



# NewsNet

News of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

## Music, Social Media, and African Voices in Ukraine

Adriana Helbig, University of Pittsburgh

Social media, perceived by protesters in Ukraine as a trusted information source, in opposition to government-controlled media outlets, helped foster degrees of informational intimacy not only among Ukrainians but among their supporters worldwide. As in the 2004 Orange Revolution, when Ukrainian citizens protested the outcomes of rigged presidential elections, music played a significant role in framing the EuroMaidan movement and rallying supporters. Yet music and, more broadly, sound, among the most crucial elements that stir emotions of participants and onlookers, have been gravely overlooked in analyzing images from Ukraine. Many musicians active in the 2004 Orange Revolution also participated in the EuroMaidan. However, unlike in 2004, when the majority of Ukraine's population did not have Internet access, social media has served as the primary source of information for EuroMaidan and subsequent events. In addition to the public concerts that prevailed during the Orange Revolution, social media helped disseminate EuroMaidan's intimate musical moments in real time: women huddling together and singing in the cold, a protester

playing on an outdoor piano in front of riot police, a piano jam session by candlelight in a protester-occupied government building. Viewers have watched collectively, in private, in repetition, with edits, in segments, with alternate soundtracks to images, on delay or in real time. From the pianos, protest chants, communal singing of the Ukrainian national anthem, performances from an erected stage in Kyiv, and hourly chanted prayers, much was written about the types of songs that were sung, in what language, and who performed when and for whom. An understandable emphasis on those who were there, however, clouded our understandings of those who were not participating, among them members of Ukraine's African population.

Listening more critically to the sounds from Ukraine, we strain for voices that have been silenced out of fear or because no space has been made for their stories to be heard. While the media has reinforced a reductive binary analysis of geographically divided Ukrainian and Russian linguistic and cultural identities, it has contributed to an overshadowing of minority groups and

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immigrant communities that do not ascribe to or fully engage with regional identities and histories. Writing from the perspective of an ethnographer who has conducted extensive research among African musicians in eastern Ukraine, particularly Kharkiv, being black in Ukraine today offers critical insights into processes of nation building and revolution. Identity constructions are simultaneously mediated via African experiences in the Soviet Union within politicized frameworks of Soviet-African, U.S.-Soviet, and U.S.-African relations during the Cold War and in the last two decades of post-socialist reformulations. It is impossible to catch but a fleeting glimpse of the changes that are taking place in Ukraine when it comes to African experiences. First, the number of Africans living in Ukraine continues to grow, and communities have formed in cities such as Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk in eastern Ukraine that were not prominent even five years ago. It is difficult to determine an accurate number of Africans in Ukraine because of the annual turnover of African students as well as the often illegal status of those who wish to stay. Second, changing government policies regarding visa and citizenship requirements influence the everyday lives of Africans to unimaginable extents, forcing people to shape their everyday experiences in ways that offer safety and stability, influencing where they go in the city and with whom they come into contact. Third, attitudes toward immigrants continue to shift among the general population, sometimes more welcoming than others, based on the ways in which discourses of immigration are politicized in the media and by political parties. The public sphere plays a significant role in how Africans are portrayed in the media and the ways in which representations of "Africa" are negotiated by Africans and non-Africans on Ukrainian television, news coverage, and the expressive arts, music among them. New African diaspora institutions and community organizations have begun to work with increasing effectiveness in helping provide increased protection and access to information for Africans living in Ukraine.

Migrations of Africans to former Soviet republics follow a pattern of historical connections framed by socialist experiences. The Soviet Union welcomed students from socialist-leaning countries including Cuba and newly independent African countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Soviet leaders offered military support to protect their interests but diverged from the ideologies of the various African independence movements that were rooted in strong senses of nationalism. They promoted a form of socialism that African countries did not follow but worked to their advantage in fields

such as medicine. Relationships rooted in educational exchange forged in the Soviet era continue in the post-Soviet era, and it is still common to see students from Africa enrolled in universities of the former USSR, particularly in the medical fields.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, many Africans and Afro-Caribbean peoples continued to move to the Russian Federation and independent Ukraine but with very different experiences. The documentary *Black Russians* (2001) by Kara Lynch features archival footage of Paul Robeson and Angela Davis in the USSR and interviews with Russians of African, Afro-Caribbean, and African American descent ages 10 to 65. It offers a deeply personal account of race and communism and the struggles they face in light of rising nationalism in independent Russia. It shows that Soviet society grew increasingly racist over 70 years of communism. As documented by Paula Garb in her 1987 book published in the USSR, *They Came to Stay: North Americans in the USSR*, many African Americans and those of mixed marriage moved from the U.S. to the Soviet Union prior to World War II to escape racial bias at home. When Soviet universities began to extend scholarship programs for students from socialist-leaning countries in the 1960s, African students were somewhat protected by the socialist rhetoric that promoted "friendship of the peoples." An inherent racism guided this policy, however, because Africans were allowed to study in the USSR but were not allowed to gain citizenship. Soviet policies discouraged interracial marriage and forced students to leave the USSR after their student visas expired, without regard for interracial unions that had formed or for the children born from such unions. While the Soviet Union touted itself as a place of racial equality, in many regards, it practiced ideologies of racial separation much like the U.S. and European colonial powers.

The USSR positioned itself as morally advanced and a place of social progress in relation to the West. By the 1960s, at the time of African independence movements, however, Soviet attitudes toward Africa took on a developmental approach that positioned the African continent as a place where the Soviet Union needed to intervene and to help newly independent African countries free themselves from post-colonial pressures. This approach, while aimed to assist, also reinforced the power and influence of the USSR on the African continent. African students were viewed as ambassadors of socialist ideologies, helping to promote the ideas of the USSR in their newly independent homelands. Though many students from Africa were aided by their respective gov-

ernments, the perception of alleged financial assistance from the Soviet government led to a certain amount of resentment toward them from other students.

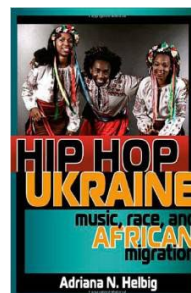
When the USSR collapsed, Africa continued to function as a marker of comparison in post-Soviet consciousness. Whereas during the Soviet era, Africa was a place where Soviet aid was needed to improve everyday conditions, in the early years of transition in the 1990s, it was common for people in independent Ukraine to say that Ukraine had become “wild, without social order, and poor like Africa.” While in the early 1990s, racial discourse was framed in part by the individual and collective insecurity brought forth by the fall of the Soviet Union, the second decade of transition, the 2000s, has been very influenced by depictions of racial identity in popular culture from the United States, especially movies, music, and television shows. Such products have reshaped racial imaginaries, strongly guided by the ever-present Soviet fascination with American culture, with a specific emphasis on African American expressions such as hip hop in the last decade or so.

Post-Soviet mediations of African American culture have also come to influence and be influenced by African presence in former Soviet spaces. To better illustrate the complexity of such mediations, I turn to the example that spurred my research interest in African musicians in Ukraine. In 2004, I came across a picture of two men of African descent (later I learned that they were students from Uganda and Jamaica) dressed in Ukrainian folk costumes on the Internet. I was unable to make sense of what this could mean until I saw the group later that year performing Ukrainian folk songs for supporters during the Orange Revolution in Kyiv. They sang to a cheering crowd of hundreds of thousands of protesters, standing side-by-side in the dead of winter on the thick ice at Kyiv’s Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square), opposing the results of a falsified presidential election. These musicians played up their blackness in the name of their group – Chornobryvtsi – which in the Ukrainian language means “black browed.” They were simultaneously outsiders and insiders in a complex mediation of African student identities and black person as performer, a more common framework that had been reinforced in media products from the U.S. now widely promoted on Ukrainian television and radio that overshadow local low-budget film and music production.

Numerous African or “Afro-Ukrainian” performance ensembles have since modeled themselves on Chornobryvtsi, including [Alfa-Alfa from Kharkiv](#), which perform Ukrainian-language songs in Ukrainian costume.



Active during and in the decade following the 2004 Orange Revolution, African musicians are significantly less seen or heard in public spaces during the ongoing protests and violence in Ukraine today. Few have made public statements about the nature of the conflict and have not expressed their positions on the conflict. A few have returned to reggae, which serves as a soundtrack for peace in many parts of Africa. Some have uploaded recordings of themselves singing songs in Ukrainian from their dorm rooms in support of protestors. But the realities of violence compound Africans’ already ingrained fears of public spaces and crowds, further cutting off members of the African population in Ukraine from contact with non-Africans. Thus, while social networks and independent media continue to play crucial roles in Ukraine’s ongoing conflict, the absence of Africans in public spaces reinforce a message to other Africans to stay home. It is time we realized that their voices are missing from the narrative.



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# Slavic Review

## Fall 2014

OSIP MANDEL'SHTAM

Julia Vaingurt, Special Section Guest Editor

Introduction

Mastery and Method in Poetry: Osip Mandel'shtam's "Conversation about Dante"

Julia Vaingurt

The Science of Poetry: Poetic Process as Evolution in Mandel'shtam's "Conversation about Dante"

Alexander Spektor

Keeping Time: Reading and Writing in "Conversation about Dante"

Jacob Emery

### ARTICLES

The Borsa: The Black Market for Rock Music in Late Socialist Bulgaria, by Venelin I. Ganev

Pressuring the Politburo: The Committee of the Bulgarian Women's Movement and State Socialist Feminism

by Kristen Ghodsee

Inside the Psychiatric Word: Diagnosis and Self-Definition in the Late Soviet Period, by Rebecca Reich

"In Memory of Our Murdered (Jewish) Children": Hearing the Holocaust in Soviet Jewish Culture

by James Loeffler

Rejecting Angelina: Bosnian War Rape Survivors and the Ambiguities of Sex in War, by Elissa Helms

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# Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media

Vlad Strukov, University of Leeds & Editor of *Digital Icons*

*Editor's note: In our third year of publishing the June NewsNet as an online edition, ASEES is thrilled to share the following cluster of articles that highlight several online journals that will contribute to our field.*

*Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media (Digital Icons)* is an international, peer-reviewed online journal, published twice per year. Established in 2008 (ISSN 2043-7633), the journal is a multi-media platform that explores new media as a variety of information flows, varied communication systems and networked communities. The main goal of the journal is to disseminate research on new media in Russia, Eurasia and Central Europe across global communities of scholars, media practitioners and the general public. The journal is a leading academic publication and acts as a vital network in the field thanks to its focus on new media and its role in the political, social and cultural (re-)shaping of the region. Thus, publications in the journal combine in-depth understanding of both the region and new forms of communication in their relation to established media and communication patterns. Contributions to *Digital Icons* cover a broad range of topics related to digital and electronic technologies, politics, economics, society, culture and the arts in Russia, Eurasia and Central Europe. *Digital Icons* advances new perspectives on both the region and new media because of its focus on the interconnectedness between social practice and new media, and their mutual impact.

The journal is an independent organisation. It has received financial support from the Universities of Leeds (the UK) and Amsterdam (the Netherlands). The journal consists of three bodies: the steering committee, the editorial board and the advisory board. All submissions are reviewed externally as well as by members of the editorial and advisory board, which is composed of a broad mix of senior and junior scholars from Europe, Eurasia, and North America. In addition to this, all research articles (those marked with a symbol of an eye on our webpage) are reviewed anonymously by two independent external experts. While adhering to strict reviewing standards, *Digital Icons* practices an independent open-access policy. (The journal is registered in Great Britain and adheres to the UK open access policy.) As a result, the contents of the journal are available on the internet,

as well as for download, without restrictions. This is of utmost importance for scholars and researchers in the region *Digital Icons* is targeting, where research institutions and universities are not always able to subscribe to costly international academic journals. Therefore, we aim to present the findings of original research in three languages: English, German and Russian. We hope to expand our language scope in the future.

The journal publishes works that explore developments in information and communications technologies and their impact on the governance, economy and cultural life of the region. Submissions focusing on internet use and new media forms among the various diasporas of the region are also welcome. *Digital Icons* publishes research articles and essays by scholars from a variety of academic backgrounds, along with artists' contributions; interviews, comments; reviews of books, digital artwork, memoirs and films; animation and computer games, and relevant cultural and academic events as well as any other forms of discussion of new media in the region.

*Digital Icons* explores and advances new, cutting-edge topics and methodologies in the field. If not a digital-humanities journal proper, the journal does welcome and publish empirically-based case studies related to new advancements in the field of digital humanities, as well as critical assessments of digital humanities and big-data research. In addition, the journal is concerned with the idea of historicising new media studies. It does so by featuring the unique project of *Digital Memoirs*, collecting personalized memories of the early developments in digital culture, as part of our cultural memory and—in future—as a base for historical analysis.

In addition to regular issues, *Digital Icons* publishes special thematic issues, investigating a specific aspect of new media usage in the region. Special issues are normally guest-edited by a specialist in the thematic area. In the next eighteen months, the journal plans to publish three guest-edited special issues. These include: "Digital Mnemonics in Slavonic Studies: An Emergent Sub-discipline"; "Digital Creativity in Times of Crisis: Bulgarian Networked Culture in Global Contexts"; and "Digital Orthodoxy: Mediating Post-Secularity in Russia and Ukraine". Recently published special issues include: "Russian Elections and Digital Media"; "Cinegames: Conver-

gent Media and the Aesthetic Turn”; and “Digital Fandom and Media Convergence”.

The journal maintains a focus on new media and protest movements in the region: two issues focusing on Russia have already been published and the forthcoming issue will look at Ukraine. At the time of the global meltdown, the protests were hugely anticipated but never accurately predicted. Equally, the revolutionary events of 2011-14, just like those of 1989-91, have problematized existing theories of social engagement, political dissent and cultural production. To echo Frederic Jameson’s stance expressed in his 2001 “A Singular Modernity”, the narrative of modernity is being written on the squares of Moscow, Kiev and other cities, as well as on the screens of computers and mobile phones, and most importantly in the minds of those people who have participated—either by voicing their opinion publicly or by reflecting on the events privately—in the debate about the future of their nation. This future will show whether the events will pave the way for a ‘singular modernity’, or will collapse into a postmodern pastiche of participatory democracy, or in fact will break the very logic of postmodernity by imposing the stagnant framework of statist regimes. Our aim as scholars is to provoke debates about the nature, function and parameters of democracy as a constitutive part of capitalist modernity. In general terms, this involves viewing events in Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere as part of the global crisis of capitalism and the global movement of political dissent, which takes the form of the appropriation of public spaces and, by extension, of the public domain of meaning and value exchanges, leading to regime change, military confrontation and possibly global political crises.

