique form of cultural production.

Starting in the middle of the 19th century, national elites arose all over the multinational Russian Empire. Because of this, the incipient Belarusian intelligentsia has been surrounded by Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Jewish, and Lithuanian cultural and national projects.

Such a situation has certain disadvantages. The closeness of other cultures played a role in the initial weakness of Belarusian elites. This extends to the Slavic origin of the Belarusian language, which is similar to Russian and Polish, and makes them both easily understood by people who grow up in Belarus.

On the other hand, the difficulties sometimes evolved into benefits. Belarusian intellectuals never spoke only one language and were engaged in other traditions, which brought other cultural experiences into the Belarusian national project.

In his book *The Code of Absence: The Foundations of Belarusian Mentality*, Belarusian philosopher and essayist Valjancin Akudovič introduces the notion of marginality as an important feature of Belarusian intellectual elites during both the early stages of this group's development, and throughout the course of the 20th century.

Akudovič considers that local intellectuals were composed mostly of people who were turning back to their ethnic origins from other national projects in which they found neither fame nor recognition. One so-called "outsider," a talented Belarusian poet named Maksim Bahdanovič (1891-1917), was born in Belarus but was raised and educated in Russia. He published poetry, small prosaic works and also critical articles in Russian, but it is within Belarusian culture where he obtained the glory of being a national poet.

Many celebrated members of the Belarusian intelligentsia started their writing careers in other languages. Ivan Lucevič (pen name: Janka Kupala, 1882-1942) was considered one of the greatest Belarusian-

logues—gender-neutrally named The Tahrir Monologues—to reflect the current political context through storytelling. In The Tahrir Monologues, most of the stories presented were of men's experiences in the revolution and were acted out by men. This example highlights the gender division inherent in the BUSSY project's performances, and the "lost chance" of having performances that involve both genders equally in addressing a shared goal.

"The initiatives' activities became divided along gendered lines"

Another example of this can be seen in the activities of the Imprint Movement. This project's main activities are the Eid patrols that intervene in harassment incidents. The project's masculine orientation is highlighted by its use of male volunteers who wear identifiable vests. Its other activities, such as those pushing for community mobilization, do involve women in raising awareness in public spaces used by women, such as metro stations.

A final example can be highlighted by the activities of HarassMap, which has been active in stopping the mob assault incidents targeting women protesters that started in late 2011. HarassMap worked with several initiatives to reclaim the security of women during the revolution. Two such initiatives were Operation Anti Sexual Harassment and Tahrir Bodyguard. Both of these initiatives operated in ways that drew gender lines through the division of work. This occurred when men and women were assigned specific roles in intervention teams in order to ensure women's safety.

Conclusion

My research provided insights into the gendered nature of social involvement in fighting street sexual harassment that are context specific to Egypt. In my study, I make no normative judgments about the gendered division of labor that the research highlighted. It should be noted that this gendering may have helped the movements achieve their objectives. However, it could also present challenges to the sustainability of their efforts, as some of the decisions that led to this division were politically motivated and perpetuate existing gender stereotypes and divisions of labor in Egyptian society. I will continue to explore these issues in my larger research project.■

language poets but first attempted to write in Polish. Zmicer Žylunovič (pen name: Ciška Hartny, 1887-1937), chairman of the first Belarusian Soviet government, was a writer, translator, and a member of the Academy of Science who first started to write in Russian. Samuil Plaŭnik (pen name: Zmitrok Bjadulja, 1886-1941) started to write first in Hebrew, then Russian, but found fame from his Belarusian-language writings.

The main point is that all of these writers originated from the cultural and language borderland and deliberately chose Belarussian cultural traditions. From such a marginal position, Belarusian culture was recreated and the Belarusian language revived at the end of 19th and beginnings of the 20th centuries on the edges of the Russian Empire.

At the end of 20th century, just before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, history repeated itself. After many years of Russification and attempts to create a single nation out of the multiple ethnic communities that made up the USSR, Belarus found itself a "marginal" language in comparison to the Russian language of the center.

At this very moment, the new generation of young people suddenly changed their language and world view, abandoned a Soviet identity, and embraced being Belarusian. These young people have called themselves the "Generation of Tutėjšyja" or "those who are from here" and claimed to be the "the first Belarusian intellectual generation."

The protest sentiments which characterized the intellectual elites at the end of 1980s are often regarded as short-term but intense activity of the "Tutėjšyja," generation. Within a short period of time, they managed to reformulate the status of Belarusian language from "marginal" to "elite" and to create a new notion of Belarusian culture. The latter should not be understood from the perspective of center/periphery opposition, but instead should be incorporated into a wider perspective where every culture has its own value.

The situation of personal choice in identity and language, and the deliberate decision to choose Belarusian culture, in my view, finally legitimated the existence of a national intellectual elite at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, and once again in the end of the 20th century, although it was not encouraged at all by the state.

The experience of returning and choosing between different national and cultural identities, as well as existing on the margins of society, should not be considered negatively. In retrospect, and upon further examination, it is clear that the process of choosing to exist on the margins has stimulated the accumulation of various cultural backgrounds into the Belarusian intellectual movement and promoted its openness.■

PHOTO ESSAY:
A Movement of Independents

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UK Programs, 2011-2012, University of Warwick, United Kingdom

In the midst of Moldova's 2014 electoral campaign, Oleg Brega greeted each passer-by with a thumbs up. A journalist and activist of the Hyde Park organization, which has promoted the freedom of expression for 11 years, and well known for his activities in debating the role of new media for civic movements, Brega knew the time had come to run as an independent candidate in the Moldovan Parliament, held on November 30, 2014. According to politik.md, he made up his mind about five months before the elections, when he saw there was no one on the ticket to represent his interests. What he didn't know was how people would react to his decision, and, most importantly, how his candidacy would appeal to young Moldovans' readiness for a different approach to leading change.

Article 78 of Moldova's Electoral Code states the number of signatures to be collected from citizens for an individual candidate to pursue an electoral campaign must be 2,000 or more. Brega started his signature-collecting campaign on social media before hitting the streets. He was entering a political field in which no independent candidate had ever made it to Parliament. In a magazine interview in 2010, Brega expressed his preference to be a social activist rather than a politician, however, in a more recent interview published on June 28 by the same online portal politik.md, Brega confessed that his mind changed when he realized there was no one to vote for in the upcoming elections.

After announcing where he could be found via social media, Brega toured 40 villages around the country to seek more signatures for his list. By the end of his journey, "the poor candidate on a bike" as Brega refers to himself, had accumulated 2,100 signatures.

Brega also found support from regional social and political movements outside

the country. For instance, the Federation of Young European Greens have invited him to speak at their conference in Georgia. Numerous young people have shown their support by posting photos on social media of themselves and Brega at his signature collection points. A wider impact of Brega's campaign is that it has started a new "movement of independents" in Moldova. Following Brega's example, Ion Varanita, another independent candidate, has taken up Brega's signature collecting spot across from city hall and intends to collect enough signatures to get on the ballot.

The popularity of the independent movement among youth, and the media attention that Brega has attracted with his manifesto, has important implications. The first is the role of social media in drawing public attention to a candidate who otherwise would not be able to make it due to financial limitations. Young people have been the main supporters of this movement as active users of social media. They also relate to Brega's ideals as an activist. This is perhaps because they see an individual who is informal and speaks in a relaxed and unrestrained manner. Brega is younger than most politicians in the current parliament, and is closer to what many youth see as someone who can create change.

Young people in Moldova freely express their disappointment with existing political parties, and are starting to take action in promoting new political candidates. It is not necessarily Brega's style that they want to embrace; a leading political style or movement has not yet emerged to define and engage a majority of young voters. What is certain about Brega, however, is that the youth support he has attracted demonstrates how young people are outgrowing traditional political campaigns and candidates. In the end, Brega accumu-

"The youth support he has attracted demonstrates how young people are outgrowing traditional political campaigns and candidates"

lated just 0.88 percent of votes, an insufficient number to earn him a place in the Moldovan Parliament. Nevertheless, he is the only independent candidate to ever to have accumulated that many votes in the history of an independent candidate in Moldova according to the website protv.md. Perhaps future generations will get behind independent candidates with more gusto in the future.■

Photos: Ana SIMON

Research in Progress: Euromaidan Social Movement in the Internet Age

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This essay provides a preliminary analysis of the use of social media for political mobilization by the pro-European "Euromaidan" social movement and its rivals in Ukraine. It focuses on the key events and social media engagements that sparked mass protests in November 2013. The paper supports the view by Manuel Castells that social movements and mobilizations. The Arab Spring uprisings and the resultant political change may serve as an illustration of the transformative potential of social media. While these uprisings were widely analyzed in scholarship on society (Castells, 2013; Khondker, 2011), the pro-European protests of 2013-2014 in Ukraine

"Over recent years, the development of and access to social media via various electronic devices has contributed significantly to a more intensified connectivity"

contemporary social movements are social networks that are being produced as an oscillation between "outrage and hope" (Castells, 2013). For Euromaidan, "hope" is related to pro-European aspirations; "outrage" toward the authoritarian regime of then President Victor Yanukovych. In this paper, I argue that new digital media helped circumvent traditional barriers of political communication and made political activities in Ukraine and worldwide more efficient and coordinated. The first part of my paper addresses the impact of media on the mobilization and dynamics of the Euromaidan protesters, while the second part considers the use of social media by the rival side. However the media, both traditional and new, cannot be treated as a stand-alone mobilizing factor. Therefore, further investigation should be based on a contextualization of the role of social media within social, political, and historical factors.

