

# ASEEES NewsNet

## The Implications of Our 2021 Theme:

Diversity, Intersectionality, and  
Interdisciplinarity

## Creative Horizons:

Art in the Post-Soviet Era

## Five Minutes with Archie Brown

Winner of the  
2021 Pushkin House Book Prize

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Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), established in 1948, is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, scholarly society and is the leading private organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern & Central Europe.

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# The Implications of Our Theme: Diversity, Intersectionality, and Interdisciplinarity

Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College

*Editor's note: This article is based on the President's Address, delivered November 20, 2021 at the 53rd Annual Convention.*

When we decided on the theme for this year's ASEES convention a year and change ago, of course, we had no idea that questions of diversity, equity, and inclusion in academic life would become so contested right now in the United States, along with academic freedom at every level of education. We were inspired by the impressive series of Zoom events on Race in Focus that ASEES was helping to organize in response to Black Lives Matter; today people in our profession are continuing to arrange events, work on committees, pursue research, and propose projects that address issues of race and other issues in serious, challenging, and intellectually substantial ways. If you haven't yet read the special feature on race and bias in the Fall 2021 issue of *Slavic Review*, with 14 articles chosen from 60 (!) submitted abstracts, it is definitely worth your time, and please keep an eye on future numbers of the journal as well. You will quickly notice that I am not an expert on this topic, but it's too important not to take advantage of the opportunity the traditional presidential address offers to continue the ideas from the roundtable earlier today.

Diversity and intersectionality raise many questions—let's start with our students, *who* they are, and *what* we teach them. The institutions where many of us work rightly strive to attract a diverse group of students, and we want our own classes and our own fields to appeal to a wide range of that diverse group. To cite our colleague Lee Roby (who teaches at Friends School of Baltimore), students should find both “a window and a mirror” in our courses: they can learn how Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia differ from other regions of the world, gaining a new perspective on all kinds of other disciplines and issues, while at many points looking at their own lives and experiences and the

workings of their own society from new angles (= the mirror: you see yourself differently). The possible components of this diversity intersect and overlap, of course, but students should be able to find a *way into* our topics; if they see no signs that we recognize the actual complexity of our topics, and their relationship to other things in the world, they very well might take one look and then turn away. I have often been asked why I study Russian, or South Slavic languages and cultures, given that it isn't my ancestry. It was a chance decision, but chance is a thing we want to respond to so we can keep the students who find us through chance as well as those whose ancestry or experience stimulates their curiosity. I was lucky to emerge into the profession a year after the founding of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) (one of whose initiators, Heather Hogan, was my colleague at the first place I taught after graduate school). It is still exciting to encounter the energy of AWSS members, bringing various feminist tools to all the fields in which they work.

From the start, it is important to see the topics we choose to work on treated with respect. My doctoral dissertation was on the Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva, in whose work gender and sexuality are essential elements, and I was never told these were not worthy topics. In truth, just try telling anyone that Tsvetaeva is not a worthy topic: perhaps it was the Revolution and subsequent changes that cemented the reputations of some Russian Modernist women writers in a way that women of other places and generations did not enjoy? Moreover, maybe because the internet hadn't yet been born and my name was gender-ambiguous, I was never dissed as a baby professor, even though I think I got carded every single time I bought a bottle of wine in Ohio. Along with our own choices, students' interests can elicit new approaches. One who eventually majored in economics wrote a superb paper in a

first-year literature seminar, analyzing the systems and changes in money and business described and critiqued in Ivo Andrić's novel *The Bridge on the Drina*. A student majoring in psychology looked at how Dostoevsky treats female characters who have suffered sexual abuse: unlike Freud, who in other ways learned from reading him, Dostoevsky believes women, and she found a productive way to read him alongside #MeToo. Openness to a different discipline expands the students' reach, grounded in what they already know and care about.

The point here is that diverse students (like our own past selves) will bring diverse interests to their educations, and those interests can usefully update and transform what we are doing. As long as we listen to our students, they can push us to expand the material in our courses, to update our offerings, perhaps to translate materials that will respond to their needs and interests. They can ask their libraries and area studies centers to invite new speakers or collect new materials. Among our current students, I see particular passion for environmental studies, for learning about gender and sexuality, and growing interest in the former Soviet nations of Central Asia, though they are interested in many other things as well, especially race. In the literature courses I teach, students want to see women authors, queer authors, and authors who are themselves from diverse backgrounds; they want these authors not as tokens but integrated into the syllabus, though they're happy to go read a specialized study to get more after discovering Mikhail Kuzmin or Sophia Parnok in a survey course. They know that reality has never been monochrome, and if my students don't see these authors on the syllabus they'll ask where they are hiding. When they reach the point of choosing paper or thesis topics, and then jobs or fields of graduate study with further thesis topics or else paths into other professions, our students' interests break new ground in the questions we consider. Thus, students bring the discussion full circle: by pushing for a diverse curriculum and then, some of them, becoming the scholars who make it happen. Where are the women's voices, the queer voices, the non-Russians, Buddhists or Jews, Koreans in Kazakhstan? How do groups adopt new languages for various kinds of advantage or participate in cultural, economic, literary, or political projects? What are the ethnic and linguistic mixes of various zones of Eastern Europe and how has that changed over time? And then, on the other hand, how does political transformation, new film technique, a folktale or musical riff, religious proselytizing, environmental damage, neo-fascist agitation, or radiation spread across the borders



that we often use to organize our knowledge?

As I was saying, diverse students become diverse faculty and also other members of our profession, as some of our students decide to work in study abroad or career advising, attend graduate school in order to enter our profession, or to work in government service or alt-academic fields such as library science, museums, or publishing. But (and it's an important "but") today's students can't bring this growing diversity quickly enough for those of us who are ensconced in comfortable stability to sit there without responding and making changes—be it in our own research, in the choice of topics and sources we choose to teach, the study abroad themes we organize, or the lectures and other events we arrange. (See, we can invite a speaker; we don't have to do it all ourselves.)

Recently on a mailing list I follow there was a complaint that the racial diversity our institutions track and strive for is irrelevant for research on Slavs, who are supposedly all white. Leaving aside the intentions of that kind of complaint, the assertion is overly simplistic: are we interested only in some idealized unmixed ethnic group with an idealized unmixed language, history, and culture, or do we study the actual living nations and regions on which our organization focuses? Do I have to

*Above: Prof. Forrester singing along to live band at the #ASEEES21 Opening Reception, November 18, 2021.*

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mention Pushkin again to make people like that stop and think? Reading the discussion, I recalled a story I heard in Croatia: a middle-aged professor described once hearing a pleasant youthful voice behind him, speaking perfect Kajkavian (a dialect of Croatian spoken in the hills outside Zagreb, not taught in universities to the likes of me, though an embedded anthropologist could certainly perfect it). The professor turned to look and saw a Black woman speaking: Kajkavski was her mother tongue, while her father was from Africa. The professor was struck that she was more part of “the folk” than he was. There are multiple ethnicities in any of the societies we study—do we exclude them to focus only on the Slavs, or the Magyars, or whatever the members of the titular nationality? Ideally our research will feed into our teaching (and the teaching of our colleagues), while at the same time our teaching should stimulate our expanding research, especially if we listen to what our students ask and want to know. Some of their questions may reveal that they have no idea about the basic terms of what we work on, but simple questions could have more sophisticated implications. As our own specialized topics home in on very specific times, places, issues, and individuals, we must keep in mind the larger context. This organization’s broad focus on area studies encourages us and grants us opportunities to seek the answers to questions that extend outside our own particular specialization, and our convention, our journal, and other ventures make this much less effortful, whether or not we try to pursue new areas of expertise ourselves. And to be honest, if there’s any point in people outside the region doing this work, or in people from the region coming to North America to study or teach, then there’s the same point to all the various perspectives we and our diverse students can bring to this work.

As we know, the Eurasian region addressed by ASEEES is as diverse as North America, and students and scholars are finding new ways to approach important questions. One question is how race is identified and described, particularly as viewed in its intersections with other markers of identity. These questions have arisen in the past as well as the present. Archeology, folklore, and historical research can lead to all kinds of fascinating information from the past. Let me tell you, students respond with warm interest to research on witches by Valerie Kivelson and Christine Worobec! (A topic that naturally points to gender studies, but that intersects strongly with class and with the economic impacts of serfdom.) The late Maya Peterson’s work on environmental

issues and especially water in Soviet Central Asia has impacted understanding of those issues in deep and productive ways. We know that Nazi theorists drew on earlier racist publications from the United States—meanwhile, Jennifer Wilson’s research has shown that abolitionist texts from the United States were read and translated in the early nineteenth century by Russians who opposed serfdom, and Amanda Bellows’s 2020 book compares representations of slavery and serfdom produced in later decades, from 1861 to 1905. (And you may already know that the word “slave” descends etymologically from the word “Slav”—looking further into the past.) Colleagues in the Russian Federation are of course aware of racism as it is manifested there now (again, it is instructive to compare to structures of racism and definitions of race in other societies). Those of us who have been in the field for a while may recall when Middlebury closed their study abroad program in Voronezh after a student was beaten up in a park by the local skinheads. Colleagues at an institution I won’t name, though it’s located considerably to the East of Voronezh, have encouraged me to send students there for study abroad, pointing out that they *don’t* have skinheads but do have numerous students with Asian ancestry from within the Russian Federation, as well as students from abroad who feel comfortable and safe as they walk around the city.

What I say here is already tending toward a vector that reaches through diversity toward interdisciplinarity. If we bring our own full complexity as human beings situated in a certain time and place, shaped by family and personal histories but also attentive to possible future trajectories in our studies, our scholarship, and our teaching, then we need the tools of various disciplines to get what we need. We need access to the whole wealth of ASEEES.

Interdisciplinarity recognizes and leverages the value of disciplines, their standards, the materials they recognize, and the tools they develop. If we want to do the job right, especially in education, we must be aware of the other disciplines and find ways to reach across those boundaries. Perhaps people who work in any Slavic literature are lucky: we’ve always known that historical background is essential to understanding literary discourse in our region of study. Philosophical and political discussions have often taken place in works of literature because other realms of discourse were censored, or due to the lack of a parliamentary culture. Historians, in my experience at least,

often ask their students to read literary works (in translation) in their courses, for instance to get a feeling for Stalinist repression: think Lidiia Chukovskaya's *Sofya Petrovna*, or Danilo Kiš's *Tomb for Boris Davidovich*. It may be that all the cultures we study have been more open than most anglophone societies to recognizing and studying the ways local cultures are related to more distant ones—at least, if the more distant ones are Western European: that means strong programs in comparative literature and sophisticated study of the impact of translation of literature, philosophy, and cultural or political theory. What, too, is the history of anti-racism work in the socialist bloc, which you hardly ever see called “the second world,” unlike the first and the third. In some places we can already draw on established interdisciplinary practice (especially in the inherently interdisciplinary practices of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the decades-long work of AWSS as an affiliate organization, but also in the more recent field of Environmental Studies and others). While we reach across borders and learn from other fields as they develop and emerge, pay special attention to our younger colleagues in the field, who are doing awesome work. On that note I've been thrilled to see the number of good jobs in language and literature advertised so far this fall: not only jobs in Russian, but in Polish, in Ukrainian! If you've been following these posts, writing letters of recommendation, or assembling your own application, you've probably noticed that the institutions are seeking exactly this: interdisciplinarity combined with new approaches to topics old and new. This both shows a response to exciting developments—and puts much of the burden for keeping our field up to date on the newest colleagues. ASEEEES, with its intentional multi-disciplinarity, should step up to support and advance scholarly work as well as teaching of this kind. And it is incumbent on the senior colleagues (hiring committees, outside reviewers, tenure committees, and mentors of new hires) to recognize and support this kind of work.

Attention to complexity and interconnection is especially important now, as many of the societies we study are turning away from the supposed triumph of democracy after 1991, as the political and media landscape of the United States is increasingly contested (with some figures, I swear, employing lessons learned from the great years of totalitarianism and state control of discourse), and as our own positions in various institutions are made less secure by attacks on academic freedom, and by what looks like a societal conspiracy to tell students that studying

the humanities and even the social sciences is a big waste of time. It leads me to wonder: in whose interest would it be if fewer people studied, taught about, and understood Slavic, East European and Eurasian cultures?

Having mentioned younger colleagues, I slip toward the issue of precarity, which is the theme of next year's ASEEEES convention in Chicago. Thank you for your attention to this talk, and I hope to see you there!



