

Boram SHIN received an Mphil in Russian Studies from University of Cambridge, and now is a PhD candidate in Slavonic Studies under the Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Cambridge. For her dissertation, she investigates on the construction of Uzbek national identity through Stalinist culture in the 1930s and 1940s from a postcolonial perspective. Her research interests include socialist expansion in the early Cold War Period, pan-Asiatic ideology, and magical realism in Central Asian film and literature. Currently she is working with the Academy of Korean Studies and East Asia Institute based in Seoul, South Korea.

Christopher James Fort graduated from Michigan State University with Bachelor's degrees in Russian and Political Science. While there I developed an interest in Uzbek literature and culture, which I further pursued while obtaining my MA at Ohio State in Russian Area Studies. I am now working on my PhD at University of Michigan in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Central Asia and Uzbek literature is one of primary focuses.

James Pickett is a PhD candidate in the History Department at Princeton University, where he specializes in the social history of empire and Islamic authority. His dissertation explores transregional networks of Turko-Persian exchange among elite families of religious scholars and their military patrons in eighteenth and nineteenth century Bukhara. Related articles also trace the cultural memory of this era as a subsequent influence on Soviet propaganda in Iran and language ideology in Central Eurasia. His next project will exploit chancellory archives to compare Bukhara's transformation into a Russian protectorate with the political economy of Muslim princely states in British India; to contextualize the structure of information, power and inequality under competing models of imperial governance; and to delineate continuities across the Persianate world.

Joshua Freeman is a PhD candidate in the Inner Asian and Altaic Studies program at Harvard University. His current research deals with the twentieth-century advent of Uyghur-language publishing and its effect on intellectual and literary life in Uyghur communities. He completed an MA in Uyghur literature at Xinjiang Normal University, where his thesis focused on modernist poetry.

Jutta Wintermann is a PhD candidate at the Department of Oriental Studies of the University of Cologne, Germany. She studied Islamic Sciences with a major in Iranian Studies in Cologne and Bochum (Germany) and holds a diploma in Translation Studies of the Cologne University of

Applied Sciences. Her research interests include Persian language and classical literature, epic poetry, cultural and linguistic contacts between Iran and Central Asia as well as pre-Islamic Iran.

Mehrangiz Najafizadeh received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, and she taught at Mount Saint Mary's College (Maryland) prior to her current appointment on the faculty of the Department of Sociology at the University of Kansas. Her prior sociological research focused on global social change, including Latin America and she served for six years as Associate Director of the University of Kansas Center of Latin American Studies. More recently, her research has shifted to Eurasia and Central Asia, and for the past twelve years she has been engaged in research in Azerbaijan with specific focus on gender and social change. She was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Award through which she taught at Baku State University in Azerbaijan, and she also served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Baku State University on two separate occasions. In addition she has received two separate U.S. Department of State funded American Councils for International Education Research Fellowships, a U.S. Department of State Embassy Policy Specialist Grant, an IREX Travel Grant, a National Council for Eurasian and East European Research Grant, and an American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant to pursue research related to gender and religion, gender and war refugees, and women's advocacy organizations in Azerbaijan. Her current gender-related research in Azerbaijan intersects gender with social inequality and globalization while also including a social historical component pertaining to Azeri poetry and literature. Her publications include articles in *Global Dimensions of Carework and Gender*, *Gender and Society*, the *Journal of Third World Studies*, and the *Journal of International Women's Studies*. Her focus on international and cross-cultural teaching and research also is reflected in the fact that—in addition to her faculty position in the Department of Sociology—she currently is a core faculty member in the University of Kansas (1) Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, (2) Center for Global and International Studies, and (3) Center of Latin American Studies. Further, she is a member of the University of Kansas Peace and Conflict Studies Advisory Board and the Department of Women and Gender Studies Advisory Board, and the Global and International Studies Advisory Board. She regularly teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Comparative Societies, Sociological Theory, Gender in the Global Context, and Global Social Change, and she is the recipient of various University of Kansas teaching and mentoring awards including the Mortar Board Outstanding Educator Award, the Byron A. Alexander Graduate Mentor Award, the Del Shankel Teaching Excellence Award, and the 2014 Chancellor John Fraser Teaching Award.

Naomi Caffee is a Lecturer in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of California, Los Angeles. She has a B.A. in Russian from Grinnell College, as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from UCLA. Her research interests include Russophone

literature, Turkic languages and literatures, indigenous literatures, post colonialism, and ecocriticism.

Sam Hodgkin is a doctoral student in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, specializing in Persian language and literature. While he is interested in the Persianate arts as a continuity across time and space, his current work focuses on Persian/Tajiki and Chaghatay/Uzbek literature in Russian Imperial and Soviet Central Asia, as well as the cultural history of that period. Since writing his master's thesis at Harvard University on popular poetic culture in the Russian protectorates of Bukhara and Kokand, he taught pre-university courses in both the US and Tajikistan. His recent conference talks have discussed the Soviet Tajik panegyric qasida, the figure of Abulqasim Lahuti in Persianate neoclassicism and committed literature, and the national operas of Soviet Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan. His University of Chicago master's thesis is entitled, "Revolutionary Springtime: Reading the Soviet Tajik Ghazal."