

NewsNet

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Promoting Polish Studies in the 21st Century

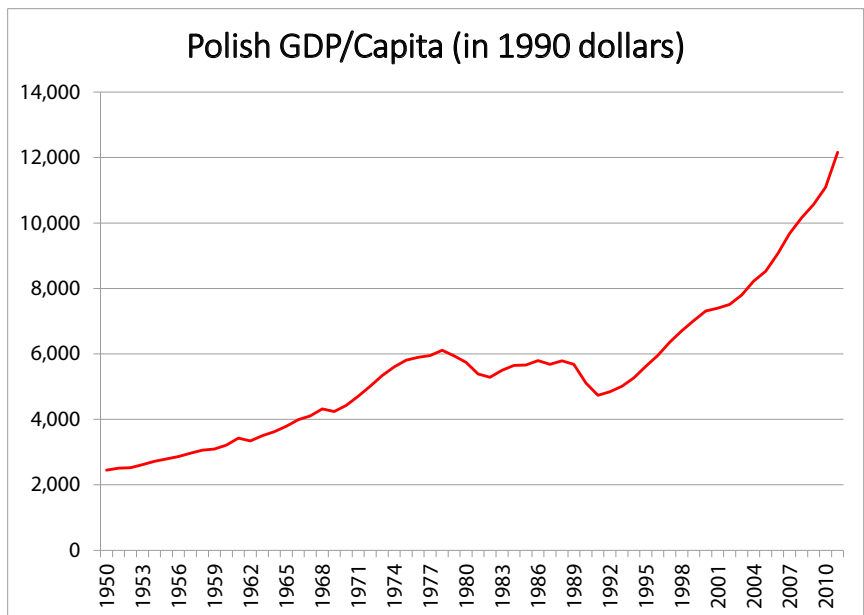
Brian Porter-Szücs, University of Michigan

Many of us remember the “good old days” when it was relatively easy to get fellowships and grants to study Poland. Of course, those days weren’t really good: the money was available precisely because Poland was a member of the Warsaw Pact and the federal government wanted to encourage study of “the enemy” (or the friend stuck behind enemy lines, as Poland was usually cast at the time). Thanks to the capacious understanding of what qualified for funding under those Cold War imperatives, even those of us who researched topics with no direct (or sometimes even no indirect) relevance to national security could often get the money we needed to carry out our work. We shouldn’t idealize those days: there was still plenty of competition for resources, and the job market for specialists on Poland only looks good in retrospect because it is so horrifically bad today. But it can’t be denied that Polonists had a convenient “national interest” trump card that we could play in conversations with university administrators, donors, and students.

Barring the unlikely transformation of Poland into a national security threat, those old arguments are gone for good. But this need not result in a gradual slide towards oblivion for Polish Studies within the US academy. In an important essay in *East European Politics and Society*, Clare Cavanagh has offered one approach to this problem, grounded in an appeal to the inherent merits of Polish culture.¹ These strong arguments, unfortunately, aren’t always available for those of us in less aesthetically oriented disciplines, but we also have reason for hope. The first step forward, I argue, requires a reorientation in the way we think about our topic. It’s time to challenge our own inferiority status, our tacit acceptance of the categorization of Poland in the world—and Polish Studies in the academy—as peripheral and obscure. Obviously we can’t just wish our way into the front row of scholarly interest, and nothing we do will bring us to a position alongside our colleagues specializing in Iran, Syria, China, or other countries of obvious centrality to policy makers and business leaders. But neither is Poland stuck at the bottom next to the Duchy of Grand Fenwick,

and our tendency to assume that it is can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.² Donors and university administrators react well to the rhetoric of growth and success, which is not a style we Polonists are accustomed to. It’s time to change that.

Poland has probably never been in better shape. We often speak of the *Wirtschaftswunder* that brought West Germans prosperity after WWII, but that accomplishment merely involved returning an economic powerhouse to its pre-war status. While few have noticed, Poles are currently enjoying their own *cud gospodarczy*, but one that promises to bring a once-impooverished country firmly into the ranks of the “first world.” I don’t want to downplay the monumental problems that Poles still face, but they are enjoying an unprecedented level of domestic prosperity and international prestige. Although gross domestic product has been justly criticized when used as an all-purpose measure of prosperity, the improvement in Poland’s per capita GDP can’t be dismissed, having more than doubled in a mere 20 years.³ From a position at 40% of the EU28 average in 1995, Poland now stands at 67% of that norm.⁴ Poland now has the 6th largest economy in Europe, and (depending on which figures one uses) one of the top 25 most productive economies in the world.



Even more striking than these GDP numbers is the fact that Poland now ranks 30th in the UN’s Inequality-Ad-

justed Human Development Index, out of 145 countries measured.⁵ This number is particularly useful because it adjusts the figures for countries with great aggregate wealth but extreme inequality. Despite the sharp inegalitarian tendencies of recent years, Poland gains by this measure and now stands only two places behind the United States.⁶ The rapid growth of the Polish economy has taken place without extreme dependency on fickle natural resources (as in the case of Russia) and without relying on abusively low-cost labor (as in the case of China or Brazil). In almost every category Poland is quickly closing the gap with Russia, which has for so long cast a huge shadow as the dominant country in ASEEES and in the many (aptly named) “Russian and East European Studies” centers. Poland’s per capita household consumption is now larger than Russia’s, and even the country’s aggregate GDP is more than a quarter the size of its vastly larger eastern neighbor.⁷ Of course wages in Poland are lower than in Western Europe, but they remain much higher than any other country with a comparable rate of economic expansion. And they are going up: using a constant purchasing power standard, the median income in Poland is now \$8,630, compared to \$4,755 a mere decade ago.⁸ I don’t want to exaggerate any of this: Poland remains much poorer than Germany, France, or the UK. But the country’s skyward trajectory (unbroken by the Great Recession) is undeniable. Scholars from different disciplines and theoretical perspectives will debate exactly *why* Poland has been so successful, but it is clearly worth studying (and drawing lessons from) these accomplishments.

Poland’s rise is not limited to economics. The country’s primary and secondary education system has been hailed as one of the world’s best, with PISA scores in the global top ten in reading and science, and a composite ranking that is now higher than Germany’s (and far above that of the US).⁹ Poland’s diplomatic importance was recognized in 2014 when Donald Tusk was named President of the European Council. The consensus in Brussels is clearly bullish about Poland, which became evident in 2012 when the EU budget provided more funding for Poland than any other country.¹⁰ Even Poland’s soccer team beat World Cup champion Germany last October, and now stands at the top of its group in the UEFA Cup qualifying round!

Of course many aspects of Polish life are troubling: the country’s higher education institutions have struggled in comparison with European peers, the health care system is plagued with serious deficiencies, and the continued reliance on coal has weakened Poland’s environmental record. Worst of all, the gaps between Poland’s wealthiest and poorest

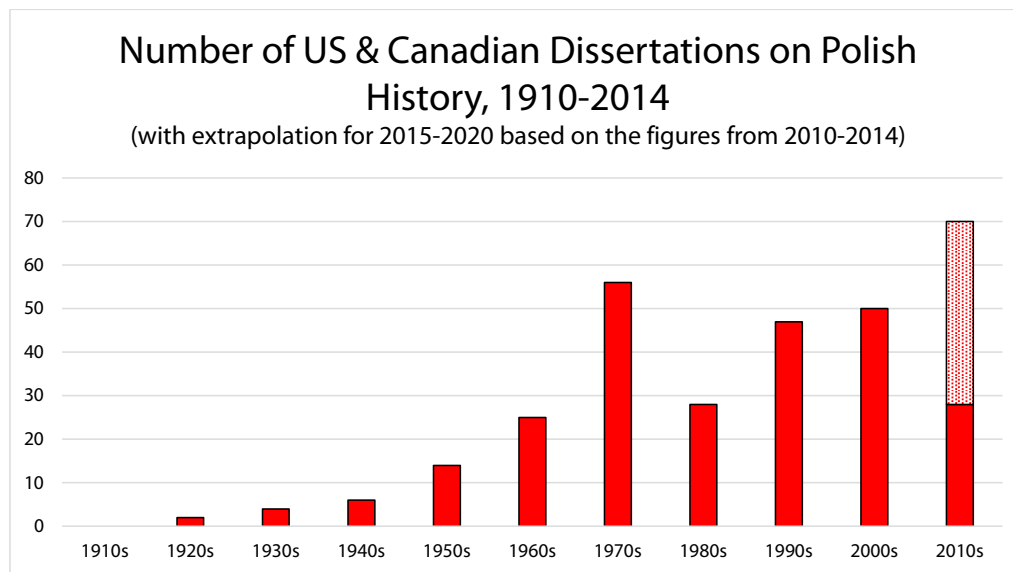
regions is cavernous. The Mazovian region (around Warsaw) now boasts a per capita GDP that is 107% of the European average, compared to 44% for the Sub-Carpathian region.¹¹ This constitutes the most threatening obstacle to Poland’s continued success.

Elsewhere I’ve described Poland as “among the weakest of the mighty and the mightiest of the weak, among the poorest of the rich and the richest of the poor.”¹² In virtually every global ranking Poland is now classified as a “highly developed country,” though it often sits towards the bottom of that category. This position actually gives Poles (and those of us who study Poland) many distinctive opportunities. Polish policymakers and social activists confront problems that are significant but not Sisyphean, because they have access to resources that will almost certainly expand in the future—not something that we can say here in the United States. Investors see in Poland a country with vast areas for market expansion and a population that is rapidly becoming wealthy enough to constitute a significant consumer base. And scholars see a country that offers a unique condition of dynamic liminality. It is quickly becoming apparent that Poland’s much-vaunted transition from socialism to capitalism is actually part of a much bigger and potentially even more momentous story: a transition to secure membership in the club of first-world nations.

Polish Studies has grown right alongside Poland itself, despite all the funding cutbacks we have endured. Doctoral dissertations in this field rose from 28 in the 1980s to 50 in the 2000s. So far this decade 28 dissertations in Polish history have been successfully defended, which puts us on pace to produce a record number by 2020. Even if we stopped admitting all graduate students in Polish history now, there are still at least 17 in the pipeline.¹³ The number of scholarly articles on Polish topics in major North American journals has also been increasing, and the biennial article prize of the Polish Studies Association had a record 55 eligible nominations during its last competition in 2013. The PSA itself has grown exponentially, tripling in size over the last decade.¹⁴ H-Poland, our field’s international and interdisciplinary online forum,



now has nearly 500 subscribers, after fewer than five years of existence. Recently that service has been joined by an exciting new European counterpart called [Pol-Int](#).¹⁵ Although my own experiences at the University of Michigan may not be representative of any larger trends, I have seen an undeniable growth in undergraduate enrollment in my modern Polish history class (48 in 2011, 72 in 2012, 87 in 2014, and 93 this semester). While I would be delighted to attribute this to my effective teaching, that conclusion is undermined by the fact that all my other classes have been shrinking. Academic jobs in Polish studies remain scarce—though no worse than in many other fields. And even that dismal topic gets a little bit of sunshine by the addition over the past decade of newly-endowed chairs in Polish history at several major universities.



The rhetoric of success that is so popular in business circles is obviously problematic, and it does not come naturally to us academics—particularly those of us who study Poland. Most of the time our pessimism serves us well. Our primary job is to stand apart and offer critique and analysis, not to engage in boosterism. Moreover, we have sustained our field for decades with tales of Poland’s unique history of tragedy and suffering, and it is awkward for us to start telling stories of success. But we do not compromise our values if we ensure that university administrators, donors, and policy-makers recognize that we Polonists represent an extraordinarily dynamic field, and that we study a country that is quickly rising to a position of prominence. We can’t solve our problems with happy-talk alone, but we are certain *never* to solve them if we continue to perceive our own subject as marginal and obscure. We should internalize the unfamiliar but undeniable fact that Poland is ready for prime time.

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- 2 For those who don’t recognize the reference, see Leonard Wibberley, *The Mouse that Roared* (Boston: Little Brown, 1955), as well as the 1959 film by the same name.
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- 11 Eurostat, Gross Domestic Product Per Inhabitant, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/regions/statistics-illustrated> (accessed February 2, 2015).
- 12 Brian Porter-Szűcs, *Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* (Wiley/Blackwell, 2014), 3.
- 13 Based on data from the Directory of History Dissertations from the American Historical Association, <https://secure.historians.org/pubs/dissertations> (accessed January 31, 2015).
- 14 For more on the PSA, go to <http://history.lsa.umich.edu/PSA>.
- 15 H-Poland is at <https://networks.h-net.org/h-poland>, and Pol-Int is at <https://www.pol-int.org>.

