



# NewsNet

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

## Presidential Performances Julie A. Cassiday, Williams College

*The following Presidential Address was given on December 7, 2018, at the 50th Annual ASEEEES Convention in Boston, MA.*

Perhaps the most daunting thing I did as president of ASEEEES was write my presidential address. I had been given twenty minutes on the stage of the 2018 annual convention to say whatever I wanted to an audience that, rather than catch up with friends in the hotel bar or explore Boston's nightlife, would gather to celebrate recipients of the association's annual awards. Aware that whatever I might say should justify this choice, I asked myself a series of questions about the specific type of performance that ASEEEES's presidential address represents. I wondered what my audience might expect from a twenty-minute speech at a convention whose overarching theme was itself "Performance." These thoughts about the genre of ASEEEES's presidential address made me feel a certain pressure to say something weighty about the state of the field, about ASEEEES's changing role in a rapidly changing world, and about the urgency of the important work we all do as academics, journalists, and public intellectuals. However, at the same time that I thought about what I might say from the bully pulpit of ASEEEES's annual convention, I also began worrying about what I would wear.

Given the performativity of human identity and

interactions, the package in which I delivered my own presidential performance played no small role in my audience's interest in and perception of what was inside that package. Russian Formalism has convinced us of the overwhelming importance of the literary device, and we know that the medium is the message, to borrow from Marshall McLuhan. Guy DeBord has similarly pointed out that we live in "the society of the spectacle," and we also understand that our identities, gendered and otherwise, are not a matter of nature, but of performance, to paraphrase Judith Butler.<sup>1</sup> On a daily basis, each of us encounters situations in which the style of a communication or interaction takes precedence over the ostensible content of what was said or done. These encounters demonstrate a rapidly evolving "stylization of life, that is, the primacy of forms over function, of manner over matter," which, according to Pierre Bourdieu, occurs in every area of our lived practice with "the aim of purifying, refining and sublimating primary needs and impulses."<sup>2</sup>

I will let those who attended the awards ceremony in Boston determine whether the blue velvet dress I wore purified, refined, or sublimated the needs and impulses behind my presidential address in any way. Rather than focus on myself, I prefer to use the notion that style tends to subsume content to approach the presidential

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performances of two figures whose communications and interactions merit significantly more scrutiny than my own: Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. Although much has been said about their dress, speech, and comportment, as well as the peculiar Putin-Trump bromance, our first impulse as scholars is to search for the substance behind Putin's impassive face or Trump's spiraling rhetoric. In both cases, academics and pundits have searched for the ideology underlying a startling variety of presidential performances. However, what they have found suggests that the systematic body of theory, aims, ideals, and beliefs that constitutes an ideology like Marxism-Leninism or Reaganism is simply absent. I propose that we stop searching for the substance behind Putin's and Trump's respective presidential styles, if only briefly, so that we might consider in what ways presidential manner in fact represents the matter of both their presidencies. Putin and Trump perform two distinct yet clearly related versions of political masculinity, and their success in purifying, refining, and sublimating citizens' needs and impulses to their particular masculine styles has had a profound impact on the political sphere in both Russia and the United States.

My own experience writing about and teaching Putin's macho behavior has led me to view the Russian president's carefully crafted, almost twenty-year-long spectacle of political masculinity as a useful lens to focus some of Trump's gestures in recent years. Since Putin's rise to power in 1999, he has systematically cornered the market on political masculinity within Russia, commandeering everything from the country's media to its laws and elections. For example, the infamous photo ops staged by the Kremlin's political technologists show Putin in all manner of manly pursuits, which let him ooze machismo and authority while working out in his judogi, playing ice hockey, riding a horse shirtless, or lifting weights. In public speeches, Putin has similarly flexed his masculine muscle by promising to snuff out Chechen terrorists in the latrine, and he has carried through on such promises by seizing Crimea, bombing Syria, and devising a number of frozen conflicts at the edges of his would-be empire. As these examples show, the Russian president's performance of political masculinity is much more than the raw material for the endless stream of Putin memes on the internet. Rather, Putin's virile posturing suggests that instrumentalized notions of gender and sexuality have become his go-to political weapons in both the domestic and global arenas.

While some social scientists have struggled to understand the oxymoron of Putinism's "sovereign democracy," others have linked the return of traditional values under Putin to "a biopolitical turn" in policy and

legislation.<sup>3</sup> Putin's performance of political masculinity anchors the clearly gendered and heteronormative laws that have emerged in Russia in recent years, from the institution of "maternity capital" in 2007 to the 2013 ban on "homosexual propaganda." However, I believe we should push our understanding of Russia's biopolitical turn one step further. In the absence of any truly coherent ideology, Putin's regime has made heteronormativity, with its concomitant homophobia, into an ideological proxy and defined citizenship in Russia today through the dual imperative of embodying essentialized gender and compulsory heterosexuality. Whether we look to legislation, public policy, or popular culture, we see that the Russian Federation's ideal citizen has a specific gender and sexual orientation. The paradigmatic Russian who emerges from these varied venues is not the country's hypermasculine leader, an oligarch, or even a man, but a young, sexually-available woman, who chooses to shape her body, behavior, and, most importantly, desires in response to Vladimir Putin. Vivid proof of this argument appeared in the 2011 video campaign of a group called Putin's Army, which challenges young women to rip their shirts and in effect to strip for Putin.<sup>4</sup> As the video's images and voiceover demonstrate, the passion that Putin's Army shows for their leader has nothing to do with his politics, but rather with his status as a stylish man, which is apparently what makes him a worthy politician. At the same time that their support of Putin lacks any political substance, these nubile college co-eds, with their stiletto heels and ample cleavage, model the erotically inflected awe with which patriotic Russians should view their president.

#### **ASEEES ANNOUNCES PRITSACK BOOK PRIZE IN UKRAINIAN STUDIES**

The Omeljan Pritsak Book Prize in Ukrainian Studies, sponsored by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, recognizes a distinguished book in the field of Ukrainian studies that was published in the previous calendar year. The Pritsak Prize carries a cash award and is presented annually at the ASEEES Annual Convention.

The primary founder of Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute and the first Mykhailo S. Hrushevs'kyi Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard, Omeljan Pritsak was an esteemed scholar of broad scope and erudition, who treated Ukrainian history and culture in close connection with the history and culture of its neighbors.

Rules of Eligibility can be found at [aseees.org/programs/aseees-prizes/pritsak-book-prize](http://aseees.org/programs/aseees-prizes/pritsak-book-prize)

All submissions are due April 15, 2019.

The hyperfemininity of Putin's Army seems like a call and response to their president's own hypermasculine style, which brings us to the question of how Putin's macho chic functions for the multiple audiences watching his presidential performance. The mass-mediatization of the Putin we see on Russia's state-sponsored television, in a Putin action figure, or on a Putin t-shirt means that his ongoing presidential performance has reached innumerable millions, been the subject of myriad interpretations and manipulations, and inspired everything from sincere reverence and erotic arousal to biting sarcasm and visceral repulsion.<sup>5</sup> Putin's performance of machismo invites such widely divergent reactions, since the virility marketed under the Putin brand straddles the threshold between sociologist Max Weber's notion of charisma as the single most important quality conferring leadership and theorist Susan Sontag's definition of camp as an aesthetic sensibility.<sup>6</sup> The inherent virtuality of the Putin seen by all, with the exception of a small circle of insiders, allows any image of Russia's leader to slide effortlessly from charisma, through camp, and into other performative modes characterized by irony, for example, kitsch, glamour, or drag. This constant movement between charisma, camp, and camp's ironic cousins is a process I call *camprisma*, and it is not exclusive to Putin's presidential performance.

*Camprisma* has become ubiquitous in post-Soviet Russian culture, but I will limit myself to a single example from popular music to illustrate my point. The self-styled "Superblond of All Russia," Olya Poliakova always performs in a camped-up version of a traditional Russian kokoshnik. Her 2012 music video "Russian Style" clearly refers to the Korean mega-hit "Gangnam Style," and it provides a hilarious send-up of the clichés of Russia and Russian femininity in which global culture trades.<sup>7</sup> At first glance, the video appears to be just another silly performance of hyperfemininity accompanied by cheesy accordion music and culminating in the singer's strip-tease appearance out of a barrel of caviar before a group of hunky balalaika players. However, the video's brief framing narrative locates "Russian Style" in a Siberian log cabin, which houses the sole survivors of the Apocalypse and in which one can take refuge only in a kokoshnik, suggesting that a neonationalist message lurks behind the camp of "Russian Style."

Poliakova's video can sustain both of the interpretations offered above, as well as myriad others. Regardless of the performers' intent, the predispositions of viewers and the countless contexts of their viewing play key roles in the movement from charisma, through camp, and into kitsch. In fact, the "Russian Style" of Poliakova and Putin appears not only to acknowledge, but also to embrace the effortless

slide from one performative mode to another, suggesting a link to the "performative shift" within late Soviet culture identified by anthropologist Alexei Yurchak. As Yurchak describes, the performative shift in post-Stalin culture made "it [more] important to participate in the reproduction of the *form* of [late Soviet] ritualized acts of authoritative discourse than to engage with their" content.<sup>8</sup> If Yurchak describes the performative shift of an entire country, which took almost four decades to culminate in the Soviet Union's demise, then *camprisma*'s rapid-fire shifting within a single song or image represents something new. In addition to dramatically accelerating the process described by Yurchak, *camprisma* gives the gendered and sexed body pride of place within a phenomenon initially focused on discourse. Putin's political masculinity takes part in an ongoing performative shift in post-Soviet culture, which not only privileges form over meaning, but allows Putin to use his embodied style of domineering heteronormativity to block out political substance.

Putin and Trump could hardly seem more different when we consider such things as personal behavior, political career, or national context. Yet ever since Trump became a presidential nominee in 2015, his performance of political masculinity has been compared to that of Putin. For example, Trump brought his sexual potency into the 2016 Republican debates, which had previously focused on political platform and competence, by referring to the size of his hands.<sup>9</sup> Thinly veiled references to penis size might have embarrassed another politician, yet Trump has managed repeatedly to transform what were once political liabilities into positive PR pitched to his supporters. From

**ASEEES 3rd BIENNIAL  
SUMMER CONVENTION**  
Zagreb, Croatia • June 14-16, 2019

**CONVENTION THEME**  
The 2019 ASEEES Summer Convention theme is "Culture Wars" with a focus on the ways in which individuals or collectives create or construct diametrically opposed ways of understanding their societies and their place in the world.

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION**  
All participants will be expected to register for the convention and pay registration fees.

[aseees.org/summer-convention](http://aseees.org/summer-convention)

a pre-campaign video in which he bragged about grabbing women by the crotch to the hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels, Trump has used potential scandal not only to construct his own hypermasculine presidential persona, but also to draw attention away from some of his more questionable statements and actions. Many who count themselves among Trump's base apparently agree with his comments dismissing Christine Blasey Ford's testimony that she was sexually assaulted by now supreme court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, celebrating the return of conservative values that differ from those currently in sway in Russia only in their details. And at rallies, Trump has even inspired his own army of cheerleaders, who model the erotically inflected awe with which he would like patriotic Americans to view their president. In other words, Trump has filled the ideological void of his presidency with a swaggering performance of political masculinity that seeks to reshape contemporary American citizenship through naturalized gender and assumed heterosexuality. Perhaps the biggest difference between what Trump's political masculinity attempts to do and what Putin's has already done is the relatively minor role of homophobia in the American president's performance. Rather than sanction hatred for all of America's sexual minorities, Trump focuses hostility on the country's trans community and illegal immigrants.

Much like Putin, Trump has developed a hypermasculine presidential style that seeks to make his country great again by blending charisma with camp and even allowing it to slide into kitsch. As with Putin, Trump's version of campisma allows the varied audiences watching his performance to perceive different qualities in and to enact different aspirations through their president. On the one hand, the elevation to the American presidency of Trump's pre-existing brand of real-estate mogul cum reality-TV star has aroused excitement, patriotism, and passionate loyalty among his base. On the other hand, the degradation of the institution of the American presidency bemoaned by Trump's opponents allows them to exercise righteous indignation about the commander-in-chief's fabrication of facts, as well as his attacks on liberal values and the media. Whether he knows it or not, Trump's sometimes charismatic yet often campy presidential performance has triggered multiple and often contradictory performative shifts within American society. And whether we embrace or lament the movement away from political substance to masculine style on which Trump has built his presidential persona, we cannot doubt that the performative shifts of the Trump era have already had and will continue to have a profound impact on political discourse in the United States.

Nonetheless, when compared to Putin, Trump seems at a distinct disadvantage in winning over voters and garnering public approval. While Putin won his most recent presidential election by a landslide with over 75% of the vote and enjoys approval ratings in the same range and often higher, Trump only received slightly more than 46% of the vote in 2016, and his approval rating is typically half that of Putin. In addition, Trump appears to be an unusually naïve political actor, who, instead of taking cues from a squad of political technologists, more often than not ignores the counsel of White House advisors, firing them on a regular basis. Of course, America's beleaguered democracy is a far cry from the corrupt neauthoritarianism that currently characterizes Russia. Despite Trump's allegations of election fraud and efforts to discredit CNN and *The New York Times*, the American president does not have the power to stuff ballot boxes or silence journalists critical of his presidency, as Putin has done. Of even greater relevance to my comparison is Trump's admiration, bordering on sycophancy, for his Russian counterpart, which represents the single biggest crack in the American president's masculine armor.

Although commentators have labeled Putin and Trump's relationship a "bromance," this word is a misnomer if "bromance" refers to mutually shared intimacy and love between two men.<sup>10</sup> Rather than exhibit homosocial reciprocity, the relationship between the two world leaders more closely resembles a girlish crush on an older and apparently unavailable man. Trump's starry-eyed admiration of Putin precludes any admission that the Russian president or his government might have overstepped the law, and Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire "to get along with Russia," gushing about how "nice" Putin is. For the summit in Helsinki during the summer of 2018, not only did Trump refuse his aides' help while preparing, but he more shockingly insisted that he and Putin meet alone, so that whatever transpired would remain off the record. Frankly, this sounds less like a summit and more like an attempt at seduction to me, and Trump's remarks after their tête-à-tête—in which he denied Russian interference in the 2016 elections, described the Russian president as "extremely strong and powerful," and effused about Putin's trustworthiness in comparison to U.S. intelligence agencies—smacks of post-coital bliss.