*Digital Icons* brings together world-leading scholars on new media. Its network has over 600 members worldwide. The journal has also been at the heart of many research projects in institutions in Europe, Russia and North America, and has organised the following workshops and conferences:

- “Memory and Securitization in Contemporary Europe” in cooperation with the School of History (Southern Federal University) and the Centre of the European Union in the South West Russia, (Russia), June 2014;
- “Globalization and/in Post-Socialist Media” in cooperation with the University of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Centre for Globalization Studies, (the Netherlands), June 2014;
- “Digital Creativity in Times of Crisis: Bulgarian Networked Culture in Global Contexts” in cooperation with the Centre for Advanced Study, (Bulgaria), November 2013;
- “Post-Socialism Playing Global: Computer Gaming Industries and Digital Media Culture” in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, (UK), November 2013;
- “New Media in New Europe-Asia” in collaboration with the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds, (UK), March and June 2010;
- “From Central to Digital: Television in Russia” in cooperation with the Russian State University for Humanities, (Russia), March 2010;
- “Russia Online” in cooperation with Columbia University (Harriman Institute & School of Journalism) and Harvard University (Berkman Center for Internet and Society), (USA), October 2008; and many others.

*Digital Icons* has attracted both scholarly and media attention. Editors of *Digital Icons* have presented on new media in the region on the BBC, Al Jazeera, New Economic Relations, and in many other media outlets. The journal has received praise from media scholars and practitioners, including Evgeny Morozov (“*Digital Icons* just published a new issue dedicated to social networks on the Russian-speaking Web. Plenty of interesting articles to read there”), Jeffrey Carr (“*Digital Icons* has produced the premiere work on Russian Social Networks. This is an area that GreyLogic spends a lot of time researching as part of our intelligence analysis work and I can’t wait to dive in to this exceptional body of research”), and many others.





## Challenges and Pleasures of Journal Editing

**Birgit Beumers, Aberystwyth University, Editor of *KinoKultura*  
& Principal Editor of *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema***

I have always loved challenges, which is probably a good quality for an editor. In 1997, a year after Russian film production had hit rock bottom, I was crazy enough to organise a conference on the Russian idea in contemporary cinema... what cinema? Accompanied by a week of film screenings, the event led to the publication of *Russia on Reels*, the first collection of texts to explore post-Soviet cinema. But very soon after the volume's publication in 1999, a lot more films appeared from the slowly and gradually growing Russian film industry. Therefore, I set up a website in 2003 to provide some information on what was going on in Russian cinema: *KinoKultura* (nickname: *KiKu*). I registered the quarterly online journal with an ISSN and, initially supported by a handful of people, supplied reviews of new cinematic releases. At that time, few Russian sites were operating and information was rather scarce – something that would change a few years later. Then, after the release of *Night Watch* in 2004 and a few other blockbusters, the Russian film industry was catapulted back into business and film distribution in Russia reached sixth place globally. These changes, and the rapid growth of the film industry, could not go unnoticed and *KiKu* circle of contributors grew, notably after I had invited Vladimir Padunov of the University of Pittsburgh to join me as Deputy Editor in 2003. In those early years the journal created the “image” that still characterises it today: coverage of new films; reports on film festivals; and film scholarship. After a few years, in 2006, we were awarded a Diploma by the Guild of Russian Film Critics and Film Scholars for the running of *KinoKultura*.

It soon became clear that there was an ever growing constituency of people working on and writing about film, not just contemporary Russian cinema but also Soviet film history: it would probably be feasible to “split” the publication into scholarly articles on film history and articles/reviews of contemporary cinema; and to launch a print edition. That's why *KinoKultura* limited its publications to contemporary Russian cinema, whilst at the same time expanding its geographical area

to encompass the cinemas of post-Soviet space in special issues. *KinoKultura* appears with four regular issues per year, presenting articles, film reviews and festival reports, the latter focussing on Russian and Central Asian films in festival programmes. Whilst the articles are peer-reviewed, festival reports are not; and the film reviews are usually commissioned, although unsolicited reviews are considered. We have added a rubric of re-reviews where some important films that were reviewed in a previous issue are re-considered, often after new perspectives have opened on the film; and we carry a rubric of double-views that presents two reviews of one single film from different authors. We are particularly interested in articles that cross film and other visual cultures. Our plans for the future include the expansion of the review section to introduce reviews of older films also.

Our special, guest-edited issues focus on the cinemas of Central Europe and beyond, from Central Asia (2004) to Latvia (2012) and Bosnia (2012). I'm keen to add more countries; indeed we soon need to start updating existing issues, seeing that some issues are now already ten years old! A special issue on Macedonian cinema is forthcoming, and it is also very rewarding to know that two special issues have since been published in book form.

Any registered journal needs a home address, so when I moved from the University of Bristol to Aberystwyth University in 2012, the journal “moved” also, but not with me: it is registered with the Watershed Media Centre in Bristol, whose head of programming, Mark Cosgrove, is our Honorary President. And the Watershed is a good place to be: it is the “birthplace” of IMDb! At the present time, the journal's deputy editor is Julian Graffy, and the co-editors are Anthony Anemone (New York), Greg Dolgoplov (Sydney), Seth Graham (London), Jeremy Hicks (London), Stephen Norris (Ohio), Alexander Prokhorov, Elena Prokhorova (Williamsburg), Peter Rollberg (Washington DC), Rimgaila Salys (Colorado). The journal also has an editorial assistant and an advisory board: The editorial team reviews articles and helps with the copy editing. The website has approximately 1,200 visitors a month, and reviews and articles are frequently cited in academic publications and used as a reference by film festival programmers and journalists, especially for contemporary Russian/Central Asian cinema.



*KinoKultura* is a non-commercial and independent journal. We have no income; the site is paid for and maintained by myself as editor. Of course, we could go down the route of advertising or sponsorship, but I have always felt that this could potentially make the journal dependent on a producer, a studio, a distributor, and I have been trying to avoid any such dependence. But that independence comes at a cost: if it were not for the support of the editorial team, this “challenge” might have had a different result.

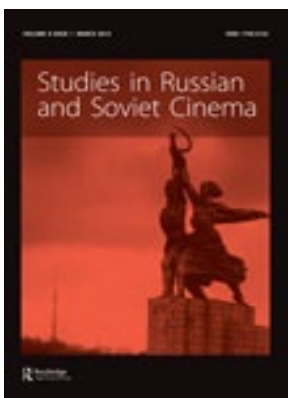
As I mentioned earlier, there is also a print journal. One day it seemed that *KinoKultura* had learnt to walk and it was time to find another challenge and consider moving into print. On the one hand, we could turn *KiKu* into an online and print edition, but that would not work for the up-to-date quality of the reviews. When discussing the journal with Susan Hayward, a specialist on French cinema and founding editor of *Studies in French Cinema*, she suggested I should get in touch with intellect publishers in Bristol, who were at the time expanding their portfolio of journals on visual culture and cinema. I had decided firmly that a print version of *KiKu* would have defeated the point of an online journal, which allowed links, clips and images, and which also made possible a quick and fresh cycle of reviews. However, there was no academic journal around that was devoted to the study of Russian and Soviet cinema, so Masoud Yazdani, the founder and CEO of intellect, suggested we set up a different journal that would be called *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema (SRSC)*. *SRSC* was launched in 2007 to appear three times a year, with the first issue actually published in the autumn of 2006, so that we could present it at the AAASS (now ASEES) convention in November of that year – an exercise designed to attract contributors.

*SRSC* is a peer-reviewed journal for the publication of original research on pre-Revolutionary, Soviet and post-Soviet Russian cinema, its aesthetic development and its role between ideology and industry. The journal set out to

promote research from established scholars, but also encourage young researchers. And, right from the beginning, *SRSC* established a special section for each issue: the first issue includes a film script; the second contains a section of documents in translation; and the third carries book reviews.

As the founding editor, I deal with most of the correspondence myself, but have enormous assistance and advice from my co-editors Nancy Condee, Julian Graffy, and Richard Taylor, as well as book review editor Denise Youngblood. Following Masoud’s suggestion for intellect journals, we have an Editorial Board (the House of Commons, if you like) which includes Tony Anemone, Robert Bird, Lilya Kaganovsky, Vance Kepley Jr., Naum Kleiman, David MacFadyen, Stephen Norris, Alexander Prokhorov, Yuri Tsivian, Emma Widdis, and – as of 2014 – Otto Boele, Phil Cavendish, Jeremy Hicks, Sergei Kapterev and Eugénie Zvonkine; and an Advisory Board (the “House of Lords”) Francois Albera, Katerina Clark, Nikolai Izvolov, Anna Lawton, Evgenii Margolit and Maya Turovskaya.

Over the last seven years, *SRSC* has published quite a few extraordinary scripts: from Sergei Bodrov’s (unfilmed) *Cross-Eyed Sasha*, we moved on to some more recent trends in scriptwriting such as Larisa Sadilova’s *Nothing Personal*, Bakur Bakuradze’s *Shultes*, and Petr Lutsik’s *Wild Field*. Then Naum Kleiman, director of Moscow’s Museum of Cinema and the world’s leading expert on Eisenstein, gave a talk at the International Congress of Slavic Studies (ICCEES) in Stockholm in 2010 on Eisenstein’s *Fergana*. When I approached him after the presentation, he agreed to give the journal permission to print the translated script (completed by the most brilliant translator of Eisenstein’s writing, Richard Taylor), and Naum gave us access to a whole archive of drawings and photographs made in preparation for the shooting that never happened. The script and the images had not been published in Russian at the time, and only recently appeared in *Kinovedcheskie zapiski*. After that “coup,” we landed another one: *Tanks Know the Truth* is Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s only film script, which has never been realised; it had been published only once, in an edition of complete works, in Russian. However, the text had already been translated by the Solzhenitsyn expert Mike Nicholson and was withering away in his filing cabinet, until I contacted him to check some titles and translations mentioned in an article by Ilya Kukulkin that I was preparing for publication in *SRSC*. With Mike’s support, we obtained permission for the publication from the Solzhenitsyn estate, and the text appeared in *SRSC* 7.3. And then came another surprise: Eugénie Zvonkine, who had written her thesis (and now excellent book) on





Kira Muratova, had been granted access to Muratova's personal archive during a research visit in Odessa, when she found the script for a film that Muratova had never realised, but which held keys to her all of later works. Eugénie photographed the script – in the absence of a photocopier – and this is how *Watch Your Dreams Attentively* landed in the arms of SRSC 8.1.

In the Document section we have published, with the enormous help and expertise of Richard Taylor, many documents from Eisenstein's archive, as well as a cluster on Margarita Barskaia, a set of documents from the TsGALI in St Petersburg on Fridrikh Ermler's workshop KEM, and a cluster on Mezhrabpomfilm. Currently, we are completing the publication of Boris Shumiatskii's records of the Kremlin Screenings: "On Stalin's Watch" has been published in volumes 7.1 and 8.1.

Special features have included forgotten and underrated films compiled by Julian Graffy; Eurasia as filmic assemblage, covering the screenings in Stockholm 2010 organised by RGAKFD (Russian State Archive of Photo and Film Documents) of *kulturfilms* of the 1920s and 1930s; and a special feature on Central Asian cinema after independence prepared for the Locarno Open Doors 2010, a forum for pitching new projects from the region.

There have also been guest-edited volumes: "Screened Sexuality" (3.2) was edited by Andrey Shcherbenok; "Nemesis or Mimesis" (4.2) by Vlad Strukov; and a special issue on Igor Savchenko (6.3) was prepared by Susan Larsen and Emma Widdis.

At the end of 2013, as the seventh volume was complete, intellect sold a portfolio of 15 titles to Routledge (Taylor & Francis) – among them SRSC. And it was a goodbye to the visits down the road (intellect operate from Bristol) to talk to designers, journal managers or Masoud. Instead, there was a generous welcome into the huge journals operation of Taylor & Francis, and starting with issue 8.1 we shall have a new cover and a new layout; and we hope to reach out wider through the extensive distribution network of the new publisher.

In order to involve younger scholars, SRSC has run a competition for the best post-graduate essay in its fifth year, with the winners published in issue 5.3; another competition is currently under way, this time organised in conjunction with the Film School VGIK in Moscow, to encourage especially contributions from Russia.

SRSC receives a lot of manuscripts on a range of aspects of Soviet and Russian cinema, and we do

consider longer texts for publication. All articles undergo peer review and we normally endeavour to turn around submissions within eight weeks. As editor, I find it hugely important and am most grateful to the peer reviewers, who offer – where that is appropriate – substantial guidance for rewriting and developing articles in their reports, and – whilst it is never pleasant to reject an article or ask for a substantial rewrite – the competence of the reports makes it easier, and I believe does help the authors

You can view the running of any journal as a chore, but it is a pleasure to see articles through revision, copy-editing and typesetting, and to hold that copy of the journal in your hands. I know, things are becoming more and more oriented towards digital consumption, but I like flicking through a journal. As an editor, you depend both on the patience and understanding of the contributors, and on the support of the boards, and I have been very lucky with both, especially with my co-editors' patience for my penchant for competitions, where they get the part of jurors.

In all this, what is most important is that we can raise the profile of Soviet film history and thereby set new standards for future generations. At least that's what I'd like to think...

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## Nabokov Online Journal: Where Scholarship Meets Innovation

Yuri Leving, Dalhousie University & Nabokov Online Journal Founding Editor

The landscape of the book and journal publishing industry is rapidly changing. Many scholars are eager to adapt to technology-based publishing that provides authors with a fast and affordable way to disseminate the results of their research. Federal granting agencies also favor Open Access models, meaning that knowledge should become freely accessible for broadening readership worldwide. Indeed, compared to traditional, offset printing methods, digital technology is inexpensive and ecologically sustainable. The benefits of a peer-reviewed, full-text, and public-access electronic journal are self-evident and are appropriate for humanities scholarship. Cutting-edge online technology has allowed *Nabokov Online Journal* to reach a wide international audience and to establish itself as an innovative scholarly platform with several hundred of individual and institutional subscribers.