Over recent years, the development of and access to social media via various electronic devices has contributed significantly to a more intensified connectivity. This connectivity is crucial for contemporary

provide us with a new opportunity to examine the role of social media in contemporary social movements.

On November 21, 2013, the then prime minister of Ukraine, Mykola Azarov, announced that the Association Agreement with the European Union, which was due to be signed on November 28, would be postponed. This was a culmination of the pro-European campaign launched by the ruling Party of Regions and President Victor Yanukovych. After this announcement a Ukrainian journalist, Mustafa Nayyem, posted on his Facebook page: "Let's meet at 22.30 near the Independence Monument. Dress well, take umbrellas, tea, coffee, good mood and friends. Reposts are very welcomed." While there were pro-European groups and activists before, it is thought that the Euromaidan movement started with this Facebook post. That night, around 1,500 people gathered in Independence ("Maidan") Square, and the first tents, similar to those during the Orange Revolution of 2004, were installed. The protesters demanded that the Association Agreement be signed at the EU Summit in Vilnius.

On the same day, a Facebook group called "EuroMaydan" was created. These initial gatherings and cyberactivism were parts of a growing movement where social media was widely used in order to mobilize people to join the protests.

During the next few days, groups supporting the Euromaidan movement were formed across Ukraine and within Ukrainian communities across the world. These were largely coordinated with the use of social media. On November 26, Euromaidan protests took place in 46 cities in 22 countries worldwide. President Yanukovych refused to sign the Association Agreement with the European Union, claiming that certain aspects would be harmful to the Ukrainian economy, and that Russia should join the negotiating processes between the European Union and Ukraine. This move effectively reinforced "networks of outrage" (Castells 2013). However, it was not until the night of November 30 when that outrage was transformed into mass political action. The Yanukovych regime decided to break the protest by ordering the Berkut, the official riot police unit, to attack the protesters. With brute force, the protesters and their small camp were removed from Maidan leaving more than 40 people injured. The authorities assumed this coercion would prevent further protests. As Castells (2013) points out: "Coercion and intimidation, based on state's monopoly of the capacity to exercise violence, are essential mechanisms for imposing the will of those in control of the institutions of society." However, exercising power raises questions of legitimacy. Such actions were definitely not perceived as legitimate, as the flimsy excuse given for the dispersal of protesters was the need to put up a Christmas tree. The outrage caused by these actions brought hundreds of thousands of people

to the streets of Kiev, starting a long and violent struggle between the Euromaidan movement and the Yanukovych regime. These events raise the following question: was the effect of social media platforms good enough for the Euromaidan movement to emerge and succeed?

Sociological debates on the role of new media in influencing society date back to Castells' ground-breaking work, *The Rise of the Network Society* (1996) and, more recently, *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age* (2013). Social media is commonly acknowledged as the ultimate tool for democratic social change (Rane and Salem, 2012; Howard and Hussain, 2011). However, as Khondker (2011) reminds us, new media can also improve control for authoritarian regimes by providing additional opportunities for manipulation and surveillance. How do these two competing claims relate to Euromaidan?

The beginning of the Euromaidan movement clearly illustrates the importance of social media for the initial mobilization of the first protesters. Moreover, Euromaidan's "cycles of contention" (Tarrow, 1998) were very dependent on social media and news content. After a violent crackdown on protesters during the night of November 30, 2013, and the day that followed, an enormous amount of traffic between social media platforms and news sites took place (The Watcher, 2013). Facebook alone had nearly 900,000 posts. Similar dynamics could be observed in members of online groups. Such online support coincided with growing numbers of protesters in the streets. Notably, over the course of the protests, more specialized groups emerged online. Some of them dealt with donations and volunteering, while others provided legal help for those protesters who were arrested. Some of

these groups, like Euromaidan SOS, were based on pre-existing social organizations, but many others were grassroots initiatives for which social media played a crucial role. Such initiatives can be described in Castells' language as "horizontal networks of trust and solidarity" (Castells 2013). Arguably, these networks allowed not only mobilization, but also fast and effective redistribution of resources and, as such, significantly contributed to the overall success of Euromaidan.

But what about digital media as a tool used by authoritarian regimes? The regime of Victor Yanukovych was predominantly based on the vertical structures of the state and the then ruling Party of Regions. Its responses to the pro-European protests were slow and generally inadequate. While the regime managed to bring thousands of supporters—mainly workers in heavy industries from eastern Ukraine—to Kiev, the lack of popular support is evident online. In winter 2013-2014, the most numerous online pro-regime groups (the "Anti-Maidan") barely reached 6,000 members. Flimsy defamation campaigns launched by these online groups were incapable of undermining the popularity of Euromaidan or of providing additional support for the regime. Despite the fact that, as acknowledged in the 24 interviews I conducted with Euromaidan activists, online groups were constantly monitored by the police, the regime could not undermine the role of social media as a "space of autonomy" or to prevent their effective use by protesters. While it is evident that

the regime has failed to utilize social media effectively, the claim that cyberactivism can serve counter-democratic campaigning cannot be dismissed, particularly considering that after Yanukovych was ousted in late February 2014 social media became a vehicle for the pro-Russian separatist movements in the south and east of the country, and this effectively ignited armed conflict (Kozachenko, 2014).

In summary, it is possible to draw some conclusions. This paper discussed the role that social media played in the Euromaidan social movement in order to challenge the regime, and its responses to such challenges. I conclude there is little doubt that social media has affected the patterns upon which social forces are mobilized and contested. The most productive question is, however, not whether repressive or progressive forces benefit most from technological advances, but what the interplay is between technology and social, political, and historical factors. Social media not only aids mobilization, but also brings forth historical facts, national myths, and ideologies, and thus influences the development of the conflict. This is particularly evident in the ongoing crisis in eastern Ukraine, where national and neo-Soviet mythologies and the sense of belonging they imbue, along with external geopolitical influences, seem to be the central driving forces. The ways in which social media transforms, amplifies, and shapes these complicated meanings and symbolic structures is a crucial subject for future research. ∎

"The regime could not undermine the role of social media as a 'space of autonomy' or prevent their effective use by protesters"

The Future of Democracy in the Eastern European Neighborhood

By Helen MURRAY and Zarina USMANOVA
Program Managers, Open Society Scholarship Programs

The Open Society Scholarship Programs and the School of Public Policy, at the Central European University (CEU), Hungary, hosted a regional conference of scholars and alumni from the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) on December 12-13, 2013. Titled "Future of Democracy in the Eastern European Neighborhood," the conference included over 100 current and former grantees from the region, most of them now working in civil society, government, and higher education.

The conference was held shortly after the EU Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, which triggered the tumultuous events in Ukraine, and sparked debates across Eastern Partnership countries about EU and Russian relations and the wider social and political challenges facing the region. The "Future of Democracy" conference was a timely forum for our grantees and alumni to discuss and exchange ideas on current events and related questions, from both research and policy perspectives.

The conference included alumni-led sessions on minority rights, poverty and socio-economic inequalities, discussions addressing questions of democracy and political participation, and workshops on skills for activating social change. We were also joined by esteemed speakers from academia, such as Wolfgang H. Reinicke, dean of CEU's School of Public Policy, and commentators from the region, including civil society activists from Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

The event represented a new model for the Scholarship Programs by placing the strengthening of our engagement with alumni networks in different geographies at the center of the meeting. As recipients of some of the 15,000 scholarships the Open Society Foundations has awarded globally, conference participants had a strong sense of shared goals and values and a strong desire to work together across the network to contribute to social change. ∎

Alumni and staff gathered at the Future of Democracy conference at Central European University in December 2013
photo: Thomas WILSON

Where an Open Society Scholarship Can Take You

Thomas WILSON, Program Coordinator
Open Society Scholarship Programs

Over 80 Open Society Scholarship Programs recipients gathered at the Central European University to discuss human rights, democratic participation, and economic development in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. I caught up with two of the scholars, Corina Ajder from Moldova and Khatuna Ioselani from Georgia, and talked about the impact their scholarships have had on their career choices.

What sort of scholarship did you receive?

Corina: In 2010, I was awarded an Open Society scholarship to pursue my legal studies and obtained an LLM from the Europa-Institut in Saarland, Germany. I decided that I wanted to explore a career in international human rights, and so I

applied for the Open Society Human Rights Internship in 2012, which led me to the European Roma Rights Centre in Budapest.

Your research on statelessness among Roma has also taken you to Rostov Oblast in Russia and now Odessa, Ukraine. What drives your commitment to this issue?

Corina: At the heart of my pursuit is a curiosity to investigate and discover what it is that unites people despite the layers of prejudice and perceived differences that keep us separate. The Roma people in Europe are the continent's most excluded population, and my personal quest was to better understand the nature of this animosity and to help build trust between Roma communities and local authorities.

At the European Roma Rights Centre, you were the local coordinator for a legal empowerment project. What did your work involve, and what progress have you seen?

Corina: After 12 months in Budapest researching stateless Roma in southern Russia, I was promoted to coordinate our work in Odessa, Ukraine. From February 2013 to January 2014, I led a community-based program to help stateless Roma from four isolated communities acquire identification documents. Without their identity documents, they couldn't work, go to school, or access crucial social services. A year into the project, with the help of local lawyers and community-based Roma paralegals, we obtained personal identity documents for over 30 Roma individuals.

Khatuna, what sort of scholarship did you receive?