Innovative Online Platform for Polish Studies

by Katarzyna Jez, European University Viadrina

Polish-Studies.Interdisciplinary (Pol-Int), www.pol-int.org, links the worldwide Polish studies scholarly community and promotes content exchange among scholars. It is the first community-based online platform offered for students, lecturers, researchers and specialised journalists from all over the world seeking information on a trans-border level across different fields, and an exchange academic information. In May 2015, Pol-Int celebrated its first anniversary.

Pol-Int offers information related to Polish Studies in Polish, English and German. This resource contains the newest publications, reviews, job offers and funding possibilities, announcements about conferences, conference reports as well as Calls for Papers.

The platform enables users to present current research projects, discuss scholarship with one another, and find project partners. Institutions from across the world, previously working independently from one another in their pursuit of interdisciplinary Polish Studies, are now able to introduce themselves on Pol-Int pages and to dialogue with one another. Currently, there is no comparable platform or mailing list that informs and connects the work of so many researchers from around the world working on Poland.

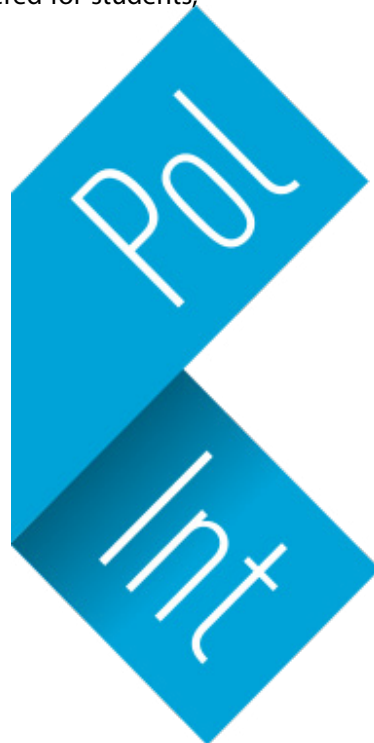
Pol-Int offers its users a high degree of interactivity. Thanks to the considerable involvement of its users, Pol-Int supports community building and serves as a source of information directly from users for users. Currently, over 720 international scholars are part of Pol-Int. The engagement of numerous postgraduate students and junior researchers, who submit ideas and contributions, is particularly noteworthy. The new concept and implementation of the platform serves as an exceptionally user-friendly tool for researchers who concern themselves with history, current events, the Polish language, society, economy, culture, literature, art as well as many more research fields.

Pol-Int received a high degree of support during its research and development phase; numerous institutions from Poland and Germany, many more European, Asian and American research facilities offered their cooperation. The

Pol-Int project is hosted by the Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder (Germany) and the Collegium Polonicum in Słubice (Poland). The platform is supported by twenty international partner institutions and represents a link that was previously lacking. Thanks to the platform, current and future projects can be communicated worldwide to a wide audience. This enables new synergies to occur and facilitates scholarly cooperation.

The editing team of Pol-Int is comprised of three full-time editors, and works with more than thirty volunteer subject editors as well as over one hundred reviewers from different academic areas (including history, language, literature, theatre, politics, and economy as well as sociology, Jewish studies, ethnology, law and administration, the history of science, and gender studies). Additionally, Pol-Int cooperates with dozens of publishers from across the whole world. A renowned board of advisers insures a high scholastic standard of the published contributions.

Pol-Int's success is due to the engagement of its users. You are welcome to visit www.pol-int.org and register in a few easy steps. Users can announce new conferences, suggest new books and become involved in the Pol-Int community. The editing team is always open for cooperation with new editors and reviewers. Should anyone wish to support our editorial work, please write to us at redakcja@pol-int.org. We are looking forward to a fruitful exchange!



Who Cares about the Duma?

Russian Parliamentary Records as a Research Source

Andrea Chandler, Carleton University (Canada)

The 2011 and 2012 elections in Russia inspired new interest, and consternation, about trends in political change. The return of Vladimir Putin to the presidency has been followed by much concern about the state of human rights, in light of new hurdles imposed on non-governmental organizations, new laws on protests, and controversial trials such as the conviction of the performance art group "Pussy Riot" in 2012 for the alleged criminal offence of hooliganism. Most recently, the trial of activist Aleksei Navalny raised doubts about the freedom of opposition. Much attention has been focused on the personal power of Vladimir Putin, and on the elite which surrounds the Russian presidency. Indeed, ever since Boris Yeltsin ushered in the Russian constitution of 1993, in the wake of his questionable dissolution of the Russian parliament, a good deal of literature on Russian politics has focused on the power of the president, and on the institutions surrounding the executive. The Russian parliament, or Federal Assembly (with its two houses, the State Duma and Federation Council) has received less attention.

Some scholars have written excellent work on the lower house, the Duma, much of it focused on political parties, on voting behaviour in the Duma, and on legislative processes.¹ Less attention has been focused on the content of Duma debates (although some studies do exist).² Even those who adopted constructivist approaches to Russian politics, in which the focus is on the evolution of political ideas, have tended to look at executives, or social movements, rather than the Duma.³ Why is this? Whatever else one says about the Duma, it is a place that issues a great deal of political debate (or perhaps more accurately, political talk, to use Nancy Ries' phrase).⁴ The Duma has also been the site of dramatic political change, over what is by now almost a twenty-year period. It has gone from being a vigorous multiparty legislature with no single dominant party, to a legislature dominated by a predictable cast of characters,

in particular the United Russia Party. Given these realities, it is somewhat surprising that the Duma has not received more attention.

Of course, there are understandable reasons why this has occurred. In the first place, there are doubts about whether the Duma can be considered a representative institution. Concerns about the quality and fairness of Duma elections, especially from 2003 onward, have been amply documented.⁵ Therefore, it is doubtful that the Duma accurately represents the opinions of the voters, and whether all voices are fully included in the Duma. So it would be methodologically unsound to assume that one can learn directly from the Duma about what the Russian electorate thinks and wants.

Another possible reason why the Duma has been overlooked is because of evidence that many of the laws passed in the Duma are initiated by the executive; that the United Russia Party has been loyal to the wishes of the government, therefore calling the independence of parliament into question.⁶ I would hypothesize that a final reason for overlooking the Duma is that, frankly, it is just hard to summon the energy to read lengthy speeches by the likes of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, known for his outspoken political statements on issues such as women's rights and migration. Scholarly research is a problem-driven enter-





ords are the official hansard; in themselves they reveal little of what is happening behind the scenes, in terms of the role that the government or political parties are playing in influencing the adoption of legislation. However, we can learn a great deal about how laws are framed, the tone of discourse, and the extent to which debate on a law matches the eventual voting upon it.

Another argument in favour of researching the legislature is that in the aftermath of the elections of 2011 and 2012, the Duma has become very active in passing laws associated with the Putin restoration. The laws issued by the Duma of late include laws on blasphemy, on “homosexual propaganda,” and on international adoption. These laws have often been criticized as attempts to restrain opposition activity, and as indicators of a return to a more nationalist stance of the state.⁷ I have looked at some of the debates on these kinds of laws, and have not found them to be uplifting reading. However, as scholars, should we refrain from examining political texts that do not accord with liberal democratic values? Russian historians of the tsarist period have produced excellent scholarly works documenting the laws and practices of the autocratic regime before 1917. As a result, we have an excellent understanding of a legislature’s evolution during a period of partial reform, and of the shortcomings of institutions that were not fully representative.⁸ Why not, then, aspire to have just as good an understanding of post-Soviet Russian legislatures, and the role that they have played in the country’s political development?

prise, but it is fuelled by intellectual excitement. Speaking for myself, it’s not easy to find inspiration in the Duma.

That being said, I would like to offer some reasons why the Duma merits scholarly attention. The first reason is a practical one: for those with a fluent reading ability in Russian, Duma debates are a great research source. They are readily accessible over the internet at the [Duma’s website](#), which also includes good, searchable databases on Russian legislation and on draft laws in process. Like many other parliaments, Duma debates follow a regularized format and pass laws through three readings, often holding committee hearings as well. They therefore constitute a good scholarly source, since most Duma debates since 1994 are available, enabling the researcher, by now, to follow a subject over a twenty-year period. The Duma also regularly hears from members of the government, including the president himself, who is constitutionally required to make an annual address to both houses of parliament. With field work becoming more and more difficult, this is a research alternative that is possible to examine within North America.

Will the Duma give the researcher a complete picture of the legislative process? Absolutely not. As with any project, the researcher would want to supplement his or her work with a variety of other sources. The Duma re-

Parliamentary debate is supposed to be public, but parliaments can be accountable only to the extent that the public is watching. In Canada (the country where I reside), Parliament has become an increasingly tempestuous place in recent years. Public controversy has accompanied the passage of new laws on issues such as crime and elections. As a result, I can no longer see parliaments as stodgy and tradition-bound places, and I find myself increasingly curious about what goes on there. By researching and writing about what happens in parliaments, we can help to raise awareness of parliaments and encourage these institutions to be more accountable.

Finally, the Duma reveals surprises that suggest that it is not always a predictable rubber-stamp. In the 1990s, when it was widely assumed that the Duma was an obstructionist body, I was surprised to find in my research on the Russian pension system that the Duma was generally supportive of the government’s proposed legislation.⁹ In recent years, the Duma has become a more cooperative institution, and it would be hard to argue that its proceedings are suspenseful. Still, there can be surprising developments.

For example, in 2012, the Duma passed a law that would stiffen administrative penalties for organizers of protests that become unruly. The law provoked widespread debate, and was criticized as a move in an increasing trend of imposing authoritarianism after the presidential elections. However, the debate on the law itself received relatively little attention. In fact, the bill was far from gaining consensus in the Duma, and was passed by only a scant majority of deputies.¹⁰ The bill received substantial criticism from the Duma opposition; subsequently the Constitutional Court examined a complaint by some Duma deputies, who were concerned not only with the content of the law, but also the rapid process by which it was adopted.¹¹

These small steps should not be seen as an indicator that liberal democracy is gaining a foothold in the Duma. But they do suggest that the legislature may be a potential source of change in the future, and that parliamentary debates may reveal shifts in the prevailing political winds. In the 1970s and 1980s, scholars such as Jerry F. Hough and Donna Bahry noted that Soviet legislatures, although dominated by the Communist Party, were becoming sites where representatives were defending their positions more assertively and less ideologically than previously.¹² It is no coincidence that a few years later, these scholars were at the forefront of researchers who most astutely analyzed the changes associated with Gorbachev's perestroika. It is worth watching the Duma to see how it fares over the coming years, if only to see if United Russia's role fluctuates.

In a larger context, analysis of the Duma may help us to learn more about the roles that legislatures can play in authoritarian states and partial democracies. The Arab Spring has reminded us that long-standing political regimes are not always as stable as they appear to be. Recently, there has been a wave of excellent literature on the roles of legislatures and judiciaries in authoritarian states. Sometimes, these institutions can be pillars of support for the regime; at other times, they can be sources of percolating gradual change.¹³ Or, as we should know from the case of the Soviet Union's final years, legislatures can suddenly become disorganized and fluid, as old support networks break down and new alliances form. For what it's worth, the Duma has been a constant presence on the Russian political landscape for almost twenty years now. We have a lot to learn about the role that the Duma played in Putin's consolidation of power, about the Duma's stance during the Medvedev years, and about how the Duma shaped legislation in various policy areas.

An additional area for fruitful research is the com-

parative analysis of legislatures. In the 1980s and even the 1990s, it was widely assumed that it was difficult to compare Russia with other countries, with the exception of post-communist countries. With its history of Soviet centralization, and the complexities of the post-Soviet transition, Russia seemed to have a unique combination of variables. But in the new millennium, Russia's parliament may not be so different from the legislatures of other countries in the developing world, or even in the West. Russia shares some of the trends of countries of the Global North noticed by contemporary political scientists: the tendency for executives to become more centralized; the embrace of neoliberal and austerity policies; and the increased prominence of nationalist movements and parties.¹⁴ By comparing with other countries, we might learn more about what makes the Duma unique, and why it behaves the way it does.