Vladimir Nabokov wrote his first nine novels in Russian, then rose to international prominence as a master English prose stylist. Nabokov's *Lolita* (1955) is frequently cited among his most important novels and is certainly his most widely known. The novel was ranked at No.4 in the list of the Modern Library 100 Best Novels; two of his other novels, *Pale Fire* (1962), *Pnin* (1957), and his memoir, *Speak, Memory*, are also regularly listed among the most popular modernist writings that characterize the literary landmarks of the 20th century. Nabokov's works have influenced many major contemporary writers, including Martin Amis, John Updike, Thomas Pynchon, John Banville, Salman Rushdie, Edmund White, and the Nobel Prize laureates Joseph Brodsky and Orhan Pamuk. Nabokov is taught in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Russia across literature departments (English, American, Russian, and Comparative literature programs).

*Nabokov Online Journal*, a multidisciplinary academic journal devoted to Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977), was founded in 2007. Now, in its eighth year of publication, it is the only active refereed specialized scholarly periodical in the field of Nabokov studies (*Nabokov Studies*, a print journal founded by Donald B. Johnson in the

mid-1990s, has been in print erratically, while the future of the oldest English-language publication devoted to the writer, the biannual *The Nabokovian*, is unclear after the retirement of its former editor of three decades, Stephen Jan Parker). As a multilingual periodical, *Nabokov Online Journal* publishes a balanced selection of mainly English and Russian-language scholarship. In addition to traditional academic articles and reviews, there are contributions in several different formats, including video installations and mp3 files.

The editorial board consists of two dozen renowned scholars, among them the writer's biographer, Brian Boyd (The University of Auckland), Alexander Dolinin (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Eric Naiman (University of California, Berkeley), Thomas Seifrid (University of Southern California), Andrei Rogatchevski (University of Tromsø, Norway), Tadashi Wakashima (Kyoto University), and others. The current readership of the journal comes from over 50 countries, as evidenced by the online tracking tools, and the journal is cited frequently in various print and online publications. To further facilitate access to the publication even easier, the editors decided to create an interactive application (app) for the *Nabokov Online Journal* available for downloading via App Store and Google Play. The NOJ app will include access to a database, an interactive interface, and study materials. In 2013 the journal also moved to a new platform, which supports reading the journal from mobile devices such as smart phones, iPads, iPhones, and the Android-powered systems.

The *Nabokov Online Journal* considers its mission to stimulate dialogue among international schools of thought, to create a stage for discussion and to coordinate initiatives related to the field of Nabokov studies. In 2014, with the funds available from the Canadian governmental program SSHRC's (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) Aid to Scholarly Journals, editors were able to devote a special issue to "Scholarship in Translation" (cluster guest-edited by Marijeta Bozovic,



Yale University). Most of the articles in translation have been originally published in the area of Nabokov studies during the recent few years in the languages other than English; now they will form a core of Volume 8 (2014). This strategic goal reflects *Nabokov Online Journal's* mandate of bridging various branches of Nabokov studies in a dynamic and intellectually creative environment. Moreover, the 2015 upcoming special issue will be devoted to "Intermedial Nabokov and Popular Culture" and will explore the roles and intersections of intermediality and popular culture in Nabokov's oeuvre and in the present-day Nabokov imaginary in the widest sense. Since the 1960s, scholars have been debating the (de)merits of cinematic versions of *Lolita*. By the turn of the twenty-first century, Nabokov studies began to expand its scope to include discussions of how Nabokov's narrative texts integrate other media and of how his works are adapted by other artists. Therefore, in the volume guest-edited by Nassim Balestrini, Karl-Franzens-Universität (Graz, Austria), authors will address the particular significance of intermediality for the absorption of popular culture into Nabokov's works and vice versa.

The editorial board of the *Nabokov Online Journal* recognizes the importance of training new generations of young scholars. To encourage more active participation of graduate students, the Best Student Essay competition (that carries a \$300 award) was launched. NOJ also established an annual prize for the Best Scholarly Contribution in the area of Nabokov studies (US \$600). The journal's subscribers vote for the best monograph directly on the website, while a specially formed panel of the leading Nabokov scholars judge the student essays. Brian Boyd was voted the winner of the 2012 prize for the Best Scholarly Contribution in the area of Nabokov Studies for his book, *Nabokov's Ada: The Place of Consciousness* (2002). The winner of the 2013 prize was announced at a ceremony in the iconic bookstore "Shakespeare and Company," in Paris, France, marking Nabokov's 115<sup>th</sup> and Shakespeare's 450<sup>th</sup> double anniversaries. In addition to the cash award, the winner of the student competition receives a copy of the book chosen as the winner in the category "Best Scholarly Contribution," with the author's autograph.

Each volume of the *Nabokov Online Journal* usually consists of a dozen articles, as well as roundtable discussions, interviews, and multimedia presentations, and contains hundreds of pages in PDF format. Back in 2008, the journal scored a major coup by publishing an original interview with Dmitri Nabokov, Nabokov's son (1934–2012) and literary executor, in which he finally

announced what he was planning to do with Nabokov's unfinished book, *The Original of Laura*. The explicit instructions of his father on his deathbed were to destroy the manuscript — written in pencil on 50 index cards — that had been shut away in a Swiss bank vault for more than thirty years. Instead, as first revealed in the *Nabokov Online Journal*, Dmitri decided to publish it. This interview was later cited in the American, British, and German press (*Slate*, *The Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Open Letters Monthly*, *Telepolis*, etc.). Interviews with Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia and Nabokov aficionado, and Nikki Smith, Nabokov's former literary agent, have also been recently appeared in the journal. The *Nabokov Online Journal* plans further development of the "Digital Media" section of the journal: for instance, instead of a standard downloadable text-based document in an "Interview" section the readers will be able to see the same conversation as a recording in a video format with the web-streaming capability.

In addition to its regular online publication, the *Nabokov Online Journal* also publishes the *Nabokov Almanac*, which includes commissioned articles and a selection of materials that have previously appeared in the electronic version of the journal. The inaugural issue of the almanac, "The Goalkeeper" (Nabokov played as a soccer goalkeeper and the game is frequently featured in his novels), appeared in 2010 (Boston: Academic Studies Press); the second volume is currently in progress and is scheduled to appear in 2015. Among the other editions that have lately been produced in close cooperation with the *Nabokov Online Journal* are the two books: *Lolita – The Story of a Cover Girl: Vladimir Nabokov's Novel in Art and Design*, ed. John Bertram and Yuri Leving (New York: Print, 2013), and *Shades of Laura: Vladimir Nabokov's Last Novel, The Original of Laura*, ed. Yuri Leving (Montreal: McGill Queens University Press, 2013). During the European book launch of these two editions, dozens of readers joined the conversation on Nabokov's legacy with participants Lara Delage-Toriel (President of the French Vladimir Nabokov Society), Samuel Schuman (Past President of the International Vladimir Nabokov Society, the author of *Nabokov's Shakespeare* (Bloomsbury, 2014)), and Yuri Leving, at the event called "The Original of Lolita: Celebrating Nabokov's Birthday in Paris," held on 24 April, 2014, at Shakespeare and Co (37 rue de la Bûcherie, Paris).



*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. \$95 institutions; \$40 individuals; \$30 students and gifts to Russia and Eastern Europe. Contact our business manager at [slavica@indiana.com](mailto:slavica@indiana.com) for all questions regarding subscriptions, including eligibility for discounts.

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VICTOR TAKI, The Horrors of War

Reaction by ALEXANDER M. MARTIN

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ZHIVKA VALIAVICHARSKA, How the Concept of Totalitarianism Appeared in Late Socialist Bulgaria

Reaction by VLADISLAV ZUBOK

*Forum: Fiction and the Historical Imagination*

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JOSHUA RUBENSTEIN on Isaac Deutscher and Isaiah Berlin

*Review Article*

GLENNYS YOUNG on Spanish exiles in the USSR

*Review Essay*

FRANCES NETHERCOTT on Russian historical culture

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## NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

**N. Ia. Danilevskii.** *Russia and Europe: The Slavic World's Political and Cultural Relations with the Germanic-Roman West*, trans. **Stephen M. Woodburn**, 508 p., 2013 (ISBN 978-0-89357-400-0), \$34.95.

This is the first full-text English translation of *Russia and Europe*, one of the most important works in the 19th-century debate about Russia's place in the world.

**Felicitas Fischer von Weikersthal et al., eds.** *The Russian Revolution of 1905 in Transcultural Perspective: Identities, Peripheries, and the Flow of Ideas*, 352 p., 2013 (ISBN 978-0-89357-408-6), \$34.95.

This volume focuses on the Revolution of 1905 as a critical juncture in modern Russian history and offers a fresh approach by treating the revolution as a transnational and transcultural phenomenon.

**David K. Hart & Grant H. Lundberg.** *Fundamentals of the Structure and History of Russian: A Usage-Based Approach*, 196 p., 2013 (ISBN 978-0-89357-396-6), \$29.95.

**Masako Ueda Fidler.** *Onomatopoeia in Czech: A Conceptualization of Sound and Its Connections to Grammar and*

*Discourse*, 251 p., 2014 (ISBN 978-0-89357-411-6), \$29.95.

Focusing on the relationship between onomatopoeia and grammar in Czech, Fidler's study demonstrates the ability of onomatopoeia as a linguistic device to add a special dimension and depth to the progression of text.

**Alexander Burak.** *"The Other" in Translation: A Case for Comparative Translation Studies*, 228 p., 2013 (ISBN 978-0-89357-415-4), \$29.95.

**James S. Levine.** *Selected Short Stories by Vassily Aksyonov: A Reader for the Intermediate and Advanced Student of Russian with Explanatory Notes, Exercises, and Glossary*, 254 p., 2013 (ISBN 978-0-89357-414-7), \$24.95.

**Brian Horowitz and Shai Ginsburg, eds.** *Bounded Mind and Soul: Russia and Israel, 1880–2010*, 203 p., 2013 (ISBN 978-0-89357-390-4), \$24.95.



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# Building Professional Bridges: ASEES Regional Conferences and International Cooperation

## David Borgmeyer, St. Louis University

In decades of wavering or declining enrollments and program and funding cuts, the regional Slavic conferences affiliated with ASEES are not nearly as stable as they might once have been. At the same time, regional conferences play an important role in the “pipeline” of students and younger scholars into the profession. The availability of student paper prizes and travel funding, closer geographical proximity, and often the friendlier – or at least less intimidating – atmosphere of a smaller conference makes them good professional venues for these and other reasons. This article offers a strategy for developing a new dimension to regional conferences.

### Regional Conferences

The Central Slavic Conference was founded in 1962 and is the oldest of the [ASEES regional affiliates](#). It originally included the states of Missouri and Kansas, but has grown to also encompass Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and has long attracted regional scholars from other nearby states as well.

Following the establishment of the CSC, several other regional conferences were also established, following the general pattern of meeting at rotating locations within their regions, and periodically hosting the ASEES (then AAASS) national meeting. This model has become increasingly difficult to sustain, and with the exception of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, has fallen out of use among the ASEES regional affiliates that remain active. There are two other models for the ASEES regional groups that have proven viable: the first is a stable location by being attached and supported by a larger research university with a large Slavic department and other resources, such as the Midwest Slavic Conference at the Ohio State University. The second is linking the conference with a regional, multidisciplinary conference that is not specific to scholarship on the SEES area. This has been the path pursued by the Western Slavic Conference and the Central Slavic Conference. None of these models are perfect: while being attached to a research university may bring the support of a local population of scholars and students to a stable location, there is the risk of declining institutional diversity. Regional affiliates that rely on sharing with larger conferences may achieve some cross-disciplinary interaction and stability, but also risk degradation of identity and loss of independence.

Annually rotating locations and sponsoring universities may attract more scholars through diversity and variety, but it also is contingent on finding willing hosts.

Nonetheless, the regional conferences offer a number of advantages for participants, and play a vital role in the life of the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian academic professions in the U.S.

The regional conference offers possibilities for professional development and interaction outside the typical locations of large research universities and national conferences. While it is quite impossible to offer the breadth and depth of these larger fora, for the generalist, for the scholar without the travel budget to attend national conferences regularly, for the graduate student who isn't yet ready to present at the national level, for established programs seeking graduate students to recruit to their doctoral programs, and for scholars who may be one of a scant handful of Slavists - or even the only Slavist - on their home campuses, regional conferences can be exceptionally useful and productive places. ASEES has recognized the importance of regional conferences and has begun offering additional support in the form of subsidized memberships as prizes for graduate students, additional assistance in finding ASEES members within each regional's geographic area and better support for regional meetings.

Still, the health and strength of the regional conferences is a matter that should be of concern to Slavists across the profession. In this context there is a new strategy that can increase the value and appeal of regional conferences: the international regional or “interregional” conference.

### The “Interregional” Conference

The Central Slavic Conference began pursuing this idea several years ago. In November of 2011, a delegation of Polish scholars was invited to the joint meeting of the International Studies Association – Midwest and the Central Slavic Conference. The Polish visitors were impressed with the organization, atmosphere, and scholarly collaboration of the regional conference, and before they left St. Louis, where the CSC was meeting, discussions began about forming an organization in Poland modeled

on the group and establishing scholarly collaboration between them. The regions in this “interregional” conference model are not two US regions, but rather a U.S. region and a region in Eastern Europe, Russia, or Eurasia.

The following summer, a group of officers from the CSC and other interested scholars were invited to travel to Przemysl, Poland, to participate in the first meeting of a new group, called the European Central Slavic Conference, or ECSC. Over 100 scholars from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Czech Republic were there, in addition to the US representatives. The broad themes of the conference and the efforts of the Polish organizers made the meeting a success, and another conference is planned for the summer of 2015, with limited funding available for U.S. participants.