Sibelan Forrester is Susan W. Lippincott Professor of Modern and Classical Languages and Russian at Swarthmore College, and was ASEEEES President in 2021. Her scholarly and teaching specialties include Russian poetry, women's and gender studies, folklore, and theory and practice of translation.

Applications being accepted for

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# ASEEES 54th Annual Convention

October 13-14, 2022 • Virtual Convention

November 10-13, 2022 • Chicago, IL

**Theme: Precarity**

2022 ASEEES President: Joan Neuberger,  
Earl E. Sheffield Regents Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin

We are now accepting proposal submissions for the 2022 ASEEES Convention with the deadline of March 1. We plan to host an in-person convention in Chicago in November following a smaller virtual convention in October. In the proposal submission process, you will be presented with an option to apply to either the in-person or the virtual convention. The number of sessions for the virtual convention will be limited. We acknowledge that circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic continue to evolve and sympathize with possible health, travel, and financial restrictions of our members. However, we are unable to accommodate the option to move from an in-person to virtual or virtual to in-person format in 2022 due to the severe scheduling challenges we faced during the 2021 Convention. We thank you for understanding this constraint when submitting proposals. ASEEES will be carefully monitoring the conditions and best

practices and will make adjustments as necessary to ensure the health and well-being of our attendees.

All session participants must agree to participate in person or virtually. Hybrid sessions during the in-person convention will not be permitted. Technical requirements for hybrid sessions at the in-person convention venue are prohibitively expensive.

**Accepting proposals for:**

- Panels
- Roundtables
- Book Discussion Roundtables
- Lightning Rounds
- Individual Papers
- Individual Lightning Round Presentation Proposals
- Film Screenings
- Affiliate Group Meeting Requests

**Deadlines:**

**Panels, papers, roundtables, lightning rounds: March 1, 2022**  
**Film screening submissions and affiliate group meeting: April 1**

**SUBMIT A PROPOSAL**



# Creative Horizons: Art in the Post-Soviet Era

Kristen Ho, Arizona State University

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic upended the world. At the Melikian Center, even as our plans for in-person programming fell apart, we wanted to find ways to stay connected to our community and to keep them connected to Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies. The disruption propelled us to address an urgent issue facing our field: the need to create programming that is relevant to both scholars in the field and a wider audience. One outcome of our efforts to meet this need has been Creative Horizons: Art in the Post-Soviet Era. An ongoing online collaboration between the Melikian Center at Arizona State University, the Havighurst Center at Miami University, Ohio and the University of South Florida's Institute on Russia, the Creative Horizons series brings the work of artists from across the post-Soviet region to the public.

This series introduces audiences to each artist through an interview produced by videographer Ari Gajraj. This interview is made available ahead of a live, online discussion moderated by an expert from one of the three universities. Thanks to the magic of the internet, we travel seamlessly between Arizona, Ohio, and Florida—and on to Russia, Belarus, Hungary, Ukraine, and the U.K. Our featured artists, united under the umbrella term of “post-Soviet,” create within a wide range of perspectives and forms. To give you an idea of the kinds of topics we explore in the Creative Horizons series, two of the artists, animator Ermina Takenova and writer Kateryna Babkina, agreed to be interviewed for this issue of *NewsNet*.

## Ermina Takenova

Ermina Takenova is a London-based animator and illustrator from Almaty, Kazakhstan. Takenova researches Kazakh culture and folklore to create digital art pieces which explore contemporary issues. The title of her 2019 animated short film, *Mankurt*, is representative of her cultural explorations: “mankurt” is a figure from Turkic mythology, an unthinking slave created through torture. Many became familiar with the mankurt via Chingiz Aitmatov’s popular novel, *The Day*

*Lasts More than a Hundred Years*. “Mankurt” has a second meaning relevant to Takenova’s work as a diasporic artist who feels disconnected from Kazakh traditions due to Soviet policies of Russification: a mankurt refers to a person who is uninterested in their own culture and history. During the 2019 election protests and subsequent repressions in Kazakhstan, Takenova created social media art in solidarity with the protestors.



**Why did you decide to create Kazakh art, and how has this act of creation shaped your relationship with your culture?**

I wouldn’t call what I do Kazakh art specifically, as traditional Kazakh art is mainly rooted in craft practices. I’d say my art is deeply inspired by

Kazakh culture, history, mythology, traditional craft and the nomadic way of life. I think I just personally communicate with the world, people, and even myself best through my art, and naturally it also became a tool for me to reconnect with my own roots and culture. Creating illustrations based on Kazakh culture and folklore helps me better digest the information about it and makes it easier for me to share what I learn with more people, as I think art is a powerful and engaging educational tool.

**You mentioned that you worry about the authenticity of your art. For instance, you describe the Kazakhstan you grew up in as Russified and even colonized. Yet, much of your work draws from Kazakh folklore. Do you see yourself as someone who is building a new Kazakh culture?**

I always try to be aware and careful not to self-orientalize, so authenticity and honesty are very important to me. I want to be open about the environment I grew up in and the sense of detachment I had from many parts of my own culture due to some aspects of that environment. I strongly desire to reconnect with my roots and that's one of the main drives of my practice. I think moving away from my home country made me realize the importance of having a cultural identity and I want to rebuild the part of my identity that I feel was taken from me. Personally, I see my identity as being very layered and I want to embrace every part of it. I feel an important step to reconnect with my Kazakh roots is to face and openly discuss the devastating effects of colonization. I've been lucky to have family members who inspired me and

made me feel proud to be Kazakh and who cherished this respect towards our culture. My grandfather Abu Takenov was a historian and he was the only surviving child of my great-grandparents, who lost eight of their children during the famine. Thankfully, he had a strong influence on my father Zharas, who passed on a lot of knowledge and sparked an interest in Kazakh history in me. My parents also often addressed facing racism in the Soviet Union. So I think I grew up with a lot of awareness of the cultural repression and racism being present in the Soviet Union and I feel that was one of the many reasons I eventually got drawn to a decolonial discourse.

I'm very inspired by Kazakhstan's art community and I'm learning a lot from its members. I think up until the events of 2019 in Kazakhstan, I wasn't very aware of the art scene there. Then, after I started drawing political illustrations and posting them on social media, I ended up connecting with a lot of wonderful creative people from my country, some of whom became my collaborators. I think we are all building a new identity and I feel it's actively shaping up thanks to the creative and politically involved people. For a culture like ours, that has experienced the destructiveness of colonialism, I wonder if the act of revival and reconnection inevitably means building a new culture anyway. Also, many people who contribute to the education on our culture grew up more connected to it than I did, and it's absolutely amazing to learn from them. I don't know how big my contribution to the creation of a new Kazakh identity is, but personally my aim is to firstly educate myself and then to relay what I learn outside of Kazakhstan too.

From what I see, I think the younger generation is bringing another breath of fresh air to the decolonization movement and they're keeping a lot of discussions active. As many imperfections and downsides social media has, I think it is still a powerful tool to amplify voices talking about decolonization – because globally the Western mainstream media would not provide a platform for those voices – and due to eurocentrism, more credibility is given to Western platforms. I personally feel like I'm also learning a lot from Native American social media influencers and I see some resemblances in our struggles and the desire to revive and popularize our cultures that have been suppressed for so long. I think a lot of this discourse worldwide is driven by creativity, and I want to utilize my own skills to be a part of this discussion.

**Your film short *Mankurt* is based on Turkic legend and alludes to Chingiz Aimatov's *A Day Lasts More than a Hundred Years*, while your art is very stylized. What do the medium of digital art and your modern, grotesque style bring to your explorations of Kazakh tradition?**

I strongly believe that any culture doesn't have to be static and stagnant. I think we should allow flexibility for our culture to move along with the times. That's why I feel very comfortable mixing folklore with contemporary issues, as well as going for a more surreal and grotesque imagery. I often deal with heavy subjects in my art and hence my visual language tends to be on the darker side. Also the Turkic / Kazakh mythological realm has grotesque elements in it originally and it's a huge source of inspiration for me, as it feeds my love for surreal art.

## Kateryna Babkina

Kateryna Babkina is a Ukrainian writer and former journalist whose art traces the shadow that Ukraine's complicated and at times unpleasant past creates in the present. Her work touches on themes such as intergenerational trauma, anti-Semitism, and life in a country undergoing an armed conflict. Babkina is a prolific writer who has published novels, poetry, short story collections, screenplays, and children's books. Her 2019 collection of short stories, *My Grandfather Danced Better than Anyone Else*, recently won the 2021 Angelus Central European Literature Award.



**Out of all the artists in our Creative Horizons series so far, you are the only one who has devoted so much of your interview to promoting your compatriots' work. In your interview, you stated that, "Nobody translates from Ukrainian, so if you write in Ukrainian, your chances to become known and published somewhere abroad are close to zero." How does your art respond to this inaccessibility of Ukrainian art to the wider world?**

I try to speak up about Ukraine, and about Ukrainian literature. I try to use all my chances to represent my writing and the writing of other Ukrainian people. I gladly participate in festivals and workshops and always volunteer. I do whatever I can do; I write articles, I lecture, I write about Ukraine, and I try to write well so that people get interested in Ukrainian literature. Through my writing they also become open to this literature and to Ukrainian art in general.

**You are a prolific writer with works in many genres. Where does the inspiration for your work come from, and does your creative approach change based on your genre?**

The inspiration for my work comes from life, comes from people, and from how they transform their experiences, their past, their feelings, their traumas, their everything into something new that they carry on in the future. This is the most exciting thing about life, I would say: how people change and how they change the world. I don't think this creative approach shifts based on different genres, because in different forms you can still talk about the same things and about the same ideas, so this is what I do, whatever it is, be it a film screen or a book for children. I'm really, really fascinated by people, different people, their stories, their experiences, and their emotions, and this is what I want to talk about and to show to other people as my stories, as many different experiences and as many different outcomes as I can so people understand each other more.

**Many of your works portray contemporary Ukrainians grappling with past and ongoing upheavals such as the Second World War and the Holocaust, or the current conflict in eastern Ukraine. What happens when you transform these ongoing traumas into literature?**

Literature happens. Story happens. Life happens, and other people who are readers are invited to share this experience, so they become hopefully more thoughtful, more understanding, more caring, or at least they think wider and they know more. That's what happens, I think.

The Creative Horizons videos featuring Takenova and Babkina can be viewed online here: <https://melikian.asu.edu/projects-and-initiatives/creative-horizons>.



Kristen Ho is the program coordinator at Arizona State University's Melikian Center and Critical Languages Institute.



**Archie Brown is Emeritus Professor of Politics at the University of Oxford, a Fellow of the British Academy, and an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His latest book, *The Human Factor* (2021), is the winner of the ninth annual Pushkin House Prize.**

*Editor's note: This interview, by Andrew Jack, was first published on the [Pushkin House website](#).*

**What explains your interest in Russia?**

It came about by pure chance. I was in my final year at LSE doing a broad social science degree, specializing in politics (in particular) and economics. I wanted to write an essay on Soviet politics so that I'd be able to answer a question on it in the Comparative Government exam paper. My tutor, a specialist on British politics, said he was not qualified to judge it, so he gave it to Leonard Schapiro, the author of a major book on the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He liked my essay and encouraged me to apply for a graduate studentship in Russian political studies. I had to start learning Russian from scratch aged 24. It wasn't because I had a fascination with Russia at that time and I was certainly never attracted to Communism, but I became keenly interested and don't regret the path my career took.

**What drew you to studying Gorbachev?**

I've been studying political leadership for a very long time and followed Mikhail Gorbachev's career especially closely. I got a head start 42 years ago in a conversation I had with Zdeněk Mlynář, the main author of the radically reformist 1968 Action Programme of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia whom I had first met in Prague in 1965. When

Mlynář, who was in political exile, spent a month in Oxford in June 1979, I learned from him that he had been a close friend of Gorbachev when they studied together in the Law Faculty of

## FIVE MINUTES WITH ARCHIE BROWN

Winner of the  
2021 Pushkin House Book Prize

Moscow State University. I asked whether he thought Gorbachev had an open mind. His response was that this youngest member of the top Soviet leadership team was "open-minded, intelligent, and anti-Stalinist." So, I took a special interest in Gorbachev from that time on. Because of my good relations with Mlynář, who didn't go public on his friendship with a rising Soviet politician until Gorbachev had become Soviet leader in 1985, I was aware earlier than others that he was likely to be a reform-minded General Secretary, a position that, from late 1980 onwards, I increasingly believed he would attain.