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3 For example, Michael Urban, (2007) "The Politics of Professionalism in Russia," *Post-Soviet Affairs*, vol. 23, no. 4, 329-52. Ted Hopf, "Identity, Legitimacy and Use of Military Force: Russia's Great Power Identities and Military Intervention in Abkhazia," *Review of International Studies*, vol. 31, no. S1, December 2005, pp. 225-43. Thomas Risse-Kappen, (1994) "Ideas do not Float Freely: Transnational Coalitions, Domestic Structures and the End of the Cold War," *International Organization*, vol. 48, no. 2, 185-214.

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SLAVIC REVIEW

Slavic Review Summer 2015

RETHINKING "EUROPE" VERSUS "THE BALKANS" IN MEDIA DISCOURSES

Andreja Vezovnik and Ljiljana Šarić, Special Section Guest Editors

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RUSSIA: Really?

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In order to address what are arguably the most serious problems in the region since the 1960s, an in-depth understanding of the complexities of the region is crucial. Professionals who are able to analyze the situation, give policy advice, understand the regional complexities and cope with conflicting situations between governments and non-state actors are desperately needed.

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ASEEES and the Future of Book Publishing

Douglas Rogers, Yale University

It is a familiar refrain that the world of scholarly book publishing is “in crisis” (at worst) or “in transition” (at best). Neither libraries nor individuals are buying books in the numbers that they once did. University presses are under increased budgetary pressure from their home institutions. The overall number, kind, and length of books that can be published in a financially sustainable way are all on the decline. At the same time, there has been no decrease in the relevance or importance of the scholarly monograph as one among several crucial modes of creating and disseminating knowledge. It remains the case, in short, that some pieces of scholarship require more words—sometimes many more words—than journal articles permit. (Academic departments and universities recognize this by continuing to make monographs an important element of tenure and promotion cases in many fields.) And, of course, conversations about all of these issues move quickly to emerging, often still uncertain, possibilities for new publishing formats and strategies: electronic only, print-on-demand, and so on.

As murky as it is, this set of transformations creates some opportunities for scholarly associations like ASEEES to intervene on behalf of “their” authors and publishers. At its November 2013 meeting, the ASEEES Board of Directors voted to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Book Publishing and to charge it “to consult with academic colleagues, editors and publishers, librarians, and others and to make recommendations to the ASEEES Board of Directors about ways in which the association can help to sustain and enhance the publication of monographs in our field in a time of rapid change for the publishing industry.”

I chaired that committee, joined by Douglas Northrop (U Michigan) and Clare Cavanagh (Northwestern

U). In the spring of 2014, the three of us conferred with each other, with numerous academic colleagues, with a number of editors from a wide variety of presses, and with librarians. We asked for evaluations of the current state of affairs and recommendations for improvements. Nearly everyone with whom we spoke expressed some level of concern about the state of contemporary book publishing in the ASEEES field. Some of the factors mentioned were familiar, such as precipitously dropping library acquisition budgets and a noticeable drop in book purchasing among graduate students (in favor of scanned and circulated .pdf files). Other factors were quite specific to the ASEEES field, including the end of the Mellon Foundation’s grant supporting Slavic-area humanities publishing at Pittsburgh, Northwestern, and Wisconsin University Presses.

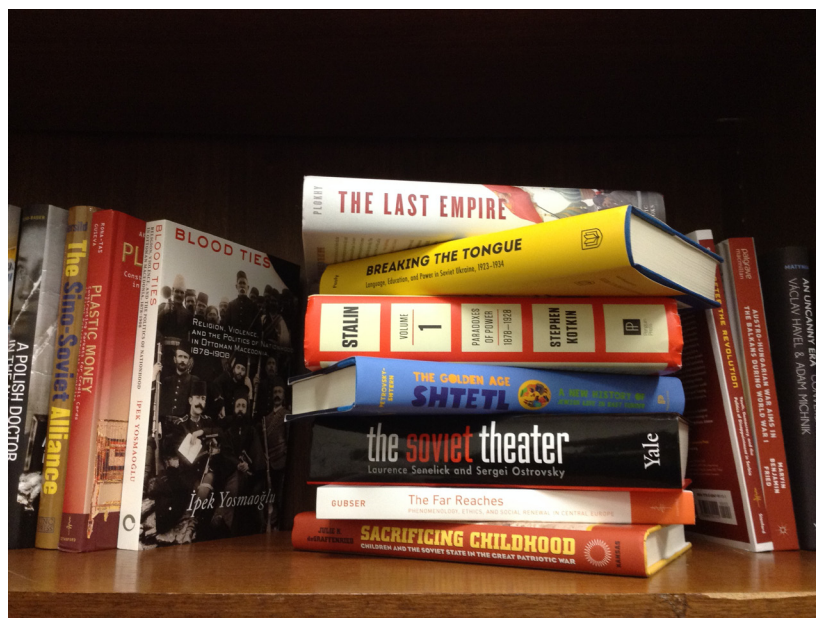
At the same time, there was near unanimous agreement that the quality of book-length scholarship on the region has never been higher, and has been considerably bolstered by increasingly high-quality scholarship from colleagues based at universities in the region. There was also agreement that, even if it cannot hope to shift the entire publishing industry, ASEEES can productively

take some actions that would help to preserve and enhance the kind of in-depth scholarship about our part of the world that book-length publishing makes possible.

Our committee’s report was discussed at the 2014 Board of Directors meeting in San Antonio, and I am happy to report that three of that report’s central recommendations are now moving forward.

First-Book Subventions

Perhaps the most significant of these is a First Book Subvention Program, designed on the model of programs administered by some of our sibling scholarly associations, notably the Association for Asian Studies. Beginning this



coming fall, ASEEEES will set aside \$10,000 per year from its endowment's investment earnings to help defray the expenses incurred in publishing books by first-time authors who are members of ASEEEES and who have been awarded publishing contracts. A multidisciplinary committee of senior scholars, advised by a publishing professional on the complex and shifting world of publishing expenses, will evaluate applications for these awards following two annual deadlines (September 1 and February 1). Multiple awards of up to \$2,500 will be made on a competitive basis each year, with funds disbursed directly to the press. In deciding on these awards, the committee will take into account both the scholarly significance of the book and the demonstrated need for subvention support. For more detailed eligibility requirements and application procedures, please [click here](#).

Convention Programming and Web Resources

Our committee heard from a number of members that one of the things many PhD programs do very poorly is helping new PhDs and junior scholars to prepare effective book proposals and pitch projects that are likely to succeed in the increasingly competitive scholarly book publishing industry. We recommended continuing and enhancing the existing series of convention panels and roundtables dedicated to various aspects of book publishing. The 2015 Convention in Philadelphia will include two such roundtables. The first, "[Publishing a Book in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies](#)," will include editors from a wide variety of presses: Gwen Walker (University of Wisconsin Press), Amy Farranto (Northern Illinois University Press), Krisztina Kos (Central European University Press), Igor Nemirovsky (Academic Studies Press), and Richard Ratzlaff (University of Toronto Press). The second, "[Publishing Your First Book: Advice from Recent Authors](#)," will feature scholars from a number of fields who have published their first books in the past few years: Scott Radnitz (University of Washington), Erin Koch (University of Kentucky), Rebecca Stanton (Columbia University), Eileen Kane (Connecticut College), and Colleen McQuillen (University of Illinois at Chicago). Linda Manning will present a webinar, entitled "Publishing Your First Book" (see sidebar at right) on June 25th. We hope that additional resources for first-time authors will be added to the ASEEEES website in the coming months and years.

On-line Exhibition Spaces

Our committee found that publishers who regularly exhibit at the ASEEEES convention were interested in additional platforms for selling their books and improving communication with potential authors. The ASEEEES website provides an ideal site for both. In the coming months

and years, ASEEEES expects to add a range of new content to its website, including space for exhibitors to feature recent books and authors, as well as brief descriptions of what topics presses are interested in and the contact information for the relevant editors. Occasional e-mails from the Association will point members in the direction of these parts of the website and the resources it will offer.

These initiatives will not stop, or even significantly impact, the transformations that are ongoing in the publishing industry. They are, rather, targeted ways in which ASEEEES can assist its members and publishers as they adapt to these changing circumstances.

The ad hoc committee that I chaired was not charged with exploring alternatives to the current model of monograph publishing that takes place largely through university presses and in "traditional" print. Nevertheless, many of those with whom we spoke—press editors and scholars alike—urged ASEEEES members and leaders to contemplate a future in which it becomes ever more difficult to publish books in a number of fields (and highly specialized books in most fields) in this model. It was pointed out to us that scholarly organizations like ASEEEES are well positioned to foster other, lower-cost, web-based models for monograph publication that would still maintain the imprimatur of rigorous peer review. There are certainly challenges to this path—economic and otherwise—but there are significant opportunities as well. The stakes to not contemplating such alternatives in the coming years are clearly high.

WEBINAR: PUBLISHING YOUR FIRST BOOK

Thursday, June 25, 2015

2-3pm EST

Linda Manning, from Northern Illinois University Press, will present tips on how to prepare for submitting a proposal—and eventually a manuscript—to an academic publisher. Topics covered will include seeking out publishers, making contact, submitting a proposal, and an overview of the publishing process. There will be some specific guidance provided for publishing a revised dissertation.

Using Conferences to Find a Publisher for Your Next Book Project

Gwen Walker, Editorial Director, University of Wisconsin Press

Editor's note: This was originally published as a [UW Press blog post](#) and has been reprinted with permission here.

In the weeks preceding an academic conference, many acquisitions editors comb the program for titles or abstracts of papers on topics of possible interest for their lists. To learn more, editors may Google an author's name for a sense of his or her work. Is the author working on a book? Does s/he write well? Is the manuscript already committed to another press, or might the project still be available?

To help editors discover you, I suggest that you title your conference papers, write your abstracts, and fashion your online identity in a way that's likely to attract the right publishers. Make sure that the bio on your departmental webpage summarizes your current book project and includes your email address.

([For an example of a model webpage, see here.](#)) Provide links to any open-access pieces that you have published, so that prospecting editors can sample your prose (but do not post other articles or book chapters without permission from the journals or presses that published them).

Before the conference, seek appointments with acquiring editors at presses that publish books in your area. To find out which editor covers your subject area, go to the publisher's website and look for a page that says "For Authors," "Submission Guidelines," or something similar. Unless the submission guidelines say otherwise, it's usually okay to contact an editor by email before a conference. In your introductory message you should include a brief description of your book. Limit that description to a paragraph or two, ideally to include the book's thesis. (For

more on what a thesis is, see [this page](#) on my personal website.) If you have a proposal ready to share, ask the editor if s/he would like to see it.

When an editor agrees to meet with you, think carefully about how to make the best use of the interaction. Be able to articulate your book's thesis (or, if you're at an earlier stage, its hypothesis) and to describe its audience. Be prepared to give a rough estimate of the final word count, including notes, bibliography, and any other matter to be set in type. Try to speak naturally, but realize that even if you are nervous, what matters most to publishers is what and how you *write*.

Presses often send only the editor to a conference, with no backup staff. So your meeting may have to happen in the press's booth in the exhibit hall, and the editor may need to interrupt the conversation from time to time to sell books

or answer questions. In neighboring booths, editors from other presses—including, perhaps, someone you just met with about the same project—may well overhear snatches of your conversation. The editors will probably take it all in stride; it's normal to meet with multiple editors when you're just beginning to explore your publishing options. And try to get over any awkwardness you might feel about discussing your future book in a semi-public setting. After all, by the time you approach editors to measure their interest in a proposed book, you should be able to articulate its contribution to people in your field, and ideally beyond it.

While you're in the exhibit hall, stroll around and meet with as many staff as possible at presses that publish in your field. Remember that the person in the booth



where you stop could be anyone at that press: an editor, an editor's assistant, the marketing manager, the sales manager, an intern, or even the director. Be prepared to provide as much information about your project as the person seems to want. Measure their interest, and see what questions they have. But don't read too much into these interactions. An editor might be quite intrigued by your project but too busy to discuss it in depth at that moment. Or the editor may not be very interested at all but may feel compelled, under the circumstances, to ask a few polite questions.