Building on the connections created in St. Louis and Przemysl, a number of regional scholars from Ukraine and Poland came to St. Louis for the 2013 annual meeting of the Central Slavic Conference. The relationship between these two conferences has continued to grow. Not every scholar in either region is able to travel to the other for the reciprocal conferences, of course, but even relatively small numbers can have a multiplying effect. (The 2014 call for papers is available on the [CSC website](#) and is also in this edition of NewsNet.)

The result is an “interregional” regional conference that has made CSC annual meetings feel more like a small international conference. The scholarly and personal connections that enhance scholarship and teaching and make for productive experiences for graduate students and increased professional development are all better because of the partnership. There is no legal,

financial, or other formal agreement between the two regional groups. One of the officers of each group has been independently elected to be an officer of the other, and this facilitates communication and coordination between the two groups. Each offers support as best it can to international visitors from the other conference who attend.

The connections created at the conferences has also produced several inter-institutional agreements between Polish institutions and U.S. institutions of CSC members, and new research collaborations, improved grantsmanship and development opportunities, curriculum improvements, and faculty and student mobility have all been positively affected. These measurable and quantifiable outcomes are also potentially useful as well when U.S. institutions conduct reviews of programs. This model provides a means for outreach to international partner regions to build communities of scholarship and collaboration that were unimaginable a generation ago. They reflect in important ways the shifts in the globalizing world as well as our profession’s and higher education’s role more generally within it. It is clear that the interregional connection is no panacea for the many and varied pressures on regional conferences and Slavic and related area studies in general. However, it may provide one additional element, among others, that can strengthen the viability of regional ASEES affiliate conferences, and be beneficial to the fields we study both in the U.S. and abroad.

*David Borgmeyer is an Assistant Professor and the Director Center for International Studies, Saint Louis University. He also serves as the President of the Central Slavic Conference.*



Dr. David Borgmeyer of Saint Louis University, President of the Central Slavic Conference, gives the keynote address at the first European Central Slavic Conference at Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Wschodnioeuropejska (Eastern European State College) in Przemysl, Poland on July 9, 2012



Dr. Jan Draus, Rector of Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Wschodnioeuropejska (Eastern European State College), addresses scholars at the opening and keynote address of the first European Central Slavic Conference at PWSW in Przemysl, Poland on July 9, 2012



## 2014 REGIONAL TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

ASEEES offers a limited number of travel grants to subsidize the travel of faculty, policy specialists, and independent scholars who permanently reside in Eastern Europe and Eurasia to participate in the ASEEES annual convention. Congratulations to the following [Regional Travel Grant](#) recipients:

Lyubov Bugaeva, St. Petersburg State U (Russia)  
"Remapping the State Security Services: the Spy, the Agent, and the Cop"

Magdalena Grabowska, Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Philosophy and Sociology (Poland)  
"From Soviet Feminism to the European Union: Polish Transnational Women's Movements between East and West"

Marija Grujic, Serbian Institute for Literature and Art (Serbia)  
"Culturological Literary Theories and Serbian Literary Criticism: The Fall of Berlin Wall in Popular Music and Films in Former Yugoslavia"

Sylwia Kuzma-Markowska, Polish U of Warsaw American Studies Center (Poland)  
"Eastern European Jewish Manhood Revisited: Jewish Self-defense and Muscular Judaism in the Early Twentieth Century"

Ekaterina Melnikova, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Russia)  
"Celebrating Locality in an Era of Territorial Branding: Rituals and Symbols of Local Solidarity after 1992"

Damiana Otoi, U of Bucharest Political Science (Romania)  
"The Nomenklatura District' in Bucharest, Romania: Metamorphosis of Historical Narratives and of Vestiges of History"

Ella Paneyakh, European U at St. Petersburg Institute for the Rule of Law (Russia)  
"Recruitment and Careers at Russian Courts: Male and Female Paths to Judgeship"

Paweł Sowiński,\* Polish Academy of Science Institute of Political Studies (Poland)  
"Cold War Books: The International Literary Centre and its Secret Channels to Poland, 1956-1989"

Samuil Volfson, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of World History (Russia)  
"Televangelists Target the USSR': American Televangelists in Russia during the Years of Perestroika and in Early 1990s"

Alexandra Yazeva,\* Irkutsk State U International Institute of Economics and Linguistics (Russia)  
"Homo Sibiricus and the Time of Changes: Fiction's Testimony"

Victoria Zhuravleva Russian State U for the Humanities (Russia)  
"Image of Post-Soviet Russia in American Political Cartoons"

Konrad Zielinski, Maria Curie-Sklodowski U (Poland)  
"Anti-Jewish Riots and Pogroms in the Kingdom of Poland during the First Year of WWI"

\*alternate

**ASEEES-CESS Joint Conference** was held at Nazarbayev U, Astana, Kazakhstan, May 22-24, 2014. This was the inaugural ASEEES-sponsored conference in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. ASEEES was pleased to offer travel grants to:

Katarzyna Jarosz, International University of Logistics and Transport (Poland)  
Juraj Marusiak Institute of Political Science, Slovak Academy of Sciences (Slovakia)  
Erika Monahan, University of New Mexico  
Victoria Thorstenson, Yale University  
Dennis Zuev, Independent Scholar (Russia)



## 2014 DAVIS GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Kathryn W. Davis's generous donation to our organization, combined with matching donations from ASEES members, enables us to help subsidize travel costs for graduate students presenting papers at the 2014 Convention. Congratulations to the following [Davis Graduate Student Travel Grant](#) Recipients:

Shona Allison (History) U of Alberta (Canada)

"The Ukrainian Insurgent Army and Operation Vistula: Regional Deconstructions of Polish 'Collective Memory'"

Feruz Aripova (History) Northeastern U

"Mapping the Queer Space in Contemporary Russia: Deconstructing the Soviet Legacy"

Zayra Badillo Castro\* (History) School of Oriental and African Studies U of London (UK)

"A Socialist City for the Mahalla: Traditional Spaces and the New Soviet Person in 1960s Tashkent"

Roberto Carmack (History) U of Wisconsin-Madison

"The Unexpected Patriots: The Labor Mobilization of Kazakhstan's Deportees, 1941-1945"

Courtney Doucette (History) Rutgers U

"Mediating Morality: Komsomol'skaia Pravda and the Dialog on Socialist Values in the Gorbachev Era"

Evgeny Grishin (History) U of Kansas

"Archival Evidence vs. Traditions: The Problem with the Origins of the Old Belief in Viatka, 1657-1800"

Olivia Hellewell (Russian and Slavonic Studies) U of Nottingham (UK)

"Production, Promotion and Polysystems: Domestic vs. Translated Literature in Slovenia"

Melissa Hibbard (History) U of Illinois at Chicago

"'Happiness is at Camp': Summer Colonies and Children's Health in Interwar Poland"

Uku Lember (History) Central European U (Hungary)

"Ethnicity, Silence, and the Soviet Future in post-Stalinist Estonia: Notes from the Oral History of Russian-Estonian Families"

Amanda Lerner (Slavic Languages & Literatures) Yale U

"Race of the Argonavty: Andrei Bely and the Space Race"

Anca Mandru (History) U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"The 'Socialist Intellectual Brotherhood' Across Borders: Geographical and Ideological Mobility in the Early Romanian Left"

Matthew Mangold (Comparative Literature) Rutgers U

"Medical Insight and Comic Form in Chekhov's Early Writing"

Veronica Muskheli (Slavic Languages and Literatures) U of Washington, Seattle

"Folk Storytelling Revival in Slovenia in the Form of Storytelling Festival"

Olena Palko (History) U of East Anglia (UK)

"The Alliance between National Radical Intellectuals and the Bolsheviks in the Early 1920s"

Vincent Post (Political Science) McGill U (Canada)

"Post-Communist Transitional Justice and the Politicization of the Communist Past"

Megan Race (Slavic Languages and Literatures) Yale U

"Incognita: Blok's 'Neznakomka' in Nabokov's *Ada or Ardor*"

Katherine Rose (Slavic Languages and Literatures) Harvard U

"Out of the Annals and Onto the Stage: Performing Medieval Russia in 'Kitez'"

Maria Sidorkina (Anthropology) Yale U

"Discursive Performance and Collective Belonging in Postsocialist Russia"

Madalina Veres (History) U of Pittsburgh

"Transforming 'Natural Frontiers' into Imperial Borders: Habsburg Cartography and the Control of Transylvanian Mountain Passes"

Denis Volkov (Middle Eastern Studies) U of Manchester (UK)

"Combatant Scholars or Knowledgeable Militants? The Birth and Death of Soviet 'Orientalism' (USSR's policy toward Persia in the 1920s-1930s)"

\*alternate





## Personages

**Eliyana Adler** will be joining the faculty of Penn State as an assistant professor this fall. She will be teaching East European Jewish History in the History Department and Jewish Studies Program.

Portland State University welcomes **Dr. William J. Comer**, who will join the Department of World Languages and Literatures as Director of the PSU Russian Flagship Center in Fall 2014. His research interests include second language acquisition, particularly in the learning and teaching of Russian as a foreign language, and his articles have appeared in *The Russian Language Journal*, *The Slavic and East European Studies Journal* and *Foreign Language Annals*.

**Michael David-Fox** will be a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 2014-2015.

**Marta Mestrovic Deyrup**, professor and librarian for technical services, Italian, Russian and East European Studies at Seton Hall University, has been selected to receive the 2014 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Western European Studies Section (WESS) / Slavic and East European Section (SEES) De Gruyter European Librarianship Study Grant for her project "C'era una volta: a guide to print materials published by and about the Italian minority communities of Dalmatia and Istria in the 20th and 21st centuries."

Sponsored by the Walter de Gruyter Foundation for Scholarship and Research, the grant provides €2,500 to support a trip to Europe. The primary criterion for awarding the grant is the significance and utility of the proposed project as a contribution to the study of the acquisition, organization or use of library resources from or relating to Europe. Deyrup will receive the award check during the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

Deyrup's project focuses on Italian-language resources published by and about the Italian minority communities of Dalmatia and Istria for the past two centuries and will involve substantial archival work. This research will result in an annotated bibliography, a directory of the publishing houses in Croatia and Italy that handle these materials and a narrative addressing the historical and cultural significance of these resources.

**Claudia Jensen**, an affiliate in the Slavic department at the University of Washington, will be the project director for an NEH Collaborative Research Grant focusing on Muscovite theater and the communications revolution in the seventeenth century. The title of the project is "The Russian Court Theater in the late 17th Century and its Context in Trans-National Informa-

tion Exchange" and it will include scholars from Sweden (Ingrid Maier and Heiko Droste), Russia (Stepan Shamin), and Estonia (Jürgen Beyer), who will be doing extensive archival research in Northern European and Russian archives. The grant will extend until 2016.

Congratulations to **Brigadier General Rick McPeak** on his retirement from the US Army. As a member and then Head of the Department of Foreign Languages at USMA West Point, General McPeak has worked tirelessly to expand language studies there, and especially to send cadets to study abroad. He took those majoring in Russian to Voronezh and other places in Russia. Since 2003, General McPeak has been involved in Tolstoy Studies activities, including the hosting of a conference at West Point.

**Serguei Oushakine**, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University, is a recipient of the 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship and the 2014 Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies. He will spend the 2014-2015 academic year at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), working on the project "Disowned History: Soviet Pasts in the Afterlives of Empire".

Professors **Renee Perelmutter** and **Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova** have been awarded tenure at the University of Kansas and promoted to the rank of associate professor beginning Fall 2014.

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of 22 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellows for 2014. Among them is Association member **Nevila Pahumi**.

The Newcombe Fellowship is the nation's largest and most prestigious such award for Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences addressing questions of ethical and religious values. Each 2014 Newcombe Fellow will receive a 12-month award of \$25,000.

Ms. Pahumi is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her project, *Of Women, Faith, and Nation: American Protestantism and the Kyrias School for Girls, Albania, 1891-1933*, explores the impact that American Protestant missionary institutions played in shaping a new model of womanhood in the late Ottoman Empire. The press release [here](#) provides more details about the program and 2014 competition.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities rewards **Lennart Samuelson**, SITE, Stockholm, Sweden, with the [2014 Rettig Prize](#) for his “innovative and internationally acknowledged research in the history of Russia and the Soviet Union” and his “almost unique grasp of Russian archival sources”.

The American Academy in Berlin is proud to announce the recipients of the Berlin Prize Fellowship for the fall 2014 and spring 2015 terms, including ASEEES member **Tomas Venclova**, Writer, and Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Yale University. The highly competitive Berlin Prize is awarded each year to scholars, writers, and artists who represent the highest standards of excellence in their fields. The Academy’s seventeenth class of fellows is comprised of outstanding historians of art, architecture, culture, religion, science, and American life, three fiction writers, two artists, a poet, a journalist, a composer, a filmmaker, a legal scholar, and a scholar of comparative media.

Congratulations to these fellows and newly hired professors:

- New York U hired **Anne O’Donnell** as Assistant Professor of Russian History since 1917, including the USSR and post-Soviet Russia
- **Alexis Peri** joins Boston U as Assistant Professor of Twentieth-Century Russian and Soviet History
- U of Miami welcomes **Krisa Goff** as Assistant Professor of Modern Russian History
- **Sean McMeekin** has joined the faculty at Bard College as an Assistant Professor of Eastern European, Russian and Eurasian History
- Utah State U welcomes Tenure-Track Assistant Professorship in Asian History, **Danielle Ross**, and Assistant Professor of 19th & 20th Century European History, **Jonathan Brunstedt**
- **Colleen Moore** joins Florida Southern College as Assistant Professor of Modern European History
- Birkbeck College hired **Johanna Conterio** to its Department of History, Classics and Archaeology and Wellcome Trust as a Postdoctoral Fellow
- **Phillipa Hetherington** will be a Postdoc Fellow at U of Sydney – Australian Research Council
- **Sara G. Brinegar** will work at Yale U as a Rice Fellow at the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
- Macalester College hired **Julia Fein** as Visiting Assistant Professor
- **Addis Mason** joins Colby College as Faculty Fellow in Russian and Soviet History
- At Tufts U, **Rachel Applebaum** has received a Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities
- Higher School of Economics (Moscow) – Post-Doctoral Fellowship “Soviet experience of World War II” has been awarded to **Kristy Ironside**

- Princeton U hired **Katherine Jill Reischl** as Assistant Professor of 20th Century Russian and Soviet Literature and Art
- **Katia Bowers** joins U of British Columbia as Assistant Professor of Slavic Studies
- U of Cambridge welcomes University Lecturer in Pre-Modern East Slavic Culture, **Olenka Pevny**
- U of St Andrews Lectureship in Russian were received by **Katharine Holt** and **Boris Dralyuk**
- U of Kentucky hired Assistant Professor of Russian Studies **Molly Thomasy Blasing**
- U of Colorado Boulder welcomes **Thomas Roberts** as Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian Studies
- **David McVey** joins U of Kansas as Visiting Assistant Professor in Russian Literature

## SUPPORT ASEEES

Please consider supporting ASEEES by making a contribution. ASEEES is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. We thank you for your support.