***What distinguishes this book from your previous ones on Russia?***

Most of what I'd written in the past was about the Soviet political system and, even when I began to publish extensively on its transformation under Gorbachev, I was more focused on the domestic sphere than on foreign policy. This book is the only one I've written which is primarily on international relations and the making of foreign policy – and in the USA and UK as well as the USSR. Domestic considerations play a huge part in foreign policy in the United States, and they did in the Soviet Union as well. More specifically, I looked at the evolution of the thinking of the top leaders, Gorbachev, Reagan and Thatcher, and at the significance of their interrelationship.

***What are your key findings?***

Among them is the importance of engagement. It was extremely significant that Reagan and Thatcher moved away from the view that the less they had to do with the "evil empire," the better. International contacts across the East-West divide between leaders, officials and experts in different fields were very important. Even in Brezhnev's time, some senior Soviet

officials and specialists from policy-oriented research institutes (such as IMEMO and the Institute of USA and Canada) visited Western countries and were influenced by what they saw. Gorbachev's short visits to West European countries, including not least to the UK in December 1984, as well as to Canada in 1983, made a big impression on him. And Alexander Yakovlev, a very important member of Gorbachev's top leadership team, reassessed his previous political beliefs very radically during the 10 years he spent as ambassador in Canada. These are merely the two most important examples. The significance of such transnational interactions has been underestimated in most International Relations analyses of the end of the Cold War. Another key point: while there was laudable attention paid in Western mass media to Soviet overt dissidents, there was a failure to understand the extent and profundity of the diversity of opinion that lay behind the monolithic façade the ruling Communist Party presented to its own people and the outside world. That became apparent to Western governments, and even to many specialists, only when the differences came out into the open in the second half of the 1980s.

***How important was Gorbachev's own role?***

Only rarely does an individual leader make a *fundamental* difference. Gorbachev was such a leader. Ronald Reagan was an essential partner in the ending of the Cold War, and Margaret Thatcher played a significant supporting role, for she was Reagan's favorite foreign leader by far and the one with most influence over him. More surprisingly, she established a strong and constructive relationship with Gorbachev. But it was the profound change in both Soviet domestic and foreign policy wrought by

Gorbachev that was most crucial for ending the Cold War. I disagree strongly with the view that he was forced into such radical reforms or that any Soviet leader would have had to do what he did. The economic determinist argument about the end of the Cold War falls flat. The Soviet economy was not in good shape, to put it mildly, but it's hard to say economic necessity forced his hand, for Gorbachev quite soon gave much higher priority to political than economic reforms. He didn't embrace a market economy in principle until 1990 and the transition from command to market economy had still not happened when the Soviet Union ceased to exist at the end of 1991. The political reforms don't fit into the economic determinist interpretation for, while they made Russia a vastly freer country, the economy went from bad to worse. It was in limbo – no longer an effective command economy but not yet a market economy. I disagree also with the triumphalist view that it was the Reagan administration's military build-up that led the Soviet Union to admit defeat and accept that they couldn't keep up. That's quite a widespread view but a strange argument. Until the early 1970s the US had definite military superiority over the Soviet Union. Yet Communism, with Soviet support, expanded during the 1950s and 1960s. If we go back to the second half of the 1940s, the US had a monopoly of nuclear weapons, but that was the very time when the Soviet Union established Communist regimes in East-Central Europe. By contrast, in the mid-1980s there was a rough military parity between the US and the USSR. Each side had the capacity to annihilate the other. The Soviet military-industrial complex had a strong interest in the continuation of the Cold War, and they were especially strongly opposed to any

unilateral concessions. It took great political skill on Gorbachev's part to outmaneuver them. His own values and evolving political beliefs were of decisive importance for the dramatic change which took place.

***How would you describe the leadership styles of Gorbachev, Reagan, and Thatcher?***

I don't focus only on the person at the top of the hierarchy. Leadership is important but it's not only the top leader that counts. This is especially clear in Reagan's case. He gave people in his administration wide leeway providing they were broadly in line with his outlook. His administration was deeply divided, and it was hugely significant that Reagan supported the pro-engagement stance of his Secretary of State George Shultz in the face of Defense Department opposition and CIA skepticism about any good coming out of negotiations with the Soviet Union. I define a strong leader as one who concentrates maximum power in his or her own hands and tries to take the big decisions in every area of policy. For some commentators, 'strong leader' is a synonym for 'good' leader, but that is seriously misleading. Reagan's remoteness from decision-making in most areas of policy made him the furthest away of the three heads of government from being a strong leader. He did, however, pay particular attention to relations with the Soviet Union. Thatcher was the only one of the three who was clearly a strong leader in my sense. She wished to have the last word on everything, and she distrusted the Foreign Office. Gorbachev was more collegial and ready to deploy his powers of persuasion rather than rule by fiat. I regard him as a transformational leader, and I set the bar high for that: somebody who plays a decisive role in *systemic* change. That category includes Deng Xiaoping for his fundamental reform of the Chinese economic system. Gorbachev would get few plaudits for Soviet economic performance in the perestroika years, but his leadership was transformational for the Soviet political system and foreign policy.

***How did you carry out your research?***

I did a lot of archival work using declassified British sources, Politburo transcripts, materials in the Gorbachev Foundation in Moscow, and in American archives. I've also acquired over the years a large collection of Russian,

British, and American political memoirs. Interviews and numerous conversations with people who were involved in policy-making in the three countries have been invaluable. There is a vast quantity of essential material in the Reagan Presidential Library archives. I did research there at the same time as Jack Matlock, the US ambassador to Moscow from 1987 to 1991 and, before that, Reagan's top adviser on the Soviet Union within the National Security Council. So, during the day I was reading, among other documents, his memoranda and telegrams and then discussing these and related matters with him over a meal in the evenings.

***What is your view on the Russian reaction to Gorbachev?***

I think over time Gorbachev will be re-evaluated much more positively. The current view of most Russians does not do him anything like justice. What many forget is that, as we know from reliable survey data, during his first five years Gorbachev was the most popular public figure both in Russia and in the USSR as a whole. It was as late as May-June 1990 that Yeltsin overtook him. In the post-Soviet era, Yeltsin and his team disparaged Gorbachev and gave him and those who thought well of him very limited access to TV. They have had even less opportunity to give their side of the story to a large Russian audience in the first two decades of the present century. Putin wants strict top-down control, and he blames Gorbachev for losing it. For Putin and those around him, political pluralism, involving separation of powers and competitive elections with unpredictable outcomes, equals loss of control. Russia's experience of dispersed power has been short-lived. There is a tradition of looking to a leader who will rule with a strong hand. Gorbachev's tolerance was, by his last two years in office, seen by many as weakness. He is particularly blamed by Russians for the breakup of the Soviet Union, though he sought to preserve a different kind of union through negotiation rather than coercion.

***What lessons do you draw for Western political relations with Russia today?***

Demonization of Russia doesn't make much political sense. However much in the West we may disapprove of political developments, Russia today is not as highly authoritarian as

“I define a strong leader as one who concentrates maximum power in his or her own hands and tries to take the big decisions in every area of policy.”

was the pre-perestroika Soviet Union, yet even then it was possible to come together on matters of mutual interest such as the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty. There were people at that time who thought it was very dangerous to speak to the Soviet leadership, that we were lowering our guard. But the engagement was invaluable. That's true today as well. It's never been the case that isolating Russia has made it more liberal. However, it's not only Russians who benefit from such interaction. We need it, too. It would be a big advance if more people in the West, especially those in government, better understood how policies they regard as unexceptionable are perceived in Russia. If foreign policy is fashioned primarily to impress domestic public opinion and the best-organized lobbying groups, it should not be a big surprise if it is interpreted very differently in the country towards which the policy is directed.

**What plans do you have for another book?**

I've got a few ideas and have not yet decided which to pursue. I'm in my 80s so if I don't make up my mind soon, it will be too late! One possible project is on Soviet studies: a look at what we got right and what we got wrong.



Archie Brown is Emeritus Professor of Politics at the University of Oxford, a Fellow of the British Academy, and an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of numerous books on the former Soviet Union and its demise, including *The Gorbachev Factor* (1996) and *The Rise and Fall of Communism* (2009), and *The Human Factor* (2021).



Andrew Jack (@AJack) is global education editor for the Financial Times, writing on educational issues around the world and editorial lead for the free FT schools programme. He was previously head of curated content, deputy editor of the big read section, pharmaceuticals correspondent, and a foreign correspondent in France and Russia.

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# In Memoriam

## Murray Feshbach (1929-2019)



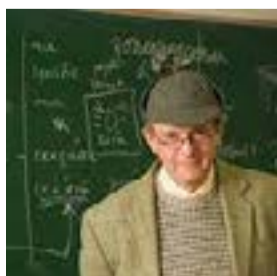
Murray Feshbach died on October 25, 2019 at age 90. Feshbach was born in New York in 1929. He received a B.A. in history from Syracuse University, an M.A. in European

diplomatic history from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in economics from American University.

He worked from 1957-1981 with the U.S. Census Bureau as an expert on the demography of the Soviet Union and its health care crises. Murray was a Kennan Institute Fellow in 1979-1980, and the author of the Kennan Institute's first Occasional Paper. He continued his research at Georgetown. After Feshbach's retirement in 2000, he was Professor Emeritus in Georgetown's CERES and Research Professor in the Department of Demography. He also returned to the Kennan Institute as a Senior Scholar.

Feshbach was an AAASS/ASEEES member for almost 30 years, during which time he served as AAASS's Board President in 1985 and received the Distinguished Contributions award in 2000.

## William Selden Hamilton (1941-2021)



William "Billy" Selden Hamilton, died on October 9, 2021. He was a Professor of Slavic Languages and Linguistics and spent nearly three decades as Assistant Dean of

the College at Wake Forest University.

Hamilton was born in Cincinnati, OH, on December 11, 1941 and earned each of his three degrees from Yale University. From 1970 to 1982, he taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Hamilton's graduate work took longer than usual because he spent most of a year playing with a professional Bluegrass band. Hamilton had a natural ease with languages and many instruments. He spoke Russian, Czech, Polish, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, German, Dutch, French, some Italian, some Old English, and a touch of Gaelic and to have played banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, piano, bass, zither, dulcimer, trumpet, saxophone, and bugle. This skill meant he could walk into a Soviet police station or an Irish pub and immediately make friends.

He took several forays behind the Iron Curtain, from his dissertation research in Czechoslovakia in 1968, where he witnessed the Soviet invasion firsthand, to WFU-sponsored trips until 2000. He earned numerous awards, including a teaching award at SUNY Buffalo and the American Council on Education Fellowship in 1981-82. He won the 2021 Jon Reinhardt Award for Distinguished Teaching at Wake Forest, a fitting capstone to his long career. His 1980 book, *Introduction to Russian Phonology and Word Structure*, is still being used in Russian courses around the country.

Hamilton not only taught language and linguistics, but he also taught many musicians. He won the CBC Bluegrass Championship in Canada in 1974. Hamilton was a member of Wake Forest's Unbroken Circle.



## John S. Kolsti (1935-2021)

University of Texas at Austin Professor emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures John Sotter Kolsti passed away at the age of 86.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 30, 1935, Kolsti entered Harvard University in 1956 on a baseball scholarship.

Kolsti continued his studies at Harvard in Slavic Languages and Literatures through the Ph.D. He developed his interests in folklore and the oral tradition, particularly in the Balkans. Kolsti's scholarship, *The Bilingual Singer: A Study of Albanian and Serbo-Croatian Oral Epic Traditions* is regarded as the authoritative source on the epic tradition for this region. He continued working on this subject to his last days, translating and editing the volume *Albanian Songs and Ballads*, works collected by Albert Lord in North Albania in 1937.

From 1966 to 2007, Kolsti taught across the spectrum of courses and disciplines offered in the Slavic Department. With each research trip, publication, and conference, Kolsti applied any new material or information he uncovered to the content of his classes. Because of his expertise with the whole of the Balkan region, he contributed to Center events and designed new courses that emerged from his research.

UT-Austin recognized Kolsti's teaching in 1989 with the Harry Ransom Teaching Excellence Award. His dedication was recognized in the fall of 2007 with the University's highest teaching accolade: induction into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

## Deborah Anne Martinsen (1954-2021)



Deborah Anne Martinsen, Associate Dean of Alumni Education and alumna of the Columbia University Department of Slavic Languages

(PhD 1989), died on November 28, 2021.