In contrast to Trump's fawning, the Russian president has been relatively circumspect in his praise of his American counterpart, sensitizing the media such small gestures as Putin's momentary thumbs-up during a meeting in Paris in November of 2018. The imbalance in their relationship has led to speculation about whether someone in Russia might

have compromising information, known as *kompromat*, on Trump, while others, including former Secretary of State and U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, have called Trump “a useful idiot,” who unwittingly pursues Russia’s covert objectives.<sup>11</sup> In either scenario, Trump’s political masculinity crumbles whenever he comments on or interacts with Putin, making Trump’s presidential performance into a cross-dressed version of the young, sexually-available women of Putin’s Army, who choose to shape their bodies, behaviors, and, desires in response to Putin. Apparently, Putin represents a kind of masculine kryptonite with the power not only to feminize the American president, but also to expose his performance of political masculinity for the substance-free style that it is.

Despite their many differences, the presidential performances of both Putin and Trump depend on displays of masculine political bravado that seek to control the biopolitical turns taking place in both countries. As a result, among the many forms that political dissent has taken in Russia and the United States, protests mobilizing women’s bodies represent the most troubling for both heads of state. Whether we consider Pussy Riot and Femen in post-Soviet space or the women’s marches and the #MeToo movement in the United States, women’s refusal to submit to their leaders’ erotic thrall exposes what is actually at stake when masculine style supplants political substance. Very often these protesters deploy their own version of *camp* to make their point. A vivid example of how such protests can in fact morph from kitsch and camp back into charisma took place in January of 2018 when a group of air cadets from the Russian city of Ulianovsk videotaped themselves lip-syncing to the Italian techno-pop tune “Satisfaction” while wearing little more than the caps from their uniforms and underwear.<sup>12</sup> The Ulianovsk cadets aroused indignation among Russian officials, who threatened a variety of measures to punish them for supposedly desecrating Russian aviation. But the countless fan videos, which began to appear on the internet in support of the cadets, demonstrated that the cadets’ and their fans’ own styles have no less political substance than the macho posturing of Putin or Trump.

Perhaps the Ulianovsk cadets’ most significant transgression was, like Pussy Riot, Femen, and many of the protesting women in the United States, to expose the type of hypermasculinity on which Putin’s and Trump’s presidential performances depend as the drag performance that it is. In addition, all of these groups demonstrate that citizens can and do take an active part in the rapidly accelerating performative shifts currently happening in Russia, North America, and around the globe. The ceaseless

shift from style to substance and then back again allows citizens in both countries to forge horizontal connections among themselves and will help to inspire new futures once Putin’s and Trump’s presidential performances come to their inevitable ends.

Serving as the president of ASEES has been a true honor for me, and as I look back on my own presidential performance, I prefer not to conclude with a serious pronouncement or weighty prediction, but rather by borrowing a line from American’s undisputed drag superstar, the inimitable RuPaul: All of us, including Putin and Trump, were born naked, and the rest is frankly just drag.

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## Endnotes

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- 2 Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984), 6.
- 3 Andrey Makarychev and Sergei Medvedev, “Biopolitics and Power in Putin’s Russia,” *Problems of Post-Communism* 62 (2015): 45.
- 4 “Putin’s Army [English Subtitles]” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klcyPNIA698>.
- 5 Julie A. Cassiday and Emily D. Johnson, “Putin, Putiniana and the Question of a Post-Soviet Cult of Personality,” *Slavonic and East European Review* 88(4) (2010): 681-707.
- 6 Max Weber, “The Sociology of Charismatic Authority,” *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1946), 245-252; Susan Sontag, “Notes on ‘Camp,’” *Against Interpretation and Other Essays* (New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1966), 275-292.
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- 8 Alexei Yurchak, *Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More: The Last Soviet Generation* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006), 23.
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- 11 Adam Davison, “A Theory of Trump Kompromat: Why the President is so nice to Putin, even when Putin might not want him to be,” *The New Yorker* (19 July 2018) at <https://www.newyorker.com/news/swamp-chronicles/a-theory-of-trump-kompromat>; Brent Griffiths, “Albright: Trump fits the mold of Russia’s ‘useful idiot,’” *Politico* (24 October 2016) at <https://www.politico.com/story/2016/10/trump-russia-useful-idiot-madeleine-albright-230238>.
- 12 “Satisfaction” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7y2ADtBhFc>.







# 2018 Executive Director's Report

## Lynda Park

2018 was a momentous year for ASEEES as we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and the 50<sup>th</sup> annual convention, held in Boston in December. For the first time since 1997, the membership increased to over 3500. We launched the Future of the Field campaign to double the funds for member programs. The support we have received has been most gratifying and shows the true dedication of our members to sustain the field of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies.

**Membership** The Association saw a dramatic increase in individual membership in 2018, reaching 3,537 members of which 699 were student members (19.8%) and 375 were affiliate members (10.6%). This is the first time the membership went over 3,500 since 1997. We continued to see growth in International membership with 1,119 international members (31.6%) from 53 countries, compared to 994 international members from 50 countries in 2017, 930 members from 47 countries in 2016, and 797 international members from 48 countries in 2015. The top five countries outside the US with most members were: the UK (175 members), Russia (165), Canada (158), Germany (116), and Poland (61). We had 497 members (14%) from the 18 countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (including Russia). For general trends in membership over the last decade, please see the table below. We had 60 Institutional Members in 2018, of which 20 were premium members and 40 were regular members.

**Convention** The 50<sup>th</sup> Convention at the Boston Marriott Copley Place on Dec. 6-9, 2018, was an outstanding event. With the theme of "Performance," the convention included 648 sessions (483 panels and 165 roundtables), plus a presidential plenary, 6 film screenings, and 41 meetings. The Presidential Plenary entitled "How Do We Rate Our Performance? ASEEES Presidents Consider the State of the Field," featured past ASEEES presidents – Beth

Holmgren, Padraic Kenney, Ellen Mickiewicz, and Bill Rosenberg. The 2018 ASEEES President Julie Cassidy gave her presidential address, "Presidential Performances," during the Award ceremony. I thank Peter Rutland, the convention program committee chair, for his efforts in scheduling the sessions as well as organizing key panels.

The registration numbers for the convention were higher than the 2017 Chicago convention. We had 2,606 registrants, of which 2,275 were members (87%), 331 were non-members. Of the total registrants, 458 were students (18%), 497 were first-time attendees (19%), and 799 were international registrants (32%) from 50 countries. In total, we had 2,746 attendees, including the exhibitors. The exhibit hall consisted of 68 booths set up by 65 organizations and programs.

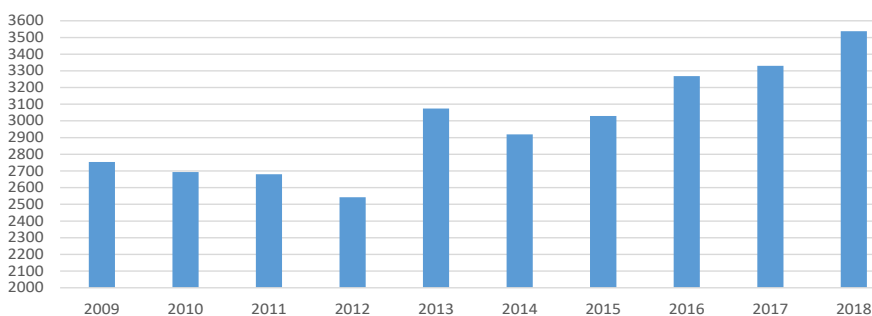
We marked the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 50<sup>th</sup> convention with a lively dance party on Saturday night, featuring live klezmer music followed by a DJ. The dance party was so well-received that we intend to make it a regular event. We thank the dance party sponsor, The Fund for the European U in St. Petersburg. We thank our convention sponsors: the Carnegie Corporation of New York as the Founding Sponsor, American Councils for International Education as the Mobile App Sponsor, and the Harriman Institute, ACIE, U of Pittsburgh UCIS & REEES, Cambridge University Press, Stanford U CREEES, the US Russia Foundation, Kozmenko Booksellers, and Williams College as the Decade Sponsors, as well as two Platinum Sponsors and six Gold Sponsors.

The 2019 Convention will be held at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis on Saturday, November 23 – Tuesday, November 26. The dates are a different pattern from our usual set of dates and are right before Thanksgiving. The

Convention theme is "Belief." The Program Committee chair will be Steve Bittner at Sonoma State U. We hope to draw greater participation of scholars from East and Central Asia. We also have contracts for the conventions from 2020 to 2026: 2020 and 2025 in Washington, DC, 2021 in New Orleans, 2022 and 2026 in Chicago, 2023 in Philadelphia, and 2024 in Boston.

**Convention Travel Grants** Adding a new travel grant program in 2018, we offered five

Membership by Year





different types of convention travel grants for the Boston convention: the Davis Graduate Student Travel Grant, the Regional Scholar Travel Grant, the Russian Scholar Travel Grant, the Convention Opportunity Travel Grant, and the new Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant. We awarded 72 travel grants for a total of \$49,500: 22 grants (13 to students at US institutions and 9 at non-US institutions) for the Graduate Student Travel Grant program; 12 grants to scholars from 9 countries for the Regional Scholar Travel Grant program; 11 grants to scholars from 7 countries for the Convention Opportunity Travel Grant program; and 21 grants for the Russian Scholar Travel Grant program, with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The impetus for the new Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant program came from the now disbanded Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, which ran a similar program. We awarded 6 grants to students from the US and the UK.

**Summer Conventions in Region** We were pleased to see enthusiastic support for the 2019 Summer Convention in Zagreb, Croatia, on June 14-16. With the theme of “Culture Wars,” we received an abundance of paper and session proposals. We anticipate having approximately 500 participants. We thank the University of Zagreb’s Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for hosting the event. The Program committee is co-chaired by Maša Kolanovic (U of Zagreb) and Mary Neuburger (U of Texas, Austin). We will offer a small number of travel grants to ASEES members to participate in the convention.

**Fellowships and Grants** The **Stephen F. Cohen-Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship Program in Russian Historical Studies** awarded six fellowships to outstanding PhD students at six US universities in 2018. I am delighted to report that the KAT Charitable Foundation has agreed to fund the program for another three years (2019-2021) with an increase in the stipend from \$22,000 to \$25,000 while changing one of the six research fellowships into a much-needed dissertation completion fellowship. We sincerely thank Katrina vanden Heuvel of the KAT Charitable Foundation for her generous support of the program.

The **ASEES Dissertation Grant Program** awarded 14 grants of up to \$5,000 for dissertation research in any discipline in any of the countries in our region of study. We saw a dramatic increase in applications in 2018. The Executive Committee allocated an additional \$10,000 to increase the funding for the program to \$60,000. This program is made possible by gifts from our members over the years. With the Future of the Field campaign (see below), we plan to offer more grants from this program and increase the stipend to \$6,000.

The **First Book Subvention Program** disbursed \$10,000 in 2018 to award subventions for 7 books on diverse topics by various presses.

**Future of the Field Fundraising Campaign** In June 2018 the Board approved a resolution to establish a four-year Future of the Field Campaign with the goal of raising \$700,000 in gifts and pledges by June 30, 2019. Achieving this goal will double the funding for ASEES existing and new programs in order to fund priorities such as dissertation research and completion, convention travel grants, internships, and first book subventions, as well as endowing existing prizes and establishing planned giving. The pledges can be paid until the end of 2021. The members of the Campaign Leadership Committee—Julie Cassiday (chair), Anna Grzymala-Busse, Bruce Grant, Diane Koenker, Judith Deutsch Kornblatt, Ellen Mickiewicz, Daniel Peris, Bill Rosenberg, Douglas Smith, Mark Steinberg, Paul Werth, Christine Worobec, and myself—made significant pledges themselves and have been working tirelessly to engage members on the impact their gifts can have on supporting the future of the field.

Through the amazing generosity of the donors, we have received gifts and pledges over \$261,000 as of January 8, 2019. Also, as part of the campaign, we received major lead grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the US Russia Foundation. From the Carnegie Corporation we received a \$100,000 grant: \$50,000 to be used as a challenge grant for the campaign and \$50,000 for the 2019-2020 Russian Scholar Travel Grant program. From the US Russia Foundation, we received a grant for \$103,094: a challenge grant of \$72,000 for graduate research grants in Russian studies and a challenge grant of \$10,000 for graduate student travel grants. In total, we raised over \$465,000, which is 67% of the goal of \$700,000.

The Future of the Field campaign was officially launched publicly at the Boston Convention as part of the anniversary celebration. The goal in Boston was to leverage the Carnegie Corporation’s \$50,000 challenge grant to get a broad base of members to give smaller gifts to start a tradition of giving to the association. I am thrilled to report that we have met the challenge of raising \$50,000. We have also received 90% of the amount in donations needed to meet the USRF challenge to fund research grants. Beyond the monetary goal, our other aim was to ask our membership to consider the impact their giving, in whatever amount, could have on the sustainability of the field. I am happy to report that thus far 170 members have given to the campaign, which is a dramatic change from the past years when we usually had 40-50 donors. Our goal is to reach 250 donors by June 30, 2019. I hope that you will also consider giving or making a multi-year

pledge, in whatever amount, which will have an immediate impact on program support.

**Status of Title VIII and Title VI Federal Funding** The US Department of State allocated \$2 million for the Title VIII program in 2018, which was the same as in 2017. The following organizations received funding: Indiana U SWSEEL, U of Illinois SRS/SRL, the Kennan Institute, the Center for European Policy Analysis, Arizona State U CLI, ACIE, and NCEEER. Despite the uncertainties of federal funding, I anticipate that the Title VIII program will be funded for 2019 competition as well.