You can contribute to:

- Regional Scholar Travel Grant Fund
- Kathryn Davis Student Travel Grant Fund
- ASEEES General Endowment Fund

### WAYS TO GIVE:

- [Donate Online](#)
- Send a check, payable to “ASEEES”, to: ASEEES 203C Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424
- Call with your credit card information at (412) 648-9911 or fax at (412) 648-9815.

### PLANNED GIVING:

Consider making a bequest to ASEEES. For more information, contact [Lynda Park](#), executive director.

# 2014 ACLS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

## 2013-14 MELLON/ACLS DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

This year, 64 fellowships were awarded to advanced graduate students pursuing promising and ambitious PhD research from 32 universities and more than a dozen humanistic disciplines. Fellows were selected from a highly competitive pool of nearly 1,000 applicants through a rigorous, multi-stage peer-review process. Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellows and project titles for ASEEES members are listed below; for more information, click [here](#)

**Malgorzata Kurjanska** (Sociology, UC, Berkeley) Imperial States and Civic Legacies: Associational Life in Pre-WWI and Interwar Poland

**Aleksandar Matovski** (Government, Cornell U) Popular Dictators: The Attitudinal Roots of Electoral Authoritarianism

**Michael Patrick McCulloch** (Architecture, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor) Building the Working City: Designs on Home and Life in Boomtown Detroit, 1914-1929

**James Robert Pickett** (History, Princeton U) The Persianate Sphere during the Age of Empires: Islamic Scholars and Networks of Exchange in Central Asia, 1747-1917

**Kristina E. Poznan** (History, College of William and Mary) Becoming Immigrant Nation-Builders: The Development of Austria-Hungary's National Projects in the United States, 1880s-1920s

For a complete listing of all [ACLS fellowship recipients](#). The [application materials](#) for the upcoming 2014-15 competitions will be available in early August.

## 2013-14 CHARLES A. RYSKAMP FELLOWSHIPS

The Ryskamp Fellowship support scholars who are embarking on ambitious, large-scale research projects at critical stages in their academic careers. Since 2002, ACLS's Ryskamp Fellowships have supported advanced assistant professors and untenured associate professors in the humanities and related social sciences whose scholarly contributions have advanced their fields and who have well-designed and carefully developed plans for new research. The fellowship is named in honor of the late Charles A. Ryskamp, distinguished library and museum director, literary scholar, and long-serving trustee of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ASEEES member and Charles A. Ryskamp Fellow: **Serguei Oushakine** (Associate Professor of Anthropology, and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Princeton U) for his research *Disowned History: Soviet Past in the Afterlives of Empire*. Further information on this year's Charles A. Ryskamp Fellows and their projects is available [here](#).

## THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES 2013-14 ACLS FELLOWSHIPS

This year, a total of 65 fellowships were awarded to faculty of all ranks and independent scholars to support research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. ACLS received over 1,000 applications for the fellowship this cycle, making the program once again the most competitive from among ACLS's portfolio. ACLS Fellowships provide salary replacement for scholars who are embarking on six to 12 months of full-time research and writing. The program is funded by ACLS's endowment, which has received contributions from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council's college and university Associates, past fellows and individual friends of ACLS. ASEEES members who received ACLS Fellowships are listed below; for a complete list click [here](#).

**Robert Bird** (Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Cinema and Media Studies, U of Chicago) *The Stalin Consensus: Aesthetics in an Age of Terror*

**Alyssa DeBlasio** (Assistant Professor of Russian, Dickinson College) *The End of Russian Philosophy: Philosophy and Religion at a Crossroads in the Twenty-first Century*

**Devin Fore** (Associate Professor of German, Princeton U) *All the Graphs: Soviet Factography and the Emergence of Avant-Garde Documentary*

**Faith C. Hillis** (Assistant Professor of History, U of Chicago) *Europe's Russian Colonies: Community, Politics, and Modernity Across Borders*

**Francine R. Hirsch** (Associate Professor of History, U of Wisconsin, Madison) *Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg: A Cold War Story*



# Publications

*After the Revolution: Youth, Democracy, and the Politics of Disappointment in Serbia*, by Jessica Greenberg, was published by Stanford University Press in 2014.



What happens to student activism once mass protests have disappeared from view, and youth no longer embody the political frustrations and hopes of a nation? *After the Revolution* chronicles the lives of student activists as they confront the possibilities and disappointments of democracy in the shadow of the recent revolution in Serbia. Greenberg's narrative highlights the stories of young student activists as they seek to define their role and articulate a new form of legitimate political activity, post-socialism.

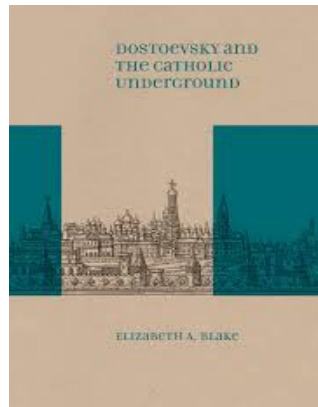
When student activists in Serbia helped topple dictator Slobodan Milosevic on October 5, 2000, they unexpectedly found that the post-revolutionary period brought even greater problems. How do you actually live and practice democracy in the wake of war and the shadow of a recent revolution? How do young Serbians attempt to translate the energy and excitement generated by wide scale mobilization into the slow work of building democratic institutions? Greenberg navigates through the ranks of student organizations as they transition their activism from the streets back into the halls of the university. In exploring the everyday practices of student activists—their triumphs and frustrations—*After the Revolution* argues that disappointment is not a failure of democracy but a fundamental feature of how people live and practice it. This fascinating book develops a critical vocabulary for the social life of disappointment with the aim of helping citizens, scholars, and policymakers worldwide escape the trap of framing new democracies as doomed to failure.

*Digital Russia: The Language, Culture and Politics of New Media Communication* (Routledge, 2014)



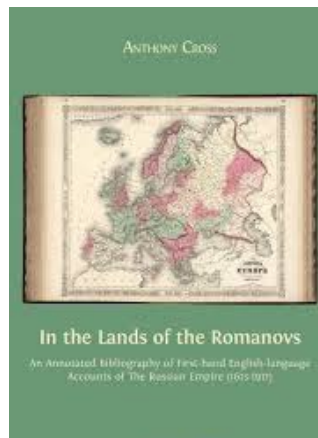
provides a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which new media technologies have shaped language and communication in contemporary Russia. It traces the development of the Russian-language internet (Runet) from late-Soviet cybernetics to the advent of Twitter and explores the evolution of web-based communication practices,

showing how they have both shaped and been shaped by social, political, linguistic and literary realities. Throughout the volume, leading Runet scholars draw attention to features and trends that are characteristic of global new media, as well as those that are more specific to Russian media culture.



Dr. Elizabeth Blake, Assistant Professor of Russian in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at Saint Louis University, has published a monograph, *Dostoevsky and the Catholic Underground*, with Northwestern University Press. A description of the publication can be found [here](#).

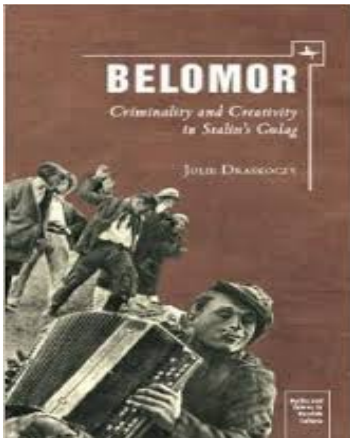
*In the Lands of the Romanovs: An Annotated Bibliography of First-hand English-language Accounts of the Russian Empire (1613-1917)*, by Prof. Anthony Cross, is a comprehensive



bibliography of first-hand accounts of the Russian Empire ever to be published, *In the Lands of the Romanovs* is the product of years of painstaking research by one of the world's foremost authorities on Anglo-Russian relations. Providing full bibliographical details and concise, informative annotation for over 1200 titles, this volume will be an

invaluable reference and research tool for anyone with an interest in contacts between Russia and the West during the centuries of Romanov rule.

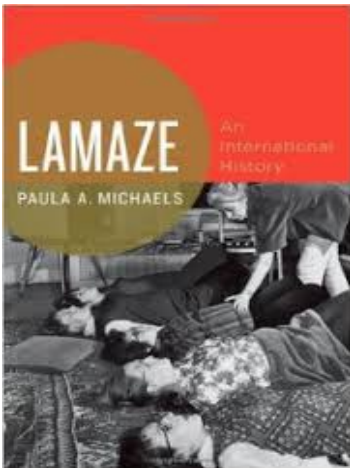
Ranging chronologically from the accession of Mikhail Fedorovich in 1613 to the abdication of Nicholas II in 1917, this wide-ranging work includes personal records of residence in or visits to Russia by writers ranging from diplomats to merchants, physicians to clergymen, gardeners to governesses, as well as by participants in the French invasion of 1812 and in the Crimean War of 1854-56. *In the Lands of the Romanovs* was published on 12 May 2014 by Open Book Publishers and can be read for free [here](#).



Julie Draskoczy's new book, *Belomor: Criminality and Creativity in Stalin's Gulag*, offers a glimpse into the prisoners' daily experiences at Belomor by examining never-before-published archival materials. Her analysis illuminates the intersection of criminality, creativity, and ideology that was emblematic of the Belomor experience.

Stalin's White Sea Canal, or Belomor, remains one of the Soviet Union's most infamous Gulag construction projects. Thousands of prisoners labored in freezing conditions with primitive tools to finish the canal in a mere twenty months from 1931-1933; alongside the locks, the prisoners were supposedly rebuilding their lives.

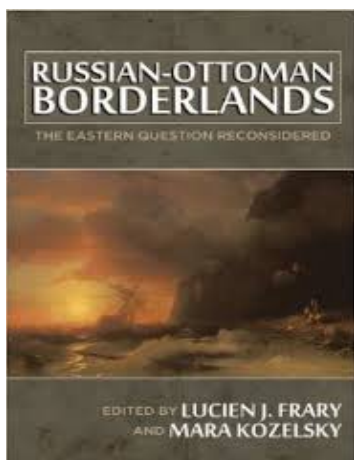
Paula Michaels' *Lamaze: An International History* has been



published by Oxford University Press. The book tells the surprising story of the Lamaze method from its origins in the Soviet Union in the 1940s, to its popularization in France in the 1950s, and then to its heyday in the 1960s and 1970s in the US. Michaels shows how, for different reasons, in disparate national contexts, this technique for managing the pain of childbirth without resort

to drugs found a following. As leading American historian of childbirth Wendy Kline describes it, "while a work of history of medicine, this is also clearly a transnational history, a social history, a political history, and an intellectual history."

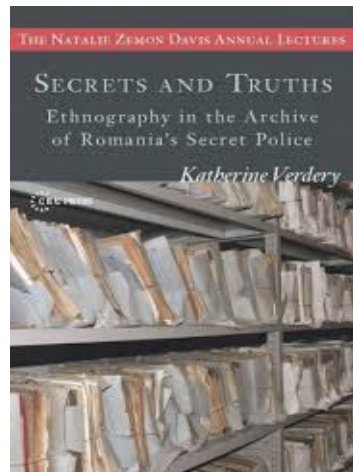
of childbirth without resort to drugs found a following. As leading American historian of childbirth Wendy Kline describes it, "while a work of history of medicine, this is also clearly a transnational history, a social history, a political history, and an intellectual history."



Lucien J. Frary and Mara Kozelsky co-edited and contributed to *Russian-Ottoman Borderlands: The Eastern Question Reconsidered* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2014). The book brings together an international group of scholars to address topics such as nationalism, religion, popular attitudes, violence, ethnic dislocation and mass migration, economic rivalry, and

great-power diplomacy in the Russian and Ottoman Empires and the borderlands in between.

Katherine Verdery's book, *Secrets and Truths: Ethnography in the Archive of Romania's Secret Police*, was recently published by CEU University Press.

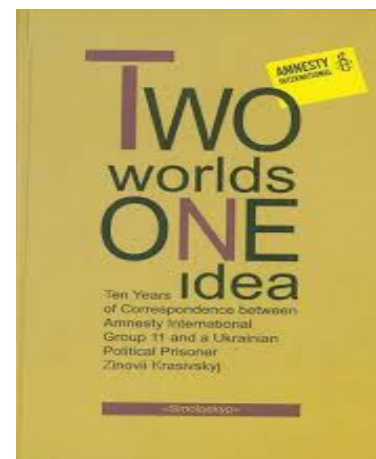


Nothing in Soviet-style communism was as shrouded in mystery as its secret police. Its paid employees were known to few and their actual numbers remain uncertain. Its informers and collaborators operated clandestinely under pseudonyms and met their officers in secret locations. Its files were inaccessible, even to most party members. The people the

secret police recruited or interrogated were threatened so effectively that some never told even their spouses, and many have held their tongues to this day, long after the regimes fell.

With the end of communism, many of the newly established governments—among them Romania's—opened their secret police archives. From those files, as well as her personal memories, the author has carried out historical ethnography of the Romanian Securitate. *Secrets and Truths* is not only of historical interest but has implications for understanding the rapidly developing "security state" of the neoliberal present.