If an editor expresses interest, ask the next step. Would s/he like to read your book proposal? Often editors will decline your offer of a printed copy at the conference, as they fear losing it—or simply don't want to carry all that paper home in their luggage. Others may

agree to accept a short printed proposal on the spot. In that case, however, I strongly suggest that you also follow up after the conference and send it to the editor according to the specifications on that publisher's website, just in case your proposal gets lost in post-conference transit.

While you are in the booth, check out the publisher's recent releases to decide if your book would be in good company there. Note their prices and production values. When the press seems like a possible fit, ask whatever questions you might have about the publication process. Remember, this is a two-way process. Both sides, you and the editor, are looking for the right fit between project and publisher.

FIRST-BOOK SUBVENTION PROGRAM

ASEEES has dedicated funds for subvention of books by first-time authors who have secured publishing contracts. Awards will be made on a competitive basis, with funds paid directly to the press.

A multidisciplinary committee will evaluate applications; the committee takes into account both the scholarly significance of the book and the demonstrated need for subvention support. Applications are invited from all disciplines.

DEADLINES: September 1 and February 1

ELIGIBILITY:

- Authors must be current regular or student members of ASEEES
- Subventions will only be awarded for individually authored first books. (Multiple authored books are not eligible; an applicant who has already published an edited collection will not be disqualified.)
- Manuscripts must be in English and, in the view of the selection committee, make a substantial scholarly contribution to Slavic, East European, and/or Eurasian Studies. English translations of first books published initially in another language will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but will generally not receive highest priority.
- The Press must agree to acknowledge subvention support from ASEEES in the front matter of the book, and to provide ASEEES with a copy of the finished work upon publication. The acknowledgement to ASEEES should read as follows: "Publication of this book was made possible, in part, by a grant from the First Book Subvention Program of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies."
- The press must agree to submit a brief itemized report on how subvention funds were spent within two months of the book's publication date.
- Applicants must actively seek funding from additional sources, including the author's home institution; ASEEES prefers to split subvention costs with other institutions whenever possible.
- A press can submit multiple applications if it has more than one eligible book.

Application guidelines for publishers can be found [here](#).

ASEEES Board Statement Regarding May 11 2015 Special Meeting Decisions

As announced on March 18, 2015, in accordance with its by-laws, the Board of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) held a special meeting on May 11, 2015 at which it reviewed representations from the membership relating to the Stephen F. Cohen - Robert C. Tucker Fellowship matter. These included the February 5, 2015 letter signed by Professor David Ransel and 121 other members of ASEEES and other scholars, comments sent by members to the ASEEES officers, and comments posted using two online forms. Over 150 communications were received. A substantial majority of these favored acceptance of the Cohen-Tucker Fellowships program, if the Kat Foundation were to re-offer the gift. Among the arguments made were that graduate students urgently needed funding and that Professor Cohen's political views, while controversial with some, had nothing directly to do with the program proposal. A minority, however, continued to express support for the initial decisions of the Board in November 2014 and argued against revisiting them at this time.

At the start of the meeting, the Board voted to remove from the Gift Acceptance Policy the clause requiring that all discussions of prospective donations be held in executive session. The original decision to include this in the Policy was made in good faith, so that those participating in a potentially sensitive discussion could feel comfortable about voicing their views. The Board will continue to respect the confidentiality granted to its members who were present for that earlier discussion in November 2014. However, for the sake of transparency of Board actions and based on advice from legal counsel, the Board voted to amend the Gift Acceptance Policy. Accordingly, the special meeting was subject to ordinary minuting procedures and we draw here on the meeting minutes.

The Board began its discussion of the ASEEES members' representations by affirming the non-political status of the Association. We acknowledged the challenges of remaining non-political when the region that we study is beset by political, and even military, conflict, but we also recognized that it is essential ASEEES be a community of tolerance and pluralism, where views with which some or many do not agree may be discussed in a collegial atmosphere. Considering the totality of the circumstances, the Board voted, by a substantial majority, to express its regret for the resolution made at the November 20, 2014 meeting to request that the donors consider a name change to the fellowship. In a second vote, the Board resolved by nearly unanimous majority to express its commitment to accept the Cohen-Tucker Fellowship as named, should the gift be re-offered. In a third vote, the Board resolved to return to the donors and inform them that, if they would be willing to re-offer the fellowship gift, ASEEES will agree to accept the August 2014 agreement with the proviso that ASEEES would have sole control over the nam-

ing of the selection committee. This resolution was also passed by nearly unanimous majority.

We wish to emphasize our respect for the views expressed by a minority of the Board and of the membership who chose to disagree with the proposal to try again to implement the fellowship program. These views were fully expressed and carefully weighed in our discussion and in the process by which we came to a decision. Some members of the Board expressed their reservations about Professor Cohen's views on contemporary Russia and Ukraine, while lauding his contributions to Soviet/Russian studies, and some were concerned that in the context of today's geopolitical situation, a decision to revisit the Cohen-Tucker Fellowship offer might make certain members of ASEEES feel unwelcome. However, all Board members expressed commitment to the principles of academic freedom and pluralism. The Board recognized the donors' generosity and commitment to support graduate students, whose need for research funding is indisputable. The Board was deeply impressed by the argument for that support in the members' representations. Overall, we have valued the process of discussion within the Board and with the membership at large and are satisfied that the decisions of the Board have been taken in a manner fully consistent with the Association's mission and by-laws.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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Personages

Alan Barenberg has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of History at Texas Tech University as of September 1, 2015.

Joseph Bradley (University of Tulsa) was a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University in Fall 2014 and currently has a Fulbright teaching grant at the University of Warsaw.

Norma Comrada, courtesy professor of Slavic Literature at the University of Oregon, received the Medaile Karla Čapka from the Společnost bratří Čapků for her Čapek translations, publication and presentations.

The Shortlist for the [2015 Pushkin House Russian Book Prize](#) included a book penned by ASEEEES Board President **Catriona Kelly**, entitled *St Petersburg: Shadows of the Past* (Yale University Press). The judges also noted with interest *Putin's Kleptocracy* by **Karen Dawisha** (Simon & Schuster); They said the book raised important issues which deserved a wider airing and hoped it would find a publisher in the UK.

Serhii Plokyh was named winner of the 2015 Prize on May 18, 2015 at a ceremony at Pushkin House, the premier centre for Russian culture in London, and received £5,000. The award was established in 2012 to encourage public understanding and intelligent debate about the Russian-speaking world.

Rebekah Klein-Pejšová has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure at Purdue University.

Svitlana Kryś has been appointed as the Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Chair of Ukrainian Community and International Development at MacEwan University (Canada). She will serve, concurrently, a five-year renewable term as Director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC). Kryś' academic appointment will be in the Department of English, a position from which she will be able to refocus URDC activities to support MacEwan University's commitment to students, assist faculty members in introducing the study of Eastern Europe to courses where it would benefit MacEwan's curriculum, and establish scholarly outreach and partnerships with institutions in Ukraine.

Paul Robert Magocsi, the John Yaremko Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto, was awarded the degree of Doctor honoris causa from Prešov University in Slovakia; he was appointed honorary professor at Kamianets-Podilskyi National University in Ukraine; and he was given the Rudolf Medek Award for Lifetime Contributions to Scholarship on the History of Subcarpathian Rus' and Carpatho-Rusyns by the National Library/Slavonic Library of the Czech Republic.

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) in Minneapolis and a consortium of Minnesota colleges and universities hosted an

Interdisciplinary Student Research Symposium at the museum on Saturday, February 21, 2015. This event took place in connection with the exhibit *Life on the Edge of the Forest: Russian Traditions in Wood*. The organizing committee included Carolyn Ayers, Nadya Clayton, Elizabeth Harry, Erich Lippman, **Matt Miller**, Roslye Ultan, and Masha Zavialova, TMORA Curator.

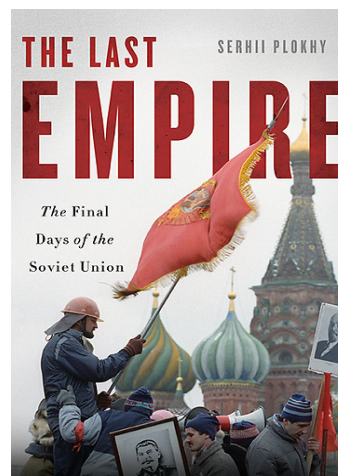
The American Council of Learned Societies is pleased to announce the results of the 2014-15 ACLS Fellowship competition. Among this cohort of ACLS Fellows is ASEEEES member **Elena Aleksandrovna Osokina** (Professor of History, University of South Carolina) for her research: *Red Merchants: Soviet Export of Religious Art under Stalin*

The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union, by **Serhii Plokyh**, won the 2015 Lionel Gelber Prize, awarded on April



21st, 2015. [Download the podcast with Serhii Plokyh on *The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union*](#)

Plokyh accepted his award and gave a public lecture at the Campbell Conference Facility, at the Munk School of Global Affairs, at the University of Toronto, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. [A webcast of the ceremony is available here](#). Plokyh is the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. He is a leading authority on the region and author of several books including, *The Origins of the Slavic Nations and Yalta: The Price of Peace*, which was a finalist for the 2011 Lionel Gelber Prize. His winning book won the 2015 Pushkin House Prize in London, he is the recipient of the Early Slavic Studies Association Distinguished Scholarship Award and the Historia Nova Book Prize for



The Cossack Myth: History and Nationhood in the Age of Empires, and he was recently named Walter Channing Cabot Fellow in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, for scholarly eminence in the field of history.

The Gelber Prize is a literary award for the world's

best non-fiction book in English on foreign affairs that seeks to deepen public debate on significant international issues, and was founded in 1989 by Canadian diplomat Lionel Gelber. The award is presented annually by The Lionel Gelber Foundation, in partnership with Foreign Policy magazine and the Munk School of Global Affairs, at the University of Toronto.

Read Russia today announced the winner of the [2015 Read Russia Prize](#), celebrating the best translation of Russian literature into English published in 2014: Vladimir Sharov's *Before and During*, translated by **Oliver Ready** and published by Dedalus Books. The annual literary prize carries a cash award shared by translator and publisher.

Read Russia also presented a special jury award this year to celebrate the monumental achievement of two translations: of Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*: translated by Rosamund Bartlett (Oxford University Press), and a version translated by **Marian Schwartz** (Yale University Press).

Kristen Regina stepped down from her position as Head of Archives and Special Collections at Hillwood Museum on April 3. She relocated to Philadelphia to accept a position as Director of the Library and Archives at the Philadelphia Museum of Art starting June 1. The PMA does have some Slavic materials that Regina looks forward to investigating and sharing her findings. She also hopes to welcome you to the PMA library during the ASEEEES Convention this November.

Anthony Anemone and **Peter Scotto** won The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Best Literary Translation into English for "*I Am a Phenomenon Quite Out of the Ordinary*": *The Notebooks, Diaries, and Letters of Daniil Kharmis*.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has named 32 Andrew Carnegie Fellows as the inaugural class of a major annual fellowship program that will provide support for scholars in the social sciences and humanities. The Fellows will receive awards of up to \$200,000 each, which will enable them to take sabbaticals in order to devote time to their research and writing.

[The Andrew Carnegie Fellows](#) are an exceptional group

of established and emerging scholars, journalists, and authors whose work distills knowledge, enriches our culture, and equips leaders in the realms of science, law, business, public policy, and the arts. Their proposals address issues including policing and race, big data and privacy, the impact of an aging population, the safety of generic drugs, and how attitudes are formed among voters. Among this year's class of Fellows are ASEEEES members: **Louise Shelley** and **Timothy David Snyder**.

Jonathan Sherry, Andrew Mellon Fellow & PhD Candidate in History at the University of Pittsburgh, has won a Fulbright Grant for Research in Spain on the impact of Soviet intervention in the Spanish Civil War, in particular in the field of judicial politics and political repression.

Carolyn Warner and **David Siroky**, along with Psychology Professor Steve Neuberg, were recently awarded the National Science Foundation Grant, a total of \$979,229, in the Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Sciences (IBSS) Research Competition.