Khatuna: In 2008, I received an Open Society scholarship available to students in Georgia to pursue postgraduate studies in education at Columbia University in New York. The program in International

Education Development at Columbia's Teachers College matched my academic interests and my practical needs. After I graduated, I returned to Georgia and looked for ways that I could contribute to improving the educational, social, political, and intellectual environment there.

You now work at the Open Society Georgia Foundation. What's your focus?

Khatuna: Since 2010, I have managed a program that supports civil society organizations working to foster youth engagement, integrate minority groups into mainstream society, and support Georgia's integration into the European Union. This year, I'll also be working to ensure that young people from underserved rural areas, internally displaced persons, minorities, and students with disabilities have better access to higher education.

There are over 2,000 Scholarship Programs alumni working in civil society or academia across Georgia and countries in Eastern Europe. What potential does this cohort have to strengthen open society?

Khatuna: Many Georgian alumni have substantial understanding of educational systems, the capacity to think critically about education inequality and reforms, and the knowledge necessary to analyze policy. They have played key roles to strengthen civil society in the region.

For example, many scholars were engaged in monitoring the implementation of government commitments vis-à-vis the European Union. Alumni wrote papers about media freedoms, the fight against corruption, and the development of electoral standards. They are now contributing to the debate around higher education reform, creating policy recommendations, and drawing attention to the needs of underserved students.

The Open Society Scholarship Programs is planning to hold the following Regional Conferences over the course of 2015:

- Central Asia
- Europe
- Middle East and North Africa
- North America
- South Asia ∎

Eastern Europe

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Belarus

Poland

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Ukraine

Moldova

Hungary

Romania

Slovenia

Croatia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Serbia

Montenegro

Kosovo

Bulgaria

Macedonia

Albania

Map adapted from CIA *World Factbook*. Public domain.

Challenges for Common Security in NATO under the Auspices of the Ukrainian Crisis

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DAAD-OSF, 2013-2014
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Russia's annexation of Crimea and the crisis in Ukraine have turned the attention of the international community toward the growing rifts in the Euro-Atlantic security landscape. The crisis, summed up by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at the annual Brussels Forum in March 2014 as "the most serious crisis in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall," continues to raise deep concerns about the increasingly souring security relationship between Russia and the transatlantic security community. In the meantime, questions abound regarding what policy strategies NATO needs to pursue in order to transform and better adjust to the emerging realities in the context of the crisis in Ukraine and Russian aggression. This essay outlines two important factors that are closely interrelated and characterize the complexities of the present state of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

The first factor concerns enduring tensions within NATO in regard to its main strategic goals. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO was transformed from a territorial defense and deterrence coalition in Europe to leading wide-ranging

military and crisis management operations across the world (Congressional Research Service, 2014). This transformation was based mainly on the understanding that Russia no longer presented a security threat to NATO, and that the alliance's main security issues were emerging beyond the borders of the transatlantic community. The crisis in Ukraine changed this understanding. After many years of military engagement in Afghanistan and Iraq, there is a need for NATO to refocus on collective defense in continental Europe.

As Alexander Vershbow, the current deputy secretary general of NATO, noted in April 2014, "For 20 years, the security of the Euro-Atlantic region has been based on the premise that we do not face an adversary to our east. That premise is now in doubt." Some analysts and policy makers in the West believe that the Russian occupation of Crimea gave serious grounds for concern over Russia's unpredictability and hostility as a partner. In April 2014, NATO announced that it suspended all practical civilian and military cooperation with Russia.

Debates on NATO's renewed mission are taking place in the context of enduring U.S. concerns over a reduction in European defense spending, shortfalls in

"The transatlantic security community and Russia need to weigh all options cautiously and shape a comprehensive approach in dealing with the crisis in Ukraine"

European defense capabilities, and burden sharing within the alliance. According to a NATO report, in 2013, only four allies, France, Turkey the United Kingdom, and the United States, followed a NATO guideline to assign 20 percent of their defense expenditures to the acquisition of major equipment, considered a key indicator of the pace of military modernization.

While these shortfalls, according to the United States, are to be made up, this perception is not shared by all European nations. For example, some NATO members in Western Europe, such as Germany and France, believe that cooperative rela-

tions with Russia play an important role in Europe's long-term security. Therefore, they point out that boosting NATO's military capacity in Europe could exacerbate the security situation in the region (Spiegel Online, 2014). However, some NATO members such as Poland and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are particularly worried and consistently emphasize that there is a need

for improved military capabilities.

The second factor concerns the emerging potential for NATO's expanded presence in member states in Central and Eastern Europe and the question of Ukraine's membership in the alliance. Most NATO allies in the region have asked NATO to implement measures that would demonstrate the alliance's commitment and capacity to defend its members. For example, Poland has called upon the United States to have a military

base on its territory. Some allies, however, are cautious about the "militarization" of NATO relations with Russia. Officials in Germany, for example, have expressed their concern that permanent troop deployments in member states formerly aligned with the Soviet Union could represent an unnecessary and counter-productive provocation of Russia (Spiegel Online, 2014).

Since 2010, Ukraine has pursued a non-bloc policy, which renders it a neutral country. In August 2014, Ukraine's Prime Minister Yatseniuk called on the parliament to consider dropping the country's non-bloc status and seek membership in NATO (Kyiv

Post, 2014). However, it is not clear what kind of accommodation awaits Ukraine in the transatlantic security community if it has an unresolved territorial dispute with Russia. NATO has enlarged quite intensively over the last decade, and it seems appropriate for the alliance to discuss how to resolve a complex range of internal issues, including managing relations with Russia, before accepting new members.

"It is not clear what kind of accommodation awaits Ukraine in the transatlantic security community if it has an unresolved territorial dispute with Russia"

To sum up, the crisis in Ukraine opened a new chapter in Russian-NATO relations. Despite playing hardball with Moscow in terms of sanctions, some European countries are reluctant to hurt their own financial stability and endanger their main source of energy: Russian gas. On the other hand, the European Union is Russia's largest trading partner, and Russia could suffer significant economic strain too. Therefore, the transatlantic security community and Russia need to weigh all options cautiously and shape a comprehensive approach in dealing with the crisis in Ukraine. Notably, if Ukraine is to drop its non-alignment policy, officials in NATO will need to give calm and wise consideration to Ukraine's membership in the alliance because it can provoke a counter-productive reaction from Russia and result in further unnecessary tensions. In turn, Russia needs to review its increasingly aggressive foreign policy in the context of the war with Georgia in 2008 and the crisis in Ukraine. Otherwise, the lack of political will in the Kremlin may escalate the situation and lead to the re-emergence of a Cold War-type confrontation with the West. For these reasons, mutual understanding between the West and Russia will be a key condition for the long-term security and integrity of Ukraine. Eventually, how the West, in particular the United States, chooses to interact with Russia over this crisis will play a defining role in shaping a new security landscape in this region and ultimately beyond. ■

Informal Roma Settlements in Serbia

Milana LAZIC, Serbia,
Undergraduate Exchange Program, 2009/2010,
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, USA

According to the 2011 Serbian population census, there are 147,604 officially-registered Roma in the country. Almost 50 percent of Serbia's Roma population faces poverty. Low employment, a lack of formal education, poor and unhygienic living environments, and inadequate access to personal documents are only some of the problems Roma face. Even though the number of Roma living in poverty has been decreasing, half of the

"Roma are the segment of Serbian society facing the most discrimination"

population remains poor, with 6 percent living below the hunger line.

There are roughly 593 informal settlements in 120 Serbian municipalities that do not have adequate access to clean water, sewage, and electricity.

