

“LIVE FROM THE RED SQUARE!” VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL IN HISTORY CLASSROOM

***Andrey Ivanov* History, UW-Platteville**

Fieldwork is a staple of experiential teaching. Existing SoTL literature has largely affirmed the value of learning history through exploration (such as going to a museum or archeological site). The reality of the pandemic, however, disrupted the in-person explorative learning. Could the use of remote-virtual field trips (RVFTs), an emerging pedagogical medium, present a viable option for educational travel? I sought to answer this question by traveling to historical sites, while connecting students in my global and Russian history classes via streaming interactive video platform. Based on student surveys, post-fieldtrip debriefings and analytics of video recordings, this study concluded that short-term RVFTs significantly enhance students' experiential learning in the history classroom during the pandemic. RVFTs also make such learning more accessible where personal considerations (such as health) or institutional circumstances may inhibit such journeys for students.