Martinsen leaves behind a corpus of books, including *Surprised by Shame: Dostoevsky's Liars and Narrative Exposure* (2003), which was translated into Russian in 2011. Together with Olga Maiorova, she coedited *Dostoevsky in Context* (Cambridge University Press.) In



Summer 2021 she completed *Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment: A Reader's Guide*, to be published by Academic Studies Press. And she was at work on *Fyodor Dostoevsky: A Very Short Introduction* for Oxford University Press.

Active in the International Dostoevsky Society from her graduate school days on, Martinsen served as its President from 2007 to 2013. She created a community of Dostoevsky scholars that was international and intergenerational.

Her second focus was Nabokov studies. Her "Lolita as a Petersburg Text" won the award for the best essay published in *Nabokov Studies* in 2016. Martinsen served on countless dissertation committees and enlivened the discussion at both departmental and Harriman Institute events.

Martinsen began teaching Literature Humanities at Columbia when still a graduate student. In the decades that followed, she carried on teaching, trained others, and served as Associate Dean of the Core Curriculum. She worked to ensure that the tradition of the Columbia Core continues and evolves. In 2011, she received the Wm. Theodore de Bary Award for Distinguished Service to the Core Curriculum. In her work as Associate Dean of Alumni Education, she brought alumni back to their intellectual roots in the Core and masterminded ways for them to renew their love of learning, including an online reading group devoted to Boccaccio's *Decameron*.

## William Wagner (1950-2021)



William G. Wagner, an historian of modern Russia at Williams College, died on September 12, 2021 at the age of 71.

Wagner was born on May 28, 1950. At Haverford College, he played on the varsity football team and designed his own major in Russian Studies. Haverford subsequently formalized the major.

He earned a B.Phil. in Russian and East European Studies from Oxford University in 1974. In 1981, he earned his D.Phil. in Modern History, with a concentration on pre-revolutionary Russia, from Oxford. His doctoral thesis led to the publication of his first book, *Marriage, Property, and Law in*

*Late Imperial Russia*, which was awarded the Barbara Heldt Prize for Best Book in Women's Slavic Studies in 1995.

Wagner was the author and editor of a number of books and articles. His most recent scholarship focused on women and the interrelationship between religion and modernity in Imperial and early Soviet Russia. In particular, a study of a convent of Orthodox nuns in Nizhnii Novogorod, was pioneering in the field of social history. His work was supported by grants from the NEH, ACLS, and the International Research and Exchanges Board. He was a Research Lecturer at Christ Church College, Oxford, a Senior Associate Member of St. Antony's College, Oxford, and a Visiting Scholar at the Harvard Divinity School.

Wagner joined the history faculty at Williams in 1980. For 37 years, he served as a faculty member, college leader, a scholar, and community member. He served as Chair of the History Department, Assistant Dean of the College, Director of the Williams-Exeter Program at Oxford, and chaired a number of college committees.

In 2009, while serving as Dean of the Faculty, he was appointed Interim President, during which time he navigated the financial downturn without resorting to layoffs. After stepping down as Interim President, he resumed responsibilities as Dean of the Faculty, followed by a return to the History Department, teaching, and research. In 2018, Wagner retired, taking emeritus status, when he completed a book on the Orthodox Sisters.

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# Affiliate Group News

## AATSEEL Book Prize Shortlist

The AATSEEL book prize committee announces the titles [shortlisted for the 2021 AATSEEL book awards](#). The finalists will be announced during the upcoming annual AATSEEL conference, in-person in Philadelphia, PA, February 17-20, 2022..

## 26th Annual ASN World Convention

The [ASN World Convention](#), sponsored by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, will be held May 4-7, 2022. It will have a significant online component and may also be held partly in-person if the public health guidelines allow it.

The first day (Wednesday May 4) will take place entirely online. The following three days (May 5-7) may be held both online and in person – or entirely online.

All presenters will need to register and purchase/renew their ASN membership in order to take part in the Convention.

While most of the panels will be structured around presentations based on written papers, there will also be book panels, roundtables, poster sessions, film screenings and special events. ASN will also present a number of awards.

## AWSS Hybrid Conference

Theme: Gender, Power, Violence in the Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Regions

Date: March 31-April 2, 2022

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies welcomes paper proposals from scholars engaged in research on the role of gender in understanding acts of violence, including epistemological and discursive violence, and the power dynamics of gender in the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian regions. We seek paper submissions that will discuss the breadth of gender-based violence which may include examples from war, ethnic and racial conflicts, displacement, state policies, domestic and sexual abuse, trafficking, suppression of LGBTQ+ identities, and violence emanating from other contexts.

The conference is hosted by the Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at ASU.

The conference will be conducted as a hybrid event and will accept papers from participants who wish to attend virtually. Early career scholars, contingent faculty, and independent scholars will be prioritized for limited travel funds. The Melikian Center will cover the cost of all meals.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is Friday, January 14, 2022. Please send a one-page abstract and one-page CVs to [president.awss@gmail.com](mailto:president.awss@gmail.com) with the subject 2022 AWSS Proposal. For questions, email [mbokovoy@unm.edu](mailto:mbokovoy@unm.edu).

## PIASA 8th World Congress

[The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America](#) is pleased to invite proposals for its 8th World Congress to be held in hybrid form, hosted by the University of Białystok, Poland, June 10-12, 2022

Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. The general theme of the conference is “Borderlands (Pogranicza),” for which Białystok, a city on Poland’s present-day eastern frontier adjacent to Poland’s historic borderlands (kresy), with its own distinctive multicultural past, is a most appropriate setting. Proposal that address the multiethnic and contested nature of borderlands, realms where the mixing and unmixing of populations and cultures have occurred are encouraged. Papers need not focus specifically on Poland or Polish themes. Similarly, sessions including presenters from more than one country are encouraged.

All submissions are expected to be in English; however, session organizers may opt for their sessions to be conducted entirely in Polish. Please note whether you wish to participate in person or only virtually. To submit a proposal, send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at [pmd639\[at\]g.harvard.edu](mailto:pmd639[at]g.harvard.edu). The deadline for proposals is now March 1, 2022.

## Midwest Slavic Conference

The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University (OSU) Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (CSEEEES) are pleased to announce the 2022 Midwest Slavic Conference to be held at OSU in Columbus, OH on April 1-3, 2022. The conference committee invites proposals for papers on all topics related to the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian world, particularly those that explore issues surrounding climate change: the usage and depletion of natural resources, environmental changes, as well as issues surrounding the changing climates in politics, society, and culture (eco-criticism, eco-poetics, etc.). The conference theme of climate change will naturally tie some conversations to the present and future, but we welcome investigations of the past as well, in addition to papers that do not align with the theme.

The conference will open on Friday with a keynote address by Dr. Ian Helfant (Colgate U), followed by a plenary on Saturday morning. Panels by conference participants will then commence on Saturday and Sunday.

Send a one-paragraph abstract and a brief C.V. in a single PDF to [cseeees@osu.edu](mailto:cseeees@osu.edu) by Friday, January 28. Students are encouraged to participate. Interdisciplinary work and pre-formed panels are encouraged. Proposals for individual papers will be accepted.

More information is available on the Conference website. The Midwest Slavic Conference is organized by the Midwest Slavic Association and the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at Ohio State. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email [cseeees@osu.edu](mailto:cseeees@osu.edu) or call (614) 292-8770.

## Southern Conference on Slavic Studies

After a two-year postponement, the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies will be holding its next meeting in Richmond, Virginia from February 24-26, 2022. All the arrangements are in place for a great event at the Omni Hotel at a highly discounted rate. Hotel reservations and registration for the conference, sponsored by the University of Richmond with Dr. Yvonne Howell in charge of local arrangements, can be found at the following website: <https://scss2022richmond.com>

On Friday night Professor Donald Raleigh, recent recipient of the 2021 ASEEEES Distinguished Contributions Award, will be the featured speaker. Registration for that event is also available on the [scss2022richmond.com](https://scss2022richmond.com) website.

SCSS is accepting panel and paper proposals for the program and those should be sent to Lee Farrow at [lfarrow@aum.edu](mailto:lfarrow@aum.edu).

SCSS gives a Best Book Award (for SCSS members). Contact Dr. John Steinberg at Department of History, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN 37044 or at: [steinbergj@apsu.edu](mailto:steinbergj@apsu.edu). For questions about the conference contact [yhowell@richmond.edu](mailto:yhowell@richmond.edu) and for information about SCSS membership contact [hgoldber@sewanee.edu](mailto:hgoldber@sewanee.edu)

## Western Association of Slavic Studies

The Western Association of Slavic Studies Annual Meeting will be held as part of the WSSA's 64th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, on March 30 - April 2, 2022.

Submit proposals through the website, at the link below, by January 20, 2022

<https://www.wssaweb.com/conference-overview.html>

From the link, set up a ConfTool Account and then follow directions to choose the Slavic and Eurasian Studies Section and submit your paper.

Any questions contact: [Dr. Robert Niebuhr](mailto:Dr. Robert Niebuhr), WASS 2022 Chair.

NOMINATION PROCESS NOW OPEN FOR

**ASEEEES FIRST BOOK SUBVENTION**

ASEEEES has dedicated \$10,000 per year for subvention of individually authored first books. Multiple awards will be made, with funds paid directly to the press.

Deadline: February 1

# ASEEES CONGRATULATES THE 2021 AFFILIATE GROUP PRIZE WINNERS

## ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SLAVIC STUDIES

2021 Outstanding Achievement Award

- **Winner: Dr. Eve Levin**, Professor Emerita, Department of History, U of Kansas

Mary Zirin Prize

- **Winner: Dr. Patrice Dabrowski**

Heldt Prize for Best Book by a Woman in any area of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

- **Winner: Francine Hirsch**, *Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg: A New History of the International Military Tribunal after World War II* (Oxford UP, 2020)
- **Honorable Mention: Maya Nadkarni**, *Remains of Socialism: Memory and the Futures of the Past in Postsocialist Hungary* (Cornell UP, 2020)

Heldt Prize for best book in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Women's and Gender Studies

- **Winner: Allison Leigh**, *Picturing Russia's Men: Masculinity and Modernity in 19th-Century Painting* (Bloomsbury, 2020)

Heldt prize for best translation in Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Women's and Gender Studies

- **Winner: Halyna Hryn, Nina Murray, Askold Melnyczuk, Marco Carynnyk, and Marta Horban**, translators. *Your Ad Could Go Here by Oksana Zabuzhko*, edited by Nina Murray (Amazon Crossing, 2020)
- **Honorable Mention: Katherine E. Young**, trans. *Look at Him* by Anna Starobinets (Three String Books, 2020)

Best article in Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies

- **Winner: Abby Holekamp**, "Who are Vera and Tatiana?: The Female Russian Nihilist in the Fin de Siecle Imagination," *Representations*, 150, 1 (2020): 1-31.
- **Honorable Mention: Chelsi West Ohueri**, "On Living and Moving with Zor: Exploring Racism, Embodiment, and Health in Albania," *Medical Anthropology*, 40, 3 (2021): 241-53.

AWSS Herlihy Graduate Research Award

- **Nataliia Laas**, Ph.D. Candidate in History at Brandeis University, "Market Research without a Market: Consumers, the State, and the Economy of Waste in the Soviet Union, 1947-1991"

## THE BULGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

John D. Bell Memorial Book Prize

- **Winner: Maria Todorova**, *Imagining Utopia 1870s-1920s. The Lost World of Socialists at Europe's Margins* (Bloomsbury, 2020)

## CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES SOCIETY

2021 CESS Book Award in Social Sciences

- **Winner: David Leupold**, *Embattled Dreamlands: The Politics of Contesting Armenian, Kurdish and Turkish Memory* (Routledge, 2020)

## CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

CSA Best Book

- **Winner: Karla Huebner**, *Magnetic Woman: Toyen and the Surrealist Erotic* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020)
- **Honorable Mention: Anna Hájková**, *The Last Ghetto: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt* (Oxford UP, 2020)

Emerging Scholars Essay Prize

- **Winner: Mira Markham**, "Světlna: Partisans and Power in Post-War Czechoslovakia," which is based on her 2019 Master's Thesis in History (UNC-Chapel Hill.) The essay was published in *Contemporary European History* in January 2021.

## EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION

ESSA Book Prize

- **Winner: Andrey V. Ivanov**, *A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700-1825* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020)
- **Honorable Mention: Valerie A. Kivelson and Christine D. Worobec (ed.)**, *Witchcraft in Russia and Ukraine, 1000-1900: A Sourcebook* (NIU Press, 2020)

## EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RUSSIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Marc Raeff Book Prize

- **Winner: Andrey V. Ivanov**, *A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700-1825* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020)

## HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

2021 HSA Book Prize

- **Co-winner: Béla Bodó**, *The White Terror. Antisemitic and Political Violence in Hungary, 1919-1921* (Routledge, 2019)
- **Co-winner: Anita Kurimay**, *Queer Budapest. 1873-1961* (U of Chicago Press, 2020)
- **Honorable Mention: Leslie Waters**, *Borders on the Move. Territorial Change and Ethnic Cleansing in the Hungarian-Slovak Borderlands, 1938-1948* (U of Rochester Press, 2020)

## THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF AMERICA (PIASA)

Ludwik Krzyżanowski Award for best article published in *The Polish Review* in 2020

- **Winner: Anna Muller**, "The Return: The Long Road Home of Female Concentration Camp Inmates" (vol. 65, no. 3)

Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award:

- **Winner: Roman Koropeczyj**, Professor of Slavic Languages, Department of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Languages and Cultures at UCLA

Oskar Halecki Polish History Award:

- **Co-winner: Molly Pucci**, *Security Empire: The Secret Police in Communist Eastern Europe* (Yale UP, 2020)

- **Co-winner: Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski**, *The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth 1733-1795: Light and Flame* (Yale UP, 2020)

Bronisław Malinowski Award in Social Sciences:

- **Winner: Geneviève Zubrzycki**, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, the Center for European Studies, and the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies, U of Michigan

Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish-Jewish Studies:

- **Co-winner: Elyana Adler**, *Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union* (Harvard UP, 2020)
- **Co-winner: Adam Teller**, *Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century* (Princeton UP, 2020)

Anna M. Cienciala Award for best edited book in Polish Studies:

- **Winner: Silvia G. Dapia**, *Gombrowicz in Transnational Context: Translation, Affect, and Politics*, ed. Silvia G. Dapia (Routledge, 2019)

## POLISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Aquila Polonica Prize

- **Winner: Jessica C. Robbins**, "Expanding Personhood beyond Remembered Selves: The Sociality of Memory at an Alzheimer's Center in Poland," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, Vol. 33, Issue 4, 483-500, ISSN 0745-5194, online ISSN 1548-1387.

## SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES

2021 Book Prize

- **Winner: Roxana-Talida Roman**, *The Edge of Europe – Heritage, Landscape and Conflict Archaeology: First World War Material Culture in Romanian Conflictual Landscapes* (Bar Publishing, 2020)
- **Honorable Mention: Péter Berta**, *Materializing Difference: Consumer Culture, Politics, and Ethnicity among Romanian Roma* (University of Toronto Press, 2019)
- **Honorable Mention: Călin Cotoi**, *Inventing the Social in Romania, 1848-1914: Networks and Laboratories of Knowledge* (Ferdinand Schoeningh, 2020)

2021 Graduate Student Essay Prize

- **Winner: Alexandra Ciocănel** (U of Manchester)
- **Honorable Mention: Iemima Ploscariu** (Dublin City University)

## SLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

2021 Best Article/Book Chapter Prize

- **Winner: Marty Manor Mullins**, "Forgotten Velvet: Understanding Eastern Slovakia's 1989" in *New Perspectives, the Interdisciplinary Journal of Central and East European Politics and International Relations*, vol. 27, no. 3, 2019.

# Institutional Member News

## CESSI Language Program

The Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute (CESSI) is an intensive, eight-week language program held each summer at the University of Wisconsin. Students receive the equivalent of one year of language study during this time and earn eight credits upon completion of the program. In addition to language classes, CESSI students have the opportunity to attend lectures; participate in cultural events; engage with local Central Eurasian communities; and network with other scholars!

CESSI typically offers courses in Kazakh, Tajik, Uyghur, and Uzbek. Additional languages (such as Azerbaijani or Kyrgyz) may be added with sufficient student interest.

Funding opportunities exist for students, researchers, and working professionals. Grad, post-baccalaureate researchers, and professionals who are U.S. citizens are especially encouraged to apply for the Title VIII fellowship. Note: this is a great opportunity for grad students to develop language skills before embarking on fieldwork.

The program is expected to be conducted in person; however, staff will monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will reevaluate the modality as needed. The priority application deadline is February 1, 2022. More information will be posted to Facebook (@CessiMadison), Instagram (@uwcessi), and Twitter (@UWCESSI). For more information, please visit [cessi.wisc.edu](http://cessi.wisc.edu) or contact [cessi@creeca.wisc.edu](mailto:cessi@creeca.wisc.edu).

## Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center

For answers to questions about how COVID-19 is impacting fellowship and grant opportunities, [click here](#) or email [kennan@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:kennan@wilsoncenter.org).

### Title VIII Research Scholarships

The Kennan Institute offers 3 to 9 month research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. Research proposals examining the countries of Eurasia are eligible. Those proposals related to regional Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia, Belarus, the Caucasus, and contemporary issues are particularly welcome. You must be a U.S. citizen to apply. The deadline for the next research fellowship competition is January 31, 2022.

### Title VIII Summer Research Scholarships

The Kennan Institute also offers two-month summer research fellowships for those holding an MA degree or higher. Scholars who conduct research in the social sciences or humanities focusing on Russia and the other countries of Eurasia, and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area should consider applying. You must be a

U.S. citizen to apply. The deadline for the next research fellowship competition is January 31, 2022.

### Title VIII Short-Term Scholarships

Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants allow scholars to spend up to one month using the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area while in residence at the Kennan Institute. Applicants are required to hold an MA degree or higher, or demonstrate commensurate professional achievement. You must be a U.S. citizen to apply. The next deadline for these grants is March 1, 2022.

### George F. Kennan Fellowships

Kennan Fellows are based at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials. Kennan Fellows are expected to participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements and attending meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowships, grantees become alumni, for whom Kennan will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement. There are no citizenship requirements for this grant. The next deadline for these grants is March 1, 2022.



The Kennan Institute welcomes:  
Title VIII Research Scholars

- Michael Coates, PhD Candidate, Department of History, UC Berkeley, "The Sources of Soviet Knowledge: A History of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia."
- Lee Singh, PhD, Department of History, UC Riverside. "Ballet for Socialism's Sake (and Beyond)."

George F. Kennan Fellows

- Alexandra Arkhipova, Senior Research Fellow, Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. "Russian Political Protest in Rumor and Reality."

James Billington Fellow

- Katherine Zubovich, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University at Buffalo, SUNY. "Picturing the Plan: Soviet Artists, Global Icons, and the Mobilization of Visual Statistics."

Galina Starovoitova Fellows

- Alena Popova, Head, Analytical Center, Ethnics and Technology. "Protecting Privacy and Autonomy of Voters in the Digital Era."

## OSU Sponsors Photo Exhibit

The [Ukrainian Museum-Archives](#) is hosting a new photo exhibit by Sasha Maslov. Maslov's "Ukrainian Railroad Ladies" is a series of portraits of people who work as traffic controllers and safety officers at railroad crossings in Ukraine. It's a series that studies Ukrainian rural and suburban landscapes where the exteriors of railroad houses play a prominent role. It's looking into the intimate details of the interiors and invites the viewer to meet the Railroad Ladies themselves.

This project is also an exploration of why this profession still exists in the 21st century, given the almost full automatization of railroad crossings in Ukraine and around the world. It's a study of the anthropological and social aspects of this profession and the role and importance of the railroad in general in Ukraine.

Born in 1984 in city of Kharkiv, Ukraine, Sasha Maslov knew at an early age he had a passion for photography. Prior to graduating from college in 2006, Maslov pursued projects and collaborated with editorial clients and advertising agencies, establishing himself as a reputable photographer in Ukraine. In 2007, Maslov relocated to New York City where he directs his professional efforts towards fine art and editorial photography.

This exhibit is co-sponsored by the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at the Ohio State University.

## Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program Conference

The Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program is pleased to announce its 2022 conference, [Beyond Borderland: 30 Years of Ukrainian Sovereignty](#). The conference will take place from February 7-11, 2022; from 12-2pm (EST) each day.

The conference panels provide a space for academic and policy experts to be in conversation with one another on major issues around Ukrainian sovereignty, including digital transformations, displacement and reintegration, and policy priorities.

The conference is open to the public and the panels will be exclusively on Zoom; [registration is required](#). The Keynote Address, given by Amb. Marie Yovanovitch on Wednesday, February 9, will be on Zoom and streamed live on YouTube (available thereafter). The conference will have live interpretation in Ukrainian.

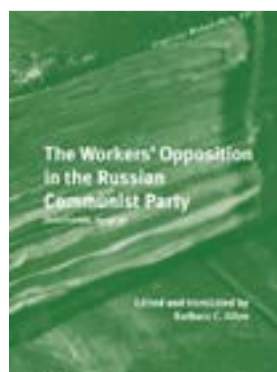
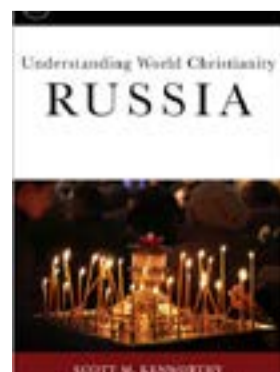
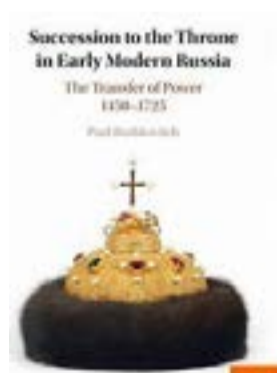
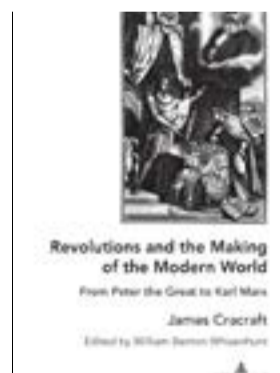
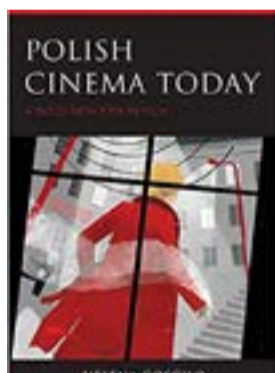
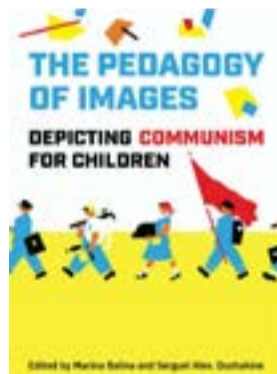
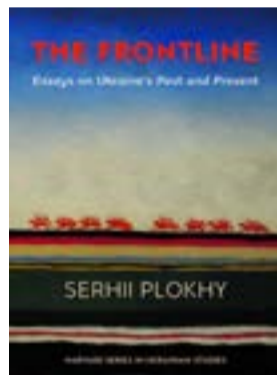
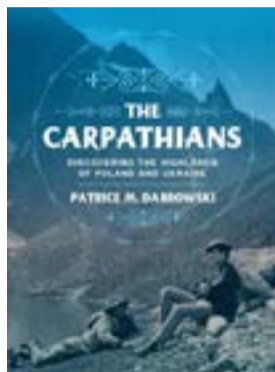
More information, including the complete schedule and speaker information, is available on [the conference website](#).

## The Zimmerli Art Museum

The Zimmerli Art Museum hosted a Virtual Roundtable in conjunction with the exhibition [Painting in Excess: Kyiv's Art Revival, 1985-1993](#), organized by guest research curator Olena Martynyuk, Ph.D., with assistance from Julia Tulovsky, Ph.D., the Zimmerli's curator of Russian and Soviet Nonconformist Art. Ukrainian scholars discussed the impact of perestroika on the Ukrainian art scene and the emergence of Ukrainian contemporary art. A recording of the event is available on the [Zimmerli's YouTube channel](#).

The museum will also host a reception and musical concert celebrating the exhibition on February 26, 2022.

# Publications



Patrice M. Dabrowski's *The Carpathians: Discovering the Highlands of Poland and Ukraine* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2021) explores Polish and Ukrainian lowlanders' encounters with indigenous highlanders and how these peoples were incorporated into a national narrative.