Roma inclusion is one of the most challenging and important social inclusion processes, and a key focus area for the European Union and international organizations.
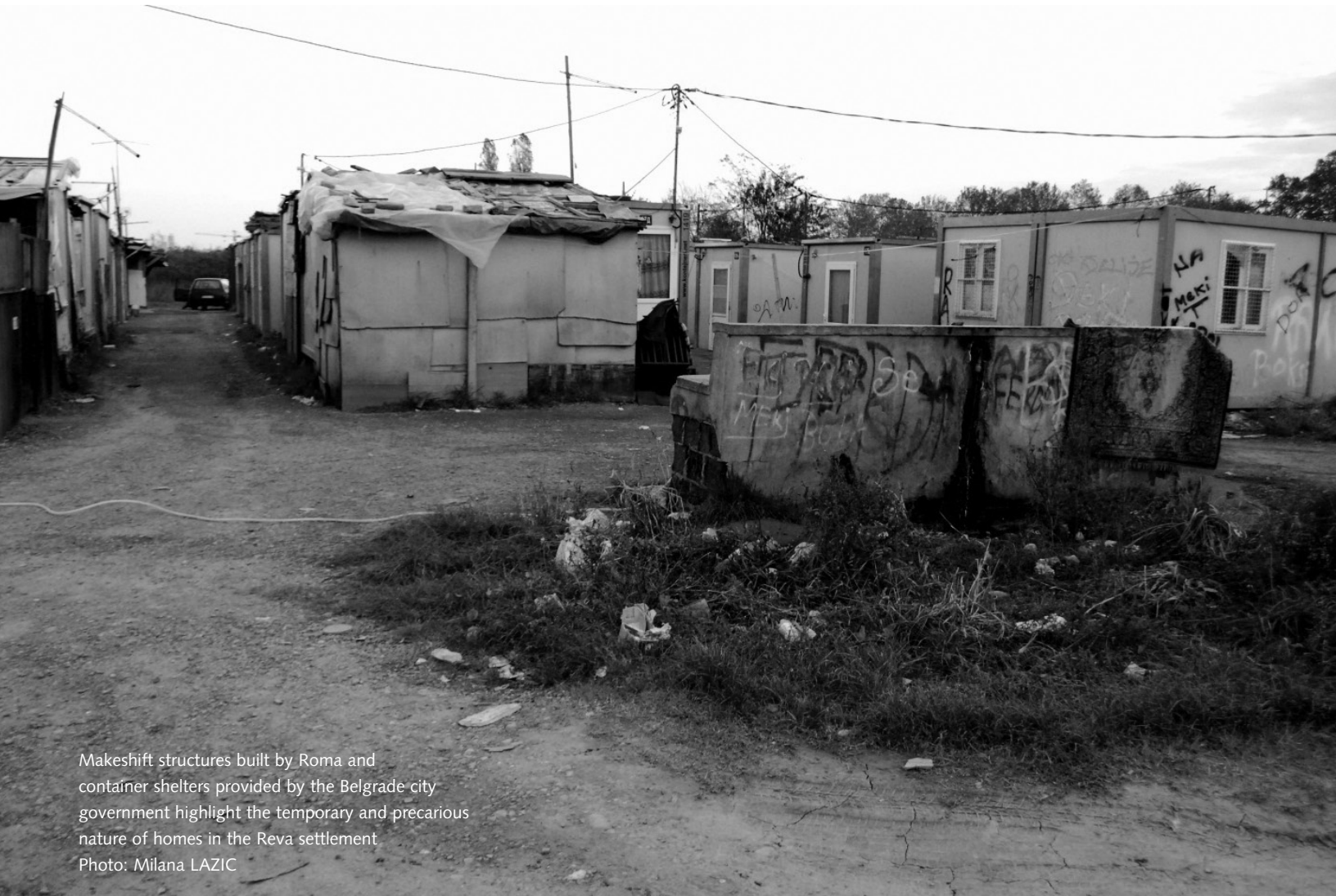
Makeshift structures built by Roma and container shelters provided by the Belgrade city government highlight the temporary and precarious nature of homes in the Reva settlement
Photo: Milana LAZIC

The importance of Roma inclusion lies in strengthening human security for individuals, the community, and society as a whole. The consequences of Roma exclusion can be found today in their lack of access to health, education, employment, and proper living conditions, which leaves them susceptible to human trafficking, forced marriages, illegal migration, and higher mortality rates. The Report of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality stated that Roma are the segment of Serbian society facing the most discrimination, and are significantly alienated and marginalized from the Serbian majority population.

The lack of security faced by the Roma can increase a mutual feeling of mistrust between Roma themselves. Providing housing without ensuring social inclusion and focusing only on the protection provided by the state, can lead to passivity among the Roma community or involvement in illegal businesses, both of which are activities that can compound social exclusion.

Roma in the Reva settlement near Belgrade were displaced from another location, the Bellville, where most Roma residents lived in cardboard dwellings. The containers seen in the photos were provided by the city of Belgrade in order to provide more humane living conditions. Many of Roma currently living here are internally-displaced people from Kosovo who entered Serbia after the Balkan War, and some are hoping to (re)enter the European Union as asylum seekers on the grounds of discrimination.

These photos show the informal and temporary nature of the Reva settlement, located near the Serbian capital, Belgrade. For me, these photos are important, as they illustrate well the isolated, insecure and poor conditions in which many Roma live. This community still has a long way to go to be recognized and included into Serbian society. ■

Children at play in the Reva settlement
Photo: Milana LAZIC

Corruption Control in Central and Eastern Europe: The Influence of European Union Enlargement Conditionality in the Czech Republic, Macedonia, and Romania

Liljana CVETANOSKA, Macedonia
Global Supplementary Grants Program, 2013-2014
PhD candidate, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
Honorary Research Fellow; University of Aberdeen

The enlargement policy of the European Union (EU) has been considered highly successful in consolidating democracies and bringing about positive changes in the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Nevertheless, corruption, a critical barrier to EU accession, still remains a serious problem for many countries in the region. So far, the predominant focus has been on the harmonization of anticorruption legislation with the EU's framework, and many new CEE member states and candidates often lack successful implementation of anticorruption laws and policies in practice. Consequently, the incentive of membership as an anticorruption tool was either not used to its fullest potential, or was not in itself sufficient to effectively curb corruption in these countries.

The Czech Republic, Macedonia, and Romania are the main foci of this study. These countries are representative cases from different enlargement waves with diverse trajectories regarding the control of corruption. The control of corruption in the Czech Republic has continuously declined during and in the aftermath of the EU accession process, while not much has changed for Romania in terms of anticorruption. Macedonia, however, has somewhat improved in controlling corruption since the mid-1990s. Accordingly, this research investigates why the European Union was more successful in exerting influence in some cases than in others, and why it does not have a greater impact on the control of corruption in CEE countries during the accession process. Furthermore, this study sheds light on the causes and domestic factors that affect the control of corruption in CEE countries and investigates how and under what conditions the EU is able to exert influence.

The study employs a comparative qualitative approach and uses documentary analysis and semi-structured elite interviews with national and EU experts on corruption and enlargement. Preliminary findings reveal that the effectiveness of EU influence on corruption control is related to specific domestic conditions and factors in the target countries, such as political will and capacity to address the issue. Research findings recommend that the EU should enhance its enlargement conditionality by introducing the stricter application of accession criteria regarding corruption, and by sending a clear message that membership is achievable only through continuous and sustained progress in key areas. ■

> "The EU should enhance its enlargement conditionality by introducing the stricter application of accession criteria regarding corruption"

> "The incentive of EU membership as an anticorruption tool was either not used to its fullest potential, or was not in itself sufficient to effectively curb corruption"

Academic Showcase

Challenges and Opportunities of Interdisciplinary Research

Nino KERESELIDZE, Georgia
PhD Candidate, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews
Global Supplementary Grants Program, 2012-15

Oroub EL-ABED, PhD, Jordan
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Global Supplementary Grants Program, 2013

Maja NIKSIC, Serbia
PhD Candidate, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London
Global Supplementary Grants Program, 2012-13

Interdisciplinary research is increasingly used in theoretical and applied research and supported by policy-focused donors. It is an approach that crosses traditional boundaries among academic disciplines to generate wider perspectives of analysis and deeper understandings of reality. The approach serves as a bridge among academic disciplines and stimulates researchers to overcome gaps in understanding and solving complex problems. It does so by linking knowledge and skills from diverse disciplines. Some scholars, however, are concerned that such an approach can delineate research.

This article discusses three doctoral research projects in order to demonstrate different uses of interdisciplinary research and examines its strengths and limitations. We argue that with interdisciplinary research, solutions to contemporary academic and social challenges can be advanced.

Interdisciplinary Approach in Science

Interdisciplinarity is rooted in the synthesis of knowledge. While Plato was one of the first thinkers advocating the idea of a unified science, writers from the 16th to 19th centuries, such as Francis Bacon, Georg Hegel, and Immanuel Kant, were cautious about the fragmentation of knowledge. In the 20th century, interdisciplinarity evolved from a widespread belief that complex questions are unlikely to be answered by a single discipline. As Karl Popper (1963) put it, "[w]e are not students of some subject matter, but students of problems.

And problems may cut right across the borders of any subject matter or discipline." Julie Thomson Klein and William Newell (1997) have proposed the following definition of interdisciplinary research: "a process of answering a question that is too broad or complex to be dealt with adequately by a single discipline."

> "Interdisciplinary research serves as a bridge among academic disciplines and stimulates researchers to overcome gaps in understanding"

With the aim of developing a theoretically-based and widely applicable definition of interdisciplinarity, a recent systematic review proposed that "interdisciplinary research is any study or group of studies undertaken by scholars from two or more distinct scientific disciplines. The research is based upon a conceptual model that links or integrates theoretical frameworks from those disciplines and uses study design and methodology that is not limited to any one field" (Aboelela et al., 2007).

Opportunities

Interdisciplinary research integrating several approaches and producing robust findings allows for a range of academic opportunities. It enables researchers to position their work epistemologically, based on the way they perceive reality is practiced. A

"Interdisciplinary analysis can facilitate work among professionals from various disciplines for applied research"

cross-disciplinary approach offers unique insights for understanding nuanced meaning and gaining accurate knowledge of social phenomena. Interdisciplinary research is thus a cognitive tool that handles questions of fundamental understanding and an instrumental tool aimed at problem-solving.

Interdisciplinary research has a collective, networked nature. Conversations in a shared space among modern scholars facilitate the exchange of expertise and skills, spread ideas, and create knowledge communities. Scientific collaboration that is an increasingly popular form of active academia, can find its way into interdisciplinary scholarly journals. Interdisciplinary research has become a means of informing policy research and provides reference points for policy makers. It has therefore been adopted beyond academics in areas such as policy and political research. Interdisciplinary analysis can facilitate work among professionals from various disciplines for applied research.

Challenges

Opponents of interdisciplinary research argue that looking at a phenomenon through different lenses undermines the exclusiveness of the subject of inquiry. They feel that positioning a subject into different disciplines hinders development of an academic discipline. Highlighting this problem in terrorism studies, for example, Avishag Gordon (2010) argues that formation of terrorism studies as a discipline requires detaching this area from other lines of inquiry. In contrast, Magnus Ranstorp (2006) argues that an interdisciplinary focus will remain vital to the growth of terrorism research. Another weakness of interdisciplinary approaches lies in managing the disparities among theoretical and methodological differences in various disciplines. The combination of diverse disciplines in the social sciences and natural sciences presents a challenge in itself.