Their project, titled "Religious Infusion and Asymmetric Conflict," will investigate "nine hypotheses on how differences in religious ritual, doctrine, and context shape the motivations and capacities of weak but religiously-infused groups to initiate conflict against stronger groups." The project will create theory for academics interested in behavior and social sciences, provide data about religious group infusion in order to fill a large gap in U.S. knowledge and international organizations, educate and train graduate students from underrepresented groups in research, and facilitate and provide a model of interdisciplinary research on key socio-political and cultural questions. In addition, all of the data, codebooks, and publications will be available at no charge through courses at professional meetings and public data archives.

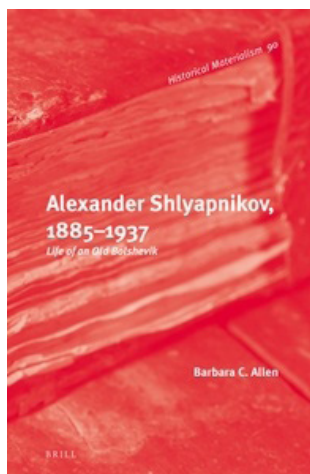
Nicholas Thorner is retiring from the Library of Congress' Russia Section after a thirty-five year run. Thorner will remain in Washington and, after a suitable pause, expect to be coming back to the Library partly to attend a class that meets at the Library of Congress, but also to conduct research.

Brodsky/Spender Prize Winners Announced

Congratulations to **Oksana Maksymchuk** and **Max Rosochinsky**, winners of first prize in the 2014 Joseph Brodsky/Stephen Spender Prize, for their beautifully crafted rendition of what Catriona Kelly described as Anastasia Afanasieva's poignant and creative portrait of the tragedy of civil war in Eastern Ukraine. [Read the winning translation.](#)

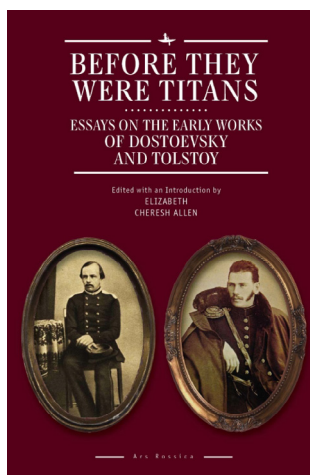


Publications



Barbara Allen's *Alexander Shlyapnikov, 1885-1937: Life of an Old Bolshevik*, was published by Brill in January 2015. Through extensive research in archives of the Soviet Communist party and secret police, the book recounts the political formation and positions of Russian Communist and trade unionist, Alexander Shlyapnikov. As leader of the Workers' Opposition (1919–21), Shlyapnikov called for trade unions to realize workers' mastery

over the economy. Despite defeat, he continued to advocate distinct views on the Soviet socialist project that provide a counterpoint to Stalin's vision. Arrested during the Great Terror, he refused to confess to charges he thought illogical and unsupported by evidence. Unlike the standard historical and literary depiction of the Old Bolshevik, Shlyapnikov contested Stalin's and the NKVD's construct of the ideal party member. Allen conducted extensive research in archives of the Soviet Communist party and secret police.



Elizabeth Cheres Allen's book, *Before They Were Titans: Essays on the Early Works of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy*, has recently been published by Academic Studies Press.

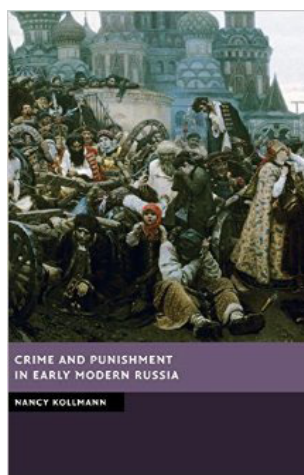
Dostoevsky and Tolstoy are the titans of Russian literature. As mature artists, they led very different lives and wrote vastly different works, but their early lives and writings display provocative kinships, while also indicating the divergent paths the two authors would take en

route to literary greatness.

The ten new critical essays, written by leading specialists in nineteenth-century Russian literature, give fresh, sophisticated readings to works from the first decade of the literary life of each Russian author—for Dostoevsky, the 1840s; for Tolstoy, the 1850s. Collectively, these essays yield composite portraits of these two artists as young men finding their literary way. At the same time, they show how the early works merit appreciation for themselves, before their authors

were Titans. Contributors included: Lewis Bagby, Gary Saul Morson, Susanne Fusso, Dale E. Peterson, Robin Feuer Miller, William Mills Todd III, Justin Weir, Liza Knapp, Anne Lounsbury, Ilya Vinitsky, and Caryl Emerson.

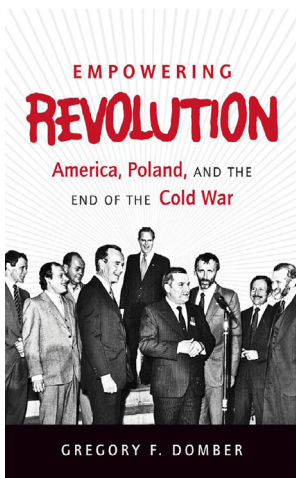
A *Festschrift* to honor Professor Gregory L. Freeze on the occasion of his seventieth birthday has been published by students and colleagues. *Church and Society in Modern Russia. Essays in Honor of Gregory L. Freeze*, eds. Manfred Hildermeier and Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015) contains articles by the editors and by Mikhail Babkin, Jonathan Dekel-Chen, ChaeRan Freeze, Page Herrlinger, Scott Kenworthy, Tat'iana Leont'eva, Marlyn Miller, Boris Mironov, Roy Robson, and Jan Surer.



Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Russia, by Nancy Kollmann, was recently re-released as a paperback by Cambridge University Press. This account of the day-to-day practice of Russian criminal justice in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries contrasts Russian written law with its pragmatic application by local judges; the author argues that this combination of formal law and legal institutions with informal, flexible practice contributed to the

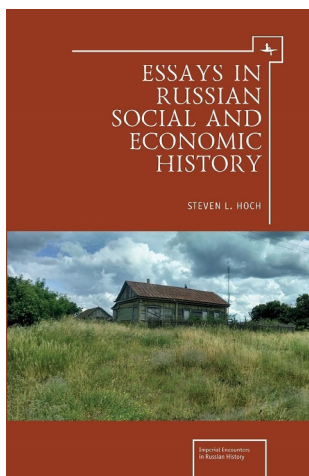
country's social and political stability. Russian developments are also placed in the broader context of early modern European state-building strategies of governance and legal practice. Kollmann compares Russia's rituals of execution to the "spectacles of suffering" of contemporary European capital punishment and uncovers the dramatic ways in which even the tsar himself, complying with Moscow's ideologies of legitimacy, bent to the moral economy of the crowd in moments of uprising. Throughout, *Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Russia* assesses how criminal legal practice used violence strategically; administering horrific punishments in some cases and in others accommodating with local communities and popular concepts of justice.

Empowering Revolution: America, Poland, and the End of the Cold War, by Gregory F. Domber, was recently published by the University of North Carolina Press. During the 1980s, both the United States and the Soviet Union vied for influence over



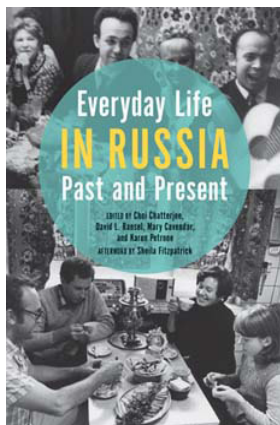
Poland's politically tumultuous steps toward democratic revolution. Domber examines American policy toward Poland and its promotion of moderate voices within the opposition, while simultaneously addressing the Soviet and European influences on Poland's revolution in 1989. With a cast including Reagan, Gorbachev, and Pope John Paul II, *Empowering Revolution* charts American support of anticommunist opposition groups—particularly Solidarity, the underground movement led by future

president Lech Wałęsa—and highlights the transnational network of Polish émigrés and trade unionists that kept the opposition alive. Utilizing archival research and interviews with Polish and American government officials and opposition leaders, Domber argues that the United States empowered a specific segment of the Polish opposition and illustrates how Soviet leaders unwittingly fostered radical, pro-democratic change through their policies.



Steven L. Hoch's book, *Essays in Russian Social and Economic History*, has recently been published by Academic Studies Press. From banking crises and infectious diseases to peasant rituals and land reform, Hoch examines the lives of Russia's rural population. In contrast to long-standing interpretations of the Russian peasantry, emphasis is placed on the role of social, epidemiological, and ecological forces in the formation of rural Russian society. Hoch assesses the impact of the broad economy

on shaping the government policies of emancipation and land, as well as the long-term consequences of these policies on the material well-being of the peasant.



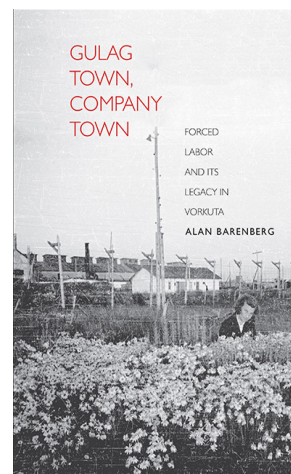
Everyday Life in Russia Past and Present, edited by Choi Chatterjee, David L. Ransel, Mary Caverder, and Karen Petrone with an Afterword by Shelia Fitzpatrick, was published by Indiana University Press in February 2015. In these original essays on long-term patterns of everyday life in prerevolutionary, Soviet, and contemporary Russia, the authors survey the cultural practices, power re-

lations, and behaviors that characterized daily existence for Russians through the post-Soviet present. Microanalyses and transnational perspectives shed new light on the formation and elaboration of gender, ethnicity, class, nationalism, and subjectivity. *Everyday Life in Russia Past and Present* explores themes such as changes in consumption and communication patterns; the restructuring of familial and social relations; systems of cultural meanings; and evolving practices in the home, at the workplace, and at sites of leisure.



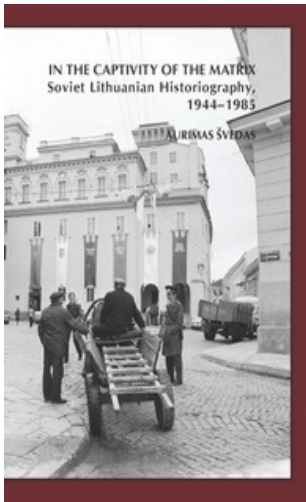
Fade from Red: The Cold War Ex-Enemy in Russian and American Film 1990-2005, by Helena Goscilo and Margaret B. Goscilo, was published by New Academia Publishing. This study investigates the close correlation between politics and mainstream cinema vividly evidenced in Russian and American screen images of the former Cold War enemy from 1990 to 2005. Whereas glasnost and the demise of the Soviet Union ushered in a period of official cooperation that soon inflated

into rhetorical declarations of partnership, the fifteen years under examination saw the gradual deterioration of relations after the initial euphoria, culminating in a partial resumption of mutual Cold War recriminations. In addition to large-scale blockbuster films, the book covers a number of smaller-scale or less financially successful films that encapsulate the political agenda of a given period.



Gulag Town, Company Town: Forced Labor and Its Legacy in Vorkuta, by Alan Barenberg, was published by Yale University Press in 2015. This volume offers a reassessment of the infamous "Gulag Archipelago" by exploring the history of Vorkuta, an arctic coal-mining outpost originally established in the 1930s as a prison camp complex. Barenberg's study reveals Vorkuta as an active urban center with a substantial non-prisoner population where the borders separating

camp and city were contested and permeable, enabling prisoners to establish social connections that would eventually aid them in their transitions to civilian life. With this book, Barenberg makes an important historical contribution to our understanding of forced labor in the Soviet Union and its enduring legacy.



Aurimas Švedas' book, *In the Captivity of the Matrix: Soviet Lithuanian Historiography, 1944-1985*, (Rodopi) discusses politics of Soviet history, the evolution of the historiography of that time, the processes of the indoctrination of Soviet society, and the relationship between the intellectuals and the authorities of the Soviet period. It unveils the formation and existence of Soviet-era Lithuanian historiography in order to show how it was affected by the mechanisms

that created it. *In the Captivity of the Matrix* discusses the dilemma of scholars at the time: to tell the truth or to lie?