*Contemporary Queer Plays by Russian Playwrights*, edited by Tatiana Klepikova, (Bloomsbury, September 2021) is the first anthology of LGBTQ-themed plays written by Russian queer authors and straight allies in the 21st century.

Ivan N. Petrov's *The Development of the Bulgarian Literary Language: From Incunabula to First Grammars, Late Fifteenth–Early Seventeenth Century*, (Lexington Books, March 2021) examines the history of the first printed Cyrillic books and their role in the development of the Bulgarian literary language.

Amy D. Ronner's *Dostoevsky as Suicidologist: Self-Destruction and the Creative Process* (Lexington Books, 2021) illustrates how Dostoevsky's awareness of self-homicide prefigured suicidologists' theories, shaped his writing, and forged a ligature between artistry and the impulse to self-annihilate.

Georgetown University Press published *Etazhi*, by Evgeny Dengub and Susanna Nazarova. It uses the communicative approach to advance students' Russian proficiency.

*The Frontline* (Harvard University Press, September 2021) by Serhii Plokhy, forms a companion volume to Plokhy's *The Gates of Europe and Chernobyl*. This volume reveals the roots of political, cultural, and military conflict in Ukraine.

*Medical Storyworlds: Health, Illness, and Bodies in Russian and European Literature at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*, by Elena Fratto, (Columbia University Press, November 2021) examines the relationship between literature and medicine at the turn of the twentieth century.

*The Memory of the Second World War in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia*, edited by David L. Hoffmann,

(Routledge August 2021) showcases research on war remembrance in its various forms.

*The Pedagogy of Images: Depicting Communism for Children*, edited by Marina Balina and Serguei A. Oushakine, (University of Toronto Press, June 2021) explores efforts by the Soviet government to create a new type of book for the first generation of young Soviet readers.

Helena Goscilo and Beth Holmgren co-authored *Polish Cinema Today: A Bold New Era in Film*, (Lexington Books, August 2021) a study of the reflorescence of Polish cinema in the first decades of the 21st century.

James Cracraft's *Revolutions and the Making of the Modern World: From Peter the Great to Karl Marx*, edited by William Benton Whisenhunt, (Peter Lang, July 2021) gathers over forty years of Cracraft's scholarship. The book contributes to Russian history and to the study of history itself.

*Succession to the Throne in Early Modern Russia: The Transfer of Power 1450–1725*, by Paul Bushkovitch (Cambridge University Press, March 2021) demonstrates that relationships between monarchs and the ruling elite resulted in many paths to succession to the throne.

The essays and translations in *Three Loves for Three Oranges: Gozzi, Meyerhold, Prokofiev*, (Indiana University Press, September 2021) chart the transformations and transpositions that this tale underwent to provoke theatrical revolutions.

*Understanding World Christianity Russia*, by Scott M. Kenworthy and Alexander S. Agadjanian, (Fortress Press, January 2021) explores how Christianity influences, and is influenced by, the Russian context.

*The Workers' Opposition in the Russian Communist Party: Documents, 1919–30*, by Barbara C. Allen (Brill, 2021) details the activity of the Workers' Opposition group during its existence and of its individual former members after the group dissolved.

**NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS**

David R. Stone et al., eds. *Military Affairs in Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914–22, 2: The Russian Civil War: Campaigns and Operations*, xviii + 302 p. (ISBN 978-089357-439-0), \$44.95.

This book explores the military history of the Russian Civil War. Drawing heavily on research from Russian historians but including an international slate of authors, it traces the fighting on the Civil War's eastern, southern, northern, and northwestern fronts, examining both the Bolshevik Reds and their White opponents. In addition, thematic chapters explore the role of aviation and naval forces in the Russian Civil War. Employing a wide range of new Russian archival sources, the authors bring fresh insights on the war's campaigns and operations to an English-speaking audience.

David R. Stone et al., eds. *Military Affairs in Russia's Great War and Revolution, 1914–22, 3: The Russian Civil War: Military and Society*, xviii + 320 p., 2021 (978-089357-440-6), \$44.95.

Here an international cohort of authors utilizes a host of newly available sources to investigate institutions, social groups, and social conflict amid the chaos of the Russian Civil War. In addition to studies of intelligence and the Red and White officer corps, the book traces the history of Russia's Cossacks through the war. Explorations of the role of ideology and propaganda along with the problem of desertion from the fighting armies give insight into the motivations of the war's soldiers. Chapters on peasant insurgency and the anarchic conflicts in Ukraine offer a clearer understanding of often-neglected aspects of the Civil War.



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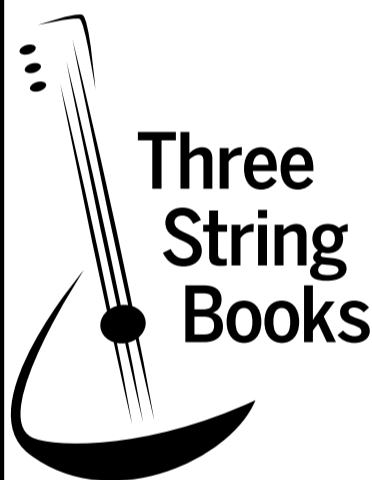
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Three String Books is an imprint of Slavica Publishers devoted to translations of literary works and belles-lettres from Central and Eastern Europe, including Russia and the other successor states of the former Soviet Union.

**Anna Starobinets. *Look at Him*, trans. Katherine E. Young**, xii + 151 p., 2020 (ISBN 978-089357-503-8), \$19.95.

In this groundbreaking memoir, Anna Starobinets chronicles the devastating loss of her unborn son to a fatal birth defect. A finalist for the 2018 National Bestseller Prize, *Look at Him* ignited a firestorm in Russia, prompting both high praise and severe condemnation for the author's willingness to discuss long-taboo issues of women's agency over their own bodies, the aftereffects of abortion and miscarriage on marriage and family life, and the callousness and ignorance displayed by many in Russia in situations like hers.



**Miroslav Maksimović, *Pain*, trans. John Jeffries and Bogdan Rakić**, viii + 104 p., 2021 (ISBN 978-089357-508-3), \$19.95.

The fourteen sonnets of *Pain* deal with a historical event from August 1941, when the entire Serbian population of the village of Miostrah were massacred by their Muslim neighbors. Among the more than 180 slaughtered women and children were all the members of Maksimović's mother's immediate family. Thirteen years of age, Maksimović's mother miraculously survived and joined the anti-fascist partisan forces.

Using her tragedy as a paradigm for a national trauma, Maksimović created a work that both contributes to the Serbian culture of remembrance and oversteps the boundaries of memorial literature as it celebrates the triumph of poetry over historical evil.



Vol. 23, no. 1 (Winter 2022)

*Articles*

FRANCESCA SILANO

“A Dishonor to You and to the Church”

VILLE SOIMETSÄ

Soviet Cultural Diplomacy with Scandinavians after the Great Terror

RYAN TUCKER JONES

Soviet Whale Scientists and the Crisis in the World's Oceans

JAMES ALLEN NEALY, JR.

Ovsei Shkaratan and the Soviet Social Structure after Stalin

*Classics in Retrospect*

JEFFREY BROOKS

Re-Reading Two Classics of Russian Cultural History

*History and Historians*

EVGENII KRESTIANNIKOV

Good Intentions Gone Wrong

*Review Essays*

VERA KAPLAN

Depicting a Meritocratic Empire

GARRET J. MCDONALD

Marxism, Psychology, and the Soviet Mind

*Kritika* is dedicated to critical inquiry into the history of Russia and Eurasia. The quarterly journal features research articles as well as analytical review essays and extensive book reviews, especially of works in languages other than English. Subscriptions and previously published volumes available from Slavica—including, as of 16, no. 1, e-book editions (ePub, MOBI, PDF). Contact our business manager at [slavica@indiana.com](mailto:slavica@indiana.com) for all questions regarding subscriptions and eligibility for discounts.



# Intersectionality in Focus:

## From Critical Pedagogies to Research Practice and Public Engagement in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated pre-existing institutional, structural, and systemic discrimination and inequality in societies across the world. Furthermore, continued campaigns against gender and LGBTQ equity in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, racism in the United States, and the social protest movements that rose in response to such exclusionary projects have reinforced calls for intersectional approaches in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (SEES). Class, ethnicity and race, dis/ability, gender and sexuality, and other identity markers interweave to produce inequality differently in Eastern Europe and Eurasia than in the Americas or Western Europe. Yet, it is these very differences that provide a rich ground for intellectual conversations in our field.

REGISTER AT:  
[ucis.pitt.edu/crees/intersectionality-in-focus-spring-2022](https://ucis.pitt.edu/crees/intersectionality-in-focus-spring-2022)



### UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS

**JANUARY 28**

#### Living Intersectionality in Academia: Emerging Scholars

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)

MODERATOR: **Emily Couch**, PEN America  
 PRESENTERS: **Kellan Baker**, Whitman-Walker Institute  
**Nadja Greku**, Central European University  
**Christy Monet**, University of Chicago  
**Raushan Zhandayeva**, George Washington University

**FEBRUARY 4**

#### Transforming the Academy: Intersectionality and Change in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)

MODERATOR: **Sibelan Forrester**, Swarthmore College  
 PRESENTERS: **Sarina Karapetian Georgi**, Antelope Valley College  
**Joseph Lenkart**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
**Pawel Lewicki**, Europa University, Viadrina  
**Olga Povoroznyuk**, University of Vienna

### CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

**FEBRUARY 11**

#### Talking About Globalization: Gender, Race, Dis/ability & Politics

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)

MODERATOR: **Vitaly Chernetsky**, University of Kansas  
 PRESENTERS: **Bolaji Balogun**, University of Sheffield  
**Lucie Fremlova**, Independent Scholar  
**Teodor Mladenov**, University of Dundee  
**Tamar Shirinian**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**FEBRUARY 25**

#### (Post-) Pandemic Eurasia: Why Intersectionality Matters

2-3:30 pm (ET) | 1-2:30 pm (CT) | 12-1:30 pm (MT) | 11am-12:30 pm (PT)

MODERATOR: **Joan Neuberger**, University of Texas at Austin  
 PRESENTERS: **Svetlana Borodina**, Columbia University  
**Kateřina Kolářová**, Charles University  
**Elana Resnick**, University of California, Santa Barbara  
**Enikő Vincze**, Babeş-Bolyai University

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Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
 University of Kansas

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
 University of Michigan

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
 University of Texas at Austin

Center for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
 Ohio State University

Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies  
 Harvard University

Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center  
 Indiana University, Bloomington

Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute  
 Indiana University, Bloomington

Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
 University of California, Berkeley

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center  
 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

# Executive Director's Annual Report

Lynda Park

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

I am pleased to report that in 2021, ASEES successfully carried out existing programs and initiated new programs and initiatives even though we were facing significant challenges and uncertainties due to the continuing pandemic conditions.

**Membership**

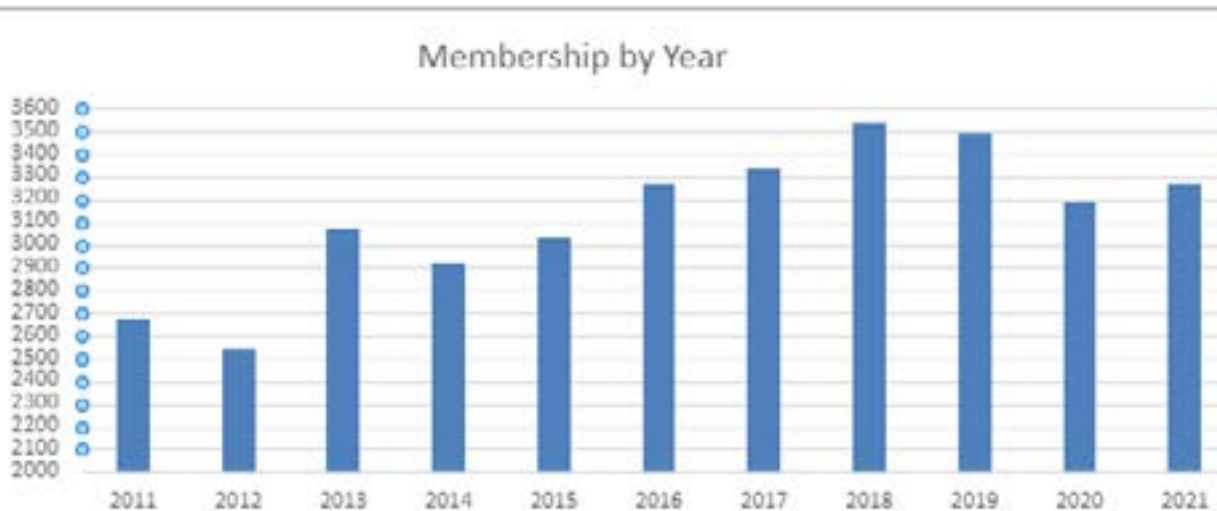
The 2021 membership increased slightly from the previous year, with 3,262 members, compared to 3,192 in 2020. Of 3,262 members, 623 were student members (19%), 313 affiliate members (9.6%), and 78 lifetime members (2.4%). 1,194 were international members (36.6% of total members) from 51 countries, of which 484 were from 18 countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (including 161 from Russia and 78 from Poland). The top five countries outside the US with the most members were: the UK (161), Russia (161), Canada (145), Germany (96), and Poland (78). For a comparison to a pre-pandemic year, in 2019 we had 3,490 members: 685 student members; 337 affiliate members; and 1,246 international members from 49 countries. For trends in membership over the last decade, please see the table appended to this report. For 2021 institutional membership, we had 52 members: 22 premium and 30 regular members.