These arguments are overcome by the strengths of an interdisciplinary approach. First, exposure to a wide range of schools of thought and theories can strengthen arguments and illuminate answers to complex, broad-based issues. Second, state-of-the-art methods from different disciplines can challenge traditional views and discover creative ways for solving theoretical and practical problems.

Third, using modern technology from seemingly unrelated disciplines, such as mathematics and medicine, can improve best practices in areas such as health care. For instance, the new and increasingly popular field of robotic surgery allows greater precision and visualization for surgeons and quick recovery for patients.

Finally, this approach encourages disciplinary and professional relations and unity in diversity of visions.

Below, we draw upon our dissertation projects to present three examples of the utility of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing various research questions.

PROJECT 1
EU Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus
Nino KERESELIDZE

The disciplines of international relations, political science, political economy, and peace and conflict studies can shed light on the foreign policy and conflict mediation efforts of the European Union (EU) in the South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. During the war between the Russian Federation and Georgia in August 2008, the EU assumed the role of a mediator in its eastern neighborhood, negotiated a peace agreement, and deployed a civilian monitoring mission in Georgia. Despite this response, EU member states found it hard to form a common policy for crisis management. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 demonstrated that the EU foreign policy in its Eastern Partnership region has not been coherent.

In exploring the nature of the EU's foreign policy toward the South Caucasus, international relations and political economy can help explain differing perceptions and preferences among the member states regarding security in their neighborhood. These disciplines can also shed light on how economic interdependence between EU member states and Russia has constrained the European Union in its conduct of a consistent foreign policy. Foreign policy analysis, as a subfield of political science, can reveal theoretical underpinnings of EU foreign policy making. In addition, peace

and conflict studies can identify ways to improve the EU's conflict prevention and mediation strategies. This joint approach encourages thinking about alternative solutions to controversial issues related to the EU's involvement in its eastern neighborhood and, more broadly, globally.

PROJECT **2**
Palestinian Refugee-Citizens of Jordan
Oroub EL-ABED

Several theories can be applied to study issues connected to Palestinian refugees and citizens of Jordan. These theories can explore the ways in which the discursive politics of the state combine with neoliberal policies to manage the distribution of resources, such as rights or rents, and consequently stratify the society and empower one group over another.

Over the years, two factors have rendered Palestinians economically unprotected: 1) political uncertainty about their citizenship and/or refugee status, which challenges the Israeli claim that Jordan is Palestine; and 2) economic liberalization, which puts pressure on people with limited capital in a growing competitive market. Various disciplines can study these multilayered themes: sociology can highlight mechanisms of class stratification, economics can examine the impact of neoliberalism on people who do not benefit from the trickle down of rent; and political science can analyze the state's practices in managing its citizens and refugee residents. These disciplines can all be collected under a recent multidisciplinary umbrella called forced migration, which arose in the 1970s. Since then it has been growing, inspired by various disciplines that seek to understand the effect of displacement on forced migrants and the factors that affect their livelihoods, and

their legal and political statuses as citizens beyond the borders of their states.

PROJECT **3**
Interdisciplinary Research
in Health Care
Maja NIKSIC

Interdisciplinary approaches to health research can provide nuanced views of human well-being and health behavior and explore the factors that lead to disease onset and development. Since health includes "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO, 1946), it is not surprising that an interdisciplinary approach is becoming a dominant model for understanding complex health problems.

For instance, to understand the nature of various aspects of cancer—such as symptoms, effective treatments, and changes in survival rates—it is necessary to use an interdisciplinary approach. Even the most

associated with poor cancer survival rates, three different disciplines can be used. First, medicine can help define symptoms of cancer. Second, psychology can assist in understanding preventive health behavior and barriers to symptomatic presentation. Third, epidemiology allows for the collection of data about cancer survival. Integration of these disciplines can help develop preventive health interventions and encourage early cancer detection.

Conclusion

This article discussed the challenges and opportunities of interdisciplinary research, using empirical examples from the authors' three PhD projects. It showed that interdisciplinarity is increasingly relevant in a range of academic fields, including social science, policy analysis, and health care research. Several major breakthroughs in the sciences have taken place at the intersections among these disciplines. It is thus indispensable to understand the use

> ## "It is indispensable to understand the use of interdisciplinary approaches that enrich academic, research, and professional experiences"

effective cancer treatments may become futile if patients delay seeking medical help. Sometimes patients delay seeing the doctor because they do not recognize that their symptoms are serious, or because they are too embarrassed to discuss them. People with lower socio-economic status may have difficulties in accessing health care services, which can impact diagnosis, treatment, and survival. To test the general hypothesis that lower cancer awareness is

of interdisciplinary approaches that enrich academic, research, and professional experiences and further knowledge in the open society research community.

Each of these authors' PhD work was presented at a panel on Interdisciplinary Research during the 2013 spring conference of the Open Society Foundations' Global Supplementary Grant Program, which was hosted at Clare College, University of Cambridge.■

Exploratory Study of the Professional Identity of University Teachers in Ukraine

Mariya VITRUKH, Ukraine
OSF University of Cambridge Scholarship, 2013
University of Cambridge

Ukraine entered the Bologna Process in 2005. It required a radical change in the educational process in Ukraine, particularly regarding the design of the curriculum, the academic calendar, student grading procedures, and increasing an emphasis on research work by faculty (Shaw, Chapman, & Rumyantseva, 2011). Also, in the context of a highly centralized system of education and the financial problems caused by the global economic crisis, there was a need to provide systematic instructional redesign or real support for staff to implement the changes prescribed. However, this was not done and resulted in an implementation process that seems patchy to external observers (Shaw, Chapman, & Rumyantseva, 2011). Within this, an instrumental part of the new educational process is how teachers see themselves and construct or reconstruct their professional identity to suit the new educational reforms. It is important to pay attention to the professional identities of university teachers in a post-Soviet context as the country seeks compliance with the European Higher Education Area. This research aims to explore and analyze the professional identity of a number of selected university teachers at a department of foreign languages and translation studies at a Ukrainian university. The university was selected because it is accredited as a national university and the department is ranked as one of the top in its field in Ukraine. The participants were expected to work in the same area and have at least two years of teaching experience at the university to be able to retrospectively trace their professional identity. Nine female teachers who worked at the

> "An instrumental part of the new educational process is how teachers see themselves and construct or reconstruct their professional identity to suit the new educational reforms"

department were interviewed. All the interviews were transcribed and analyzed using in-depth thematic analysis to track the emergence and development of teachers' professional identity.

Professional identity in this study is viewed as being both "individual and social" (Kogan, 2000). Professional identity is a teachers' belief system that includes perception of oneself as a teacher and the general public views of the teaching profession. The concept refers to a distinct individual who has a conceptual framework and unique history, and who acts within a particular community with its own language, practices, beliefs, and values. Such a perspective is similar to Kelchtermans' (1993) approach to professional identity, which distinguishes between the professional self, the perception teachers have about themselves, subjective educational theory, teachers' belief systems, and teachers' knowledge about their profession.

The current study shows that there has been a shift from the teacher-centered or "authoritarian" approach within the department to three different approaches to teaching: subject-centered, student-centered, and teaching that is centered around a specialization. However, as Koshmanova (2006) observes, a general tendency towards a teacher-centered approach still exists. This legacy from Soviet times may be explained by the concept of schemata: teachers adhere to the approaches they experienced themselves as students and any new experience is viewed through the prism of pre-established beliefs (Pajares, 1992). However, the research shows that non-teaching experience—interpreting and translation work—gives insights into what materials should be provided during the classes and which approaches to use to share this information. Also, it was noticeable that international experience, namely studying abroad, influenced teachers' reflection on their practice and their teaching style. All the participants mentioned that the

> "International experience, namely studying abroad, influenced teachers' reflection on their practice and their teaching style"

Bologna Process itself did not influence their approach to teaching. The only noticeable change it brought about was additional administrative paperwork and a change in the grading system.

It is recommended that for teachers to achieve a more substantial move away from the current teacher-centered approach to teaching, teachers will require greater financial and structural support on the part of education policy makers as well as further university staff training. ■

Alumni Updates

The following snapshots provide a brief update of the activities, research interests, and professional occupations of Open Society Scholarship Programs' alumni across the world. Email addresses have been published where permission has been given.

Afghan Communications Fellowship Program

2011

Hosai QASMI is currently working as a development officer at the Canadian embassy in Kabul. Hosai completed her MA from the University of Ottawa in Canada. hosaiqasmi@gmail.com

Sultan MAHMOOD has been working with a leading immigrant services provider, the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, in Ottawa since March 2014 as a communication specialist. sultan.massoodi@gmail.com

Diba HAREER is currently developing a communication strategy and media plan for a women's rights organization based in Afghanistan. diba.hareer@gmail.com

Asia Pacific Scholarship Consortium

2008

Hla Myat MOORE is researching the denial of citizenship rights and its impact on human security concerns of Rohingyas in Rakhine state, Myanmar. hlamyatmoore@gmail.com

2009

Elizabeth THAWNG is a development practitioner at the International Rescue Committee in Thailand. She is currently working together with community-based organizations along the Thai-Burma border focusing on local empowerment.