Regarding the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays program, flat funding and annual threats of cuts continue every year. Nonetheless, Congress signed the omnibus appropriations budget bill for the fiscal year 2018 in March 2018, which provided \$72.164 million for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, the same level as FY 2017. The Department of Education held the 4-year Title VI NRC grant competition in late spring/summer of 2018. The outcome of the competition for our world region was concerning. We are now down to 10 National Resource Centers (12 in the last cycle) and 10 centers with FLAS funding. Russia/East Europe/Eurasia now has less Title VI/FLAS funding than the Middle East – more the reason for ASEEEES to raise funds to provide support for the field.

**Book Prizes** I am pleased to announce that the Board approved a new book prize starting in 2019, the Omeljan Pritsak Book Prize in Ukrainian Studies sponsored by the Harvard Institute for Ukrainian Studies. Also, the W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize will be awarded annually rather than biennially with an endowment for the prize established by Mary Lincoln as part of our Future of the Field campaign. I thank Mary Lincoln for her support.

**New Committees** The Board approved the following new committees at the December 2018 Board meeting: the Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion, a committee to draft a Code of Conduct policy, a committee to draft a socially responsible convention hotel policy, and a committee to revise the ASEEEES bylaws.

**Board Election/Incoming Members** The 2018 annual election for the Board of Directors was held from June to September. Jan Kubik (Rutgers U/UCL) was elected vice-president/ president-elect for 2019, and Eileen Kane (Connecticut College) and Maria Popova (McGill U) were elected members-at-large for 2019-2021. We sent out 3,312 ballots to eligible members, and 1,394 cast their votes. The other incoming Board members in 2019 are: Angela Brintlinger (Ohio State U) as the AATSEEL representative; Keith Brown (Arizona State U) as the Council of Institutional Members representative;

Steve Nafziger (Williams College) as the Economics representative; and Jeremy Tasch (Towson U) as the AAG representative. Also, Janet Johnson agreed to serve on the Executive Committee for 2019-2020.

**New ASEEEES Staff** Trevor Erlacher will join our staff as the new NewsNet editor and program coordinator as of January. Trevor has a PhD in history from UNC. Roxana Palomino also joined our staff as the new financial administrator last September.

I thank our members for their participation and commitment in making 2018 an exceptional year for ASEEEES. I thank the members of the ASEEEES Board and committees, especially the outgoing Board members – Anna Grzymala-Busse, Adrienne Edgar, Eric Naiman, Tim Langen, David Patton, Will Pyle, and Jessica Graybill. The Association and our scholarly community benefited enormously from their efforts. I thank the staff at our main office and the *Slavic Review* editorial office for their hard work. Finally, I thank the University of Illinois for hosting the *Slavic Review* editorial office and the University of Pittsburgh for hosting the ASEEEES main office and offer special thanks to Pitt's University Center for International Studies for its support.

#### 2019-2020 COHEN-TUCKER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ASEEEES is delighted to continue the Stephen F. Cohen–Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Program for Russian Historical Studies. The program supports the next generation of US scholars by offering Dissertation Research Fellowships and, starting in 2019, a new Dissertation Completion Fellowship. We thank the KAT Charitable Foundation for its generous support of the program.

For the 2019 Competition, the Program will offer:

- Five (5) Dissertation Research Fellowships with a stipend of \$25,000 each to conduct dissertation research in Russia
- New Dissertation Completion Fellowship with a stipend of \$25,000 (or possibly two Fellowships at \$12,500) to support expeditious completion of dissertation

The program is now open to students who are US citizens in Canadian PhD programs as well as US PhD programs.

Applications are due February 1, 2019.  
[www.aseees.org/programs/ctdrf](http://www.aseees.org/programs/ctdrf)



## GO BEYOND ORDINARY WITH AMERICAN COUNCILS

### LANGUAGE & CULTURE IMMERSION PROGRAMS

**Advanced Russian Language & Area Studies Program (RLASP)** Available in Moscow, Vladimir, and St. Petersburg, as well as Almaty, Kazakhstan.

**Business Russian Language & Internship (BRLI)** Combines high-level Russian language instruction and a substantive internship in fields such as marketing, journalism, and STEM. Available in Russia and Kazakhstan.

**Heritage Speakers Program** Program staff and faculty work with participants to design an individualized program to meet the needs of heritage speakers. Available in Russia and Kazakhstan.

**Balkan Language initiative (BLI)** Offered in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, or Serbia.

**Eurasian Regional Language Program (ERLP)** Available in 9 Eurasian countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and many more.

### SUMMER REGIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMS

**Politics & Public Diplomacy in Contemporary Russia** program explores regional developments and conflict, economic and political reforms under Vladimir Putin, the role of mass media in society, and cultural phenomena shaping today's Russia. Russian language instruction is offered at all levels - No foreign language experience required.

**Peace & Security in the South Caucasus** program allows students to discover the diverse cultures and complex politics that shape the region, while spending five weeks in Tbilisi, Georgia. Language instruction in Russian, Georgian, Chechen, and Azerbaijani is offered at all levels - no foreign language experience required.

### SUMMER OVERSEAS INTERNSHIPS

**Overseas Professional & Intercultural Training (OPIT)** program gives students the substantive overseas professional experience and intercultural skills demanded by today's global market. Available in 19 countries across Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

Applications for Summer 2019 programs are due by February 15. Full details, including eligibility requirements, deadlines, financial aid, and applications, are available at:

[www.acStudyAbroad.org](http://www.acStudyAbroad.org)



# ASEEES Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

With the aim of promoting diversity and inclusion in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the ASEEES Board of Directors established a Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion and passed the following statement:

As a scholarly organization, the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) aims to promote diversity with the goal of fostering greater inclusion in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (SEEEES) among our membership, in our teaching and scholarship, and in the organization's own work. ASEEES is committed in both principle and action to treating everyone with dignity and respect regardless of race, age, physical appearance, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, citizenship status, social class, physical and sensory abilities, neurodiversity, academic or professional status, political perspective, and religion.

Membership in ASEEES is open to all who study and teach SEEEES. To this end, ASEEES embraces all who wish to join, to participate, and to have a voice in the organization with the goal of promoting inclusion and broadening participation in SEEEES. ASEEES believes that disenfranchisement of groups in any society undermines open and free human communication. Our commitment to diversity in SEEEES recognizes the need for institutions to recruit intentionally and to hire members from groups that have been historically discriminated against or underrepresented in our field. We believe that more inclusive representation of diverse perspectives will enrich intellectual discourse in our field.

*Approved by the ASEEES Board on December 6, 2018*

This statement, including links to additional resources, can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2Me6Mjq>

## FUTURE OF THE FIELD CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

#### Susan Grunewald

History, Carnegie Mellon University  
**2018 Graduate Student Convention  
Travel Grant Recipient**

My research trip, supported by a 2016 Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship, enabled me to examine the role of German prisoners of war in the Soviet Union from 1941 to 1956. A Graduate Student Convention Travel Grant made it possible for me to share my research and teaching tools, including digital mapping and archiving, at the ASEEES Convention.



### THANK YOU!

Over 170 ASEEES members have responded to the Future of the Field Campaign. Your generosity turned \$50,000 into \$100,000 through a match from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. With your support we are making inspirational progress on our participation goal and have raised nearly 70% of the \$700,000. Please join your fellow members and add your name to the donor list today. **Read the Campaign Case Statement here.**

The growing list of donors to the Future of the Field Campaign may be found here: [www.aseees.org/future/contributors](http://www.aseees.org/future/contributors)

Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a mentor, a scholar, or a colleague who made your success possible.

### ANNOUNCING A NEW CHALLENGE GRANT

The US Russia Foundation will match donations of any amount up to \$10,500 to support graduate student travel grants to present research in Russian studies. With this investment from USRF and members like you, ASEEES will advance the scholarship and careers of students like Susan. Make a gift to the Graduate Student Travel Grant Fund here: [www.aseees.org/future/make-donation](http://www.aseees.org/future/make-donation) and be sure to check the box to designate your gift to the USRF challenge.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE FIELD**  
[WWW.ASEEEES.ORG/FUTURE](http://WWW.ASEEEES.ORG/FUTURE)





## Celebrating ASEEEES: Our Field, Our Future Beth Holmgren, Duke University

*Editor's note: These remarks were originally delivered as part of the 2018 ASEEEES Coonvention Presidential Plenary, December 8, 2018.*

Ten years ago I was serving as president of AAASS, a year of major organizational change, stress, and heavy lifting for staff and elected officers. In 2008 the Board at last voted to change our old name, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, which sounded like a Cold War think tank, to the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. I was proud to have been instrumental in this move towards explicit inclusiveness, though many colleagues still complain to my face that the resulting acronym is not as fun or easy to use. The theme I designated for the 2008 convention was “Gender.” This topic stemmed from my scholarly interests, but I also chose it to incentivize a broader conceptualization of what counted as cultural work, agency, and influence in my own fields of literary and film studies. In my professional youth, I’d grown tired of dutifully attending manels or mixed panels that focused exclusively on male writers and artists, the “greats” who formed a seemingly insurmountable bearded and mustachioed wall. I eventually made my escape by joining roundtables, panels, and dinners put together by colleagues in the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. When I was asked to name my convention topic as presidential perk, I was more than ready with my answer.

After the 2008 convention, Bill Taubman, Mark von Hagen, and I undertook the time-consuming, but ultimately very rewarding, job of relocating ASEEEES from Cambridge to Pittsburgh or, more accurately, away from the Harvard administration’s hospitality fatigue to the welcoming Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. The most painful part of relocating for me was losing most of the organization’s excellent staff through the move. Only our convention coordinator, Wendy Walker, could manage a very long commute for a number of years. This Cambridge-based staff made a terrific team and had built up the organization in so many ways. It was no fault of theirs that Harvard was no longer interested in playing host and rents were so high in Harvard Square. In Pittsburgh we were lucky to lay the groundwork for a great new team when Lynda Park accepted our offer to become the new ASEEEES Executive Director. We knew that Lynda would be a dynamic and outstanding leader, and she has only exceeded our expectations.

I’d like to take this opportunity to remind every member of ASEEEES that it is the staff who truly sustain this organization—building membership, reporting on the state of the field and its members, updating and expanding the website with new tools and information, and providing umpteen different services.

Since 2008, through the efforts of the Cambridge- and then Pittsburgh-based staffs and hardworking officers and board members, ASEEEES has made big strides forward on several important fronts. First and foremost, it has recruited well for the future of the field, with graduate students making up almost 20% of membership this year. Graduate student members can compete for travel grants to the convention and dissertation research fellowships. For junior faculty ASEEEES sponsors a first book subvention grant as well as roundtables at the convention and webinars on the website that offer expert advice about the job search, how to get articles and first books published, and how to successfully navigate the path to tenure. Since 2008, ASEEEES has responded to the tough job market for newly minted Ph.D.’s by offering roundtables and receptions with non-academic professionals whose work is related to the regions we study. ASEEEES also posts resources for those seeking government jobs and a variety of career opportunities outside academia.

ASEEEES has grown more international in its membership and meeting venues, an orientation that is not only imperative for the growth and defense of uncensored studies *on* the region *in* the region, but also makes our meetings a lot more fun. I was delighted to learn that an estimated 30% of ASEEEES members are designated “international” and thrilled to hear that our third biennial summer convention “in the region” will be held in Zagreb this coming summer. I just want to note here that 2021 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Soviet Union, the last major political barrier to our meeting and working together, so I suggest that ASEEEES commemorate this milestone by sponsoring a huge parade in Moscow or Budapest or Warsaw—wherever we can make the biggest impression on local authorities as SEEEES specialists joined together in support of uncensored university education and academic research. Who knows? We may need to hold this parade—call it a caravan—in Washington, D.C.

Indeed, as I thought about how ASEEEES is doing—the question posed to those of us speaking in this session

—I also considered what ASEEEES should do next. Not so ironically, I recommend that ASEEEES furnish a network and committees to help tackle two problems brewing in North American academia right now. I remain very concerned about the academic independence of my colleagues, both junior and senior, in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia, and about the job market prospects for junior faculty and graduate students here in North America. But I'm most alarmed about what's happening in undergraduate education under my very nose. I've been teaching for over three decades at four different institutions, both public and private. Over the last few years, the drastic corporatization of American universities and colleges is fast limiting which faculty specializations are "valued" and therefore preserved. Modern Russian history and literature may survive this shortsighted administrative purge, but funding for teaching about Europe between Germany and Russia or about Asia other than China, India, and Japan may well get the chop for intellectually unsubstantiated "budgetary reasons." Of course, ASEEEES cannot be in the business of raising money for professorships, but we might adopt some strategies put forward by the American Historical Association – for example, set up an online teaching and learning community on our regions that would provide resources and exchange for educators in four-year and two-year colleges as well those in K-12. Or we might host strategy workshops within different disciplines where colleagues can compare information about what's going on in their home institutions and discuss cross-institutional strategies for resisting the deliberate dumbing down of education in North America.

The second urgent problem is what I have dubbed FLUU – foreign languages unplugged and unfunded. Times were that departments like mine – those teaching Slavic languages, literatures, and cultures – served as essential anchors for Title VI Centers because our departments assured Title VI in Washington that students specializing in history, sociology, anthropology, culture, and other disciplines were being trained adequately in the languages that would enable them to conduct serious research. Now highly placed university administrators circle the enrollment figures for less commonly taught language courses like sharks. More and more, foreign language teaching in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, Romanian, and advanced Russian is either being cut or assigned to visiting lecturers – a new subset of terribly underpaid adjuncts. This is inefficient, unjust, and, ultimately, field-killing. It's a nationwide crisis. I propose that ASEEEES set up a committee to promote and sustain foreign language training in North America which might be linked with similar efforts assayed by the MLA or other region-oriented academic organizations. If nothing else,

this committee could come up with several useful action plans for departments to deploy when they face this crisis.

