Upon receiving a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, Ian Lanzillotti, a graduate student in Ohio State Department of History, went to the Kabardino-Balkar region of Russia to conduct research for his doctoral dissertation from October 2010 to May 2011. His research focuses on interethnic relations and the development of national consciousness in Russia’s multi-ethnic North Caucasus region.

As an undergraduate student, Lanzillotti earned his bachelor’s in history and Russian language from the University of South Florida and went on to earn his master’s from Indiana University. He has a vast background in Russian and Soviet history especially focused on nativization policies of the 1920s and 1930s; the history of the peoples of the Caucasus; the Russian civil war; Islamic history; nationalism studies; and modern European colonialism and empire. Recently, one of Lanzillotti’s articles, “From Princely Fiefdoms to Soviet Nations: Interethnic Border Conflicts in the North Caucasus and the Village of Lesken,” was published in an issue of the Central Asian Survey.

Lanzillotti also studied in Russia at Moscow State University, the Herzen Russian State Pedagogical University and St. Petersburg State University, in 2004, 2005 and 2007-2008, respectively. He received support research for his doctoral dissertation from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2012-13, with each grant in the amount of about $5,000. During his most recent travels there he spent much time at the central archives and libraries in Moscow as well as participating in discussions that focused on the issues of nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism in that region while conducting his research.

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