*Two Worlds, One Idea: Ten Years of Correspondence between Amnesty International Group 11 and a Ukrainian Political Prisoner, Zinovii Krasivskyj*, was edited and translated by Dr. Anna Procyk.



This publication chronicles more than ten years of correspondence between Zinovii Krasivskyj (1929-1991), a victim of Soviet repression, and members of Amnesty International Group 11 in New York. (Smolosky Publishers, 2013)

# IREX 2014-15 INDIVIDUAL ADVANCED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FELLOWS

The IARO program provides highly qualified U.S. scholars and professionals the opportunity to inform U.S. foreign policy by conducting open-source research on current regional issues.

This year's fellows will be traveling to 13 countries across Eastern Europe and Eurasia to perform policy relevant field research, covering topics such as nationalism, ethnic minority relations, land and water resources, and political identity. Meet the ASEES members who have earned these important fellowships and make sure to visit IREX's online library to read their research findings.

**Benjamin Beresford**, Arizona State University  
Topic: "Stalin's Jazz: Identity, Modernity, and Early Soviet Culture, 1932-1953"  
Countries: Russia, Ukraine

**Vladislav Beronja**, University of Michigan  
Topic: "Towards a Visible Counter-Public: ARKzin and the Croatian Antiwar Campaign (ARK), 1991-2000"  
Country: Croatia

**Jonathan Brunstedt**, Utah State University  
Topic: "Forged in War: Soviet Remembrance of the Second World War and Russian National Identity"  
Countries: Russia, Kazakhstan

**Svetla Dimitrova**, Michigan State University  
Topic: "Enabling Postsocialist Development and Globalization through Peace Corps Agency"  
Country: Bulgaria

**Elza Ibroscheva**, Southern Illinois U Edwardsville  
Topic: "Female Bodies for Sale: Regulating the Advertising Industry and its Portrayals of Women in Bulgaria"  
Country: Bulgaria

**Julia Leikin**, University College London  
Topic: "The Prize of Law: Maritime Neutrality and the Law of Nations in Imperial Russia, 1772-1856"  
Countries: Russia, Ukraine

**Jessica Robbins-Ruszkowski**, University of Michigan  
Topic: "Growing Old in Postsocialist Poland: Health, Education, and Morality"  
Country: Poland



## Calendar

### 2014

**June 16-Aug 8.** [University of Illinois Summer Research Laboratory.](#)

**June 28-29.** The Korean Association of Slavic Studies (KASS) [6th East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies](#) held in Seoul, Korea. The Conference's topic: "Building Eurasian Cooperation Network: Dynamism and Tasks."

**July 28-Aug 1.** The Holocaust in Eastern Europe in the Records of the International Tracing Service Digital Archive, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

**September 18-20.** UCL SSEES and the University of Cambridge international film symposium, "New Directions in Russian and Soviet Cinema", Contact: [rachel.morley@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.morley@ucl.ac.uk)

**September 25-29.** [An International Virtual Forum for Slavists](#), Kyoto Japan

**October 10-11.** [2014 AATSEEL-Wisconsin Conference](#), University of Wisconsin-Madison; Contact: Jose Vergara — [jvergara@wisc.edu](mailto:jvergara@wisc.edu)

**November 15.** Twelfth Graduate Colloquium on Slavic Linguistics, Ohio State University. Contact: Katya Rouzina [rouzina.2@osu.edu](mailto:rouzina.2@osu.edu)

**November 21-23.** [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages \(ACTFL\)](#), in San Antonio, Texas, at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention.

**November 20-23.** [ASEES 46th Annual Convention](#), San Antonio, TX.

### 2015

**January 8-11.** [AATSEEL annual conference](#)

**March 26-28.** "Centrifugal Forces: Reading Russia's Regional Identities and Initiatives," University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. Contact: [eec3c@virginia.edu](mailto:eec3c@virginia.edu)



# Institutional Member News

## STATES, PEOPLES, LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE POLITICAL HISTORY OF UKRAINIAN 1863–2013

The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is pleased to invite members of the larger academic community and the



general public to its international conference on States, Peoples, Languages: A Comparative Political History of Ukrainian, 1863–2013. The conference will take place June 11–13, 2014 in the wake of the

150th anniversary of the Valuev Circular that formed a milestone in the political and social history of Ukrainian. It is the intent of the conference to go beyond the strict confines of the Ukrainian experience and to place it in a wide-ranging comparative context that will both enhance scholarly understanding of the Ukrainian case, on one hand, and offer the Ukrainian phenomenon to help illuminate developments in a variety of language situations through contrast and comparison, on the other. We invite you to view the full program and conference details on [the HURI website](#). The conference is free of charge and open to the Harvard community and the general public.

### THE MICHAEL HENRY HEIM TRANSLATION PRIZE

The Michael Heim Translation Prize will be awarded for the first time in 2014, and annually thereafter, for the best collegial translation of a journal article from an East European



language into English. The prize is sponsored by [East European Politics Societies](#) (EEPS), which will publish the winning article.

The article's translator will receive an award of \$500. The criteria of selection are the scholarly significance of the article, the quality of the translation, and the contribution the translation will

make to disciplinary dialogue across linguistic communities. The translation cannot have been published previously and must be translated from an East European language as defined by the geographic ambit of EEPS.

In [Guidelines for the Translation of Social Science Texts](#) ([www.acls.org/programs/sstp](http://www.acls.org/programs/sstp)) Michael Heim encouraged scholars to translate their colleagues' work to make it more widely available. Although Heim was a renowned literary translator, he was convinced that the best translator of a scholarly work is a colleague in the relevant discipline who has acquired facility in translation, rather than a professional translator who is linguistically skilled but unfamiliar with the

discipline's concepts, contexts, and controversies. This prize supports Michael Heim's vision.

**DEADLINE:** Submissions of translated articles for the 2014 prize will be accepted until **SEPTEMBER 1, 2014**. The winner will be announced at the Nov. 2014 convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Submissions should be sent as Word attachments to [eeeps@acls.org](mailto:eeeps@acls.org).

### HILLWOOD ESTATE AND MUSEUM NEWS

Hillwood is now on the [Google Cultural Institute](#) with a mansion Street View which allows you to walk through/zoom-in on the collections in the house, a Gigapixel high-resolution image of the Boyar Wedding Feast painting, and a first selection of highlights from the collection are now live in the Google Cultural Institute. For more detailed information, please see this [press release](#).

### THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER NEWS

On May 13, 2014, Eugene K. Lawson, Chairman and CEO of Lawson International, Inc., and Paul Rodzianko, Chairman of the Hermitage Museum Foundation, were honored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Awards Dinner. This also marked the Kennan Institute's 40th Anniversary.

### Grant Opportunities

Please note the Kennan Institute Title VIII Research Scholarships have been suspended until further notice.

### KENNAN INSTITUTE TITLE VIII SHORT-TERM GRANTS

Up to one month's duration

The Kennan Institute offers Short-Term Grants to scholars whose research in the social sciences or humanities focuses on the former Soviet Union (excluding the Baltic States), and who demonstrate a particular need to utilize the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the Washington, D.C. area. Policy-relevant research is preferred. Academic participants must either possess a doctoral degree or be doctoral candidates who have nearly completed their dissertations. For non-academics, an equivalent degree of professional achievement is expected.

Short-Term Grants provide a stipend of \$3,200 for 31 days. While the Kennan Institute cannot provide office space for Short-Term scholars, we do provide a carrel with a computer and internet access. Travel and accommodation expenses are not directly covered by this grant. There is no official application form for Short-Term Grants. The applicant is requested to submit a concise description (700-800 words) of his or her research project (including a title), curriculum vitae, a state-

ment on preferred dates of residence in Washington, D.C., and two letters of recommendation specifically in support of the research to be conducted at the Kennan Institute. Please note, the recommendation letters must be signed. Applicants should also state their citizenship status in their materials. All of these materials may be submitted via e-mail. Please note that the letters of recommendation, if sent by email, must be sent directly from the referee and be a scan of a signed letter. Referees are also welcome to send their signed letters by fax or post.

Grant recipients are required to be in residence in Washington, D.C. for the duration of their grant and give a presentation. Four rounds of competitive selection for Short-Term Grants are held each year. The next closing date is September 1, 2014. Only U.S. citizens are currently eligible for Short-Term Grants.

#### Scholars in Residence

Each year, the Kennan Institute sponsors between 30-40 scholars to conduct humanities, social science, and policy research in Washington, D.C. Grant opportunities include Title VIII Summer Research and Short-Term Scholarships, Fulbright-Kennan Scholarships, and Starovoitova Scholarships. The Kennan Institute welcomes:

#### Title VIII-Supported Research Scholars

Marc Berenson, Senior Lecturer, King's Russia Institute. "Taxes and Trust: Transitioning from Coercion to Compliance in Poland, Russia, and Ukraine."

Nicole Eaton, PhD candidate, U of California, Berkeley. "Exclave: Politics, Ideology and Urban Space in Konigsberg, Kalingrad."

#### Title VIII-Supported Short Term Scholars

Mary Barton, PhD Candidate, Corcoran Department of History, U of Virginia. "A Transnational History of Modern Counter-Terrorism."

Alyssa Park, Assistant Professor, U of Iowa. "Borderland Beyond: Korean Migrants and the Creation of State Boundaries in Northwest Asia, 1860-1945."

Gleb Tsipursky, Associate Professor of History, OSU, "The Soviet Domestic Front of the Cultural Cold War, 1957-1970."

#### Title VIII-Supported Summer Research Scholars

Stephen Crowley, Professor, Oberlin College, Department of Politics, "The Reemergence of Class in the Wake of the First 'Classless Society.'"

Alexei Trochev, Associate Professor, Nazarbayev U, "Going Off-Bench: How Post-Soviet Judges Resist Blatant Interference."

#### Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Scholar

Birgitta Ingemanson, Marianna Merritt and Donald S. Matteson Distinguished Professor Emerita, Washington State

U. "Elucidating Eleanor Pray's Letters, 1914-30."

#### Public Policy Scholar

Wojciech Konończuk, Head of the Department for Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova, Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw, Poland. "Re-examining Ukrainian-Russian Relations in the Post-Vilnius Period."

#### Galina Starovoitova Fellows on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

Anton Burkov, Chair, European and Comparative Law Department of the Law Faculty, U of Humanities, Yekaterinburg, Russia. "Strategic Litigation by Human Rights NGOs and Civil Rights Activists: Similarities and Differences between Russia and the United States."

Vera Peshkova, Researcher, Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. "The Role of Immigrant Infrastructure in Migrants' Integration and the City Space Transformation (the Case of 'Ethnic Cafes' in Moscow)."

#### Fulbright-Kennan Institute Research Scholars

Vasily Dvoynev, Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Smolensk State U. "Environmental Concern: A Comparative Analysis of American and Russian Traditions of Study in Social Sciences."

#### Kennan Institute Global Fellows

Hon. Kenneth S. Yalowitz, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus from 1994-1997 and to Georgia from 1998-2001.

Sharyl Cross, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Kozmetsky Center, St. Edward's U.

#### Kennan Institute Research Scholar

Volha Charnysh, PhD Candidate, Weatherhead Center, Department of Government, Harvard U. "Long-term effects of forced migration on political preferences and behavior in Central and Eastern Europe."

#### Eurasia Foundation US-Russia Social Expertise Exchange (SEE) Fellow

Andrei Suslov Director, Center for Citizen Education and Human Rights; SEE Migration Working Group.



#### CFP 12TH GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM ON SLAVIC LINGUISTICS

The Slavic Linguistics Forum and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures are pleased to announce the Twelfth Graduate Colloquium on Slavic Linguistics. The colloquium



will take place on November 15, 2014, at the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, OH.

We invite students and recent graduates working in all areas of Slavic, Balkan, and East European linguistics to submit abstracts. These areas include but are not restricted to: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and dialectology.

We encourage students working in both formal and functional frameworks to participate in this event. Interdisciplinary projects from the students in related fields such as anthropology, sociology, psychology, and comparative studies are welcome, as far as they are related to Slavic and East European languages. Each presentation will be allowed 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion.

Please send abstracts (maximum 500 words (excluding references)) to Katya Rouzina (rouzina.2@osu.edu) by August 1st. The abstracts should be anonymous. Please include your name, affiliation, mailing address, and email address in the body of the email.

Accommodation with local graduate students will be available.

#### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: A RESEARCH INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLOCAUST IN THE SOVIET UNION

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invites applications for the seminar "A Research Introduction to the Holocaust in the Soviet Union." This seminar will be held between January 5 and 9, 2015, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

The objective of the seminar is to acquaint advanced undergraduate, MA, and early PhD students with the central topics, issues, and sources related to the study of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, including mass shootings, evacuation and rescue, forced labor, and issues of commemoration and memory. Mandel Center scholars will lead discussions, and the seminar will include group analysis of many of the types of primary source material available in the Museum's collections. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to explore the Museum's extensive library, archival, and other collections.

The Museum welcomes applications from advanced undergraduates, MA, or early PhD students who are enrolled in relevant academic disciplines at North American colleges and universities. Applications must be submitted in English and include: (1) a recommendation letter from a faculty member in the applicant's department that addresses the applicant's potential and relevant interests, background, training, and qualifications (including previous coursework, projects, publications, or language study); (2) a letter of intent from the applicant discussing his/her interest in the Holocaust in the Soviet Union; and (3) a current curriculum vitae that lists related coursework, research papers, academic presentations, and in-

cludes a qualitative description of the candidate's foreign language skills.

Participants are required to attend the full duration of the seminar, which will end at noon on Friday, January 9. A maximum of 20 participants will be accepted. Awards include (1) a stipend toward the cost of direct travel to and from each participant's home institution and Washington, DC; (2) shared lodging for the seminar's duration; and (3) \$250 toward the cost of meals, local transit, luggage surcharges, and other incidental expenses, which will be distributed after the seminar's conclusion via direct deposit. Local participants from the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area will receive a stipend of \$125 for the week. Application materials may be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail attachment to:

Elana Jakel, PhD, Program Director of the Initiative for the Study of Ukrainian Jewry; Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126  
(tel) 202.314.7814, (fax) 202.479.9726

Faculty recommendations must be signed letters of nomination on their institution's letterhead under a separate cover. All application materials must be received by Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Selected participants will be notified by November 1, 2014.