**Annual Convention**

The 53rd Annual Convention was held at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside on November 18-21, 2021, and on the virtual platform on December 1-3, 2021. With the theme of

“Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity,” 606 sessions in total were scheduled in the program. The Presidential Plenary entitled, “Diversity and Access in the Profession,” chaired by the 2021 President Sibelan Forrester (Swarthmore College), featured Thomas Garza (U of Texas at Austin), Anita Kurimay (Bryn Mawr College), Barbara Milewski (Swarthmore College), and Sunnie Rucker-Chang (U of Cincinnati). Forrester gave her presidential address, “The Implications of Our Theme: Diversity, Intersectionality, Interdisciplinarity,” during the Award ceremony.

The 2021 convention, in many ways, was more difficult to organize and schedule than the 2020 convention with a sudden shift to a new virtual platform. The uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, vaccines, international travel restrictions, and then the hurricane in New Orleans made decision-making difficult for us at ASEES as well as the convention attendees. This resulted in constant changes to the convention schedule, which were extremely challenging to manage. When we first created the preliminary program in May, out of 605 sessions, 470 (78% of total) were scheduled



for the in-person convention while 135 (22%) were scheduled for the virtual. By late October, the situation had reversed with 203 sessions in person (33%) and 403 virtual (67%), together consisting of 368 panels, 153 roundtable, 39 individual paper panels/lightning rounds, a plenary, 4 film screenings, and 41 meetings and other events. The COVID-19 safety protocol for the in-person convention had to be rewritten many times, leading finally to a requirement of vaccines and masks and hiring a third-party vendor for vaccine verification. Because of all the late changes, we allowed some hybrid sessions, but they were costly (the technical setup for hybrid sessions in just 3 meeting rooms cost \$15,000) and still experienced technical problems. Nonetheless, majority of responses to the post-convention survey indicated that the attendees enjoyed both the in-person and the virtual conventions. I thank the Program Committee chair Thomas Garza (U of Texas Austin) and the ASEEES staff, especially Margaret Manges and Kelly McGee, for their incredible effort and patience in juggling the constant schedule changes.

The final registration numbers for the convention were: 2,516 registrants, of which 1,060 were for in-person + virtual (42%) and 1,456 for virtual only; 2,106 were members (84%) and 410 non-members. We offered registration waivers to 111 participants and additional free registration to 81 undergraduates. Of the total registrants, 338 were graduate students (13.4%) (184 for virtual only); 569 were first-time attendees (22.6%) (approx. 360 for virtual only). Of the 703 international registrants from 48 countries, the largest contingents were from Russia (102), Canada (90), the UK (89), Germany (51), and Poland (50). We thank the 12 convention sponsors and 29 exhibitors – 21 in New Orleans and 9 additional virtual-only exhibitors – for their support.

For 2022, we will hold our 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Chicago Palmer House Hilton on November 10-13, following a smaller virtual convention on October 13-14. The program chair is Betsy Hemenway (Loyola U Chicago), and the convention

theme is “Precarity.” The number of sessions for the virtual convention will be limited, and we will not be able to accommodate the option to move from an in-person to virtual or virtual to in-person format. We also will not be able to offer hybrid sessions at the in-person convention, as the technical cost will be prohibitively expensive.

### **Slavic Review**

The editorial office of *Slavic Review*, under the leadership of Harriet Murav, editor, and Dmitry Tartakovsky, managing editor, has done tremendous work in the face of pandemic conditions in the last two years and has been publishing issues with significant impact, including a special feature on race and bias in Summer 2021. Murav's tenure as editor will end in August 2023, after 10 years of service. The *Slavic Review* Committee will begin the process of naming a new editor this year. *Slavic Review* continues to be published by Cambridge University Press. Concerns regarding financial sustainability and equity persist as the academic journal publishing world rapidly adopts the open access model.

### **Fundraising**

In the fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021), we received a total of \$227,485 in gifts, including pledge payments and the KAT Foundation's annual contribution for the Stephen F. Cohen-Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Fellowship program, and for FY 2022 we have received \$125,200 from July 1 to December 31, 2021. Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and institutions to the Future of the Field Campaign, we have been able to greatly increase the funding for programs for 2019-2022. To maintain the elevated level of funding for programs, we are increasing our fundraising efforts. We renewed and increased the KAT Foundation agreement for the Cohen-Tucker Fellowships for 2022-2024. In December, the Kulczycki family endowed the Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies with a pledge gift of \$25,000. We thank all the [donors](#) to ASEEES.

### **Research Grants**

Thanks to fundraising efforts, we have

been able to provide significant grant funds to our graduate student members. In 2021, we awarded 33 dissertation/research fellowships and grants totaling \$325,000 in disbursements.

- **Dissertation Research Grant:** We awarded 14 grants, with each receiving a stipend of up to \$6,000, to conduct dissertation research in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. All grantees have begun their in-country research.
- **Summer Dissertation Writing Grant:** We awarded 8 grants to PhD students working on diverse topics and disciplines. The grant provided a \$6,000 stipend for them to concentrate on writing their dissertations during the summer months.
- **Understanding Modern Russia:** We awarded 3 Understanding Modern Russia grants, with a \$6,000 stipend, to conduct research on modern Russia.
- **Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship:** We awarded 3 \$25,000 fellowships and 2 partial fellowships together totaling \$25,000 because the fellows were only able to conduct research in Russia for shorter durations.
- **Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Completion Grant:** We awarded 3 fellowships with \$25,000 stipends. This program has not been affected by COVID, and the fellows are on track to complete and defend their dissertations by spring/summer 2022.

### **Convention Travel Grants**

Despite concerns about the pandemic and associated barriers to travel, we received a fair number of applications for travel grants to participate in the in-person convention in New Orleans. Unfortunately, a substantial portion of the grant recipients, particularly those traveling from abroad, were forced to forfeit their grants, either because they were unable to obtain a visa and/or vaccination, or because they and the other members of their panel decided to move to the virtual convention.

This year, ASEEES selected 101 travel grantees. Of these, 25 participated in the in-person convention and have been paid. Here are the numbers for the travel grant competitions:

- For the **Graduate Student Travel Grant**, we received 42 applications and initially funded all applicants (8 students at US institutions and 34 non-US institutions, including citizens of 12 different countries) with a \$500 grant each for a total of \$21,000. Of these, 10 were able to participate in the convention and accept the grant.
- For the **Regional Scholar Travel Grant**, we initially offered 24 grants up to \$1,000 to scholars from 10 different countries for a total of \$24,000. Four of these scholars were able to participate in the convention and accept the grant.
- For the **Russian Scholar Travel Grant**, we initially awarded 16 grants up to \$1,000 for a total of \$16,000. Four of the Russian scholars were able to present at the in-person convention and accept their grant. This program is funded mainly by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.
- For the **Convention Opportunity Travel Grant**, we initially awarded 14 grants of \$500 each for a total of \$7,000. Four of these participated in the in-person convention and have been paid.
- For the **Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant**, we awarded 5 grants for a total of \$2,500. Three accepted and took part in the convention.

**Other Programs**

- **Internship Grant Program:** We funded 13 internships for 2021-2022, disbursing \$64,000 in grants. Grantees receive a monthly stipend of \$2,000 for either 2 summer months for 4 spring or fall months. Grantees must find their own internships.
- **First Book Subvention:** We funded 5 first book subventions and disbursed \$10,000. The maximum subvention is \$2,500.
- **Mentoring Program:** We made 35 junior contact/senior contact matches for the ASEEES Mentoring Program in 2021.

**ABSEEEES**

In April 2021, ASEEES took over the license of the American Bibliography for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies from the University of Illinois and signed a contract with EBSCO to maintain

ABSEEEES on its platform. As part of the contract, ASEEES regular and student members have access to ABSEEEES via the ASEEES member site.

**Advocacy**

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Advocacy and the Executive Committee continue to field a large number of advocacy requests of diverse concerns. You can read the advocacy statements [here](#).

**2021 Board Decisions**

The ASEEES Board met on November 18, 2021, for its annual meeting, and approved the following:

- Amended Code of Conduct policy and new procedure;
- Establishment of the Maya K Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies Fund;
- Establishment of the Future Thinking Committee to consider the impact of the pandemic on the Association and the field;
- Mutual Aid Initiative proposed by the Working Group for Solidarity in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies;
- Change in the charge for the Investment Committee to take into consideration the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) implications of investment choices for the ASEEES Fund.

**Board Election/Incoming Members**

The 2021 annual election for the Board

of Directors was held from June-Sept, and the results were the following: Juliet Johnson (Political Science, McGill U) was elected Vice President/ President-Elect for 2022; Andy Janco (Digital Librarian, Haverford College) and Kimberly Zarecor (Architecture, Iowa State U) were elected Members-at-Large for 2022-2024; and Zachary Hicks (Slavic, UC Berkeley) was elected the Graduate Student Representative for 2022-2023. A total of 3,082 ballots were sent out, and 1,210 voted for a response rate of 39.2%.

The other incoming Board members in 2022 are: Edward Holland (U of Arkansas) as the AAG representative; Karen Evans-Romaine (U of Wisconsin-Madison) as the AATSEEL representative; Amanda Gregg (Middlebury College) as the Economics representative; and Alexandra Vacroux (Harvard U) as the Council of Institutional Members representative.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ASEEES Board, especially the outgoing Board members for their service: Jan Kubik, Eileen Kane, Maria Popova, Christina Novakov-Richey, Keith Brown, Angela Brintlinger, Steven Nafziger, and Jeremy Tasch.

Finally, I thank the University of Pittsburgh for hosting the main ASEEES office and to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for hosting the *Slavic Review* editorial office. We would not be able to do our work without the support these universities provide.

The untimely death of Dr. Maya Karin Peterson, (UC Santa Cruz) leading scholar in the environmental history of Central Asia, Russia, and the Soviet Union, is an enormous loss to of the field and beyond.

In November, the ASEEES Board approved establishment of the Maya K. Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies. This grant is made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Peterson’s family, friends, and colleagues. Please consider donating to the [Maya K. Peterson Dissertation Research Grant in Environmental Studies Endowment Fund](#) in her memory.