Seng RATHA is working as lecturer and researcher at the University of Battambang in Cambodia, and is undertaking a PhD in fishery socioeconomics at the University of Toulouse, France. ratha.seng@gmail.com

2011

Thiri ZAW was a journalist fellow at the Reuters Institute in 2012/3, and a senior executive editor at one of Myanmar's most influential newspapers, the *Voice Weekly*, and at *Living Color* magazine. In her research paper for the Reuters Institute, "Covering Fragile Days: The Role of the Media in Post-Authoritarian Regimes: A Case Study of Myanmar," she analyses the role that the media played in the transition to a more open society in her country. mathiri.zaw@gmail.com

Bouyheak LIM has written his MA thesis on the topic of occupational stress and self-care as predictors of subjective well-being among Cambodian mental health professionals. bouyheak@gmail.com

Kyaw THU returned to Myanmar and worked with an international NGO, HelpAge International. He is currently working as an independent contractor with Bloomberg News. kyawtz@gmail.com

Chansanook SENGTHAVONG is researching educational management in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, focusing on primary education. ch_sanook@yahoo.com

SOPHIA is a coordinator of grassroots grant assistance projects at the Japanese embassy in Myanmar. s.sofialay@gmail.com

2012

Prum SELIA is working on his master's thesis titled "Governance Communication Praxis Among Commune Youth Representatives in Cambodia" at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños. prum.seila@gmail.com

Supplementary Grant Program— Burma

2001

Robert Sanga HAUNGO is studying in Norway. He will complete his study in petroleum logistics from Molde University College by June 2016. robertsanga@gmail.com

2009

Sumyat THU is a graduate student at the University of Washington, Seattle, and is studying English language and composition. She will teach first-year composition classes next year. smt.sumyat@gmail.com

2010

Ja Htoi PAN is a director at the School of Intensive English Programs in Mai Ja Yang, Kachin State, Myanmar. jahtoipan@gmail.com

2012

Hnin Yee Mon KYAW has worked as a project manager at World Vision International/Myanmar, and is currently working as a deputy program manager at Save the Children International/Myanmar. hninyeemonkyaw@gmail.com

2013

Aung TUN is currently working on a research paper on good governance for Pyoe Pin (British Council) in Myanmar. aungtunn@gmail.com

Civil Service Awards

2012

Tamta MEGRELIDZE is an assistant of programs, contracts, and costs for the Shuakhevi Hydropower Project in Georgia. tamtamegrelidze@yahoo.com

Oleg TOFILAT is head of internal auditing at the Ministry of Transportation and Road Infrastructure in Moldova. otofilat@mail.ru

2011

Petru BUTUCEL works for the General Consulate of the Republic of Moldova in Istanbul.

Mihail BELOUSIUC is head counselor within the State Chancellery of Moldova, and is responsible for the modernization of public services to become transparent, fair, and time and cost efficient. belowsmike@yahoo.com

DAAD/OSF Program

2008

Lyubov POGROMSKAYA is currently an analyst looking at NGO and stakeholder relationships at Royal Dutch Shell in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Halyna SEMENYSHYN is a PhD student at the University of Kassel, Germany.

2009

Zhanna KOMAR is a curator of a newly-opened exhibition "The Myth of Galicia," showing at the International Cultural Centre, Krakow, Poland, in cooperation with Wien Museum Austria. zanna.komar@gmail.com

2010

Yuriy IGNATYEV is currently a member of the Global Mental Health Research Group at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité Universitaetsmedizin, Berlin. ignatijewj@mail.ru

Tatiana KALINIUK is working as a scientific staff member at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Her research focuses on gender and diversity. tkalinyuk@gmail.com

2011

Vladimir DOTU is currently working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova as a political advisor within the Department for Political Cooperation with the European Union. vladimir.dotu@gmail.com

Olga SOKHATSKA is currently on a traineeship at the European Parliament, DG External Policies, Human Rights Unit. olga.sokhatska@gmail.com

Yuliya SHILOVA is an instructor of English for International Relations and Politics at Isik University in Istanbul, Turkey. She is currently researching cultural identity and its connection to conflict resolution in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Gulnara KUZIBAEVA is currently researching labor and cross-border migration, particularly female migration and human trafficking from Central Asia. kuzibaeva@gmail.com

Kostiantyn OVSIANNIKOV is a student in a combined MA and PhD program in international area studies at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, where she is undertaking research on Japanese corporate governance. k.ovsiannikov@gmail.com

Andrii SMYRNOV is an assistant professor at the Department of History, National University of Ostroh Academy (Ukraine). Andrii is currently undertaking research on Ukrainian Orthodoxy during World War II. sai2@ukr.net

Ivane SHAVDATUASHVILI is currently employed at the State Audit Office of Georgia as a senior budget analyst. v.shavdatuashvili@gmail.com

2012

Marta MYLYAN is an intern at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Kyiv, Ukraine. Marta works within the EBRD banking team. marta.mylyan@gmail.com

Dorina DEDGJONI is currently working as a research assistant on a project on global learning. dorina_dedgjoni@gmx.fr

Hasmik SATURYAN is currently a student working in IT consulting at KPMG Berlin. She is also developing her master's thesis on financial risk management at Humboldt University, Berlin.

Ecaterina FLORINSCAIA has an internship at a German company and is writing her master's thesis. florinscaia_ec@yahoo.com

Benazir KERIMBAEVA has started a PhD program in statistics at the University of Nevada. benazir.kerimbaeva@gmail.com

Iva POPOVIC worked for nine months as a legal trainee with Crnogorski Telekom (part of Deutsche Telekom group) in Montenegro. Currently, Iva is looking forward to new professional engagements and career opportunities. ivapopovic90@gmail.com

2013

Tinatin JANJGHAVA received her MA in European legal studies. Her research focused on the European Union's external policy and the importance of association agreements. tiko_janjghava@yahoo.com

Mariia PEREVERZEVA is currently doing an internship in compliance management at Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG.

Peter Morris Gasten NGOMWA is the acting executive director for the Malawi Council for the Handicapped. Peter is currently working as a member of the disability mainstreaming training team to ensure that disability is mainstreamed in all sectors. ngomwap@yahoo.com

Disability Rights Scholarship Program

2012

Gabriel DEBARROS is undertaking his PhD studies at the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. gadebarros@gmail.com

Bijay DAHAL is interested in protection of persons with disability in situations of risk and humanitarian emergency. bijay@live.com

2013

Dev Datta JOSHI is working on his graduate degree in Law with a specialization in Human/Disability Rights from National University of Ireland-Galway. dev_datta08@yahoo.com

William Aseka OLUCHINA is a an international human rights lawyer with a specialization in disability law. William is currently undertaking research on the right to political participation for voters with disabilities, especially in African countries. williamaseka@ymail.com

Alpana BHANDARI is working as a consultant in Nepal, and was previously working with the Nepal Mental Health Foundation and Koshish Nepal on the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities. Alpanabhandari@gmail.com

Lucas CORREA is an advocacy officer at the Saldarriaga Concha Foundation (Colombia). Lucas is currently undertaking research on the right of persons with disabilities to live within the community. lucascorrea18@gmail.com

2014

Juan Sebastian RODRIGUEZ ALARCON is a legal fellow at the Center for Reproductive Rights. Juan Sebastián is currently undertaking research on critical disability theory and the intersection between disability, gender, and sexuality. juan.rodriguezalarcon@mail.mcgill.ca

Doctorial Fellowship Program

2009

Ilhom ABDULLOEV is program director for OSIAF–Tajikistan, and a short-term consultant at the World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). ailhom@hotmail.com

2010

Martian MAZUREANU is conducting field research on migration and democratic accountability at Rutgers University. marcmazureanu@gmail.com

Global Faculty Grants Program

2012

Mushfig EMINOV is a faculty member at the Department of International Relations at Qafqaz University. In addition to teaching, he is currently undertaking research on nationalism in Azerbaijani school textbooks. mushfigeminov@gmail.com

2013

Saule UALIYEVA is senior lecture at East-Kazakhstan State Technical University. Saule is currently researching interethnic marriages in Kazakhstan.

Khandmaa SUKHBAATAR is a lecturer at the School of Public Health, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences and a PhD candidate at the National University of Mongolia. Her research focuses on social workers' roles and duties in different settings, social workers' job satisfaction, and social work ethics. s.khandmaa@yahoo.com

Faculty Development Fellowship Program

2010

Irakli VACHARADZE is executive director of Identoba, a prominent Georgian NGO that fights for the rights of LGBTI communities and for gender equality. irakli@identoba.org

2011

Nino GELASHVILI is an adviser to the minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. gelashvilinina@gmail.com

Vasif HUSEYNOV is a PhD student at the University of Gottingen, Germany. His research work is titled "Soft Power in International Politics and Russian Soft Power." 24vasif@gmail.com.

