

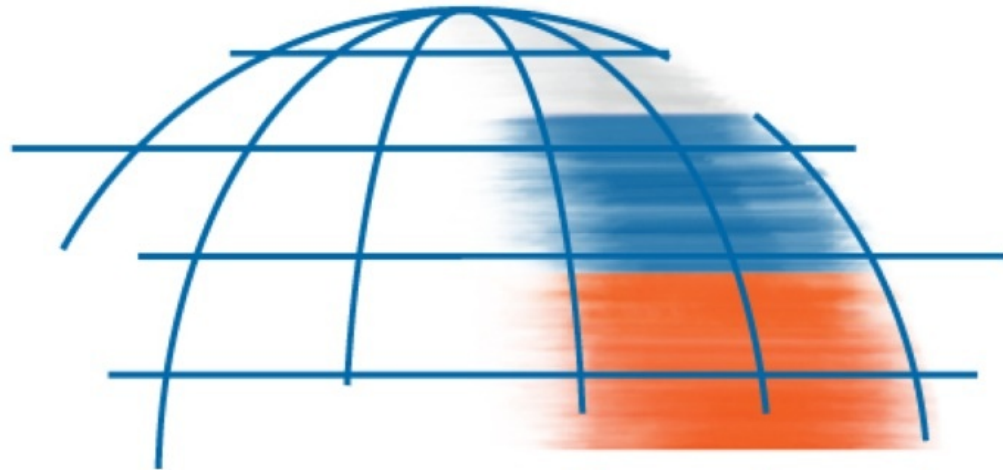


IIP Summer 2015: Russian International Affairs Council

**Moscow, Russia
Kalea Power
Class of 2017**

About RIAC

- The Russian International Affairs Council is a diplomatic and academic think tank, whose main purpose is to provide analysis of current events and of how Russia has responded/plans to respond to them in its foreign and domestic policy.
- RIAC holds weekly conferences with political, academic, and diplomatic figures, which are later drafted and summarized in detailed reports.
- Most every RIAC employee, including interns, have a personal blog on the RIAC website, in either Russian or English, that they update frequently with new analysis.



RIAC 77

Russian International
Affairs Council

Responsibilities as an RIAC Intern

- Edited RIAC reports in English. Compared the Russian and English language versions to make sure the translation was accurate.
- Transcribed audio materials of the “Helsinki +40” project
- Prepared a research digest on the 2015 Federal Elections in Canada
- Conducted my own research on the current trends in Russian foreign energy policy. Worked closely with my supervisor and produced two analytical articles, which are posted on my blog on the RIAC website.



- Frequently got to attend RIAC conferences and diplomatic talks.
- Sat in on an RIAC conference with the former President of Afghanistan and the former Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ivan Ivanov (who is also the President of RIAC).
- The conference was held at Russia Today's headquarters, a Russian state-funded and state-owned TV network.

Most rewarding aspects

- Working closely with my supervisor and conducting my own research in my area of interest.
- Advancing my language skills in translation, editing work, and everyday conversation.
- Being able to attend RIAC conferences conducted in Russian and ask questions during the talks with international political figures.



- Another diplomatic talk I sat in on was called “The World Political Climate: Whether to wait for further cooling”



Impact on RIAC

- My RIAC blog offered a different perspective for RIAC's readers on a topic that is of utmost importance today: Russia's energy relations with other countries.
- My editing work on their reports and conference summaries helped RIAC's English publications read as eloquently and coherently as their Russian counterparts.

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[On Both Sides of Turkish Stream](#)



As Europe realizes its efforts to diversify its eastern energy suppliers, Russia looks to Turkey to maintain its energy presence in the west. Gazprom's Turkish Stream offers appealing prospects for Turkey's future as an energy player, yet Turkey's simultaneous participation in the EU's SGC initiative brings into question the country's geopolitical motives.

Rating: 2

Tags: [Energy](#), [Turkey](#), [Turkish Stream](#), [TANAP](#)

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[Russia-China Energy Relations: A Long-awaited Partnership Develops](#)