## 2022 ASEEES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joan Neuberger, President; U of Texas at Austin  
 Juliet Johnson, President-Elect/Vice President; McGill U  
 Sibelan Forrester, Immediate Past President; Swarthmore College  
 Christine Worobec, Treasurer; Northern Illinois U  
 Michael Kunichika, Member-at-large; Amherst College  
 Harriet Murav, Editor, *Slavic Review*; U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Lynda Park, Executive Director (ex officio); U of Pittsburgh

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Michael Bernhard, APSA representative, U of Florida  
 Kate Pride Brown, Sociology representative, Georgia Tech  
 Theodora Dragostinova, Member-at-large, Ohio State U  
 Karen Evans-Romaine, AATSEEL rep., U of Wisconsin, Madison  
 Amanda Gregg, Economics representative, Middlebury College  
 Zachary Hicks, Graduate student representative, UC Berkeley  
 Edward Holland, AAG representative, U of Arkansas  
 Andy Janco, Member-at-large, Haverford College  
 Neringa Klumbyte, AAA representative, Miami U of Ohio  
 Joseph Lenkart, CLIR rep., U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Robert Niebuhr, Council of Regional Affiliates rep., Arizona State U  
 Karen Petrone, Member-at-large, U of Kentucky  
 Sunnie Rucker-Chang, Member-at-large, U of Cincinnati  
 Asif Siddiqi, AHA representative, Fordham U  
 Alexandra Vacroux, Council of Institutional Members rep., Harvard U  
 Kimberly Zarecor, Member-at-Large, Iowa State U

### 2022 ASEEES Committees

#### Nominating Committee

Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College, Chair  
 Val Kivelson, U of Michigan  
 Lynn Tesser, Command and Staff College of the Marine Corps U

#### Committee on Academic Freedom and Advocacy

Jan Kubik, Rutgers: The State U of New Jersey/U College London (UK), 2022-2024, Co-chair  
 Elizabeth Wood, MIT, 2020-2022, Co-chair  
 Dmitry Dubrovsky, Centre for Independent Social Research (Russia)  
 Zsuzsa Gille, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2020-2022  
 Edin Hajdarpasic, Loyola U at Chicago, 2020-2022  
 Barbara Henry, U of Washington, 2022-2024  
 Colleen Lucey, U of Arizona, 2021-2023  
 Jeff Sahadeo, Carleton U (Canada), 2021-2023

#### Committee on Mentoring

Lynn Patyk, Dartmouth College, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Molly Pucci, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), 2020-2022  
 Sunnie Rucker-Chang, U of Cincinnati, 2021-2023

#### Committee on Careers Beyond Academia

Laura Schlosberg, Stanford U, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Elana Jakel, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2021-2023  
 Shanna Penn, Taube Philanthropies, 2021-2023

Daniel Peris, Federated Investors, 2018-2023  
 Rachel Rothstein, The Weber School, 2022-2024  
 Terrell Starr, Journalist/Entrepreneur, 2022-2024  
 Steven Stoltenberg, US Department of State (retired), 2021-2023

#### Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

Michele Rivkin-Fish, UNC Chapel Hill, Chair  
 Anne Eakin Moss, Johns Hopkins U  
 Melissa Bokovoy, U of New Mexico, (ex officio as AWSS President)  
 Leah Valtin-Erwin, Indiana U Bloomington, (graduate student rep)

#### Communications Advisory Committee

Edith Clowes, U of Virginia, 2022-2024, Chair  
 Nathaniel Knight, Seton Hall U, 2022-2024  
 Joe Lenkart, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2021-2023  
 Robert Niebuhr, Arizona State U, 2021-2023  
 Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon, U of Pennsylvania, 2020-2022

#### Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion

Zsuzsanna Magdo, U of Pittsburgh, 2018-2023, Chair  
 Anita Kurimay, Bryn Mawr College, 2021-2023  
 Amarilis Lugo de Fabritz, Howard U, 2020-2022  
 Louis Porter, Texas State U, 2022-2024  
 Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon, U of Pennsylvania, 2021-2023

#### CLIR Executive Council

Joseph Lenkart, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair  
 Anna Arays, Yale U, Chair, Subcommittee on Education and Access  
 Roman Ivashkiv, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Faculty Liaison  
 Natasha Lyandres, U of Notre Dame, Member-at-large  
 Janice Pilch, Rutgers U, Chair of Subcommittee on Copyright Issues  
 Alla Roylance, New York U, Chair, Subcommittee on Slavic & East European Materials Project (SEEMP)  
 Matthew Young, Library of Congress, Chair, Subcommittee on Collection Development

#### Investment Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee

Christine Worobec, Northern Illinois U, 2021-2023, Chair  
 Juliet Johnson, McGill U (Canada), 2018-2023  
 Craig Kennedy, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (retired), 2020-2022

#### Committee on Environmental Sustainability

José Vergara, Bryn Mawr College, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Jane Costlow, Bates College, 2020-2022  
 Elizabeth Plantan, Stetson U, 2020-2022

#### *Slavic Review* Committee

Mark Steinberg, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Chair  
 Michael Bernhard, U of Florida  
 Angela Cannon, Library of Congress  
 Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore College

#### Code of Conduct Committee

Janet Johnson, CUNY Brooklyn College, 2022-2024, Chair  
 Eric Naiman, UC Berkeley, 2022-2026  
 Alison Smith, U of Toronto (Canada), 2022-2026

**PRIZE COMMITTEES**

Distinguished Contributions Award Committee  
 Eliot Borenstein, New York U, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Choi Chatterjee, California State U, Los Angeles, 2021-2023  
 Gerald Creed, Hunter College, 2020-2022  
 Kate Holland, U of Toronto (Canada), 2022-2024  
 Valerie Sperling, Clark U, 2022-2024

Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize Committee  
 Nancy Condee, U of Pittsburgh, 2021-2022, Chair  
 David Darrow, U of Dayton, 2022  
 Steve Nafziger, Williams College, 2022-2023  
 Margaret Beissinger, Princeton U, 2022-2023

Davis Center Book Prize Committee  
 Ola Onuch, U of Manchester (UK), 2020-2022, Chair  
 Emily Channell-Justice, Harvard U, 2020-2022  
 Jeffrey Kopstein, UC Irvine, 2020-2022

USC Book Prize Committee  
 Jon Stone, Franklin and Marshall College, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Martha Kelly, U of Missouri, 2022-2024  
 Ana Hedberg Olenina, Arizona State U, 2022-2024

Reginald Zelnik Book Prize Committee  
 Barbara Engel, U of Colorado, 2021-2023, Chair  
 Aaron Retish, Wayne State U, 2022-2024  
 Ronald Suny, U of Michigan, 2021-2023

W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize Committee  
 David Brandenberger, U of Richmond, 2021-2023, Chair  
 Andy Bruno, Northern Illinois U, 2022-2024  
 Christine Evans, U Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 2020-2022

Marshall Shulman Book Prize Committee  
 Jelena Subotic, Georgia State U, 2021-2023, Chair  
 Nikita Lomagin, European U at St. Petersburg, 2021-2022  
 Elidor Mëhilli, CUNY Hunter College, 2022-2024

Ed A Hewett Book Prize Committee  
 Sarah Wilson Sokhey, U of Colorado, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Cynthia Buckley, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2022-2024  
 Emanuela Grama, Carnegie Mellon U, 2022-2024

Barbara Jelavich Book Prize Committee  
 Sean McMeekin, Bard College, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Jovana Babovic, SUNY Geneseo, 2022  
 Nicholas Novosel, US Department of the Army, 2022-2024

Kulczycki Book Prize Committee  
 Malgorzata Mazurek, Columbia U, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Benjamin Paloff, U of Michigan, 2021-2023  
 Kathryn Ciancia, U of Wisconsin, 2022-2024

Pritsak Book Prize Committee  
 Michael Naydan, Penn State U, 2019-2022, Chair  
 Margarita Balmaceda, Harvard U/Seton Hall U, 2022-2024  
 Steve Seegel, U of Texas at Austin, 2021-2023

Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee  
 Lauri Mälksoo, U of Tartu (Estonia), 2020-2022, Chair  
 Andrea Lanoux, Connecticut College, 2021-2023  
 Maria Popova, McGill U (Canada), 2022-2024

Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize  
 Bruce Grant, New York U, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Alexis Peri, Boston U, 2022-2024  
 Kathleen Smith, Georgetown U, 2022-2024

**GRANT/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES**

ASEEES Dissertation Grant Committee  
 Ben Noble, U College London (UK), 2020-2022, Chair  
 Natalia Aleksion, Touro College, 2021-2023  
 Katya Hokanson, U of Oregon, 2020-2022

Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee  
 Susan Morrissey, UC Irvine, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Galya Diment, U of Washington, 2022-2024  
 Robert Weinberg, Swarthmore College, 2022-2024

Internship Grant Committee  
 Amb. Ian Kelly, Northwestern U, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Melissa Bokovoy, U of New Mexico, 2020-2022  
 Nina Murray, US Department of State, 2020-2022

Convention Opportunity Travel Grant/Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant Committee  
 Choi Chatterjee, CSU Los Angeles, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Matthew Romaniello, Weber State U, 2022-2024  
 Lenny Urena Valerio, U of New Mexico, 2021-2023

Graduate Student Travel Grant Committee  
 Brian LaPierre, U of Southern Mississippi, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Katherine Bowers, U of British Columbia (Canada), 2020-2022  
 Andrea Rusnock, Indiana U South Bend, 2022-2024

First Book Subvention Committee  
 David Ost, Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges, 2020-2022, Chair  
 Paul Hanebrink, Rutgers U, 2021-2023  
 Brigid O'Keeffe, Brooklyn College, 2022-2024  
 Gwen Walker, U of Wisconsin, 2021-2023 (non-voting member)

Regional Scholar Travel Grant Committee  
 Jan Musekamp, U of Pittsburgh, 2021-2023, Chair  
 Janine Holc, Loyola U Maryland, 2022-2024  
 Julia Vaingurt, U of Illinois at Chicago, 2020-2022

Russian Scholar Travel Grant Committee  
 Julie Hessler, U of Oregon, 2021-2023, Chair  
 Kathleen Manukyan, U of Pittsburgh, 2022-2024  
 Lauren Alicia McCarthy, U of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2022-2024

## THE ASEEEES INITIATIVE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BEGINS ITS SECOND YEAR

ASEEES is delighted to begin the second year of its pilot program, the [Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion \(IDI\)](#), with the goal of providing structural and networking support for our community of BIPOC students, scholars, and professionals in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies in the US. With 60 participants who joined in 2021, 25 of whom were new to ASEEEES, we are expanding the initiative to include current first-generation undergraduates of any race, gender, or ethnicity in SEEEES in the US. We welcome students, scholars, working professionals, and professors of underrepresented backgrounds at various stages of their careers, including undergraduate students selected for the Undergraduate Think Tank coordinated by Howard University. We look forward to continuing to welcome new participants with a complimentary two-year ASEEEES membership, as well as growing the IDI mentoring program and facilitating networking opportunities for the members.

## ASEEEES CONTINUES CAREER PROGRAMS IN 2022

Thanks to high attendance and positive feedback from the 2021 ASEEEES career programs, we look forward to continuing the events this spring, beginning with the [Exploring Career Diversity Conversation Series](#). Supported by the Committee for Careers beyond Academia, the series will consist of several informal sessions, conducted via Zoom breakout rooms, during which participants will have the opportunity to speak to professionals in various career sectors. The events will be open to members who are graduate students or recent graduates interested in broadening their career trajectories. The 2021 series hosted panelists in secondary education, higher education outside the tenure track, government and government-affiliated organizations, non-profits and program management, and business and consulting. More information about the 2022 program lineup and how to sign up will be announced in February.

ASEEES also hosted the [Demystifying the Academic Job Market Webinar & Workshop Series](#) in the fall, a two-part webinar and workshop led by Professors Alison K. Smith (U of Toronto) and Elizabeth (Liz) Lehfeltdt (Cleveland State U). These interactive events addressed the overall arc of the academic job market process (including information about the search, negotiating offers, and general questions about application materials), and the specifics of the teaching statement addressed in higher ed pedagogy. We plan to host another academic job series in fall 2022. Information will be announced in late summer.

### ASEEEES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This program provides graduate students & recent graduates with funding so that they can accept unpaid/underpaid internships in Russian studies.

**DEADLINE: MARCH 1**



# ASEEES STATEMENT ON MEMORIAL SOCIETY

## ASEEES EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN ON RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT’S ASSAULT ON MEMORIAL

The ASEEES Executive Committee condemns the recent decision by the Russian Supreme Court to shut down the Memorial Society, Russia’s most venerable human rights organization. Since its founding in 1989, Memorial has pursued a dual mission: to document and increase public awareness of mass repression during the Soviet era, and to promote human rights and civil society in contemporary Russia. Its staff has done pioneering research on the arrest, imprisonment, and execution of millions of innocent Soviet citizens, on the extraction of slave labor by Nazi occupiers during the Second World War, and on the history of the Soviet dissident movement.

It has amassed priceless expertise on these and other topics along with a unique archive of historical documents that have become an invaluable resource for scholars in Russia and around the world, including members of ASEEES. We call on the Russian government to restore Memorial’s legal standing as an independent organization dedicated to historical research, education, and advocacy.

See a [related statement](#) issued on November 16, 2021.

Please [click here](#) to read more about other ASEEES advocacy efforts and its advocacy policy and procedures.