Middle East Rule of Law

2012

Bothaina QAMAR is a cofounder and knowledge management officer at Tammey for Human Development based in Jordan. Bothaina is currently working on establishing a knowledge management unit and finalizing the strategy. bothqamar@gmail.com

2012

Nihal SAID is currently working on the World Humanitarian Summit at the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa for United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. nsezz18412@gmail.com

Reda HASSAN is communications manager at the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections. Reda has actively participated in the design of the ongoing campaign against the Lebanese second parliamentary extension. reda.hassan@gmail.com

2013

Eman RASHWAN is an assistant lecturer in the Public Law Department at Cairo University School of Law, and is preparing to apply to SJD programs in number of law schools in the United States. Eman is also the coordinator at the Centre for Fighting Sexual Harassment and Violence Against Women at Cairo University. eman-rashwan2009@hotmail.com

Myanmar Master's in Public Health

2007

Sai TI is a project coordinator of an organization in Thailand that delivers education on malaria and services to Myanmar migrants along borders as part of the emergency response to artemisinin resistance in the greater Mekong sub-region. wangsaiktg@gmail.com

2009

Sun TUN is a monitoring and evaluation analyst for the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG), United Nations Office for Project Services in Myanmar. Sun also is serving a second term on the executive committee of Myanmar Scholarship Alumni Association. suntun1@gmail.com

2011

Aung ZAW MOE is involved in the National Education Network Reform (NNER) group, and is conducting research on civil society participation in inclusive education policy development. aungzawrain@gmail.com

2013

Thant Zin AUNG is working as an accountability, gender equity and social inclusion officer at the Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar. zinssss@gmail.com

Social Work Fellowship Program

2000-2002, 2010-2012

Oyut-Erdene NAMDALDAGVA teaches at the Mongolian National University of Education in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She recently conducted research on the preparedness of social work professionals to work in an ageing society. oyut-erdene@msue.edu.mn

2002

Saltanat CHILDRESS is a founder and president of the Social Work Alumni Association of the Kyrgyz Republic and a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland. Her dissertation focuses on the help-seeking barriers of female survivors of gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan. saltanatdc@gmail.com

2003

Nazim HABIBOV is currently doing research on health and social policy in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. habibov@yahoo.com

2006

Rahat OROZOVA is a research scholar at the Central Asia Research and Training Initiatives in Kyrgyzstan working on a project entitled "Child Disability Construction in Kyrgyz Community Research." orozova@mail.ru

2007

Turana Alvan ALIYEVA is a lecturer and PhD student at Baku State University. Turana is undertaking research studying the cross-cultural adaptation of child development assessment tools. kebirli_turan@yahoo.co.uk

2011

Mehriban NASIBOVA is teaching social work at Azerbaijan University and is currently undertaking research studying domestic violence and early marriages. mehriban_nasib@yahoo.com

South Asia Program

2012

Mohammad Nazer ALEMI is a journalist in Afghanistan. He completed his MA in counseling for children, youth and families in India. He is currently reseraching the living conditions of children in the juvenile justice system in Afghanistan. nazer.alemi@gmail.com

Qamaruddin SIDIQY is a senior research assistant in the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit. As part of a unit team, he is currently undertaking research on the implementation of the Land Governance Assessment Framework in Afghanistan. qamaruddin83@gmail.com

Tara ADHIKARI is in the process of establishing Claps & Smiles Nepal, an NGO aiming to run psychological counseling and mental health services campaigns for youth. hellotara@gmail.com

Abdul AZIZ is currently working as a human resource development advisor in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Afghanistan. ahaidari1988@gmail.com

Jamaluddin MOHAMMADI is executive director at Initiatives for Change in Afghanistan. Jamaluddin is currently undertaking research on accessibility to health and support services by injecting drug users in Kabul, Afghanistan. jamaljamal_m@hotmail.com

Ahmad Seyar MOHEBZADA is a sustainable development practitioner and environmental researcher in Afghanistan. He is currently working as a senior research associate at the National Environmental Protection Agency, Afghanistan. seyar819@gmail.com

Sanjeev POUDEL is a research associate at Women in Environment, Nepal. He is involved in a transnational collaborative research project, Living with Climate Change. sanjeevdevs@gmail.com

Supplementary Grant Program Asia

2007

Pye Phyo ZAW has worked as an engineer in Thaicom Public Company Limited in Thailand. Upon moving back to Myanmar, Pye has taken a position as a junior field engineer in the Schlumberger Oil Field Service Company at the Mann Base. pyephyozaw@gmail.com

2008

Naw HSER EH is a Best Interests Determination (BID) assistant at the UNHCR in Thailand and currently serving in the Kanchanaburi field office.

2009

Sai Kham Phu SAI is pursuing an MA in development studies at Chiang Mai University. His research interest is in ethnic relations at the

rotating five-day market space in Kengtung, Shan State, Burma. phumurng@gmail.co

2010

Nang SHINING is working in the field of peace-building and environmental management. She is a cofounder of Weaving Bonds Across Borders. shining.cu@gmail.com

2011

Han ZAW is a student at Hanover College in Hanover, IN, USA. He is currently studying theater and music, specializing in drag performance and composition for the stage. hanzaw116@gmail.com

L. Zau DIM published an a comparative study of the "Teaching Volunteers' Perceptions toward Leadership Styles and Organization Culture at Shanan Education Networking Group (SENG), Northern Shan State, Myanmar" in the *Scholar* at Assumption University of Thailand. davidzaudim@gmail.com

Aye Thet OO is a senior monitoring and evaluation coordinator for Save the Children International in Myanmar. She also runs the Healthy Workforce and Better Workplace Project promoting corporate social responsibility at factories in the Yangon Industrial Zone. aye.ato@gmail.com

2012

Seng LAWN is continuing an MA program at Jawaharlal Nehru University with a research interest in Southeast Asia including the peace process in Myanmar and its dynamism. dansenglawn@gmail.com

UK Programs

2013

Muh TAUFIQURROHMAN is senior researcher on terrorism and political violence at the Abdurrahman Wahid Centre in Indonesia. Muh's research centers on the role of Indonesian NGOs in the building of community resilience to extremism and terrorism. mastaufiqcv@gmail.com

Undergraduate Exchange Program

2007

Maja SAVEVSKA is a resident fellow at Harvard Law School and a PhD candidate at the University of Warwick and the Universite Libre de Bruxelles. msavevska@law.harvard.edu

2008

Diana MARIAN has been working for the Soros Foundation-Moldova for the past four years. She is currently pursuing an MA in international education policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. diannemarian@gmail.com

Doina POSTICA is a junior staff attorney at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in Moldova. Doina recently finished her tenure as youth advisor to the World Scout Committee (2011-2014). dpostica@abaroli.md

2009

Gordana Angelichin ZHURA has obtained her MA in intercultural communication and European studies in Germany. Gordana is currently undertaking research on transnational and cosmopolitan processes. gordanazhura@gmail.com

Ana DRAGIC is an independent art manager and curator. She is currently finalizing her master's thesis, entitled "Festival as a Model of Collaboration between Cultural Actors from Serbia and Kosovo,"at the University of the Arts in Belgrade. anna.dragic@gmail.com

Javkhlan BOLD-ERDENE is a compliance officer at Khan Bank of Mongolia. javkhaa143@yahoo.com

2009

Aleksandra SIMIC is currently pursuing an MA in English linguistics at Heidelberg University, Germany. Her interests include cross-cultural pragmatics, sociolinguistics for teachers, language policies and planning, and language and social variation. aleksandrasimic88@gmail.com

Angela VELKOVA is a Chevening scholar pursuing an MSc in local economic development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is also the executive director of the Preparing Global Leaders Institute. angela.velkova@pglinstitute.org

Sandra KOSTADINOVA is a second year MA student at the Elite Master's Program in Cognitive Semiotics at Aarhus University, Denmark. sandra.kostadinova@post.au.dk

2010

Alla CHERNENKO is currently pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Utah. Her main research interests are immigrant health, health inequalities, and contemporary issues in health care delivery in the United States. alla.chernenko9@gmail.com

Anastasiia KRYZHANIVSKA is head of the NGO Foundation of Regional Initiatives. Anastasiia is currently working toward her MA in linguistics at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio kryz-anastasiya@yandex.ru

Dragana NIKOLIC is an intern at Schoenherr, a leading law firm in Central Europe. Dragana contributed to the resolution of cases before the International Court of Justice, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the London Court of Arbitration, and is currently involved in pending cases before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and International Criminal Court tribunals. dragana.nikolic@cantab.net

2011

Fiodor DUDARENCO is working on an MSc in economics at Freiburg University, with a major in finance. His main fields of interest are macroeconomics and international economics. tudordudarenco@gmail.com

Tamara PAVLOVIC earned a BA in art history from the University of Belgrade, Serbia. She is a sales intern at James Cohan Gallery, New York.