Having sent up these two distress signals, as is my habit as a Slavist, I want to close by saying that I am so grateful that ASEEEES exists, that I've had the privilege of growing up with it as an academic, and that this organization continues to grow and be innovative in serving its members. I've made some of my closest friends and brainstormed some of the most satisfying collaborative projects at these conventions. And I love the fact that ASEEEES facilitates interdisciplinary encounters during post-panel coffees and cocktails and long confabs with colleagues I only get to see once a year. I wish ASEEEES continued growth, vitality, and many more dance parties over its next seven decades!

*Beth Holmgren is Professor of Polish and Russian Studies at Duke University. She currently serves as chair of the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, is listed among the core faculty in Jewish Studies, and holds secondary appointments in Theater Studies and Women's Studies.*

### 2019 ASEEEES DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD Call for Nominations

Established in 1970, the Distinguished Contributions Award honors eminent members of the profession who have made major contributions to the field through scholarship of the highest quality, mentoring, leadership, and/or service to the profession. The prize is intended to recognize diverse contributions across the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies field.

#### NOMINATING INSTRUCTIONS

- The Committee accepts nominations in writing or via e-mail from any member of ASEEEES.
- The lead nominator should submit all documents and letters in one PDF file to the Committee Chair.
- The nomination letter should include: biography focusing on the individual's distinguished achievements in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies; a list of publications, editorships, curatorships; a list of awards and prizes; his or her contributions in mentoring and training; and his or her involvement in and service to ASEEEES and/or the profession, if any.
- The nomination file should include the nominee's CV.
- Self-nomination is not accepted.

Committee members also survey the field for possible awardees.

The deadline for nominations is April 1.

Distinguished Contributions Award Committee

- [Eric Naiman, UC Berkeley](#), Chair
- Kristen Ghodsee, U of Pennsylvania
- Dan Healey, U of Oxford
- Lauren Kaminsky, Harvard U
- Olga Shevchenko, Williams College



## New M.S. in Global Media and Cultures at Georgia Tech

Dina Khapaeva, Georgia Institute of Technology

More than ten years ago, Georgia Tech launched its Russian Program at the School of Modern Languages. Over the years, the program has been offering Bachelor of Science majors, a minor, and a language certificate to its undergraduates. Although there is no language requirement at Georgia Tech, 50% of students take a language and 54% graduate with substantive experience abroad. Students have shown considerable interest in and enthusiasm for the Russian program and the study of Russian. As a result we felt it was time to offer a Master's Degree that prepares them to use these skills in their future.

This program is located at the intersection of language studies, cultural studies, and media studies. It is a joint degree by the School of Modern Languages and the School of Literature, Media, and Communication. As a professional Master's degree, the MS-GMC reflects the rising importance of humanistic study for many career fields in the 21st century, ranging from media, education, and international business to non-profit and engineering. These degrees build on a rapidly expanding global media ecosystem in Atlanta, where students in the humanities gain sought-after cultural and creative industry competence. MS-GMC aims to help students apply their skills in language and analysis — as well as their passion for cross-cultural communication, social justice, and media — to a successful, impactful career. This program is brand new: it is enrolling the first cohort of students now for classes beginning fall 2019.

The Russian program offers rigorous content-based study of the matrices and fault lines that define Russian, Soviet, and post-Soviet culture. Faculty strengths lie in the study of historical and cultural memory and its manipulations, systems of artistic meaning and their history, Russian poetry, fiction, and song, and intersections of literature and the sciences. Students achieve a high level of real-world linguistic competence, acquire deep knowledge of “what makes Russian culture tick,” and work with our faculty to design their own paths of inquiry. Students' Master projects range from producing a film on urban development and cultural sustainability in St. Petersburg or doing an internship at the CISR sociological institute in St. Petersburg to working with faculty to

lead the Language for Business and Technology (LBAT) program to Latvia and Russia and bringing innovative film-makers to Atlanta through the Global Media Fest.

There are two fellowship programs that support the new MS degree: The GT-Политех Scholarship supports students to study for up to a year at the Peter the Great St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University. The program enables interdisciplinary graduate study by allowing students to take courses in Russian in any discipline that is pertinent to their professional goals. This study abroad experience can be combined with the MS-GMC as an additional funded semester or year of study. The GT-Политех Scholarship covers tuition and dormitory fees. Students live with native-speaker roommates in the university dormitory. A three-week bridge program in technical Russian can be arranged preceding the start of the program.



The Atlanta Global Studies Center (AGSC), a consortium of Georgia Tech and Georgia State University, announces the competition for 2019-2020 FLAS Fellowships, which assist students in achieving competency in selected foreign languages in combination with international and area studies coursework.

**For more information, please, contact** Dina Khapaeva [dina.khapaeva@modlangs.gatech.edu](mailto:dina.khapaeva@modlangs.gatech.edu), or visit [gmc.iac.gatech.edu](http://gmc.iac.gatech.edu).

*Dina Khapaeva, is a Professor of Russian in the School of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech.*

### SURVEY ON CONVENTION EXPERIENCES

ASEEES is dedicated to fostering a hospitable, inclusive environment for all participants in the ASEEES conventions. The new ad-hoc committee to draft a Code of Conduct policy requests your participation in a survey to answer a few questions about your recent convention experiences. Your responses will assist the committee in developing a Code of Conduct policy.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNR8VZJ>



# ASEEES Congratulates Affiliate Organizations' 2018 Prize Winners

## ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SLAVIC STUDIES

### AWSS Outstanding Achievement Award

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies is extremely pleased to announce that **Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild** (Brandeis University/Davis Center, Harvard University) is the winner of the 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award. One of the founders of our organization and first president, Rochelle has been a critical leader throughout its 30-year history. She is an exemplary scholar, champion of women's studies and women's achievements, and mentor to colleagues and students.

### Heldt Prize recipients

Best book by a woman in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies was awarded to **Edyta Materka**, *Dystopia's Provocateurs: Peasants, State, and Informality in the Polish-German Borderlands* (Indiana University Press, 2017)

Best article in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies was given to **Arthur Clech**, "Between the Labor Camp and the Clinic: Tema or the Shared Forms of Late Soviet Subjectivity," *Slavic Review* 77, no. 1 (Spring 2018): 6-29.

**Igor Fedyukin** received Honorable Mention for "Sex in the City that Peter Built: The Demimonde and Sociability in mid-Eighteenth Century Saint Petersburg," *Slavic Review* 76, no. 4 (Winter 2017): 907-930.

### Mary Zirin Prize

**Iva Glisic** was the 2018 recipient of the Mary Zirin Prize for independent Scholarship.

### Graduate Essay Prize

The AWSS Graduate Essay Prize Committee awarded the prize to **Natalia Fomina**, a Ph.D. student in Sociology and Sociology of Anthropology at Central European University.

### AWSS Graduate Research Award

**Alexandra Novitskaya**, PhD Candidate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University, received the 2018 AWSS Graduate Research Award.

## CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Czechoslovak Studies Association gave its biennial Pech Prize in 2018 for an outstanding article or book chapter by a member of the Association published in 2016 or 2017 to **Jakub Beneš**, for "The Green Cadres and the Collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918," *Past and Present* 236:1 (Aug. 2017), 207-241.

Honorable Mention was presented to **Chad Bryant**, for "Strolling the Romantic City: Gardens, Panoramas, and Middle-Class Elites in Early Nineteenth-Century Prague," in

C. Bryant et al. (eds.), *Walking Histories 1800-1914* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016), pp. 57-85.

Also, **Kateřina Čapková** received Honorable Mention for "Beyond the Assimilationist Narrative: Historiography on the Jews of the Bohemian Lands and Poland after the Second World War," *Studia Judaica* 19:1 (2016), 129-155.

## EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ESSA)

### ESSA Book Prize

Marika Mägi is the winner of the ESSA 2018 Book Prize, for *The Role of the Eastern Baltic in Viking Age Communication across the Baltic Sea*.

Honorable Mention was presented to **Felicia Roşu**, for *Elective Monarchy in Transylvania and Poland-Lithuania*.

### ESSA Article Prize

**Nick Mayhew** received this award for "Banning Spiritual Brotherhoods and Establishing Marital Chastity in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Muscovy and Ruthenia," *Palaeoslavica* 25/2 (2017) 80-108.

## SOCIETY FOR ALBANIAN STUDIES

The winner of the Stavro Skendi Book Award is **Elidor Mehilli**, *From Stalin to Mao, Albania and the Socialist World*.

The winner of the Arshi Pipa Best Graduate Student Paper award is **Raino Isto** of the University of Maryland, College Park for his paper, "The Dictator Visits the Studio: The Vlorë Independence Monument and the Politics of Socialist Albanian Sculpture, 1962-1972."

## THE SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN, EURASIAN, AND RUSSIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

SHERA is delighted to announce that Emerging Scholar Prize Committee awarded the 2018 award to **Aglaya K. Glebova** of the University of California, Irvine.

**Ekaterina Heath** of the University of Sydney was awarded a Graduate Student/Independent Scholar Travel Grant to attend the CAA 2019 conference. She will present her paper "Picturing the Cathay in Russia: Political use of Chinoiserie interiors under Empress Elisabeth Petrovna and Emperor Peter III" on the panel Looking East: Russian Orientalism in a Global Context.

## THE SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES

The Society for Romanian Studies awarded the 2018 Graduate Essay Prize to **Alexandra Chiriac**, a PhD candidate in Art History at St. Andrews, for her essay "Romanian Modernism and the Perils of the Peripheral."

Honorable mentions were made for essays by: **Nicoleta Simona Minciu** (Ovidius University in Constanța), "Creature



Occurrences in Matei Vişniec's Work"; **Iemima Ploscariu** (Dublin City University), "The Word Read, Spoken, and Sung: Neo-Protestants and Modernity in Interwar Romania"; and **Matthew Signer** (Stanford University) "Collaborative Violence and the Foreignization of Ideology: The Historiography of the Judeo-Communism Debate in Poland, Romania, and Moldova."

#### **SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

SEESA awarded Travel Grants for 2018 to graduate students who presented at the Biennial on South Slavic Languages, Literatures, and Folklore that took place in May 2018.

The winners were: **Kristina Mihajlovic**, University of Arizona, for "Cue Persistency in an Ongoing Merger: Production of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Sibilants by Heritage Speakers in the United States" and **Regina Ndoci**, The Ohio State University, for "Greetings and Politeness in Albanian."

**SAVE THE DATE - ICCEES Xth World Congress**  
Concordia University in Montreal, Canada  
August 4-9, 2020

The Canadian Association of Slavists is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 10th World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies. In addition to panels, the Congress will include special events such as a roundtable devoted to the legacy of World War II, a literary evening featuring distinguished writer Andrei Kurkov, and an art exhibition entitled "Durdy Bayramov: Artist, Photographer and Ambassador of Turkmen Cultural Life."

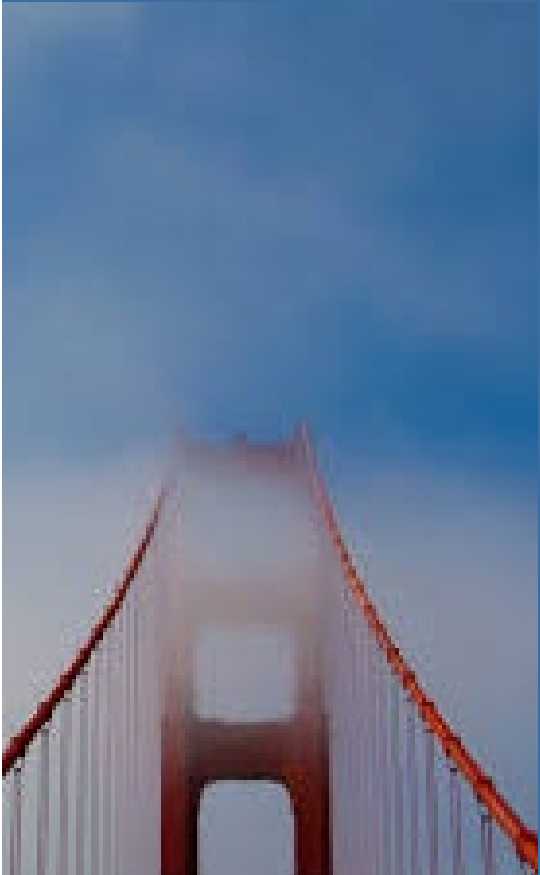
[http://iccees.org/world\\_congresses/](http://iccees.org/world_congresses/)

## **Call for Proposals: ASEES 51st Annual Convention**

**Saturday, November 23 - Tuesday, November 26, 2019 • San Francisco**

Convention Theme: Belief

[www.aseees.org/convention](http://www.aseees.org/convention)



Belief will always be a subject of difference and dissent and we look forward to a wide range of topics, approaches, and arguments in panels and papers. We especially welcome contributions that theorize the category itself as well as explore its forms and places in the Slavic, East European and Eurasian world. Conceptually, we might ask what is "belief" as a category of experience and practice? What is its relation to other forms of cognition, knowledge, and judgment, including faith, science, and emotion? What is its relation to social and material life, to physical and bodily practices? How has belief been entwined with other key categories of analysis, such as culture, gender, class, religion, and nation, including previous ASEES themes such as performance, transgression, revolution, fact, boundaries, and memory. And, of course, how has belief, for better and worse, been part of the histories, lives, and possible futures of this region.