<http://www.ushmm.org/research/scholarly-presentations/conferences/soviet-union-seminar>

#### CFP: CENTRIFUGAL FORCES: READING RUSSIA'S REGIONAL IDENTITIES AND INITIATIVES

An interdisciplinary, international conference at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, March 26-28, 2015

Contemporary Russia has been described as a "country of broken links," where much of the financial and intellectual wealth of the country is centered in Moscow and Moscow Region (with a population of nearly 20 million), while the rest of the country (another 123 million people) remain unheard and underestimated. At first glance, Russia's regions often appear to mimic Moscow in all sorts of ways—politically, visually, architecturally, and intellectually... Until they don't—for example, in the 2010 census thousands of Siberians protested the impact of the center by self-identifying as "Sibiriak." Blogs, tweets, as well as conventional hard-copy writing, challenge overly centralized power and resources. Legal challenges to maltreatment from Moscow have arisen in the South Russian-North Caucasus region. Ethnographers, literary scholars, cultural historians, political scientists, anthropologists—all are finding that many people in Russia's regions are taking initiative and articulating their particular identities and interests.

Proposals for "Centrifugal Forces" will resist "Moscow-centric" perceptions of Russia and, through various disciplinary approaches to studying the Russian provinces, strive to hear voices from the regions instead of allowing views and opinions

from Moscow to dominate. They will consider ways in which people on the peripheries engage in cultural, economic, and political processes; how they represent themselves culturally, artistically, and socially; how self-perception is developing in various regions; and, importantly in the 21st century, how the Internet impacts the very notions of center and periphery.

“Centrifugal Forces” will be a three-day conference offering broad interdisciplinary perspectives on approaching regional study. Panels will blend historical and contemporary perspectives on being peripheral. Talks will deal with a broad array of regional experience, in relatively “hot” regions such as the North Caucasus, as well as other areas in European and Asiatic Russia; and addressing activity in rural areas, as well as regional cities.

The organizers invite 20-minute papers from scholars from all relevant disciplines. Please submit a 250-word abstract by December 1, 2014 to: [clowes@virginia.edu](mailto:clowes@virginia.edu)

For more information please visit our website: <http://www.russiasperipheries.com>.

ODESSA: MYTH – AND REALITY – IN ART FROM THE DODGE  
COLLECTION AT THE ZIMMERLI ART  
MUSEUM AT RUTGERS

The first exhibition at the Zimmerli devoted to artists from Ukraine, “Odessa’s Second Avant-Garde: City and Myth,” focuses on nonconformist artists who worked in this fabled seaport on the Black Sea from the 1960s through the late 1980s. On view at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers from April 30 to October 19, 2014, these paintings, works on paper, and collages express the independent spirit of this Ukrainian

city. Artists and writers have gravitated to Odessa for more than two centuries, finding inspiration in the dreamlike city. They disregarded politics and artistic conventions, cultivating an atmosphere that has captivated people around the world. Even in light of current events in Ukraine, Odessa stands as an example of a city capable of uniting citizens whose cultures, languages, and opinions differ, but who share the humor and lightheartedness attributed to this seaside town.

“Odessa’s Second Avant-Garde: City and Myth” was organized by Olena Martynyuk, Dodge Fellow at the Zimmerli and Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Art History at Rutgers. The exhibition and related programs are supported by the Avenir Foundation Endowment Fund.

SAVE THE DATE: RELATED PROGRAM

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers invites the public to a program at the Zimmerli on Sunday, September 14. A guided tour of the exhibition “Odessa’s Second Avant-Garde: City and Myth” is followed by the lecture “Inventing Odessa: Jewish Culture on the Edge of the Russian Empire” with Olga Litvak, a leading scholar of Jewish Eastern Europe. She explores the powerful connection between the city air of Odessa and the Jewish revival that it inspired. Through the eyes of some of its most famous Jewish residents, we see how the temptations of Odessa changed the course of Russian-Jewish life. Professor Litvak currently holds the Leffell Chair in Modern Jewish History at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.



Lucien Dulfan, Reflection of the City, 1978  
Oil on cardboard

Collection Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection of Soviet Nonconformist Art  
Photo Peter Jacobs

# 2014 ACTR NATIONAL POST-SECONDARY RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

Congratulations to the winners of the 15th Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. In this year's contest, there were 1004 essays submitted from 58 universities, colleges, and institutions across the nation. Three judges read each essay and independently ranked them. More complete results, including those earning Honorable mention, and excerpts from some essays are published in the ACTR Letter.

First Place (Category A, Level 1)  
Cara Ehlenfeldt, Swarthmore College  
Noel de Sa e Silva, Harvard University

Second Place (Category A, Level 1)  
Paul Hoehn, Kenyon College  
Lizzy Carp, Bryn Mawr College  
B. Marakowitz-Svig, Kenyon College

Third Place (Category A, Level 1)  
Lupita Barrientos, Swarthmore College  
Nina Prasad, Pomona College  
Grant Farnsworth, Brigham Young U  
Cody Lake, Temple University

First Place (Category A, Level 2)  
Joshua O'Brien, U of Notre Dame

Second Place (Category A, Level 2)  
Christian Felt, Purdue University  
Stewart Pollock, Kenyon College

Third Place (Category A, Level 2)  
Raul Aguilar, Rutgers University  
Jacob Seidman, Columbia University  
Andrew Stockburger, U of Chicago  
Alexandra Vreeman, Pomona College  
Brian Astrachan, Williams College

First Place (Category A, Level 3)  
Brad Gordon, University of Mississippi  
Cameron Bell, Brigham Young U  
Joseph Haberman, Yale University

Second Place (Category A, Level 3)  
Dakota Whisler, U of Montana-Missoula  
Joseph Haberman, Yale University  
Jordan Hussey-Andersen, Indiana U  
Zhihao Wang, UCLA

Third Place (Category A, Level 3)  
Nick Prestwich, Brigham Young U  
Caroline Elkin, Dickinson College  
Alina Capanna, U of Wisconsin  
Leslie Martin, Kenyon College  
Richard Wess, U of Pennsylvania  
Dyer Pierce, Kenyon College

First Place (Category A, Level 4)  
Sarah Vitali, Harvard University

Second Place (Category A, Level 4)  
Jonathan Mahoney, Brigham Young U  
Koji Takagi, Brigham Young University  
Juan Jose del Valle Coello, Indiana U

Third Place (Category A, Level 4)  
Brenda Seah, Yale University  
Jesse Vincent, Pomona College  
Anthony Betts, U of Wisconsin  
Joshua Prince, Brigham Young U  
A. Hayes, Defense Language Institute

First Place (Category B, Level 1)  
Dina Difort, U of Montana-Missoula

Second Place (Category B, Level 1)  
Nadiya Chuchvara, Rutgers University

Third Place (Category B, Level 1)  
Alex Braslavsky, Columbia University  
Damian Weikum, Yale University  
Justin Bleuel, Columbia University

First Place (Category B, Level 2)  
Oleg Didovets, University of Rochester

Second Place (Category B, Level 2)  
Jana Lohrova, Yale University

Third Place (Category B, Level 2)  
Carolyn Czarnecki, Rutgers University

First Place (Category B, Level 3)  
Edward Danilyuk, Temple University  
Solomiya Stebelska, Rutgers University

Second Place (Category B, Level 3)  
Maria Lehtarova, Columbia University  
Marcin Swieczkowski, Boston U  
Vladislav Petkov, Columbia University

Third Place (Category B, Level 3)  
Ivan Kolobaric, Yale University  
Vicky Radenkova, Lewis & Clark College  
Emma Difort, U of Montana-Missoula

First Place (Category B, Level 4)  
Michelle Cerna, Tufts University  
Christopher Blackwood, Tufts University

First Place (Category C, Level 1)  
Theodore Darenkov, Boston University

Second Place (Category C, Level 1)  
Dina Peck, University of Chicago  
Elena Nikonova, U of Pennsylvania  
Michael Starr, Columbia University

Third Place (Category C, Level 1)  
Yekaterina Kovalyova, Columbia U  
Dalia Wolfson, Yale University  
Marina Shayevich, Rutgers University  
Rachel Vasilyev, Boston College  
Anna Volski, Rutgers University  
Yelyzaveta Prysyzhnyuk, Columbia U

First Place (Category C, Level 2)  
Andrei Didenko, Tufts University  
Maya Shumyatcher, U of Pennsylvania

Second Place (Category C, Level 2)  
Anna Bruzgulis, University of Chicago  
Maksimilian Sklyarov, UCLA  
Yekaterina Belikov, UCLA

Third Place (Category C, Level 2)  
Dave Bengier, Brandeis University  
Karina Panyan, U of Maryland  
Lioudmila Zaitseva, Harvard University  
Kseniya Rogulina, Boston University  
Kristina Clinton, Purdue University

First Place (Category C, Level 3)  
Masha Nikolski, U of Pennsylvania  
Arpi Grigoryan, U of Mississippi

Second Place (Category C, Level 3)  
Ecaterina Toutok, University of Rochester

Third Place (Category C, Level 3)  
Yelena Guseva, University of Maryland

First Place (Category C, Level 4)  
Oleg Oleinic, Defense Language Institute

Second Place (Category C, Level 4)  
Mariam Agaeva, University of Chicago

Third Place (Category C, Level 4)  
Iulia Bardareanu, Rutgers University  
Krystyna Rastorguieva, College of Charleston  
Andrei Tarasevich, Defense Language Institute



## In Memoriam

**Vahan Barooshian**, 82, born in Chelsea, Mass, died on Feb. 8, 2014.

Following four years of service in the Coast Guard after High School, Vahan Barooshian attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, graduating with degrees in political science and Russian studies. Vahan Barooshian earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literature from Brown University where he was the proud first Ph.D. student of the famed Prof. Sam Driver. Professor Barooshian taught for 30 years in the Department of Russian Studies at Wells College in Aurora, NY, also serving as the department chair of Russian studies. He received research fellowships from Harvard University and Cornell University, received grants to study abroad in the Soviet Union, and was a member of a number of academic committees at Wells College. He is the author of four scholarly books on Russian art and literature (*Russian Cubofuturism 1910-1930, a Study in Avant-gardism*, 1974; *Brik and Mayakovsky*, 1978; *The Art of Liberation: Alexander A. Ivanov*, 1989; *V. V. Vereshchagin: Artist at War*, 1993) and had published numerous scholarly articles and reviews.

Vahan retired to Auburn, NY in 1994, where he continued to be an active reader and critic of Russian publications. He was a voracious reader of the *New York Times* and book review publications, and he enjoyed cooking, horse racing, playing cards, visiting with friends and entertaining faculty with his grilling talent.

*Contributed by Edythe Haber, Professor Emerita, University of Massachusetts, Boston*

**Robert L. Belknap**, Professor Emeritus of Russian in the Department of Slavic Languages at Columbia University, died on March 17. Professor Belknap was a magisterial teacher of literature, a guiding intellect and scholar in the field of Russian literature, a committed educator who devoted his energy and vision to making Columbia an institution to be proud of. From start to finish, he was a man of integrity, wit, wisdom, and good will. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by all who have had the honor of knowing him and learning from him.

A native New Yorker, Robert Belknap was educated at Princeton University, the University of Paris, Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) State University, and Columbia University (Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1960).

Robert Belknap was known the world over as an expert on Russian literature, on Dostoevsky, in particular. He was the author of two major studies on Dostoevsky's masterpiece, *The Brothers Karamazov: The Structure of The Brothers Karamazov* (1967, reprinted 1989) and *The Genesis of the Brothers Karamazov* (1992), which both appeared in Russian translation. *Literary Plots*, based on the Leonard Hastings Schoff Memorial Lectures that Professor Belknap delivered in

2011, is forthcoming from Columbia University Press. Together with Columbia colleague Richard Kuhns, Robert Belknap wrote *Tradition and Innovation: General Education and the Reintegration of the University* (1977), which reminds us that interdisciplinary understanding, tolerance, and humility are central to a whole—or, as they put it, reintegrated—university. Indeed, one of Robert Belknap's great talents was his ability to draw people from different disciplines together in a common intellectual enterprise.

The intellectual excitement that Robert Belknap generated in his classrooms is legendary. His repertory ranged over the canon of Russian literature. He taught Literature Humanities in the Columbia Core curriculum for over fifty years. Students chose him for the Van Doren Great Teacher Award in 1980 and alumni chose him for the Society of Columbia Graduates Great Teacher Award in 2010. He is widely known for the lasting impact he had on students—from first-year undergraduates in Literature Humanities to dissertation advisees.

Over the course of his career, Professor Belknap assumed leadership roles at Columbia: he served as the Chair of the Slavic Department, the Director of the Russian (now Harriman) Institute, the Acting Dean of Columbia College, the Chair of Literature Humanities, the Director of the University Seminars. As an administrator, he had a talent for getting the job done well and for creating a spirit of cooperation.

Adapted from [Columbia University/Harriman Institute News](#)

The Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at the University of Washington grieves the passing of Professor Emeritus **Karl Kramer** on February 19, 2014 at age 80. Professor Kramer was a Seattle native who earned his B.A. (English, 1955), M.A. (Comparative Literature, 1957), and Ph.D. (Comparative Literature, 1964) all at the University of Washington. As a participant in one of the first – and, in those days of the Cold War, extremely rare – academic exchanges in the former Soviet Union, Professor Kramer attended Moscow State University as a doctoral candidate in 1959-1960. He went on to teach at Northwestern University

(1961-1965) and the University of Michigan (1965-1970) before coming back to the UW 1970, where he taught jointly in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Comparative Literature until his retirement in 1999. He chaired the Slavic Department between 1988 and 1998. A world-renowned Chekhov scholar, Professor Kramer taught a wide variety of courses during the nearly thirty years he spent at the UW. He also became actively involved – mainly as a translator and consultant – in a number of theatrical productions of Chekhov's plays staged by local directors and actors in the Seattle area, especially those connected with Intiman Theater, and participated for many years in a group bringing

discussions of theater and plays to Washington State prisons. Loved by his colleagues and students, Professor Kramer and his generosity of spirit, nobleness of character and dry, self-deprecating sense of humor will be greatly missed. A memorial service was held for April 5, 2014 on the UW-Seattle campus.

