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With the aid of the Institute for Regional and International Studies Graduate Student Summer Fieldwork Award, I was able to partially fund my year-long work in Russia's central and local archives. This research will form the basis of my dissertation, which examines the everyday life on the Russian-Finnish border during the Russian Civil War. Between 1918 and 1922, this territory was occupied and re-occupied in rapid succession by Bolsheviks, Russian nationalists, Finnish socialists, Finnish anti-Bolsheviks, and Allied troops. I am interested in studying the ways in which Karelians, a Finno-Ugric tribe native to the region, experienced and made sense of the rapidly changing political and military regimes in their homeland.

Both contemporaries and historians have studied Karelians through the eyes of these "occupation regimes," mostly in order to figure out which camp they associated themselves with, and often coming to the conclusion that this people lacked national and political consciousness. In my research, I move beyond this normative and orientalizing framework by focusing on the ways in which warfare and regime change affected Karelians' everyday practices. I achieve this through a close reading of documents produced at the micro-level, such as village meeting protocols, peasant petitions, officials' travel reports, trial records, and others.

I spent most of my time in Russia in the city of Petrozavodsk, where the National Archive of the Republic of Karelia preserves documents that originated in war-torn Karelian villages. These records show how through the recurring warfare, rapid regime change, famine and several associated epidemics, Karelians continued their everyday activities: they searched for employment, went shopping, sent children to school, were unfaithful to their spouses, wrote letters, herded cattle, were born, and died. They were also quite conscious of the intricacies of

the military conflict to which they unwillingly became party: Karelians responded to regime changes by choosing sides, organizing military units, and requesting aid and protection from Soviet and Finnish officials, and also Herbert Hoover of the American Relief Association and George V of England.

In addition to reading micro-level documents in local archives, I spent two months in Moscow, where by working in the collections of the State and Foreign Policy Archives of the Russian Federation I tried to determine whether and how the situation on the ground in Karelia and perceived peasants' orientations affected Soviet domestic and foreign policy. I have discovered that Soviet government greatly feared the possibility that Karelians provide Finland with military and ideological support to annex strategically important border regions, or that they migrate to Finland *en masse*. These fears strongly shaped Soviet policy toward the region and its inhabitants, and affected the Soviet position during peace talks with Finland.

Working in Petrozavodsk also allowed me to establish working relationships with several local historians who have researched Karelians and Karelian history, conversations with whom have provided me with much intellectual stimulation and guidance. In addition, I was given a chance to contribute to the existing academic conversation: my article on the clash of official and individual memories of the Russian Civil War in Karelia will be published in the forthcoming issue of the Petrozavodsk-based international peer-reviewed journal *Nordic and Baltic Studies Review*. I am very grateful to the Institute for Regional and International Studies for allowing me these opportunities.