**The deadline for ALL submissions is February 15, 2019.**

Accepting submissions for:

- Individual papers
- Panels (NEW THIS YEAR: Panels can consist of a minimum of 3 papers and maximum of 4.)
- Roundtables, including Book Discussion Roundtables
- Lightning Round Presentations

[www.aseees.org/convention/cfp](http://www.aseees.org/convention/cfp)



# 2018 ASEEES Board of Directors & Committees

## 2019 ASEEES Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

**Mark Steinberg**, President; U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Jan Kubik**, President-Elect/Vice President; Rutgers, The State U of New Jersey / U College London  
**Julie Cassiday**, Immediate Past President; Williams College  
**Daniel Peris**, Treasurer, 2018-2020; Federated Investors  
**Janet Johnson**, Member-at-large, 2018-20; CUNY Brooklyn College  
**Harriet Murav**, Editor, *Slavic Review*; U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Lynda Park**, Executive Director (ex officio); U of Pittsburgh

\*\*\*\*\*

### Representatives and Members-at-large

**Angela Brintlinger**, AATSEEL, 2019-21; Ohio State U  
**Keith Brown**, Council of Institutional Members, 2019-21; Arizona State U  
**Tetyana Dzyadevych**, Graduate student, 2018-19; U of Illinois at Chicago  
**Ted Gerber**, Sociology, 2017-19; U of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Jon Giullian**, CLIR, 2017-2019; U of Kansas  
**Julie Hemment**, AAA, 2018-20; UMass, Amherst  
**Juliet Johnson**, APSA, 2018-20; McGill U  
**Eileen Kane**, Member-at-large, 2019-21; Connecticut College  
**James Krapfl**, Member-at-large, 2018-20; McGill U (Canada)  
**Anne Lounsbury**, Member-at-large, 2017-19; New York U  
**Steven Nafziger**, Economics, 2019-2021; Williams College  
**Robert Niebuhr**, Council of Regional Affiliates, 2018-20; Arizona State U  
**Maria Popova**, Member-at-large, 2019-21; McGill U (Canada)  
**Kristin Roth-Ey**, Member-at-large, 2017-19; U College London (UK)  
**Jeremy Tasch**, AAG, 2019-21; Towson U  
**Paul Werth**, AHA, 2017-19; U of Nevada, Las Vegas

## 2019 ASEEES COMMITTEE

(New members in bold; new chairs in bold)

### Nominating Committee

**Julie Cassiday**, Williams College, **Chair**  
**D. Brian Kim**, U of Pennsylvania  
**Robert Weinberg**, Swarthmore College

### Committee on Academic Freedom and Advocacy

Julie Cassiday, Williams College, Chair, 2017-2020  
**Dmitry Dubrovsky**, Centre for Independent Social Research, 2019-2021  
Anne Gorsuch, U of British Columbia, 2017-2019  
Bruce Grant, NYU, 2017-2020  
Emily Johnson, U of Oklahoma, 2017-2019  
Brian Porter-Szucs, U of Michigan, 2017-2020  
**David Siroky**, Arizona State U, 2019-2021  
Amanda Wooden, Bucknell U, 2017-2020

### Committee on Libraries and Information Resources

Jon Giullian, U of Kansas, Chair, 2017-2019  
Christopher Condill, U of Illinois, Chair of Subcommittee on Collection Development, 2017-2019  
Joseph Lenkart, U of Illinois, Chair of Subcommittee on Education and Access, 2017-2019  
Liladhar Pendse, UC Berkeley, Member at Large, 2017-2019  
Janice Pilch, Rutgers U, Chair of Subcommittee on Copyright Issues, 2018-2020  
**Andy Spencer**, U of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair of the Subcommittee on Slavic & East European Materials Project, 2018-2020  
Jon Giullian, U of Kansas, and Liladhar Pendse, UC Berkeley, Website Administrators, *ex officio*  
Erik Scott, U of Kansas, Faculty Liaison, 2017-2019

### Committee on Mentoring

Kimberly Elman Zarecor, Iowa State U, **Chair**, 2018-2020  
Anne Lounsbury, NYU, 2017-2019  
Monika Nalepa, U of Chicago, 2017-2019

### Committee on Careers Beyond Academia

Samuel Charap, RAND Corporation, **Co-Chair**, 2018-2020  
Amanda Swain, UC Irvine, **Co-Chair**, 2017-2019  
**Sam Eisen**, US Department of Defense, 2019-2021  
Claire Kaiser, McLarty Associates, 2017-2019  
Dan Peris, Federated Investors, 2018-2020  
Sarah Radomsky, Georgetown U, 2018-2020  
Mary Werden, US House of Representatives, 2018-2020

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

Elizabeth Skomp, Sewanee: The U of the South, **Chair**, 2018-20  
Noor Borbieva, Indiana U Purdue U Fort Wayne, 2017-2019  
Alisha Kirchoff, Indiana U, 2017-2019 (graduate student rep)  
**Paula Michaels**, Monash U (Australia) 2019-2020 (*ex officio* as president of AWSS)

### Communications Advisory Committee

Christine Worobec, Northern Illinois U, Chair, 2018-2019  
**Andrew Behrendt**, Missouri U of Science & Technology, 2019-21  
**Molly Thomasy Blasing**, U of Kentucky, 2019-2021  
Edward Kasinec, Columbia U/Hoover Institution, 2018-2020  
**Tetyana Dzyadevych**, U of Illinois Chicago, 2019-2020 (graduate student rep)

### Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion

Thomas Garza, U of Texas, Austin, **Chair**, 2018-2020  
Choi Chatterjee, Cal State U Los Angeles, 2019-2021  
Ani Kokobobo, U of Kansas, 2019-2021  
Zsuzsanna Magdo, U of Pittsburgh, 2018-2020  
Roman Utkin, Wesleyan U, 2018-2020

### Investment Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee

Daniel Peris, Federated Investors, Chair, 2015-2020  
Juliet Johnson, McGill U (Canada), 2018-2020  
Craig Kennedy, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (retired), 2017-19

**Ad Hoc Committee to Draft the Code of Conduct Policy**

**Janet Johnson**, CUNY Brooklyn College, **Chair**

**Julie Cassidy**, Williams College

**Faith Hillis**, U of Chicago

**Erin K. Krafft**, U of Massachusetts Dartmouth

**Mark Steinberg**, U of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign

**Roman Utkin**, Wesleyan U

**PRIZE COMMITTEES**

**Distinguished Contributions Award Committee**

Eric Naiman, UC Berkeley, **Chair**, 2017-2019

Kristen Ghodsee, U of Pennsylvania, 2017-2019

**Dan Healey**, U of Oxford (UK), 2019-2021

Lauren Kaminsky, Harvard U, 2018-2020

**Olga Shevchenko**, Williams College, 2019-2021

**Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize Committee**

**Yoshiko Herrera**, U of Wisconsin-Madison, **Chair**, 2019-2020

**Krisztina Fehérváry**, U of Michigan, 2019-2020

Barbara Henry, U of Washington, 2018-2019

**David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye**, Brock U (Canada), 2019-20

**Davis Center Book Prize Committee**

Morgan Liu, Ohio State U, **Chair**, 2017-2019

Jelena Subotic, Georgia State U, 2017-2019

Lucan Way, U of Toronto (Canada), 2018-2020

**USC Book Prize Committee**

Jeremy Hicks, Queens Mary, U of London (UK), **Chair**, 2017-19

**Diane Nemeč Ignashev**, Carleton College, 2019-2021

Lisa Wakamiya, Florida State U, 2018-2020

**Reginald Zelnik Book Prize Committee**

Christine Ruane, U of Tulsa, **Chair**, 2017-2019

Jeff Sahadeo, Carleton U (Canada), 2018-2020

**Keely Stauter-Halsted**, U Illinois at Chicago, 2019-2021

**W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize Committee**

Edith Clowes, U of Virginia, **Chair**, 2018-2019

Erika Monahan, U of New Mexico / Dartmouth College, 2019-2021

Sergei Zhuk, Ball State U, 2018-2020

**Marshall Shulman Book Prize Committee**

Jeff Hass, U of Richmond, **Chair**, 2018-2020

Rachel Epstein, U of Denver, 2017-2019

Rinna Kullaa, U of Tampere (Finland), 2018-2020

**Ed A Hewett Book Prize Committee**

Dinissa Duvanova, Lehigh U, **Chair**, 2017-2019

**Gerald Easter**, Boston College, 2019-2021

**Doug Rogers**, Yale U, 2019-2021

**Barbara Jelavich Book Prize Committee**

Stella Ghervas, U of Alabama at Birmingham, **Chair**, 2018-2020

Mark Cornwall, U of Southampton (UK), 2018-2020

**Kimberly Elman Zarecor**, Iowa State U, 2019-2021

**Kulczycki Book Prize Committee**

Jessie Labov, Central European U (Hungary), **Chair**, 2017-19

Bozena Karwowska, U of British Columbia (Canada), 2018-20

Brian Porter-Szucs, U of Michigan, 2018-2020

**Pritsak Book Prize Committee**

**Heather Coleman**, U of Alberta (Canada), **Chair**, 2019

**Catherine Wanner**, Penn State U, 2019-2021

TBD

**Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee**

Eric Gordy, U College London (UK), **Chair**, 2017-2019

Laura Olson Osterman, U of Colorado, 2018-2020

**Jovana Babovic**, SUNY Geneseo, 2019-2021

**Tucker/Cohen Dissertation Prize**

**Valerie Sperling**, Clark U, **Chair**, 2019-2021

Robert English, U of Southern California, 2017-2019

**Matthew Lenoë**, U of Rochester, 2019-2021

**GRANT/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES**

**ASEEES Dissertation Grant Committee**

Venelin Ganey, Miami U of Ohio, **Chair**, 2017-2019

Sergey Glebov, Smith College, 2018-2020

**Marijeta Bozovic**, Yale U, 2019-2021

**Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee**

William Wagner, Williams College, **Chair**, 2018-2019

**Diane Koenker**, U College London (UK), 2019-2021

**William Mills Todd III**, Harvard U, 2019-2021

**Convention Opportunity Travel Grant Committee**

Emanuela Grama, Carnegie Mellon U, **Chair**, 2017-2019

**Anna Cichopek-Gajraj**, Arizona State U, 2019-2021

Rossen Djagalov, NYU, 2018-2020

**Graduate Student Travel Grant Committee**

Jacek Lubecki, Georgia Southern U, **Chair**, 2017-2019

Hilde Hoogenboom, Arizona State U, 2017-2019

**Lynn Lubamersky**, Boise State U, 2019-2021

**First Book Subvention Committee**

Oxana Shevel, Tufts U, **Chair**, 2017-2019

**Jane Costlow**, Bates College, 2019-2021

Alice Freifeld, U of Florida, 2018-2020

Janet Rabinowitch, IU Press (retired), 2018-20 (non-voting member)

**Regional Scholar Travel Grant Committee**

Marko Dumancic, Western Kentucky U, **Chair**, 2018-2020

Mark Lipovetsky, U of Colorado, 2017-2019

**Marina Mogilner**, U of Illinois at Chicago, 2019-2021

**Russian Scholar Travel Grant Committee**

Don Raleigh, U of North Carolina, **Chair**, 2018-2020

**Adrienne Harris**, Baylor U, 2019-2021

**David Siroky**, Arizona State U, 2019-2021

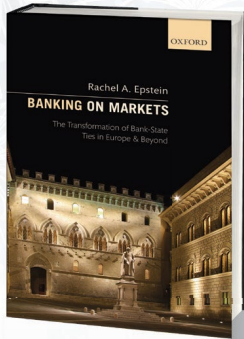
**Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant Committee**

Zsuzsanna Magdo, U of Pittsburgh, **Chair**, 2018-2019

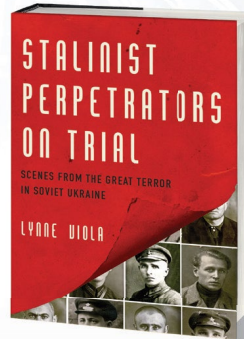
Thomas Garza, U of Texas, 2018-2020

Roman Utkin, Wesleyan U, 2018-2020

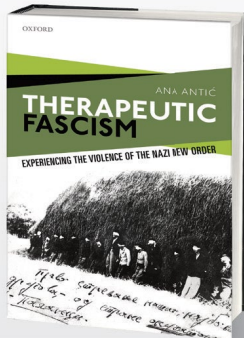
# Congratulations to the OUP ASEEES 2018 Book Prize Winners



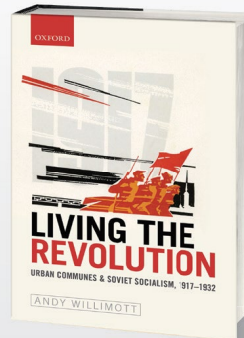
**Hewett Prize**  
Rachel A. Epstein  
*Banking on Markets:  
The Transformation of Bank-State  
Ties in Europe and Beyond*



**Zelnik Prize**  
Lynne Viola  
*Stalinist Perpetrators  
on Trial: Scenes from  
the Great Terror in  
Soviet Ukraine*



**Vucinich Prize  
Honorable Mention**  
Ana Antic  
*Therapeutic Fascism:  
Experiencing the  
Violence of the Nazi  
New Order*



**Lincoln Prize  
Honorable Mention**  
Andy Willimott  
*Living the Revolution:  
Urban Communes &  
Soviet Socialism,  
1917–1932*

## Recent Slavic, East European, and Eurasian titles from OUP

**The Velizh Affair**  
Eugene M. Avrutin

**Russia in Flames**  
Laura Engelstein

**Enemy Number One**  
Rósa Magnúsdóttir

**Rich Russians**  
Elisabeth Schimpfössl

**War, Revolution, and  
Nation-Making in  
Lithuania, 1914–1923**  
Tomas Balkelis

**Ukraine and the  
Art of Strategy**  
Lawrence Freedman

**Red at Heart**  
Elizabeth McGuire

**The Code of Putinism**  
Brian D. Taylor

**Civil War in Central  
Europe, 1918–1921**  
Jochen Böhler

**Corn Crusade**  
Aaron T. Hale-Dorrell

**Against Anti-Semitism**  
Edited by Adam Michnik  
and Agnieszka Marczyk

**The Long Hangover**  
Shaun Walker

**Crimea in War and  
Transformation**  
Mara Kozelsky

[global.oup.com/academic](http://global.oup.com/academic)

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## Publications

*Coming Out of Communism: The Emergence of LGBT Activism in Eastern Europe*, by Conor O'Dwyer, was published by New York University Press in September 2018.

