



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

RESEARCH SERIES

Stanislav Budnitsky

Russian Studies, Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar

Wednesday, February 24: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Russia's Digital Multipolarity: Toward a Cultural Theory of Internet Governance

World powers currently are struggling over the global internet's governing principles. Some states support the status quo in which U.S.-based non-governmental organizations administer the internet's critical resources. Others lobby to place internet governance under the auspices of an international state-based organization such as the United Nations. Scholarship on global politics of the internet, to date, has privileged the lenses of law, political economy, international relations, and science and technology studies. By contrast, this project employs a cultural lens to explain the divergence among states' internet governance diplomacies. It argues that states' national identity constructions direct the logics and language of their respective internet foreign policies. Using Russia as an example, this chapter shows how its great power identity narrative, which presents the country as an indispensable global governance actor, drives its multipolarity doctrine. The doctrine challenges perceived U.S. hegemony, particularly over the internet, and advances global governance by multiple great powers, including Russia.

Stanislav Budnitsky is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Russian Studies Workshop at the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University-Bloomington. His research lies at the nexus of culture, global communication, and digital technologies. In 2018-20, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Budnitsky earned his PhD in Communication from Ottawa's Carleton University and MA in Nationalism Studies from Budapest's Central European University.

Ostrom Workshop
513 N. Park Ave
Bloomington, IN 47408

ostromworkshop.indiana.edu

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