Elona XHEPA joined Boga and Associates in 2013, a law firm in Tirana, Albania. As part of the firm's professional team, Elona is involved in several cases relating to intellectual property, employment, and corporate law. elona_xhepa@yahoo.com

Victoria FEDORISIN works as a quality control manager at Development Aid, an organization offering services to the international developmental sector. She is currently preparing an application for an MA in human resources. victoriafedorisin@gmail.com

Iryna RIECHKINA is currently pursuing graduate studies in Germanistics at the University of Connecticut. iryna.riechkina@uconn.edu

Marija VULETIC works at a feminist NGO and is a peer educator on feminism, activism, women's and LGBT rights, and creating a safe space for future generations of feminists and activists in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Anastasiia GRYSHCHUK is a customer support manager at Readdle in Ukraine. Anastasiia's thesis analyzed the impact of economic development on financial systems in East and Southeast Asia. nastik@fromru.com

2012

Valeriia SYTNIKOVA is a sales manager at IT company while pursuing a second diploma in project management. Valeriia is also creating two projects in Kharkiv: one on glass recycling and the other on a youth club called Americano, which will start in December 2014. sitnikovavalery@gmail.com

Ganna KOICHEVA is currently holds the positions of marketing manager and sales manager at a marketing company. She is still studying and planning to obtain a graduate degree internationally focusing on EU energy security policies. Koicheva.anna07@gmail.com

Vilena LYSENKO is a first year student at Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota. vilena1818@rambler.ru

Ognjen KOJANIC is a graduate student at the Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh. He is currently designing research on property transformation in former Yugoslav countries. ognjenkojanic@gmail.com
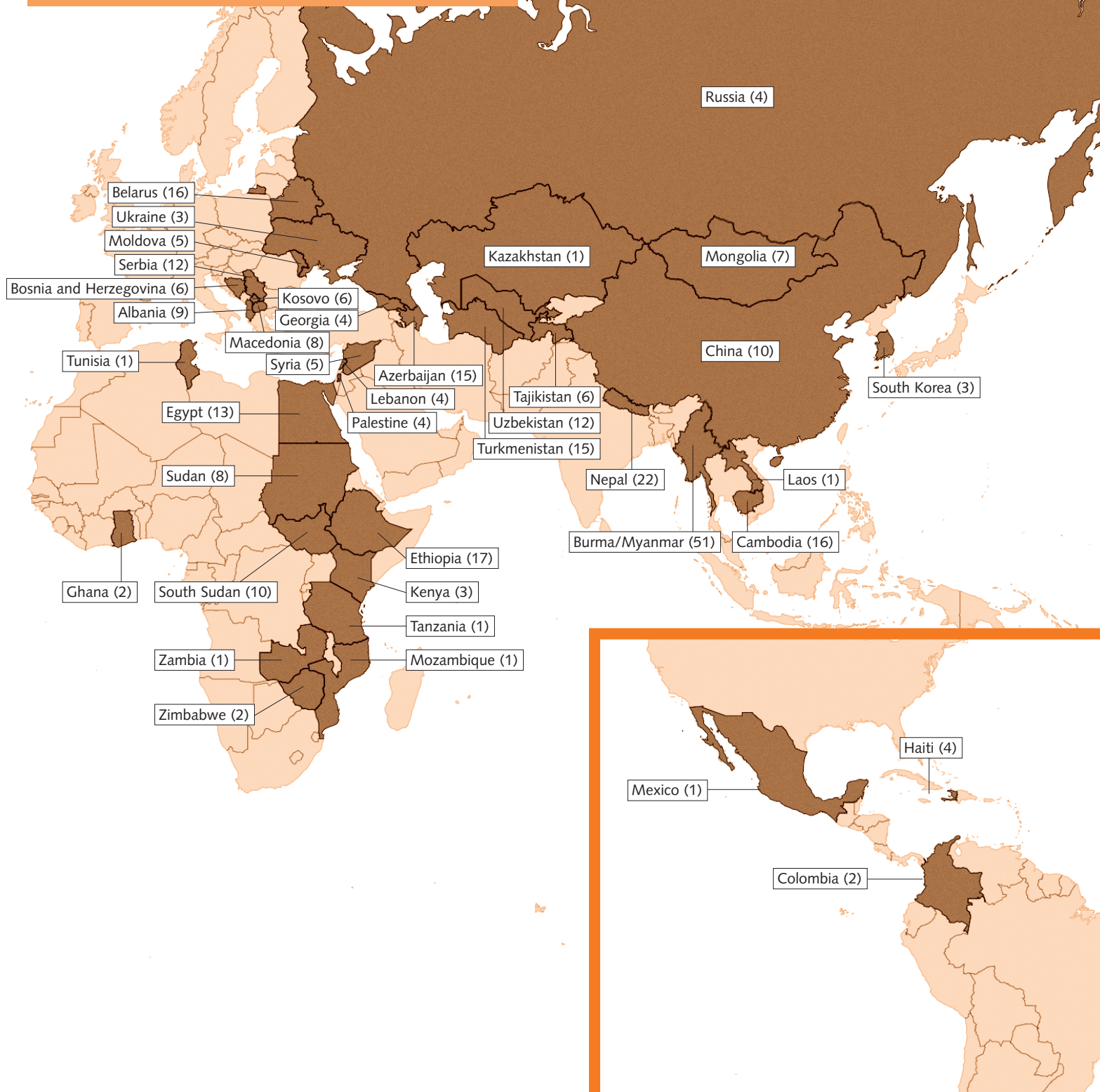
2013

Sara ÇAPALIKU has a degree in law from the University of Tirana and is currently pursuing an MA in European studies in Germany. She is interested in the politics of the European Union, project management, working with human rights NGOs, and photography. capaliku.sara@gmail.com

Scholarships in 2014:
An Overview of Our Grantmaking

The Scholarship Programs offered several programs in 2014, including our 'flagship' programs, the Civil Society Scholar Awards and the Civil Society Leadership Awards.

Here's a map of the home countries where our scholars will continue to make an impact in the future. Numbers in parentheses represent the new fellows from these countries in 2014.

For more information on these and other programs offered by the Scholarship Programs, see the back cover.

Russia (4)

Belarus (16)
Ukraine (3)
Moldova (5)
Serbia (12)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (6)
Albania (9)
Kosovo (6)
Georgia (4)
Macedonia (8)
Tunisia (1)
Syria (5)
Azerbaijan (15)
Lebanon (4)
Egypt (13)
Palestine (4)
Sudan (8)

Kazakhstan (1)
Mongolia (7)
China (10)
South Korea (3)
Tajikistan (6)
Uzbekistan (12)
Turkmenistan (15)
Nepal (22)
Laos (1)

Ghana (2)
South Sudan (10)
Ethiopia (17)
Kenya (3)
Tanzania (1)
Zambia (1)
Mozambique (1)
Zimbabwe (2)

Burma/Myanmar (51)
Cambodia (16)

Mexico (1)
Haiti (4)
Colombia (2)

Scholar**Forum**

The 18th edition of *ScholarForum*, produced in early 2016, will be accepting submissions from Scholarship Programs' grantees and alumni for articles, opinion pieces, and short essays.

A call for papers on specific topics will be sent out in summer 2015.

Please send any responses or expressions of interest for topics you may wish to write on to scholarforum@opensociety-foundations.org

In addition, we very much welcome any articles within these broad categories:

Personal Essays and Fictional Pieces

We welcome any thoughts you have on your experiences during your scholarship: your reflections, opinions, and photographs are welcome. Works of original fiction that can be serialized can also be submitted for editorial consideration.

Maximum length: 300–750 words

Alumni

Updates from Scholarship Programs' alumni are key to evaluating our work and provide inspiring material for future leaders in your countries and beyond. Please feel free to send us a brief note on your current professional activities, research interests, or any calls for collaboration at an upcoming event or conference.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor regarding the content of *ScholarForum* are welcome and will be printed at the editor's discretion.

Maximum length: 300 words

All submissions, queries, and feedback can be sent to: scholarforum@ opensocietyfoundations.org.

Academic Showcase

To build on the wealth of knowledge and critical inquiry Open Society Scholarship Programs' grantees create during their scholarship and beyond, we invite all scholars to submit summaries or abstracts of their research to be published in the *ScholarForum*'s **Academic Showcase** section.

Submissions should be short and relate to an area of research undertaken as part of an MA or PhD degree, or to independent research conducted in the field. Due to space constraints, Scholarship Programs will only print a selected number of pieces, but will try to send comments from the editorial board to each author.

Guidelines for Academic Showcase submissions

Abstracts:

Abstracts are concise texts encapsulating the whole body of research to be addressed in a longer paper or presentation to follow. Outline the topic of research, the main objective of the research or the research problem, the methodology employed, the main findings, and your conclusions.

Maximum length: 350 words

Research in Progress Essays:

Authors need to be cognizant of the educated but general nature of *ScholarForum's* audience; therefore specialized terms and concepts should be concisely explained in simple language. Articles should include footnotes and references, and any ideas expressed by other authors should be referred to in Harvard-style citations within text.

Introduction: Include a brief statement on the thesis/rationale to be developed in the article, as well as a short summary of the findings and recommendations. Outline what the work is part of (i.e., PhD, MA, independent research).

Analysis and Discussion: Clearly and concisely explain any of the theories, concepts, and terminology, citing concrete examples. Keep in mind that the audience will be outside of your discipline.

Recommendations: Outline your recommendations or aspects for further study or research.

Conclusion: Concisely summarize the content of the work above.

Maximum length: 1500 words

GRANTS FROM THE OPEN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

For more details please visit
www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/programs/scholarship-programs/

CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA) provide fully funded master's degree study to individuals who clearly demonstrate academic and professional excellence and a deep commitment to leading positive social change in their communities. CSLA directly assists future leaders in countries where civil society is challenged by a deficit of democratic practice in local governance and social development.

CIVIL SOCIETY SCHOLAR AWARDS

The Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA) support international academic mobility to enable doctoral students and university faculty to access resources that enrich socially engaged research and critical scholarship in their home country or region. The awards support activities such as fieldwork (data collection); research visits to libraries, archives, or universities; course/curriculum development; and international collaborations leading to a peer-reviewed publication.

DISABILITY RIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Disability Rights Scholarship Program provides yearlong LLM awards to disability rights advocates and lawyers to develop new legislation, jurisprudence, impact litigation, and scholarship.

PALESTINIAN RULE OF LAW AWARDS

The Palestinian Rule of Law Awards (PROL) provide scholarships for one-year academic masters of law (LLM) programs for qualified applicants from the West Bank and Gaza for study at selected law schools in the United States and the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest.

Scholar**Forum**