While LGBT activism has increased worldwide, there has been strong backlash against LGBT people in Eastern Europe. LGBT individuals in post-communist countries also suffer from discriminatory laws and prejudiced social institutions. Combining an historical overview with interviews and case studies in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, O'Dwyer analyzes the development and impact of LGBT movements in post-communist Eastern and Central Europe.

O'Dwyer argues that backlash against LGBT individuals has had the paradoxical effect of encouraging stronger and more organized activism, significantly impacting the social movement landscape in the region. As these Eastern and Central European countries vie for inclusion in the increasingly LGBT-friendly European Union, activist groups and organizations have become more emboldened to push for change. The book explores LGBT rights groups in Eastern and Central Europe and their ability to serve as models for future movements attempting to resist backlash.

*The French Language in Russia: A Social, Political, Cultural, and Literary History*, by Derek Offord, Vladislav Rjéoutski, and Gesine Argent, was published by Amsterdam University Press in September 2018.

*The French Language in Russia* provides a full examination and discussion of the adoption of the French language by the elites of imperial Russia during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is interdisciplinary, approaching its subject from the angles of various kinds of history and historical sociolinguistics. Beyond its bearing on some of the grand narratives of Russian thought and literature, this book may afford more general insight into the social, political, cultural, and literary implications and effects of bilingualism in a speech community over a long period. It should also enlarge understanding of francophonie as a pan-European phenomenon. On the broadest plane, it has significance in an age of unprecedented global connectivity, for it invites us to look beyond the experience of a single nation and the social groups and individuals within it in order to discover how languages and the cultures and narratives associated with them have been shared across national boundaries.

*The Human Reimagined: Posthumanism in Russia*, edited and introduced by Colleen McQuillen and Julia Vaingurt, was published in September 2018 by Academic Studies Press.

The enmeshment of the human body with various forms of technology is a phenomenon that characterizes lived and imagined experiences in Russian arts of the modernist and postmodernist eras. In contrast to the postrevolutionary fixation on mechanical engineering, industrial progress, and the body as a machine, the postmodern, postindustrial period

probes the meaning of being human not only from a physical, bodily perspective, but also from the philosophical perspectives of subjectivity and consciousness. *The Human Reimagined* examines the ways in which literary and artistic representations of the body, selfhood, subjectivity, and consciousness illuminate late- and post-Soviet ideas about the changing relationships among the individual, the environment, technology, and society.

Contributors include: Alex Anikina, Keti Chukhrov, Jacob Emery, Elana Gomel, Sofya Khagi, Katerina Lakhmitko, Colleen McQuillen, Jonathan Brooks Platt, Kristina Toland, Julia Vaingurt, Diana Kurkovsky West, and Trevor Wilson.

Barbara C. Allen published *Leaflets of the Russian Revolution: Socialist Organizing in 1917* (Haymarket Books, 2018). This collection includes new translations of important documents from socialist parties, soviets, and worker militias in Petrograd during 1917. When workers and peasants rose up across Russia and smashed the centuries-old Tsarist autocracy, their actions reverberated across the world, and continue to inspire activists to this day. This carefully assembled collection of documents from the Petrograd socialist movement in 1917 provides contemporary readers with a firsthand glimpse into the revolutionary ferment as it unfolds. In *Leaflets of the Russian Revolution*, Allen selects and introduces the pamphlets and other agitational material that give life to the debates, disagreements and perspectives that animated the masses during the revolution.

*Map Men: Transnational Lives and Deaths of Geographers in the Making of East Central Europe*, by Steven Seegal, was published by University of Chicago Press in June 2018.

Maps are often deeply emotional tales: of political projects gone wrong, budding relationships that failed, and countries that vanished. Seegal takes us through some of these historical dramas with a detailed look at the maps that made and unmade the world of East Central Europe through a long continuum of world war and revolution. This is a collective biography of five prominent geographers between 1870 and 1950—Albrecht Penck, Eugeniusz Romer, Stepan Rudnyts'kyi, Isaiah Bowman, and Count Pál Teleki. These mapmakers interacted with and influenced one another as they played key roles in defining and redefining borders, territories, nations—and, ultimately, the interconnection of the world through two world wars. Throughout, Seegal examines the transnational nature of these processes and addresses weighty questions about the causes and consequences of the world wars, the rise of Nazism and Stalinism, and the reasons East Central Europe became the fault line of these world-changing developments.

At a time when East Central Europe has surged back into geopolitical consciousness, *Map Men* offers timely look at the historical origins of how the region was defined—and the key people who helped define it.

Ewa Wampuszyc's book *Mapping Warsaw: The Spatial Poetics of a Postwar City* (Northwestern University Press, 2018), is an interdisciplinary study that combines urban studies, cinema studies, cultural studies, history, literature, and photography. It examines Warsaw's post-World War II reconstruction through images and language.

Juxtaposing readings of photobooks, socialist-era newsreels, the comedies of Leonard Buczkowski and Jan Fethke, the writing and films of Tadeusz Konwicki, and a case study on the Palace of Culture and Science—a “gift” from none other than Stalin—this study investigates the rhetorical and visual reconstruction of Warsaw in various medias and genres. Wampuszyc roots her analysis in the historical context of the postwar decade and shows how and why Poland's capital became an essential part of a propaganda program inspired by communist ideology and the needs of a newly established socialist People's Republic.

*My Life as a Spy: Investigations in a Secret Police File*, by Katherine Verdery, was published in May 2018 by Duke University Press.

As Verdery observes, “There's nothing like reading your secret police file to make you wonder who you really are.” In 1973 Verdery began her doctoral fieldwork in the Transylvanian region of Romania, ruled at the time by communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. She returned several times over the next twenty-five years, during which time the secret police—the Securitate—compiled a massive surveillance file on her. Reading through its 2,781 pages, she learned that she was “actually” a spy, a CIA agent, a Hungarian agitator, and a friend of dissidents: in short, an enemy of Romania. In *My Life as a Spy* she analyzes her file alongside her original field notes and conversations with Securitate officers. Verdery also talks with some of the informers who were close friends, learning the complex circumstances that led them to report on her, and considers how fieldwork and spying can be easily confused. Part memoir, part detective story, part anthropological analysis, *My Life as a Spy* offers a personal account of how government surveillance worked during the Cold War and how Verdery experienced living under it.

Ivan Sablin's *The Rise and Fall of Russia's Far Eastern Republic, 1905–1922: Nationalisms, Imperialisms, and Regionalisms in and after the Russian Empire*, was published by Routledge in 2018.

The book explores the region of the Russian Far East between Lake Baikal and the Pacific Ocean during the collapse of the Russian Empire and the formation of the Soviet Union.

More specifically, it traces the Russian Far East as a new region that found its political form in the Far Eastern Republic (FER). The nationalism under study included discourses and policies of imagining and mobilizing Russians, Buryat-Mongols, Koreans, Ukrainians, and other groups in the Russian Far East. The discussion of imperialism explored Japanese and American attempts to include the region into their spheres of influence, as well as the legacies of Russian expansionism in North and East Asia and the Bolshevik efforts in exporting the revolution to Mongolia, Korea, China, and Japan and possibly turning them into Soviet dependencies. The regionalism in question were the various projects of imagining distinct Siberian and Far

Eastern communities as potentially independent or as part of the heterogeneous Russian nation. Russian imperial and post-imperial nationalism formulated in state-centered defensive terms played the central role in the establishment and abolition of the republic in 1920–1922 and the consolidation of the Russian Far East as a region in the Soviet imperial formation.

Konstantin Kustanovich's *Russian and American Cultures: Two Worlds a World Apart* was published by Lexington Books in 2018. It provides a broad and interdisciplinary examination of Russian culture from the beginnings of the centralized Moscow state in the fifteenth century to today's reality. It analyzes Russia's peculiar kind of Christianity, collectivism, legal nihilism, authoritarianism, and nationalism and traces their roots in the country's history of religion, agricultural commune, and serfdom. The book draws on psychology, anthropology, law, and other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to ascertain the continuity and persistence of Russian culture through the centuries. Focusing on predominant cultural myths, values, and tendencies leads to generalizations about the Russian consciousness, which, of course, do not preclude divergent beliefs among the minority of the population. The last part of the book analyzes Russian perceptions of America and Americans through the prism of the cultural paradigms established earlier.

The new Russian textbook, *Russian through Art: For Intermediate to Advanced Students*, by Anna Kudyma and Olga Kagan, develops all four language skills while enhancing students' cultural knowledge through exposure to Russian visual arts.

Each of the six thematically organized chapters is accompanied by an online lecture, readings, audio and video clips, and assignments of varying levels of difficulty, starting with description and narration tasks and progressing to discussion and debate. Each chapter includes a variety of task-based and project-based assignments. The book and website's modules are designed to allow for adaptation to meet a range of course needs and levels. By the end of the course students will have broadened their active vocabulary, enhanced their grammatical skills, and familiarized themselves with Russian art in its various representations and periods.

Stephen F. Cohen's *War with Russia? From Putin & Ukraine to Trump & Russiagate* was published as an original paperback and ebook in November 2018 by Hot Books/Skyhorse Publishing. The central theme of the book, which grows out of Cohen's articles and other commentaries since 2014, is that the new U.S.-Russian Cold War is fraught with unprecedented possibilities of actual war and thus is more dangerous than was its 40-year predecessor. *War with Russia?* focuses on the foreign and domestic politics of both countries. Though most of the subjects are contemporary, Cohen treats many of them historically. This admittedly “controversial” book is primarily for general readers but includes issues that regularly engage scholars and other specialists.



# Institutional Member News

## BARD COLLEGE

### Bard Hosts US-Russian Relations: From Tehran to Yalta and Beyond

A Symposium Marking the 75th Anniversary of the Tehran Conference organized by the Bard College Center for Civic Engagement, in association with the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Smolny) of St. Petersburg State University, the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, the Roosevelt Institute, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, was held at the end of November.

The joint US-Russian symposium examined the Tehran Conference and what impact the decisions taken at this first all-important summit meeting had on US-Russian relations, not only during the Yalta Conference, but also in the years that followed. Papers from historians and political scientists on such topics as the Polish issue, the Second Front, the future of Germany, postwar planning, the shifting balance of power, Russian entry into the war against Japan, and other questions were discussed. The conference was accompanied by exhibitions of key documents, photographs and film footage from the FDR Presidential Library, and the Yeltsin Presidential Library to further elaborate the historical nature of the Tehran and Yalta Conferences. The main exhibition is housed at the Yeltsin Presidential Library, in St. Petersburg, with a smaller exhibition at Bard College. <http://cce.bard.edu/2018/11/27/tehran-conference/>

### 20th Anniversary of US-Russian Dual-Degree Partnership between Bard College and St. Petersburg State University

The fall of 2018 marked the start of the dual-degree degree program at what is now the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Smolny College) at St. Petersburg State University. The Bard-SPSU partnership created the first liberal arts degree offered in Russia. Bard College and over 50 other US institutions have sent 950 students of the Russian language to study at Smolny over the last two decades, many of whom have pursued academic careers in Slavic Studies.

Program and scholarship applications are open for Bard's summer 2019 Russian language intensive in St. Petersburg. Please direct application questions to Quinton Scribner at [qscribner@bard.edu](mailto:qscribner@bard.edu).

## HAVIGHURST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND POST-SOVIET STUDIES YOUNG RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE

Theme: Technologies and Narratives of Truth and Power  
Miami University, April 4-6, 2019

The relationship between technology and power in Eurasia is fraught, dynamic, and under-studied as are the connections between truth and power in the region. Scholarly interrogations that link this current concern to historically grounded, contextually-informed developments are essential. Socialist regimes relied on technologies of surveillance that have been

transformed since the end of planned economic and political systems. Concomitantly, cognitive work and workers have become a crucial part of the global economy, and technology's flexibility and fluidity have become significant objects of analysis for scholars of a variety of disciplines.

The small number of participants and mix of junior and senior scholars make the Young Researchers Conference an excellent venue for both advancing research projects and networking with leading and upcoming figures in a wide range of fields.

**CFA: SUMMER RESEARCH LABORATORY AT ILLINOIS**  
The Summer Research Laboratory will be held from June 10 to August 2, 2019. The SRL is open to all scholars with research interests in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. Graduate students, academics, independent scholars, librarians, and government employees are encouraged to apply.

With hundreds of thousands of volumes in Russian, East European, and Eurasian languages, alongside extensive microfilm collections of rare and archival materials, the University Library at Illinois ranks among the best research collections in the world. The SRL provides scholars with the opportunity to work extensively with these resources, at any

### Congratulations to the Fall 2018 ASEEES First Book Subvention Recipients

University of Toronto Press, for *Between Rhyme and Reason: Vladimir Nabokov, Translation, and Dialogue* by Stanislav Shvabrin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

University Press of Mississippi, for *Graphic Satire in the Soviet Union: Krokodil's Political Cartoons, 1954-1964* by John Eddy (Auckland Grammar School)

University of Toronto Press, for *Pushkin's Monument and Allusion: Poem, Statue, Performance* by Sidney Eric Dement (Binghamton University)

ASEEES is accepting applications for dedicated funds for subvention of books by first-time authors who have secured a publishing contract. Awards will be made on a competitive basis, with funds paid directly to the press. Applications are invited from all disciplines & geographical fields in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies.

The next deadline for the ASEEES First Book Subvention is February 1, 2019. For more information on the program, visit: [www.aseees.org/programs/firstbook-subvention](http://www.aseees.org/programs/firstbook-subvention)

stage of their work. Many important books and articles have been written in our collections over the years. Graduate students find a trip to Illinois an excellent way to plan their research and begin work on their dissertations.

The SRL offers scholars: Full access to the Library and its physical and electronic collections; one-on-one research consultations with the experienced Slavic Reference Service bibliographers; access to scholarly programming and discussion groups on campus.

Scholars participating in SRL may apply for: dormitory housing on campus; travel grants in support of their trip to Urbana-Champaign; research stipends.