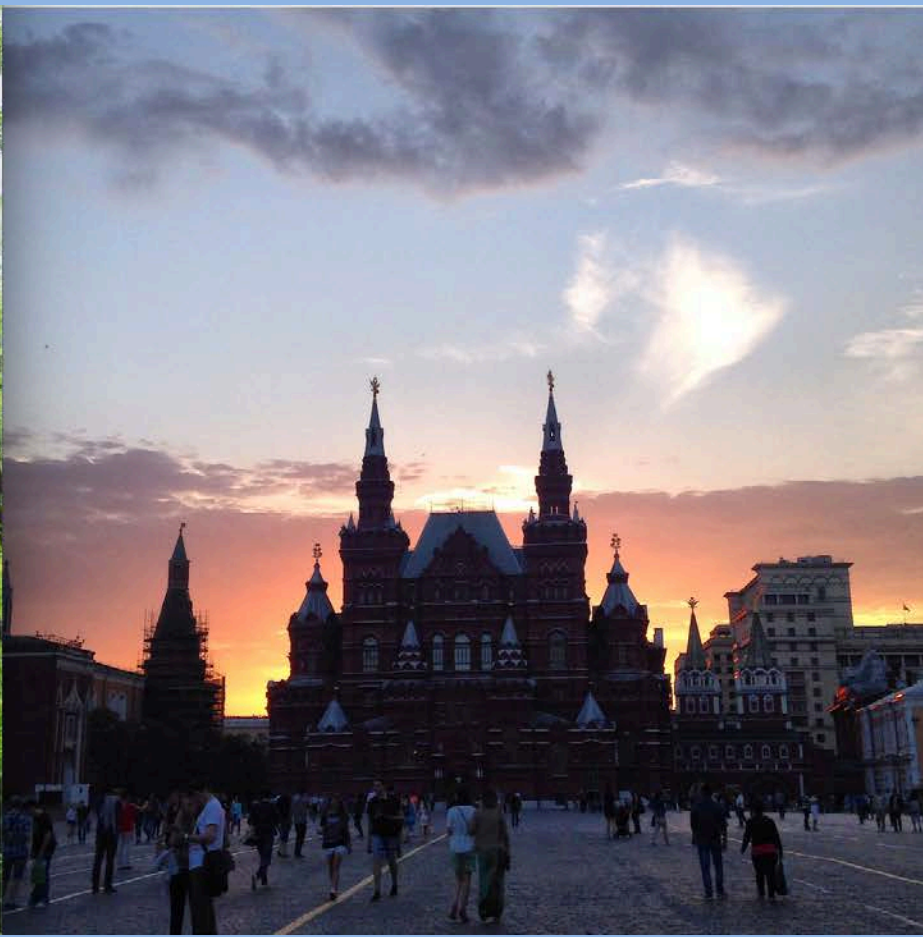
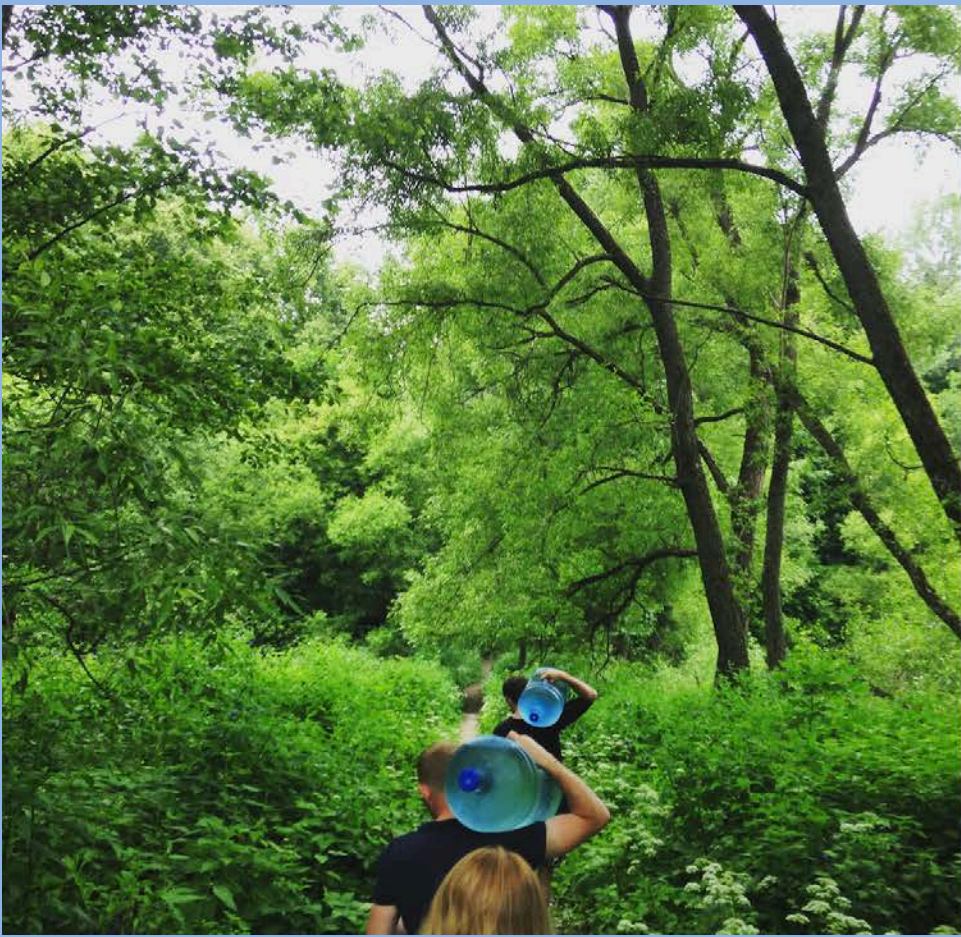
Russia and China have engaged in considerable dialogue regarding bilateral energy but have lacked real progress in energy cooperation. Despite this trend, recent events and situational factors, specifically the crisis in Ukraine, have urged Russia to complete its first stages in its pivot to the east – officially committing to a huge energy deal with China's leading oil and gas corporation last year.

Rating: 4

Tags: [Russia](#), [China](#), [Energy](#)

Personal Impact

- As a Slavic major, I am considering possible career paths in the Foreign Service or International Relations. I embarked on this internship hoping to get a good introduction to what career in IR would look like.
- I learned a lot about conducting individual research and being self-motivated.
- Takeaway: Self-motivation is the largest part of progress/success. I want to take international relations or a politics course in the fall and delve into those areas further in my academic studies.





Overall Experience

- Overall, the time I spent in Russia was excellent.
- To supplement my RIAC work, I got to know a professor at the Gorky Institute of World Literature, a research institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. I helped him translate and edit the abstracts of researchers' and professors' presentations at literary conferences at the Institute.
- Although this was not my first time living in Russia, my knowledge of Russian cultural tendencies grew immensely, mostly through close friendships I made with Russians and everyday encounters on the streets of Moscow.