*Contributed by Galya Diment, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, U of Washington*

The Dartmouth Russian Department is saddened to announce the death on February 18 of **Richard Sheldon**, professor emeritus of Russian and beloved colleague. Professor Sheldon had been suffering from Parkinson's for a number of years, and was 81.

After he graduated with a degree in English from the University of Kansas in 1954, Professor Sheldon made three career detours, serving in the army in Germany, studying at the Sorbonne, and earning a law degree and a Ph.D in Russian at the University of Michigan.

In 1965–66 Professor Sheldon chaired the Russian Department at Grinnell College. His tenure there was the very brief preface to a long and storied career at Dartmouth. When he retired from Dartmouth in 2002, Professor Sheldon had been a member of the faculty for thirty-six years, chaired the Russian Department for twenty, and served as Dean of the Humanities for five. His energetic investment in the department's St. Petersburg program, begun in the 1960s, contributed to Dartmouth's early and enduring reputation in the field of foreign study. He taught courses on Chekhov, Solzhenitsyn, Tolstoy, and Nabokov, loved poor film adaptations of Anna Karenina, and loved his students, who returned his affection.

An authority on Viktor Shklovsky, Professor Sheldon translated several of his books, notably *A Sentimental Journey* (1970), *Zoo, or Letters Not about Love* (1971), *Third Factory* (1977), and *Knight's Move* (2005). His translation of *Zoo* was nominated for a National Book Award in 1972. In addition to his articles on Shklovsky, Professor Sheldon published on Tolstoy, Chekhov, Gorky, Mandelstam, and Sholokhov. For many years Professor Sheldon served as a member of the Education Department's review panel that made recommendations for funding National Resource Centers in Russian and Slavic Studies under Title VI of the Higher Education Act.

*Contributed by John Kopper, Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature, Dartmouth University.*

A distinguished scholar, a dedicated teacher, **Gabor Vermes** died in March 2014. A native of Budapest, where he was born in 1933, Gabor Vermes lived through World War II and survived the Holocaust. Many in his family did not. In 1956, he escaped from Hungary to Austria, where for several months he lived in various refugee camps. One year later he arrived in the United States, where he worked as a geologist in oil exploration in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. He later pursued his love for history as a graduate student at Stanford University, where he received the Master's and Ph.D. degrees. Professor Wayne S. Vucinich was his mentor. His un-

dergraduate degree, in 1956, is from the University of Budapest, in geology.

Joining the faculty of Rutgers University in 1972, Professor Vermes set an admirable course within the historical profession. He was a truly outstanding teacher, scholar and academic citizen. In 1984, the Graduate Student Government, Phi Alpha Theta, and the History Club presented him with the Outstanding Teacher of History Award. He was also the 1998 recipient of the Henry J. Browne Outstanding Teacher Award. He served as Deputy Chair of the Department of History from 1979 through his retirement and as the faculty advisor to The History Club and Phi Alpha Theta. In 1978, he mounted the Northern New Jersey Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta, which was held at the Rutgers-Newark campus in 1978. An active participant in the Columbia University Seminar on the History of Legal and Political Thought and the Fulbright Association, Professor Vermes was also a consultant to the Central European University Press.

He authored *From Feudalism to Revolution: Hungarian Culture and Politics in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1711-1848*, *Istvan Tisza: The Liberal Vision and Conservative Statecraft of a Magyar Nationalist* (1985), numerous articles, chapters, reviews and other scholarly opuses. The book on which he had spent the last twenty years of his life, *From Feudalism to Revolution: Hungarian Culture and Politics in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1711-1848*, is now available from Central European University Press. He was deeply gratified by a wonderful book launch party in Budapest, when the Hungarian version was published.

*Contributed by Susan Glanz, Professor of Administration and Economics, St. John's University*

## Candidates for ASEEES 2014 Board of Directors Election

Candidates for Vice President / President-Elect

John Connelly (UC Berkeley)

Padraic Kenney (Indiana U)

Candidates for Member-at-Large

Keith Brown (Brown U)

Mary Neuburger (U of Texas, Austin)

Sarah Phillips (Indiana U)

Tamara Trojanowska (U of Toronto)

All current members have the right to vote in the election and should have received an online ballot. If you would prefer a print copy of the ballot, or if you are unsure about your membership status, please email [Jonathon Swiderski](mailto:Jonathon.Swiderski@aseees.org), membership coordinator, or call +1 (412) 648-9911.



# Affiliate Member News

## CFP: AATSEEL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2015 AATSEEL Conference will be held on January 8-11, 2015 at the Renaissance Harbourside in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada within easy reach of the Modern Language Association (MLA) conference. In addition to scholarly panels, participants will have the chance to attend advanced seminars, roundtables, workshops and other special events. The 2015 Advanced Seminars will be led by Mark Lipovetsky (UC-Boulder) and Marcus Levitt (USC). Space will be limited.

The AATSEEL conference is a forum for exchange of ideas in all areas of Slavic and East/Central European languages, literatures, linguistics, cultures, and pedagogy. The Program Committee invites scholars in these and related areas to form panels around specific topics, organize roundtable discussions, propose forums on instructional materials, and/or submit proposals for individual presentations for the 2015 Conference. The conference regularly includes panels in linguistics, pedagogy and second language acquisition, in addition to literature, cinema, and culture.

Please submit your proposals by July 1, 2014. For more information, visit the [AATSEEL website](#). Please note the [passport and possible visa requirements](#) for travel to Canada.

## ACTR RUSSIAN SCHOLAR LAUREATE AWARD

Established in 2004 by the Board of Directors of the American Council of Teachers of Russian, the ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate Award provides an opportunity for schools and teachers of Russian to nationally recognize one sophomore or junior each year as their school's most outstanding Russian scholar. Scholars Laureates are students who demonstrate dedication to the study of Russian in many ways: academic achievement, outside activities, independent study, or often simply in enthusiasm and attitude. Students receive a letter of commendation, a certificate, and a lapel pin. Congratulatory letters also go to the student's teacher and to the principal or headmaster of the school.

If you wish to nominate your best sophomore or junior secondary school Russian student for this award, you may do so until June 30, 2014. Your membership in ACTR must be current, but there is no fee for participation in this program. A PDF of the brochure and the nomination form can request from the Chair by email at: [nushakova@gmail.com](mailto:nushakova@gmail.com). Please send your complete nomination materials to the address below: Nataliya Ushakova, Chair, ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate Award, Staten Island Technical HS, 485 Clawson Street, Saten Island, NY 10306, [nushakova@gmail.com](mailto:nushakova@gmail.com)

## CFP: CENTRAL SLAVIC CONFERENCE

November 7-9, 2014, The Hilton at the Ballpark, St. Louis, Missouri

The Central Slavic Conference is pleased to invite scholars of all disciplines working in Slavic, Eurasian, and East

European studies to submit proposals for panels, individual papers, and roundtables at its annual meeting, to be held in conjunction with the [2014 International Studies Association Midwest Conference](#).

Proposals for papers, panels, and roundtables for priority review and cross-listing with ISA-Midwest panels should be submitted by email to CSC President Dr. David Borgmeyer ([dborgmey@slu.edu](mailto:dborgmey@slu.edu)) no later than August 1, 2014. Other proposals will be accepted until September 1, 2014. Limited funding is available to provide graduate students with travel stipends. All proposals should include: Participant name, affiliation, and email contact information;

- For individual paper / poster presentation: title and brief description (limit 50 words);
- For panels: panel title + above information for each participant and discussant (if applicable);
- For roundtable: roundtable title and participant information.

## Charles Timberlake Memorial Symposium

Now a regular part of the CSC program, the symposium is dedicated to the scholarship of longtime CSC member Charles Timberlake. Those interested in participating should contact symposium coordinator Dr. Nicole Monnier at [monniern@missouri.edu](mailto:monniern@missouri.edu).

## Timberlake Memorial Graduate Paper Prize

Graduate students who present at the CSC Annual Meeting are invited to participate in the Charles Timberlake Graduate Paper Prize competition. Dedicated to the memory of Professor Timberlake as teacher and mentor, the prize carries a cash award. Submissions should be sent electronically to prize coordinator Dr. Nicole Monnier at [monniern@missouri.edu](mailto:monniern@missouri.edu) no later than October 25th, 2014.

Limited funding for graduate student and international scholar travel is available. CSC registration is separate from ISA-M registration, but general information regarding the hotel and meeting can be found on the [ISA Midwest Conference web page](#)

## MIDWEST SLAVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS

The 2014 Midwest Slavic Conference was held at OSU March 28-March 30, 2014, during which time the Midwest Slavic Association essay winners were announced. They are: Tom Elvins, University of Pittsburgh and Michelle Maydanchik, University of Chicago

## STANFORD STUDENTS TAKE TOP PRIZE IN DOSTOEVSKY VIDEO CONTEST

A team from Stanford University won the inaugural Dostoevsky Video Contest, sponsored by the North American

Dostoevsky Society (NADS). The director, Russian Literature PhD student Hannah Gould, and her team of undergraduate students will share a \$500 cash prize, and each will receive a one-year membership in the NADS and the latest issue of Dostoevsky Studies.

The competition, open to all, called for two-minute videos inspired by Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1864 novella *Notes From Underground*. It attracted submissions from across the United States. Five finalists had videos posted on the NADS Facebook page, prompting a lively response. The winning video transposes Dostoevsky's work onto a modern-day college campus and asks provocative questions about the relevance of narrative literature in the internet age. In this creative adaptation, the Underground Man's loneliness is linked to his failed love affair, his refusal to give up "slow reading," and his retreat into philosophy. "Notes from Underground: An Imaginative Adaptation set at Stanford University in the Year 2014," enjoyed enthusiastic support both from the judges and from eloquent commentators on Facebook.

The NADS leadership was pleased with the contest's success, and impressed with the range and quality of all of the entries. The videos, along with the judges' commentaries on them, can be viewed, "liked," and commented on at [www.facebook.com/North.American.Dostoevsky.Society](http://www.facebook.com/North.American.Dostoevsky.Society) NADS is already preparing for the next video competition, and is accepting suggestions for the contest's theme on its Facebook page.

#### SHERA NEWS

Following elections in January, the Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture updated its bylaws and added two new officers: Tamara Jhashi as Listserv Administrator, and Ksenya Gurshtein as Web News Editor. Joining SHERA's board as Members-at-Large are Anna Novakov, Andrea Rusnock, and Nicolas Iljine.

At CAA's annual conference in Chicago in February, on behalf of SHERA, Eva Forgacs hosted visitors from Eastern Europe and Russia who were part of CAA's International Travel Grant program. Dr. Forgacs participated with the visitors in a full-day pre-conference program organized by the CAA International Committee about international issues in art history, as well as other events throughout the conference itself.

SHERA is delighted to welcome five new institutional members: The Kolodzei Art Foundation, which promotes the contemporary art of Russia and the former Soviet Union through exhibitions and grants; the Museum of Russian Icons

in Clinton, MA, the largest private collection of Russian icons in North America; the M.T. Abraham Foundation, a collection of Russian and European modern art based in Paris; the Russian American Cultural Center, an organization that sponsors exhibitions, arts events and scholarly symposia in the greater New York area; and Centro Studi sulle Arti della Russia in Venice, Italy, a center for the research and study of Russia's rich cultural heritage.

#### CFP: CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES

Bucharest, 17- 19 June 2015

Theme: Linking Past, Present and Future: The 25th Anniversary of Regime Change in Romania and Moldova (1989/1991)

Anniversaries represent opportunities to reflect on past events, re-assess their impact on the present, and draw lessons for the future. Together with other 20th century historical events – including World War I, World War II, and the communist take-over – the overthrow of the communist regime represented a watershed event for Romania and Moldova, the most recent great transformation it is seen as having led to the end of the communist dictatorship, democratization of the political system, the introduction of market economy, cultural liberalization, the opening of borders, and a re-alignment with the West. At the same time, given Romania's and Moldova's persistent problems with political instability, pervasive corruption, slow economic growth, populism, and nationalism, the significance of the 1989/1991 regime change and its outcomes remains a source of contestation. The aim of this conference is to take a fresh look at the transformative events of a quarter century ago. We wish to examine their significance for the two countries' post-communist trajectories, past, present, and future both domestically and in the wider European and Eurasian contexts with the help of broad historical, political, literary, and cultural disciplinary and interdisciplinary inquiries.

Individual paper proposals should include the title of the presentation, a brief abstract of up to 500 words, a short c.v., and contact information of the presenter. They should be sent in a single attached Word document by August 1, 2014 at [srs2015conference@gmail.com](mailto:srs2015conference@gmail.com). Proposals for 2-hour panels including 3-4 papers, one chair, and 1-2 discussants should provide a title and description of the panel topic, abstracts of all papers, short vitae, and contact information for all participants. Panel participants should be drawn from at least two different universities.

Roundtables proposals of 3-5 participants should include title and description of the topic, short vitae and contact information for all participants. In addition, the conference organizers will accept proposals for book panels. Submissions and presentations in French will be accepted, as long as they are for full panels and roundtables including members from more than one university.

In order to assure that the conference is accessible to scholars, the conference fees will be quite modest.

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#### ADVERTISING

Appropriate ads are accepted for NewsNet on a space-available basis.



# ASEEES 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention November 20-23, 2014 San Antonio, Texas

## Special Events:

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Opening Reception and Tour of the Exhibit Hall

Friday November 21, 2014

Plenary: "25 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall:  
Historical Legacies and New Beginnings"

Chair: Stephen E. Hanson, College of William & Mary

Valerie Bunce, Cornell U

Vladimir Tismaneanu, U of Maryland, College Park

Vladislav Zubok, London School of Economics (UK)

Saturday November 22, 2014

Awards Presentation &

Presidential Address:

"East European and Eurasian Studies 25 Years After 1989: In Defense of  
Regional Knowledge in a Globalized World"



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