SRL applicants are also encouraged to consider studying an area language at Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop, immediately before or after participating in the SRL. More information on Indiana's opportunities, languages, and the application can be found at the [Summer Language Workshop website](#).

Each year, SRS hosts research workshops and training sessions that may be of interest to visitors: please see here for details. This summer, it is hosting the following workshops (please click on the links for more information): [New Fields for Old: The Revitalization of Political, Diplomatic and Military History and its Implications for Research in Libraries and Archives](#); and [US – Russia Relations – Future](#).

The deadline for grant funding is February 11, 2019. For more information, see: <https://reec.illinois.edu/programming-and-events/summer-research-laboratory/>

#### INDIANA UNIVERSITY SUMMER LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

The 2019 Indiana University Summer Language Workshop is now accepting applications for intensive summer courses in: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), German, Hungarian, Russian, and Ukrainian, as well as 19 other languages.

\* 2 semesters of instruction in 2 months (6-10 credits)

\* Immersion options available for Russian

\* Extensive cultural programming

\* In-state tuition for all participants

\* Wide range of scholarships and fellowships available. <https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu/funding/index.html>

\* Partner opportunities and events with the IU Russian Flagship

Apply before February 2019 for priority admission and funding. Details and application: <https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu>. Email [languageworkshop@indiana.edu](mailto:languageworkshop@indiana.edu).

#### THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER Fellowship Opportunities: Title VIII Fellowships

The Kennan Institute offers 3-9 month research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. KI also offers two-month summer research fellowships. The deadline for these fellowship competitions is January 31, 2019.

Title VIII-Supported Short-Term Grants allow US citizens whose policy-relevant research in the social sciences or humanities focused on the countries of Eurasia, to spend up to one month using the library, archival, and other specialized resources of the DC area, while in residence at the Kennan

Institute. The next deadline for these grants is February 15, 2019. Details can be found here: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-opportunities-and-internships>.

#### George F. Kennan Fellowships

George F. Kennan Fellows are based at the Wilson Center for three-month residencies. Fellows receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in DC, as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials. Kennan Fellows are expected to actively participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements, meetings, conferences, and other activities. Upon completion of the fellowships, grantees become alumni, for whom Kennan will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement. There are no citizenship requirements for this grant.

Applicants have an option to apply for the fellowship as individuals or as part of a team. If applying as a team, applicants must be citizens of at least two different countries. The goal of such joint fellowships is to promote collaborative research projects among US, Russian, and Ukrainian experts. Kennan Fellowship Teams will: Produce joint paper(s) for policy-relevant publications; Present work at DC, Russia, and/or Ukraine events; Conduct meetings and engage with policymakers in DC.

Competitions for the fellowships will be held twice yearly; the next deadline is March 1. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/george-f-kennan-fellowship>.

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following scholars: Title VIII Research Scholars

- Maria Blackwood, PhD, Harvard University, "Personal Experiences of Nationality and Power in Soviet Kazakhstan"
- Natalie Belsky, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Duluth, "Encounters in the East: Evacuees in the Soviet Hinterland during the Second World War"

Galina Starovoirova Fellows on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

- Sergei Davidis, Head of the Political Prisoners Support Program, Human Rights Center 'Memorial,' "The Practice of Politically Motivated Imprisonment in Modern Russia in Connection with Violations of Various Internationally Recognized Human Rights and Freedoms"
- Olga Irisova, Political Analyst, Editor-in-Chief, 'Riddle,' "Improving Western Strategy of Combating Disinformation Campaigns: Cognitive Science Instead of Technical Debunking as a Key Solution to the Problem"

George F. Kennan Fellows

- Farrukh Irnazarov, Country Director, Central Asian Development Institute, "Russia's Migration Policy and its Implications for Central Asian Labor Migrants: Reassessing the Risk of Religious Radicalization"
- Seçkin Köstem, Assistant Professor, Bilkent University, "Imagining Eurasia: Russia's Changing National Economic



Interests”

- Evgeny Troitskiy, Professor, Tomsk State University, “Leader and Followers: Russia’s Policies in the post-Soviet Space”

#### James Billington Fellow

- Dmitry Kozlov, Research fellow, Human Rights Center “Memorial,” “Komsomol Meetings, Streets and Dancing Halls: Producing Spaces for Public Action in 1950-60s Leningrad”

#### Wilson Center Fellows

- Sarah Oates, Professor and Senior Scholar, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park, “Russian Propaganda Rewired: Analyzing Misinformation in the Digital Age”
- Catherine Schuler, Professor of Women’s Studies, University of Maryland, College Park “Spectacular Affect: Mass Festivals and Symbolic Politics in Putin’s Russia”

### POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN AMERICA

PIASA is pleased to announce and congratulate its 2018 Award Recipients in several categories, including:

- PIASA Distinguished Achievement Award: **Jan Kubik**, Rutgers University and University College London.
- The Oskar Halecki Polish History Award: **Paul Knoll**, University of Southern California, for his book “*A Pearl of Powerful Learning: The University of Cracow in the Fifteenth Century* (Brill, 2016).
- The Bronislaw Malinowski Social Sciences Award: **Evgeny Finkel**, The Johns Hopkins University, for his book *Ordinary Jews: Choice and Survival during the Holocaust* (Princeton University Press, 2018).
- The Wacław Lednicki Humanities Award: **Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough**, for her book of essays, *Objects of Affection*

(Braddock Avenue Books, 2018).

- The Ludwik Krzyżanowski Polish Review Award: **Adam Chmielewski**, University of Wrocław, for his article “Rethinking a Central European City” (vol. 62, no. 2, 2017). The Recipients will be recognized during the annual banquet at the PIASA Seventh World Congress in Gdansk, Poland (June 14-16).

### UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

“Migrations of Cultures”: An Undergraduate Conference in the Modern Languages  
March 22-23, 2019

The keynote speaker will be Katelyn Knox, author of *Race on Display in 20th and 21st Century France* (University of Liverpool Press, 2016). Topics presented include: Multilingual societies and their conflicts; linguistic landscapes and their evolution; translation as a political tool; literatures of the diaspora; circulation of texts through multiple areas and in multiple languages; travel literature through the ages; exiles, migrants, and refugees; processes of acculturation; the politics of cultural production; films and the problems of cultural translation.

All inquiries can be directed to Prof. Giuseppina Mecchia, at [mecchia@pitt.edu](mailto:mecchia@pitt.edu).

16th Annual Graduate Conference hosted by Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe & Central Asia  
“Persuade and Coerce: (Mis)Information and Security in Eurasia”  
March 1-2, 2019

The nations of the Eurasian landmass have been on both the receiving and giving ends of kinetic and non-kinetic coercion long before fear spread of Russian Twitter bots. Powers both great and small in Eurasia have for centuries attempted to exert control over their neighbors and lands further across the globe. The 2016 US presidential election made information warfare and cyber-security the topics of conversation in academic, policy, and security circles. However, persuasion and

coercion have taken many forms from multimedia propaganda campaigns, spy wars, military interventions, special operations raids, and even manipulation of the supply of critical resources such as fossil fuels. While we hear about these tactics being used abroad, the tactics of persuasion and coercion have also been employed domestically by Eurasian states.

GOSECA invites abstracts for conference presentations related to (mis)information and security - broadly conceived - in Eurasia past and present. Submission Deadline: Friday, January 25, 2019. Submit a 300 word (double-spaced) abstract and 2-page CV via [goseca.ucis.pitt.edu/submissions-form](http://goseca.ucis.pitt.edu/submissions-form).

#### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute

June 17-August 9, 2019

The Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute (CESSI) is now accepting applications for courses in Kazakh, Tajik, Uyghur, and Uzbek. Additional languages may be added with sufficient student interest.

Graduate students, researchers, and professionals who are US citizens are especially encouraged to apply for the Title VIII fellowship, which covers full tuition plus a stipend. FLAS fellowships are also available for eligible students, and all applicants (including international students) are eligible for tuition remission scholarships.

Students receive the equivalent of one year of language study and earn eight credits upon completion of the program. In addition to language classes, CESSI students have the opportunity to attend lectures on Central Eurasia; participate in cultural events; engage with local Central Eurasian communities; and network with other scholars of Central Eurasia. CESSI is a great way for students to gain language skills before studying abroad, applying for jobs, or conducting fieldwork in the region. Students of all disciplines and academic programs are welcome!

The priority application deadline is February 1, 2019. For more information and to apply, visit [cessi.wisc.edu](http://cessi.wisc.edu).

#### Wisconsin Russia Project Postdocs

[The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia](#) (CREECA) invites applications for [Wisconsin Russia Project](#) postdoctoral research fellowships (for US and/or Russian social scientists) and pre-doctoral dissertation fellowships (for Russian social scientists), funded with a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Fellows are expected to be in residence in Madison, Wisconsin, and to conduct research about Russia in one or more of the five topic areas: 1) Education, labor markets, and inequality; 2) Law and society; 3) Political economy; 4) Identity, place, and migration; and 5) Demographic change. The application deadline for both competitions is March 1, 2019. More detailed information about the program, eligibility, and how to apply are available on the Wisconsin Russia Project website:

- [One-year postdoctoral research fellowships](#)
- [One-semester pre-doctoral dissertation fellowships](#)

#### Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

203C Bellefield Hall, 315 S. Bellefield Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424

tel.: 412-648-9911 • fax: 412-648-9815

e-mail: [aseees@pitt.edu](mailto:aseees@pitt.edu) [www.aseees.org](http://www.aseees.org)

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

#### ASEEES Staff

Executive Director: Lynda Park, 412-648-9788, [lypark@pitt.edu](mailto:lypark@pitt.edu)

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NewsNet (ISSN 1074-3057) is published five times a year (January, March, June, August, and October; however, the March and June editions are only available online). ASEEES members receive Slavic Review (the ASEEES quarterly of Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies), and NewsNet. Affiliates receive only NewsNet. Institutional members receive one copy of each publication, while premium members receive two copies. Membership is on a calendar year basis. Individual membership is open to all individuals interested in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies. Institutional membership is open to all education-related organizations in the field of Slavic, East European and Eurasian studies. ASEEES' office is located at 203C Bellefield Hall, 315 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424.

Subscription to NewsNet is \$32 for US subscribers and \$57 for non-U.S. subscribers. Prices include shipping. Single copies are \$7.00 each. To subscribe or order back issues, contact [aseees@pitt.edu](mailto:aseees@pitt.edu). Back issues are available up to two years only. Periodicals postage paid at Pittsburgh, PA, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: ASEEES, 203C Bellefield Hall, 315 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424.

Membership: If you are interested in becoming an individual or institutional member, visit: <http://aseees.org/membership>

Announcements submitted to all regular columns are published free of charge. NewsNet frequently publishes unsolicited material. All submissions should be e-mailed to: [newsnet@pitt.edu](mailto:newsnet@pitt.edu). **Deadlines for submissions (ads, articles, announcements)**

**January issue—1 Dec; March issue—1 Feb; June issue—1 May; Aug issue—5 July; October issue—1 Sept**

## NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

**Hilary Bird, trans. and ed.** *An Introduction to Estonian Literature*, xviii + 486 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-472-7), \$44.95.

"Hilary Bird's *Introduction to Estonian Literature* is truly a pioneering work, and a welcome contribution for anyone with an interest in the lively and flourishing literature of this small but culturally vibrant country. Ms. Bird's coverage is not merely of the modern writers, some of whose work is available in English translation, but also of literature in the Estonian language from the earliest times, which has been a closed book up to now to anyone without a knowledge of the language."  
—Christopher Moseley, *School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London*

**Aleksander Wat.** *Against the Devil in History: Poems, Short Stories, Essays*,

*Fragments*, trans. Frank L. Vigoda, xiv + 435 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-0-89357-492-5), \$44.95.

This representative selection of Aleksander Wat's writings allows the extraordinary poet to be seen against the background of three periods of 20th-century history: interwar Poland, WWII, and the Communist era. "The uniqueness of Wat's oeuvre lies in the seamless blending of seemingly heterogeneous components ... including the Old and New Testaments ... biology ... and politics. At the same time his poems are extremely sensual and somatic. Ideas, images, and dreams meld with important existential and theological questions, oscillating between hilarious affirmation and complete skepticism and negation, and undetermined by suffering and pain."

—Jan Zieliński, *Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw*



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SLAVICA

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

**Jan Novák.** *So Far So Good: The Mašín Family and the Greatest Story of the Cold War*, xvi + 453 p., 2017 (ISBN 978-089357-458-9), \$19.95.

Voted Book of the Year by the Czech Republic's *Magnesia Litera* when published in Czech translation in 2004, *So Far So Good: The Mašín Family and The Greatest Story of the Cold War* by Jan Novák is now published by Slavica in the original English. Although it reads like a thriller, this "novel-document" is based on the true story of three young Czech men, Radek and Ctirad Mašín and Milan Paumer, whose daring exploits of anti-Communist resistance and flight through the Iron Curtain to West

Berlin set off the *Tschechenkrieg*, a massive manhunt by 27,000 East German police and Red Army regulars.

**Bohumil Hrabal.** *Murder Ballads and Other Legends*, trans. Timothy West, viii +

109 p., 2018 (ISBN 978-089357-480-2), \$19.95.

"Some texts, after I've written them, have woken me up in the night so that I break out in a sweat and jump out of bed." With this confession legendary author Bohumil Hrabal concludes this genre-bending collection of stories published at the height of his fame in the 1960s. At the book's heart is "The Legend of Cain," an early version of the novella (and Oscar-winning film) *Closely Watched Trains*. Beautifully illustrated with woodcuts from early modern broadside ballads, *Murder Ballads and Other Legends* appears here in English for the first time, 50 years after it first appeared in Czech.

Bohumil Hrabal (1914–97) is regarded as one of the leading Czech prose stylists of the 20th century. His work has been translated into more than two dozen languages, and in 1995 *Publisher's Weekly* named him "the most revered living Czech writer."