The Left Side of History: World War II and the Unfulfilled Promise of Communism in Eastern Europe, by Kristen Ghodsee, was published by Duke University Press earlier this year. *The Left Side of History* tells the stories of partisans fighting behind the lines in Nazi-Allied Bulgaria during World War II such as: British officer Frank Thompson, brother of the great historian E.P. Thompson; and Elena Lagadinova, who at fourteen, was the youngest female member of the armed fascist resistance.

These people were not merely anti-fascist; they were pro-communist, idealists moved by their socialist principles to fight and, quite possibly, die for a cause they believed to be right. Victory brought forty years of communist dictatorship which was followed by unbridled capitalism after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Today, in democratic Eastern Europe there is ever-increasing despair, disenchantment with the post-communist present, and growing nostalgia for the communist past. By starting with the stories of people like Thompson and Lagadinova, Ghodsee provides a more nuanced understanding of how communist ideals could inspire ordinary people to make extraordinary sacrifices. View the [book trailer](#) or read the [capsule review](#) in *Foreign Affairs*.



Mapping Jewish Loyalties in Interwar Slovakia, by Rebekah Klein-Pejšová, was published with Indiana University Press in February (2015). In the aftermath of World War I, the largely Hungarian-speaking Jews in Slovakia faced the challenge of reorienting their political loyalties from defeated Hungary to newly established Czechoslovakia. Rebekah Klein-Pejšová examines the challenges Slovak Jews faced as government officials, demographers, and police

investigators continuously tested their loyalty. Focusing on "Jewish nationality" as a category of national identity, Klein-Pejšová shows how Jews recast themselves as loyal citizens of Czechoslovakia. *Mapping Jewish Loyalties in Interwar Slovakia* traces how the interwar state saw and understood minority loyalty and underscores how loyalty preceded identity in the redrawn map of east central Europe.

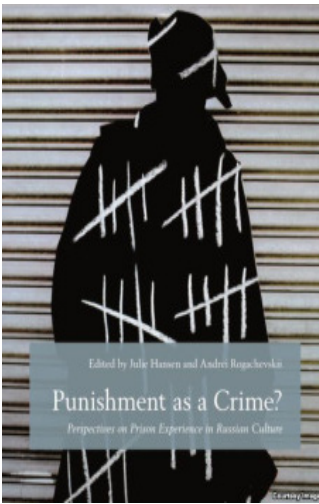


The Memory Book: One Woman's Self-discovery in the Mist of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, by Linda Fischer, was published by Minted Prose in October 2014.

The Memory Book takes the reader from New York City to Budapest, Vienna, and the far reaches of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire as Fischer unearths the highly personal yet timeless secrets kept in a turn-of-the-century memory book. The journey provides unique windows into both the life of modern Hungary and the tumultuous period in the early twentieth century that includes the First World War. Yet through it all Fischer shows that even as historical eras change, the human need for friendship and love is eternal. This book will appeal to history and travel enthusiasts as well as those who enjoy memoirs.

On a short vacation to Budapest, the author finds a small leather book in an antique store. Opening it she discovers pages filled with watercolors, drawings, and messages. The book turns out to be a memory book—a keepsake album kept by Central European girls at the turn of the twentieth century in which to record advice and remember special events. This one contains evergreen truisms and aphorisms written to the book's owner when she visited places few Americans know. Curiosity and concern propel the author on a multi-year journey into the heart of Old Europe and deep into centuries of art, history, and war. The book lives, the girl lives on, and its message of love finds meaning in our time.

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Punishment as a Crime?: Perspectives on Prison Experience in Russian Culture, edited by Julie Hinsen and Andrei Rogachevskii, is available as an Open Access [e-book](#) from Uppsala University Press.



Socialist Planning, 3rd edition, by Michael Ellman, was published by Cambridge University Press at the end of 2014. This new edition has been substantially rewritten throughout and has three entirely new chapters. The new edition provides an overview of socialist planning from its beginning in the ideas of nineteenth century socialists to its end in the late twentieth century, contains new data (such as on fatal work accidents in the USSR), and discusses new interpretations (such as structural militarization). It provides an analysis of planning in the different sectors of the economy (investment, agriculture, foreign trade, consumption etc.), focusing in particular

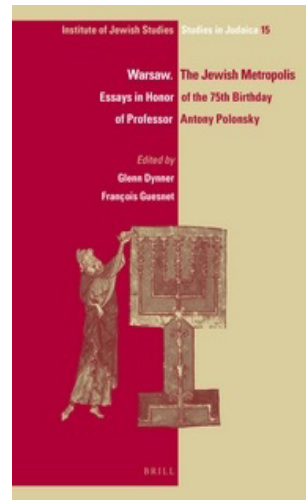
on the USSR and China. There is also attention to former Eastern Europe and to countries such as Cuba and Vietnam. The book is based on the international academic literature and is intended to give students and others a clear overview of a phenomenon that played a major role in the history of the twentieth century.



Yale University Press recently released *St. Petersburg: Shadows of the Past* by Catriona Kelly.

Fragile, gritty and vital to an extraordinary degree, St. Petersburg is one of the world's most alluring cities—a place in which the past is at once ubiquitous and inescapably controversial. Yet, outsiders are far more familiar with the city's pre-1917 and Second World War history than with its recent past. In this beautifully illustrated and highly original book, Kelly shows how creative engagement with the past has always been fundamental to St. Petersburg's residents. Weaving together oral history, personal observation, literary and artistic texts, jour-

nalism, and archival materials, she traces the at times paradoxical feelings of anxiety and pride that were inspired by living in the city, both when it was socialist Leningrad, and now. Ranging from rubbish dumps to promenades, from the city's glamorous center to its grimy outskirts, this ambitious book offers a compelling and always unexpected panorama of an extraordinary and elusive place.



Warsaw: The Jewish Metropolis Essays in Honor of the 75th Birthday of Professor Antony Polonsky, ed. by Glenn Dynner and Francois Guesnet, was published by Brill in 2015.

Warsaw was once home to the largest and most diverse Jewish community in the world. It was a center of rich varieties of Orthodox Judaism, Jewish Socialism, Diaspora Nationalism, Zionism, and Polonization. This volume is the first to reflect on the entire history of the Warsaw Jewish community, from its inception in the late 18th century to its emergence as a Jewish metropolis within a few generations, to its destruction during the German occupation and tentative re-emergence in the postwar period. The highly original contributions collected here investigate Warsaw Jewry's religious and cultural life, press and publications, political life, and relations with the surrounding Polish society. This monumental volume is dedicated to Professor Antony Polonsky, chief historian of the new Warsaw Museum for the History of Polish Jews, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Hanna Węgrzynek, Cornelia Aust, Ela Bauer, Nathan Cohen, Scott Ury, Michael Steinlauf, Robert Blobaum, Kalman Weiser, Genady Estrakh, Gershon Bacon, Natalia Aleksiu, Kenneth B. Moss, Joshua D. Zimmerman, Havi Dreifuss, Samuel Kassow, Joanna B. Michlic, Gabriel N. Finder, David Engel, Karen Auerbach, Marci Shore and Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern contributed essays to this volume.

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- Regular + Joint membership
- Affiliate + Joint Membership
- Student
- Two-year (at each level above)
- Institutional
- Lifetime

Institutional Member News



NEW DIRECTOR AT THE DAVIS CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

The Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University is pleased to announce that Rawi Abdelal, the Herbert F. Johnson Professor of International Management at Harvard Business School, will be the Center's next director. Abdelal's primary expertise is international political economy, and his research focuses on the politics of global

ization and the political economy of Eurasia. Abdelal's most recent book, *The Profits of Power: Energy Politics in Russia and Eurasia* (forthcoming, Harvard University Press), explores the relationships among political leadership, state-building, foreign investment, and geopolitics in the Russian energy sector. His recent honors include Harvard Business School's Greenhill Award, the Apgar Award for innovation in teaching, and the Williams Award for excellence in teaching, as well as, on several occasions, the Student Association's Faculty Award for outstanding teaching.

The Davis Center gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Professor Terry Martin, who served as acting director in 2009–10 and director from 2010 to 2015.



THE HARRIMAN INSTITUTE'S INCOMING DIRECTOR

Alexander Cooley, Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, will be taking over the Harriman Institute directorship on July 1, 2015. Cooley just published an edited volume about the politics surrounding International Rankings and Ratings, co-edited with Professor Jack Snyder, titled *Ranking the World: Grading States as a Tool of Global Govern-*

nance (Cambridge University Press, 2015), and is currently working on a monograph on Central Asia's ties with offshore international financial and legal networks.

In addition to his academic research, Cooley serves on several international advisory and policy committees of organizations engaged with Eurasia; he has also testified before Congress and the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission and briefed US and international officials on Eurasian political trends. His research has been supported by fellowships and grants from the Open Society Foundations, Carnegie Corporation, Smith Richardson Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, among others.



KENNAN INSTITUTE



THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER

The Kennan Institute is pleased to welcome its new Program Assistant, Emma Dorst. Ms. Dorst previously worked for International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR), and was a Lecturer at the Telavi Iakob Gogebashvili State University in Georgia.

Fellowship Opportunities:

[George F. Kennan Fellows](#) will be based at the Wilson Center in D.C. for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in D.C., as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials at the State Department, USAID, Department of Defense, and Congress. While conducting research, Fellows are expected to actively participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements, meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowships, the grantees become alumni, for whom Kennan will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement. U.S., Russian, and Ukrainian citizens are eligible to apply.

Research Team Option:

Applicants have an option to apply for the fellowship as individuals or as part of a team. If applying as a team of two (or three) applicants, the applicants must be citizens of at least two different countries. The goal of such joint fellowships is to promote collaborative research projects among U.S., Russian, and Ukrainian experts.

George F. Kennan Fellowship Teams will:

- Produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications.
- Present work at D.C., Russia, and/or Ukraine events.
- Conduct meetings and engage with policymakers in D.C.

Competitions for the fellowships will be held twice yearly with the following application deadlines: September 1 and March 1. Applicants must submit a completed application – please see our website for more details: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/grant-opportunities-and-internships-0>

The George F. Kennan Fellowship offers a monthly stipend of \$3,200, research facilities, and computer access. Fellows are required to be in residence at the Kennan Institute, Wilson Center for the duration of the grant. Awardees are expected to commence their three-month appointments

within one year of accepting the fellowship.

Please note Kennan Institute Title VIII-supported fellowships have been suspended, pending future funding. For more information please contact Liz Malinkin, Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20004-3027, Tel: (202) 691-4246, Fax: (202) 691-4247, E-mail: Liz.Malinkin@wilsoncenter.org

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following Scholars:

Title VIII Short-term Scholar

Matthew A. Derrick, Asst. Professor, Humboldt State U. "Territory, Islam, and the Muslim Spiritual Boards of Russia: A Comparative Study of Four Muslim-Majority Regions."

Title VIII Summer Research Scholars

Natalie Belsky, Lecturer, Saint Xavier University, "Encounters in the East: Evacuees in the Soviet Hinterland During the Second World War."

Cassandra Hartblay, Ph.D. Candidate, UNC at Chapel Hill, "Transnational Disability Rights Policy in US-Russia Relations."

Jared McBride, Visiting Assistant Professor, UCLA, "A Sea of Blood and Tears: Ethnic Diversity and Mass Violence in Nazi-Occupied Volhynia, 1941-1944."

Christopher Miller, Ph.D. Candidate, Yale University, "The Moscow Consensus."

Galina Starovoitova Fellow on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

Elena Racheva, Special Correspondent, Novaya Gazeta. "The Collective Memory of Stalin's Repressions in the USSR as a Reflection of Contemporary Russian Politics."

