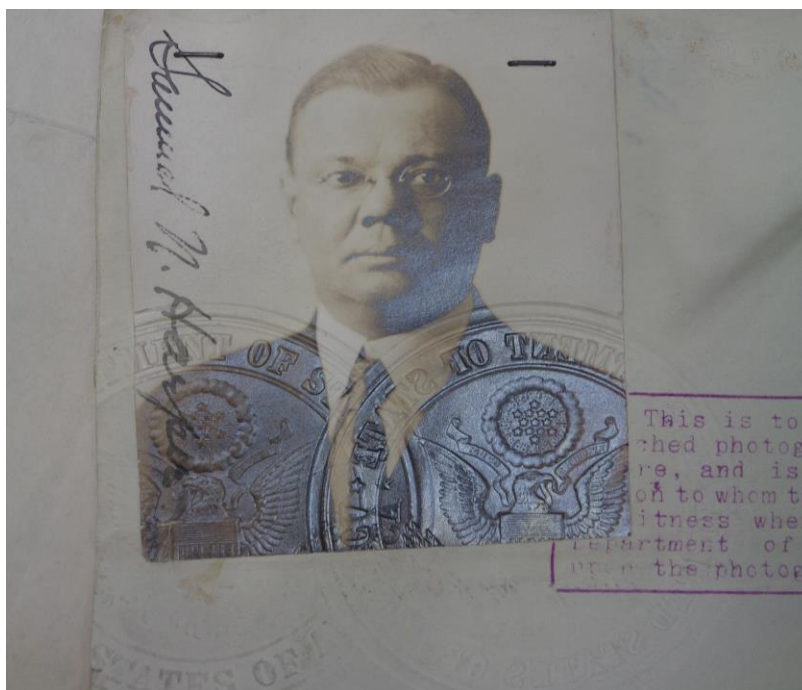


Griffin Creech

Adviser: Don Raleigh

“Imagining Russia, Informing America: Samuel N. Harper, U.S. Public Opinion, and the Russian Revolution, 1916 – 1921”



This thesis examines American foreign relations with Russia and the Soviet Union between 1916 and 1921 through a study of Samuel N. Harper (1882–1943), America’s leading “Russian Expert” at the time. I argue that by communicating widely with various strata of the American public and measuring Russia’s political development against subjective, western oriented expectations, Harper created a binary in his mind and in American public consciousness that precluded cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union.