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Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History

<http://kritika.georgetown.edu>

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

Vol. 19, no. 4 (Fall 2018)

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## In Memoriam

**James H. Billington** died November 20, 2018 at a hospital in Washington, DC. He was 89.

Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Billington graduated with highest honors from Princeton University in 1950. Three years later, he earned his doctorate from Balliol College of the University of Oxford where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He taught history at Harvard University from 1957 to 1962 and at Princeton University from 1964 to 1974. In 1966, Billington published a landmark book on Russian culture, *The Icon and the Axe*, that secured his reputation in academia.

From 1973 to 1987, Billington was director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where he founded the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Center and seven other programs as well as the *Wilson Quarterly*.

Billington was appointed by Reagan in 1987 as the 13th person to lead the Library of Congress. He led the library through a period of change, when computers and the Internet came to compete with book stacks and microfilm as storehouses of knowledge. Under his leadership, the collections almost doubled, from 85.5 million to 160 million items. In the technological realm, Billington launched projects to modernize the library and digitize important holdings as the Internet transformed scholarship as well as daily life. His efforts resulted in tens of millions of donor dollars to fund special programs and initiatives that extended the library's reach in scholarship and culture.

After 28 years in the job, Billington retired in September 2015.

(Excerpted from the obituary in [The Washington Post](#))

Professor Emerita **Catherine Vakar Chvany**, Slavic linguist and literature scholar at MIT, died on October 19, 2018. She was 91.

MIT's Russian studies curriculum is a legacy of Chvany's foundational work in the department. Chvany wrote *On the Syntax of Be-Sentences in Russian* (Slavica Publishers, 1975), and co-edited four volumes: *New Studies in Russian Language and Literature* (Slavica, 1987); *Morphosyntax in Slavic* (Slavica, 1980); *Slavic Transformational Syntax* (University of Michigan, 1974); and *Studies in Poetics: Commemorative Volume: Krystyna Pomorska* (Slavica Publishers, 1995). In 1996, linguists Olga Yokoyama and Emily Klenin published an edited collection of her work, *Selected Essays of Catherine V. Chvany* (Slavica).

Chvany took up a range of issues in linguistics; in literature she explored language issues in the classic "Tale of Igor's Campaign," Teffi's poems, Nikolai Leskov's short stories, and a novella by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Chvany received her PhD in Slavic languages and literatures from Harvard in 1970 and began her career at Wellesley College in 1966. She joined the faculty at MIT in 1967 served on its faculty for 26 years before retiring in 1993. Chvany served on the advisory or editorial boards of *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Russian Language Journal*, *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*, *Peirce Seminar Papers*, *Essays in Poetics*, and *Supostavitelno ezikoznanie*.

(Excerpted from text provided by [MIT News](#))

**Bohdan Rubchak**, a poet, literary critic, and professor of comparative literature at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and one of the founders of the New York Group of Poets, passed away on September 23, 2018.

Rubchak won two Ivan Franko literary awards and the Pavlo Tychyna Poetry Prize. In 2003, Mayor Richard M. Daley presented him with an award for his contributions to the culture of the city of Chicago.

Among his publications are six collections of poetry, approximately 300 poems published in separate collections, and four edited anthologies of Ukrainian poetry. His selected essays on literature and a collection of short stories were translated from English to Ukrainian. Rubchak's verse has been translated into ten languages. Rubchak collaborated with the Ukrainian literary magazine *Suchasnist'* (*Contemporary Era*).

He was born on March 6, 1935, in Kalush, Ukraine. Rubchak taught at the University of Manitoba, before moving to New York to become the director of the Ukrainian sector of Radio Svoboda (Liberty). From 1969 to 1973, Rubchak taught at Rutgers University while pursuing his graduate studies. In 1973 he became a Professor of Ukrainian and Russian literatures at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also taught at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.

(Excerpted from text provided by Dr. Yelena Zotova)

Professor **Vladimir Guy Tremml**, of Duke University, passed away on November 4, 2018. He was 89.

Tremml, a professor of the economics department at Duke University from 1967 to 1999, was born in Kharkov in the Soviet Union. In 1950, he immigrated to the US. Tremml graduated from Brooklyn College (BA), Columbia University (MA) and UNC at Chapel Hill (PhD). He taught at Franklin and Marshall College (1961-1967). In 1967, Tremml began his career at Duke University. He also served as a visiting professor at a number of schools, including UC Berkeley, the University of Hokkaido and Moscow State University.

Because of his expertise in Soviet economics, Tremml served as a consultant for many private and governmental agencies including: the Stanford Research Institute, the RAND Corporation, the International Trade Administration, the International Monetary Fund, the Commerce Department, and the National Academy of Sciences. In 1986, he was invited with three other economists to consult with President Reagan on matters related to the Soviet economy.

The author and editor of many books and scores of articles, he was named director of the Undergraduate Center for the Study of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, established at Duke in 1991. In 1994, he received the Richard Stites Senior Scholar Award.

(Excerpted from the obituary published in *The News & Observer* on November 9, 2018)



# Affiliate Group News

## AATSEEL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) will be held in downtown Washington, DC, February 1-4, 2018.

The conference program includes a variety of dynamic panels and roundtables on topics of interest to Slavists in many areas including literature, linguistics, pedagogy, film, and culture. The program may be viewed online at: [https://www.aatseel.org/cfp\\_program\\_2018](https://www.aatseel.org/cfp_program_2018)

AATSEEL is also planning a variety of special events at the conference which may be viewed here: <http://www.aatseel.org/program/2018-conference-special-events/>

On-site registration at higher rates will begin on Thursday, February 1. Registration includes access to all conference panels and events including breakfasts, coffee/snack breaks, and refreshments at the President's Reception and Awards Ceremony. Please do not hesitate to write with any questions to AATSEEL's Conference Manager, Dr. Rachel Stauffer: [aatseelconference@usc.edu](mailto:aatseelconference@usc.edu)

## 2019 MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE

April 5-7th, 2019

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

The Midwest Slavic Association and The Ohio State University (OSU) Center for Slavic and East European Studies (CSEES) are pleased to announce the 2019 Midwest Slavic Conference to be held at OSU in Columbus, OH, on April 5-7, 2019.

Conference organizers invite proposals for panels or individual papers addressing all topics related to the theme "1989 and its Effects on Central and Eastern Europe". Preceding this year's conference, Dr. Dorin Uritescu (York University) will present the 22nd Annual Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture, entitled "Geolinguistic Variation and Language Change in Romanian," on Friday, April 5th. The conference will then open with a keynote address by Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky (U of Kansas) that will focus on cultural representations of the fall of Communism in Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Building on the keynote address, a plenary panel focusing on the larger political, economic, and social impacts of 1989 will follow on Saturday morning. Panels will be held Saturday from 10:45AM-5:30PM and Sunday from 8:30AM-12:30PM.

Conference will not provide lodging for any participants. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply for travel grants to cover all travel costs. Please email [csees@osu.edu](mailto:csees@osu.edu) if any documentation is needed to apply for funds. More information is available at: <https://slaviccenter.osu.edu/about/conferences/midwest-slavic> or by emailing [csees@osu.edu](mailto:csees@osu.edu)

40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NORTHEAST SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES  
The Conference will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. This year, NESEEEES will award a first prize and a second prize for the best papers presented at the conference. Essays are judged according to the following criteria: clarity of main research question outlining the scholar's approach to the topic; importance of the research to the profession; amount of support for the argument; adequate and interesting content; readiness for publication: use of English, readability and style. <https://neseees.wordpress.com/2019-conference/>

57<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES  
Mobile, AL  
March 14-17, 2019

The Fifty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will be held at the Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa in Mobile, Alabama, March 14-17, 2019. The meeting will be hosted by the University of South Alabama. The John Shelton Curtiss Lecture at the Friday Banquet will be given by Dr. Kate Brown, Professor of History at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Dr Brown is the author of numerous critically-acclaimed monographs, including *A Biography of No Place* (2004), *Plutopia* (2013), and *Dispatches from Dystopia* (2015). Her banquet talk, derived from her forthcoming book, is titled "Manual for Survival:

## Archive Access

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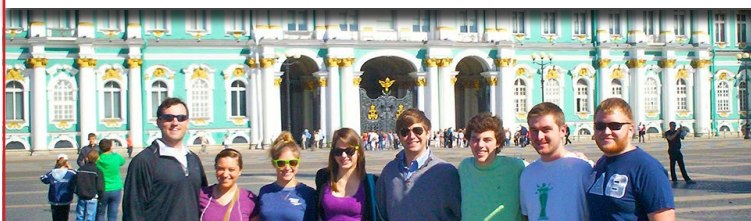
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A Chernobyl Guide to the Future.”

The program committee is accepting panel and paper proposals until January 25, 2019. Panel proposals (chair, three papers, discussant) or roundtables (chair and three to five participants) are preferred, but individual paper proposals will also be accepted. Panel proposals should include the titles of each individual paper as well as a title for the panel itself and identifying information (email address and institutional affiliation) for all participants. Roundtable proposals should include a title and identifying information for all participants. Individual paper proposals should include paper title, identifying information, and a one-paragraph abstract to guide the program committee in assembling panels. Submissions must include requests for AV equipment. Email proposals to Emily Baran at [scssprogram@gmail.com](mailto:scssprogram@gmail.com).

For local arrangements or conference information, contact Mara Kozelsky at [mkozelsky@southalabama.edu](mailto:mkozelsky@southalabama.edu). For questions regarding the program, email Emily Baran.

The Association of Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) will be hosting its 9th Biennial Conference in conjunction with SCSS on Thursday, March 14, 2019, and participants are invited to attend both conferences for the same registration fee. The AWSS conference theme is “Crossing Borders in Slavic Women’s and Gender Studies” and the Keynote Speaker will be Tricia Starks, Associate Professor of History, University of Arkansas. Questions about the AWSS conference should be directed to [Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu).

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In addition to articles and news columns, NewsNet also features a limited number of advertisements from various organizations presenting scholarly publications, products, services, or opportunities of interest to those in the Russian, Eurasian, and Central European fields. Please contact [newsnet@pitt.edu](mailto:newsnet@pitt.edu) for rates, specs and production schedule.

## CALL FOR ARTICLES

Please consider submitting articles to be published in future NewsNets. Articles are typically brief essays on contemporary issues or matters of broad professional interest. They can include discussions of new research, institutions, resources etc. NewsNet is not a venue for extensive research essays; most cover articles are 2,500 words in length. We encourage members, including graduate students, who are interested in proposing a NewsNet article to contact the NewsNet Editor, Trevor Erlacher ([aseees.grants@pitt.edu](mailto:aseees.grants@pitt.edu)).

*The views expressed in NewsNet articles are solely the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of ASEES or its staff.*

## FELLOWSHIPS FOR LANGUAGE STUDY



Provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Fellowships are available to advanced-level students of Russian and Persian language who plan to participate in the American Councils Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (**RLASP**) in Moscow, and the Eurasian Regional Language Program (**ERLP**) in Dushanbe.

Awards are made in the amount of **\$8,000 for semester programs** and **\$4,000 for summer programs**.

For more information, visit:  
[acstudyabroad.org/fulbright-hays](http://acstudyabroad.org/fulbright-hays)

*All competitions for funding are merit-based.  
Applicants must be U.S. citizens.*

CONTACT: [outbound@americancouncils.org](mailto:outbound@americancouncils.org)





# Personages

The following ASEEEES members were awarded 2018-2019 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowships:

- **Dilyara Agisheva** (Georgetown University) for “Colonial encounter and the transformation of the legal system in Crimea in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries”
- **Hilary Lynd** (University of California, Berkeley) for “The Soviet Union is for South Africans a Big Crystal Ball - The National Question and the Cold War’s End”
- **Brendan McElmeel** (University of Washington) for “Comrades in Love--Intimacy and Socialist Morality in the USSR. Nineteen-fifties to the Nineteen-seventies”
- **Moira O’Shea** (University of Chicago) for “Amidst Aitmatov Manas and Lenin - The use of history and culture in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan”
- **Barbara Roth** (Ohio State University) for “Settlement Social Norms and Conflict Migration in Bosnia”
- **Laura Tourtellotte** (Boston University) for “Whom to Help Pro-natalism and Gender Politics in Crisis Social Services in Almaty Kazakhstan”

**Marta Deyrup** received the 2018-19 Albert B. Hakim Faculty Service Medal for her outstanding service to the Seton Hall University community at the Faculty Convocation on Friday, September 14, 2018. The Albert B. Hakim Faculty Service Award expresses the University’s grateful appreciation and high regard for members of the Seton Hall community who have served beyond measure with selfless dedication and high distinction.

## ERLACHER JOINS ASEEEES STAFF

In January 2019, **Trevor Erlacher** will join the ASEEEES staff as NewsNet Editor and Program Coordinator.



Also, he will serve as an academic advisor at the University of Pittsburgh REEES. Erlacher holds a PhD in Russian and Eastern European History from UNC-Chapel Hill, was a Fulbrighter in Ukraine, and recently finished a fellowship with the Ukrainian Research in

Switzerland initiative at the University of Basel. He is thrilled to be joining the ASEEEES team.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded **James Heinzen** (Rowan University) a Summer Stipend Research Fellowship for his project, “Underground Entrepreneurs and the Shadow Economy under Late Soviet Socialism, 1950s-1980s.”

In October 2018, **Bogdan Horbal** became the new Curator for Slavic and Eastern European Collections at the New York Public Library. In this new role, Horbal will work to further develop the collections, building on historic strengths while also facilitating engagement with the collections through programs, instruction, and expanded outreach.

**Paula Michaels** will serve as president of AWSS for 2019-2020.

Congratulations to **Joan Neuberger**, who has been awarded the American Historical Association’s Herbert Feis Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public History.

**Karin Steinbrueck** is an Assistant Professor with a dual appointment to the Humanities and Social Science Departments at National Louis University in their Undergraduate School.

# Global Education Outreach Program supports Polish-Jewish studies worldwide.

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The program is made possible thanks to the support of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, the William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation, and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland.





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