ASEEES Candidates for 2015 Board of Directors

The elections for the ASEEES Board of Directors are held annually in the summer. This year, there are four seats up for election: the President-Elect and the two Members-at-Large serving three-year terms from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018; and the Graduate Student Representative serving a two year term from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

2016 Vice President/President-Elect / 2017 President / 2018 Immediate Past President

The Vice President is elected annually by ASEEES members and is designated President-Elect. After serving one year as Vice President, they become President the following year. After one year in the presidency, the President is designated Immediate Past President and serves an additional year as a member of the Board of Directors. (vote for one)

- **Theodore P. Gerber**, Director of CREECA and Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- **Anna Grzymala-Busse**, Director of the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies and the Weiser Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2016-2018 Members at Large

Two members-at-large are elected each year by ASEEES members, to hold office for three (3) years. (vote for not more than two)

- **Clare Cavanagh**, Professor and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Professor of Comparative Literatures, Northwestern University
- **Adrienne Edgar**, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Santa Barbara
- **Juliet Johnson**, Professor of Political Science, McGill University, and McGill Director of the European Union Centre of Excellence - Montreal (Canada)
- **Eric Naiman**, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

2016-2017 Graduate Student Representatives

A graduate student representative holds the office for two (2) years. (vote for one)

- **Michael Połczyński**, PhD candidate in Ottoman and East European History, Georgetown University
- **Kristina Reardon**, PhD candidate in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, University of Connecticut

Information about how to vote electronically will be distributed by email to current members in good standing in the second week of June. Paper ballots will be distributed to members without email addresses on file and those who have requested them from aseees@pitt.edu only, in mid June. Voting will end on September 1, 2015.

Affiliate Member News

AATSEEL CALL FOR PAPERS

http://www.aatseel.org/cfp_main

The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Conference is a forum for exchange of ideas in all areas of Slavic and East/Central European languages, literatures, linguistics, cultures, and pedagogy. The 2016 conference will take place January 7-10, 2016 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center at UT Austin. In addition to scholarly panels, participants will have the chance to attend advanced seminars, roundtables, workshops and other special events. The 2016 Advanced Seminars will be led by Gabriella Safran (Stanford University) and Sibelan Forrester (Swarthmore College).

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SLAVIC STUDIES 2015 MARY ZIRIN PRIZE

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) is pleased to announce a call for nominations for the Mary Zirin Prize in recognition of an independent scholar in the field of Slavic Studies. The award is named for Mary Zirin, the founder of Women East-West. Working as an independent scholar, Zirin produced and encouraged fundamental works in Slavic/East European Women's Studies and has been instrumental in AWSS' development. The Prize aims to recognize the achievements of independent scholars and to encourage their continued scholarship and service in the fields of Slavic or Central and Eastern European Women's Studies. The Committee encourages the nomination of candidates at all career stages. For the purpose of this award, an independent scholar is defined as a scholar who is not employed at an institution of higher learning, or an employee of a university or college who is not eligible to compete for institutional support for research (for example, those teaching under short-term contracts or working in administrative posts). We welcome nominations from CIS and Central and Eastern Europe. .

Nominations must include: (1) a nomination letter of no more than two-pages double-spaced; (2) the nominee's C.V.; and (3) a sample publication (e.g., article or book chapter). The nomination letter must describe the scholar's contribution to the field, as well as work in progress. Nominations should be sent to Marilyn Smith at msmith@fivecolleges.edu, or at 14 Allen Street, Amherst, MA 01002.

EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION 2015 BOOK AWARD

The Early Slavic Studies Association is calling for nominations for its 2015 book award. The category this year is monographs on pre-modern Slavdom. To be eligible, the book must have been published after 2012. Contact the ESSA Book-Prize Committee Chair: mjoh127@gmail.com. Deadline: September 1, 2015.

SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS OF EAST EUROPEAN, EURASIAN, AND RUSSIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE NEWS

As of April 1, 2015, the Society of Historians of Eastern European, Eurasian and Russian Art and Architecture, Inc. (SHERA) is has become incorporated as a nonprofit charitable organization in the State of New York. As an affiliate society of College Art Association, SHERA is sponsoring a 1.5-hour session at CAA's 104th annual conference in Washington D.C. in February 2016. SHERA has been in the process of implementing a visiting scholar program in affiliation with the Russian State Humanitarian University (RGGU) in Moscow and the Department of Art History of the European University in St. Petersburg. Apart from doing research for their individual projects, participants of this program are expected to take part in the academic life of the inviting institutions in form of lectures, seminars, or master classes. In order to be considered for the program, scholars must be members of SHERA and begin the application process 10 to 12 weeks ahead of the planned visit. All inquiries should be directed to Natasha Kurchanova, President, at shera.artarchitecture@gmail.com.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES 2015 GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2015

The Society for Romanian Studies is pleased to announce the Seventh Annual Graduate Student Essay Prize competition for an outstanding unpublished essay or thesis chapter written in English by a graduate student in any social science or humanities discipline on any topic in Romanian Studies, broadly conceived. The 2015 prize will be presented at the ASEES Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA. The competition is open to current M.A. and doctoral students, or to those who defended dissertations in the academic year 2014-2015. If the essay is a seminar paper, it must have been written in 2014-2015. If the essay is a dissertation chapter, it should be accompanied by the dissertation abstract and table of contents. Essays/chapters should be between 25 and 50 pages double spaced, including reference matter. Expanded versions of conference papers are also acceptable if accompanied by a description of the panel and the candidate's conference paper proposal. Candidates should clearly indicate the format of the essay submitted. If you have questions, please contact Delia Popescu at popescd@lemoyne.edu.

Please send a copy of the essay and an updated CV to the Prize Committee by July 1, 2015.

- Dr. Delia Popescu, Committee Chair, popescd@lemoyne.edu
- Dr. Inessa Medzhibovskaya, medzhibi@newschool.edu
- Dr. Benjamin Thorne, b.thorne@wingate.edu

ASEEES-Affiliated Publications

The following publications offer a discounted rate to ASEEES members. All discounts are for personal subscriptions only and are print-only unless otherwise noted. ASEEES does not accept payment for these publications; you must contact the publisher directly as described below.

Ab Imperio is an international humanities and social sciences peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the studies in new imperial history, and interdisciplinary and comparative study of nationalism and nationalities in the post-Soviet space.

ACLS Humanities E-Book is an online collection of nearly 2,800 books of high quality in the humanities,... offered by the ACLS in collaboration with twenty learned societies, nearly 100 contributing publishers, and librarians at the University of Michigan's Scholarly Publishing Office.


East European Politics and Societies covers issues in Eastern Europe from social, political, and humanities perspectives. The journal focuses on expanding readers' understanding of past events and current developments in countries from Greece to the Baltics.

Eurasian Geography and Economics features original papers by leading specialists and scholars on geographic and economic issues in China, Russia, India, European Union, and other regions within the Eurasian realm. Included in all issues are symposia on topics of worldwide significance, review papers, and empirical research focused on analysis of recent economic and geographic developments.

Europe-Asia Studies is the principal academic journal in the world focusing on the history and current political, social and economic affairs of the countries of the former 'communist bloc' of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Asia.

JPASS gives you personal access to a library of more than 1,500 academic journals on JSTOR. If you don't have access to JSTOR through a school or public library, JPASS may be a perfect fit... Access includes a vast collection of archival journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.


Kritika is dedicated to critical inquiry into the history and culture of Russia and Eurasia.

 **Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research** is an open-access peer-reviewed journal produced by an international group of scholars. The bilingual journal, publishes materials based on empirical social research in Russian and English. *Laboratorium* offers scholars from Russia and other countries an international platform to publish results of their empirical studies across social sciences. *Laboratorium* seeks to assist Russian scholars with integration into the international scientific field, as well as to promote in Russia contemporary work by foreign researchers.

Post-Soviet Affairs features the work of prominent Western scholars on the republics of the former Soviet Union providing exclusive, up-to-the-minute analyses of the state of the

economy and society, progress toward economic reform, and linkages between political and social changes and economic developments.

Problems of Post-Communism features readable analysis, reliable information, and lively debate about the communist and post-communist world. Emphasis is placed on thoughtful but timely research on current economic, political, security, and international issues, as well as historical research that provides a relevant context for understanding current issues.


 **Revolutionary Russia** is the first English-language journal to concentrate on the revolutionary period. It is interdisciplinary and international in approach, publishing original research in the fields of history, politics, economics, sociology, literary and intellectual history from scholars throughout the world, including the former Soviet Union.

Russian Review is the first English-language journal to concentrate on the revolutionary period. It is interdisciplinary and international in approach, publishing original research in the fields of history, politics, economics, sociology, literary and intellectual history from scholars throughout the world, including the former Soviet Union.

Slavic & East European Information Resources is a focal point for the international exchange of information in the field of Slavic librarianship.

Studies in Russian & Soviet Cinema focuses on pre-revolutionary, Soviet and post-Soviet film, its aesthetic development, and its position between ideology and industry

Tolstoy Studies Journal welcomes contributions on any topic relevant to Tolstoy scholarship. In addition to articles, the journal publishes review articles, roundtable discussions, news and events, notices of work in progress, special reports and book reviews.

 **Transcultural Studies** journal publishes themed issues twice a year and attracts quality research from the Slavic profession on original topics in history, politics, sociology, literary, cultural and intellectual history from scholars throughout the world.

Transitions Online is an Internet magazine that covers political, social, cultural, and economic issues in the former communist countries of Europe and Central Asia.

Please visit our website for more details about pricing and subscription contact information.

AWSS ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN SLAVIC STUDIES

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies promotes research and teaching by scholars interested in women's and gender studies in Central/Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia. Committed to the study of this region across disciplines, AWSS welcomes members from all areas of the humanities and social sciences. AWSS serves as a networking resource for those concerned with the problems, status, and achievements of women in the academic and related professions. The Association also seeks to improve the general public's understanding about women and gender in these regions. However, the Association does not directly engage in advocacy for women's, national/international, or political causes. We serve our broad constituency of scholars with varying political and social opinions and allegiances through our educational mission, promoting the study of critical women's, national/international and political issues. We also serve as a network to assist scholars who are concerned with such issues to connect with one another. Members help support our programs and receive the newsletter, Women East-West (WEW), and all AWSS mailings. Annual dues are \$30 (\$10 for students). Join online at awss-home.org.

Please check out the ASEES blog post "Founding Mothers: Barbara Heldt on Women in Slavic Studies and the AWSS" in which Heldt describes the struggles faced by women in the field and the development of AWSS as a resource for those concerned with the problems, status, and achievements of women in the academic and related professions.



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In Memoriam



The Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at the University of Washington grieves the passing of **Jack V. Haney**.

Haney was born in May 1940 in Winchester, Idaho, to Vernon and Helen Haney. He died on April 17, 2015 from a pancreatic cancer.

Haney earned his BA *magna cum laude* at the University of Washington in 1962 and was a Rhodes Scholar at Queen's College, Oxford 1962-1964. He went on to earn another BA, an MA and D.Phil at the University of Oxford. Haney became a professor in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department at UW in 1965; for 35 years, he focused on medieval Russian literature and folklore, while also teaching 19th-century Russian literature and Russian language. He served as the department chair twice and as Director of the University's Honor's Program. He was also active in the Rhodes Scholar selection process. In 2001, he was named a Supernumerary Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, in recognition of his contributions to scholarship. Haney was prolific in retirement, devoting his academic pursuits to translation and commentary on the Russian folktale. His acclaimed seven-volume *The Complete Russian Folktale* was finished in 2006, followed by his translation of several notable works, including the *Long, Long Tales From the Russian North*.



Sarah (Sally) Anne Kent died after a long illness on February 3, 2015, in Stevens Point, WI. Born on November 24, 1955, in New London, CT, she attended Waterford High School in Connecticut, leaving at age 16 to study at Connecticut College. She graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa 1977 and began her graduate studies at Indiana Uni-

versity. Her field was Eastern European history (in particular, the former Yugoslavia), but she studied and traveled widely in Eastern, Central, and Western Europe.

When she completed her PhD in 1988, she accepted a teaching position in the History Department of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. She chaired that Department (2003-2006) and served on many University committees. She was also the Coordinator of International Studies from 2008-2014. She retired in the spring of 2014.

Kent received many awards and grants from pro-

grams such as Fulbright, IREX, the Wilson Center and the Institute for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin Madison.

Kent was resident in the former Yugoslavia during the now-historic breakup of that country. In 1997, after the war, she served as the Executive Secretary to the Provisional Election Commission, and assisted the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the establishment of the first modern national elections in that new country. Kent was subsequently asked by the U.S. State Department to help prepare ambassadors for Croatia and Bosnia in 2003-2004. She was also asked to lecture on Croatian nationalism at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, DC. She gave many professional and community presentations and papers and wrote widely.

Excerpted from text provided by Stevens Point Journal



We were deeply saddened to learn that **Catharine Nepomnyashchy** passed away on March 21. She was a member of the Barnard College faculty for twenty-eight years.

Nepomnyashchy, the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Russian Literature and Culture and Chair of the Slavic Department, joined Barnard's faculty in 1987. In addition to her teaching duties for the Slavic Department, for which she was renowned for an inclusive and engaging classroom, she was affiliated with Barnard's Comparative Literature Program and Human Rights Program. She also served on the Executive Committee of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University.

Nepomnyashchy's research and teaching interests included twentieth- and twenty-first-century Russian literature and popular culture, Russian women's studies, and the works of Alexander Pushkin, Andrei Sinyavsky, and Vladimir Nabokov. She approached these subjects with true passion and devotion, and her love of Russia and its history were boundless.

She was the author of many books including *Abram Tertz and the Poetics of Crime; Strolls with Pushkin*, which she translated with Slava Yastremski and for which she wrote the introduction; *Under the Sky of My Africa: Alexander Pushkin and Blackness*, which she edited with Nicole Svobodny and Ludmilla Trigov; and *Mapping the Feminine: Russian Women and Cultural Difference*, which she edited with Irina Reyfman and Hilde Hoogenboom. Nepomnyashchy also published extensively on Soviet and post-Soviet literature and popular culture, Pushkin, Russian ballet, Russian émigré literature

and culture, and the future of regional studies. At the time of her death, Nepomnyashchy was working on a book entitled *Nabokov and His Enemies: Terms of Engagement*.

Nepomnyashchy served as Director of the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, from 2001 to 2009 (the first woman to hold that position) and was honored as the Institute's 2012 Alumna of the Year. As Director, Nepomnyashchy was credited with broadening faculty engagement in the Harriman Institute by expanding its scope of activities to arts, literature, and culture, and in deepening its connections to Central Asia and the Caucasus. In addition, she served as President of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Language (AATSEEL), as well as on the Advisory Council of the Kennan Institute and on the ASEES Board of Directors. She chaired the Executive Committee of

the Slavic Division of the Modern Language Association and served on the editorial boards of *Slavic Review*, *Novyi zhurnal*, and *La Revue Russe*. In 2011, she received the AATSEEL's Award for Outstanding Service to the Profession.

Excerpted from text provided by Linda Bell, Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Barnard College. Additionally, [here](#) is a remembrance by her former colleague, David Goldfarb.



ASEEES is delighted to announce that its [second biennial summer convention in the region](#) will be hosted by the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, on June 9-11, 2016 (tentative dates). The convention will be co-sponsored by the International Association for the Humanities (MAG). Founded in 2007 with the help of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the American Council of Learned Societies, MAG is an independent association of humanities scholars primarily in Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine and an ASEEES-affiliated organization. The ASEEES Board approved MAG's proposal for the joint summer convention at its meeting in November 2014.

The convention theme is "Images of the Other": instrumental use and abuse of the 'Other' in politics, cultural and social practices; the role of ethnic, cultural, social and gender stereotypes; representations of the 'Other' in memory politics, art, public discourse and media; and scholarship regarding the 'Other' as a social construct. We anticipate thought-provoking plenaries on the theme, which will be continuation of a MAG-sponsored roundtable on "[How Past Makes Present: Memory Politics and Conflict in Russia, Ukraine, and the 'Near Abroad'](#)" at the 2015 ASEEES Convention in Philadelphia.

ASEEES President for Year 2016 Padraic Kenney (Indiana U) and MAG President Georgiy Kasianov (Ukrainian Academy of Sciences) will be participating in the conference.

The call for proposals will be forthcoming. The program committee will include four MAG members and four ASEEES members, and chaired by Andrzej Tymowski (American Council of Learned Societies), who is a member of both MAG and ASEEES.

The inaugural ASEEES summer convention in the region, co-sponsored by the Central Eurasian Studies Society, was hosted by Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, May 22-24, 2014. The 2018 summer convention is tentatively scheduled to be hosted by the European University at St. Petersburg, Russia.

ASEEES will offer a limited number of travel grants for its members to participate in the summer convention.

Member Spotlight: Cassandra Hartblay

Cassandra Hartblay is a PhD candidate in Cultural and Medical Anthropology at UNC Chapel Hill.

When did you first develop an interest in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies?

When I was six years old, I watched the documentary *Age 7 in the USSR*, the first of four documentaries in Sergey Miroshnichenko's series based on Michael Apted's *Seven Up!* concept. It made a big impression on me. I must have asked someone what "communism" was, and some well-intentioned adult explained that the idea of communism is that no one owns any more than anyone else – everyone gets the same amount of money and things. To a six year old, this sounded like a great idea, and I couldn't imagine why such a system had fallen apart. This quandary – what happened to the Soviet Union? – stuck with me, and when I had the opportunity to study Russian and go on an exchange program in high school, I jumped. My own family heritage is entirely Eastern European – Polish, Polish Jewish, Slovak, Ukrainian, and Hungarian, so no one was upset that I was studying a Slavic language. My father has always been active in Polish American culture, and I visited Poland several times as a teenager and spent at summer at Jagellonian University in Krakow during college.

How have your interests changed since then?

I'm still interested in the legacy of the Soviet Union, and in configurations of post-communism. I'm also still interested in the work of representing the perspectives and ideas of my age-mates or peers who live in Russia. As a teenager and adult, I got involved in disability advocacy in the US, and eventually brought that lens to my ethnographic research in Russia and Central Asia.

What is your current research project?

I am currently completing my PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My dissertation centers on the voices and experiences of young adults (20-35) with disabilities in the city of Petrozavodsk, Russia. The ethnography considers how lived realities of postsocialism and the remnants of Soviet infrastructure reproduce the marginalization of people with disabilities in culturally specific ways. It includes stories about inaccessible accessibility ramps, about the changes to social services and non-profit culture serving people with disabilities from the 1990s until today, and about how people with disabilities live and form social identities. In addition to the academic text, I am also working on a play script based

on interviews with my research participants, and I am publishing a documentary photography project based on this research as well.

What do you value about your ASEES membership?

As a sociocultural anthropologist, I'm often an outlier in terms of geographic region. ASEES is a space where I don't have to start from the beginning to contextualize Russia and the post-Soviet conjuncture. ASEES scholars also aren't afraid to challenge one another in terms of interpretation, translation, or claims about a given situation on the ground; this is very different from anthropology, where often what you have in common with scholars is theoretical and topical, and rarely has anyone ever been to anyone else's field site. I also enjoy the interdisciplinarity of ASEES, and encountering non-academics working in policy and applied fields who attend the yearly convention – it's a great way to stay abreast of what conversations are happening about the region in other arenas.

Besides your professional work, what other interests and/or hobbies do you enjoy?

I'm sporty: I run, play basketball, and practice yoga. If I'm not at work, I'm usually wandering around in the woods with my dog, reading literary fiction at home, or conspiring with friends to pass out Xeroxed copies of the Riot Grrrl manifesto in inappropriate places.



Congratulations to the Winners of the Sixteenth Annual ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest.

In this year's contest, there were 1,087 essays submitted from 68 universities, colleges, and institutions across the nation.

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 1)

Amin Ghadimi, Harvard University

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 1)

Jonathan Epstein, New York University

Sean Hall, American University

Hoa Nguyen, Mount Holyoke College

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 1)

Nicolas Campos, Harvard University

Isabel Murphy, Harvard University

Blake Patterson, Indiana University

Rachel Valentina Sommers, Columbia University

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 2)

Emily Efland, Yale University

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 2)

Jorge Anaya, Portland Community College

Thomas Elvins, University of Pittsburgh

Dovydas Sakinis, Dartmouth College

Emma Santelmann, Harvard University

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 2)

Aldo Arellano, Dartmouth College

Michael Hemphill, University of Kansas

Cody Lake, Temple University

Benjamin Marakowitz-Svigals, Kenyon College

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 3)

Isaac Riley, Brigham Young University

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 3)

Joshua Altman, Yale University

Ty Bodily, Brigham Young University

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 3)

Kelly Butler, Brigham Young University

Benjamin Cohen, Pomona College

Irene Yuan Lo, Columbia University

Kate Lyn Seidel, Columbia University

Gold Medal (Category A, Level 4)

Stephanie Morris, Indiana University

Silver Medal (Category A, Level 4)

Linda Kleinfeld, Sewanee: The University of the South

Zackary Suhr, Indiana University

Bronze Medal (Category A, Level 4)

Raul Cancinos, Defense Language Institute

Juan del Valle Coello, Indiana University

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 1)

Szymon Zuberek, University of Illinois at Chicago

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 1)

Weronika Kaczmarczyk, University of Notre Dame

Uros Randelovic, Brandeis University

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 1)

Paulina Sumara, University of Illinois at Chicago

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 2)

Iryna Varshchuk, University of Maryland

Ivana Velkova Bolcheva, University of California, Los Angeles

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 2)

Stefan Curcic, United States Air Force Academy

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 2)

Angelika Kropiowski, University of Rochester

Weronika Pasciak, Boston University

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 3)

Marta Pysak, Brown University

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 3)

Jana Lohrová, Yale University

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 3)

Dominica Iszczek, American University

Brina Malachowski, American University

Gold Medal (Category B, Level 4)

Vladislav V. Petkov, Barnard College

Silver Medal (Category B, Level 4)

Bogdan Shevchuk, Portland State University

Bronze Medal (Category B, Level 4)

Alexander Strzelecki, Brown University

Gold Medal (Category C, Level 1)

Daria Farris, Georgetown University

Continued on page 30

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Nikolai Iakovlevich Danilevskii. *"Woe to the Victors!" The Russo-Turkish War, the Congress of Berlin, and the Future of Slavdom*, trans. **Stephen M. Woodburn**, 234 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-0-89357-449-9), \$29.95.

In the articles that make up this book Danilevskii (1822–85) analyzed the significance of a unified Germany and defeated France for Russia's diplomatic prospects, outlined Russia's interests in the Black Sea and Bosphorus Straits, and pondered the effect of the Congress of Berlin on Russia's future and the cause of Slavic unification. In the present, as Russia sees new opportunities to assert its interests in the near abroad, there has been a renewed interest in Danilevskii's works, most of which have been republished in recent years. As a result, the author has reached a far greater reading audience in the post-Soviet period than he ever attracted during his lifetime.

Barry P. Scherr, James Bailey, and Vida T. Johnson, eds. *Poetry & Poetics: A Centennial Tribute to Kiril Taranovsky*, 425 p., 2014 (ISBN 978-0-89357-407-9), \$32.95.

Poetry and Poetics features articles on poets from the 18th–20th centuries, honoring and reflecting Taranovsky's broad

interests in Russian poetry. Several contributions investigate aspects of Russian versification, and a final section presents reflections on his legacy. The book concludes with a set of previously unpublished letters, which offer insights to both the man and his ideas.

Masha Belyavski-Frank, comp., trans., and ed. *Grapevine and Rose: Muslim Oral Ballads from Bosnia-Herzegovina*, 228 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-0-89357-445-1), \$29.95.

This bilingual anthology presents a range of Bosnian Muslim oral ballads, from the well-known "Hasanaginica" to such rare gems as "I Dreamt A Dream." There is also an extensive introduction discussing poetic doublets, loanwords, and symbolism as well as the cultural context that shapes these ballads and informs their place as one of the major genres of Balkan folk literature.



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Natan Belchikov, Columbia University
Vladislav Korobkin, University of Chicago

Bronze Medal (Category C, Level 1)
Hannah Germaine, Brandeis University
Kristina Alexandra Makarian, Columbia University

Gold Medal (Category C, Level 2)
Olga Dovhanyuk, Rutgers University

Silver Medal (Category C, Level 2)
Ruslan Lucero, University of Notre Dame
Breanna Vizlakh, Brandeis University

Bronze Medal (Category C, Level 2)
Yekaterina D. Gofman, University of Illinois at Chicago
Dina Peck, University of Chicago

Gold Medal (Category C, Level 3)
Arturas Karizskis, Defense Language Institute

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Aleksandr Didarov, Defense Language Institute
Polina Porotskaya, Columbia University

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Alexandra Mayn, Carleton College

Silver Medal (Category C, Level 5)
Ilya Marchenko, Defense Language Institute

Bronze Medal (Category C, Level 5)
Sergey Bepalov, Defense Language Institute



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Review Essay

ANATOLY PINSKY
Soviet Modernity Post-Stalin

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Friday November 20
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