



NewsNet

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

Belief: Possibility and Its Discontents

Mark D. Steinberg, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The following Presidential Address was given on November 25, 2019, at the 51st Annual ASEES Convention in San Francisco, CA.

Recently, I have been thinking about belief and death—for many reasons: personal, political, professional. The statement I wrote announcing this year’s theme began with the claim that “belief may be a universal human impulse.” Frankly, I worry whenever I use the word “universal.” Like many of us, and not least because of what we know of the histories of Eastern Europe and Russia, I am nervous about any totalizing category applied to social experience. Moreover, even if “belief,” in the broadest sense, might be universal, the claim is almost meaningless in the face of the endless variety of ways beliefs take form and act in the world. Like many of us, as a historian I am inclined see in human life less coherence than fractures, dissonances, and contradictions.

Death is universal, but of course there is nothing universal in how death is experienced or made meaningful. Most of us have also had personal encounters with death—in my case, that includes my wife Jane Hedges, who was known to many of you as managing editor of *Slavic Review*, four and a half years ago. I have also been thinking about the losses we experience every year in our profession.

As many of you know, Mark von Hagen passed away in

September. A wonderful scholar, teacher, mentor, and person, he was a very involved member of ASEES, including as president in 2010. Every year, influential and respected colleagues pass away. We remember them, here, with obituaries, memorial panels, in conversations. In this way, they are not lost into the darkness of death.

But I have also been thinking about death and belief in a different way—more analytical, more philosophical, and certainly more political. We live in times in need of answers and actions, though the problems are often difficult to grasp in all their complexity and danger. And it is difficult to know what actions will matter. Here, I encourage you to read the texts of presentations at the Presidential Plenary, on “practices of belief,” which explores questions of dark realities, strong responses, and radical possibilities. (See the ASEES web site)

In the midst of the death and devastations of what we have come to call World War I (the start of a count that still haunts our imaginations), the German-Jewish Marxist philosopher Ernst Bloch began writing *The Spirit of Utopia* (a book that would be published in 1918). During World War II, as an exile in the US, he developed his research and his arguments into a huge study of the “utopian impulse” across cultures, histories, and genres of human expression,

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a book he called *The Principle of Hope*. This is not the place and time, and I am not the right person, to fully explain Bloch's ideas. But I want to make two points that I find relevant to our work as scholars of Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia—but also to our responsibility as citizens and human beings: subject-positions and perspectives that cannot be separated. (A point also made by presenters at the [Presidential Plenary](#) earlier today.)

The first is the one mostly closely linked to death but even more to the darkness that shadows so much of human history and life, what Bloch called “the darkness of the lived moment.” Bloch's philosophical colleagues and friends—Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, Hannah Arendt—had their own terms for this darkness and its relation to time and human experience. For Benjamin, history as we have come to experience it was (as he famously put it in 1940) a “catastrophe, which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage,” the dead upon the dead, a “state of emergency [that is]... not the exception but the rule.”¹ Or in Arendt's words, written during the Cold War, “the scales are weighted in favor of disaster.”² Each of us, from our areas of study and from our own lives, may describe different stories and conditions on those scales, as that “wreckage.” But the imbalance and the ruins are hard to ignore.

The second point I take from Bloch is an attempt to answer the well-known question, “What is to be done?” Or rather, the still more difficult question, what is the point of challenging a dark and harsh reality when it will always prevail? (Again: see also the discussions at the Presidential Plenary of skepticism and pessimism about the present and thus the future).

Which brings me to “belief.” Hannah Arendt, a tough-minded critic of fantasies, insisted that the refusal to accept reality as it has been given to us is essential for any political life: in her words, “the infinitely improbable ... constitutes the very texture of everything we call real” (after all, she notes, human existence and survival is itself infinitely improbable) and so we must “look for the unforeseeable and unpredictable, to be prepared for and to expect ‘miracles,’ in the political realm,” even though “the scales are weighted in favor of disaster.”³ For Walter Benjamin, we must try to “grasp the “splinters” and “flashes” of a “redemptive” “messianic time” open towards the future,⁴ to “leap in the open air of history,” of possibility—which was how he defined revolution.⁵ For Bloch, of course, this was the universal human “principle of hope,” the “utopian impulse” to “venture beyond” the limits and inadequacies of the world as it is, beyond the “darkness of the lived moment,” in order to grasp the “not-yet” (*Noch-Nicht*),

to see the improbable “possible.”⁶ If this is a definition of belief—it is not as faith for faith's own sake, but a critical method for understanding what is possible and real.⁷



San Francisco 1967: Summer of Love

But I am not a philosopher or a theorist. I am a historian, and mainly of everyday life, of experiences and practices. And it is here that, for me, belief becomes most interesting. Literally here: in San Francisco, the city I was born and grew up in – a city with its own histories of violent brutality and cruel injustices (especially in how people of color, starting with the Native Americans, have been treated) and histories of belief and hope and action.

At this conference, many of you are analyzing stories of belief—both as expressions of hope and as pathologies. In looking at the program, I noticed papers on belief as a type of knowledge (including religion, science, ideology, myth, and philosophy); on expressions of belief (from artistic forms to political practices); on the performance, imagery, and sounds of belief; on the construction of social relationships around the assumed affinities and enmities of nation, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality... i.e., around communities of belief); and on consequential

and revealing beliefs about such existential matters as sex, nature, death, and time.

Importantly, many panels and papers explore disbelief, including the refusal to believe what one is told to believe by one's own community.

Belief has haunted my own work: not least, because it has haunted and inspired and troubled the people I have studied: employers and workers who believed it was possible to build “moral communities” (the title of my first book) of care and respect across class lines—and those who recognized it was not; the powerful belief among many workers that human beings have the absolute, even sacred, right to be treated, and to live, as befits their natural dignity as human beings: the right to “*zhit' po-chelovecheski*”; a “proletarian imagination” (the title of my second book) that envisioned, with emotion and intellect rooted in both working-class experience and cultural encounters, a world where modern urban and industrial life enriched lives rather than debased people, where nature and civilization were not in opposition, and, above all, where the human personality (that key word in Russian history: *lichnost'*) flourished; urban writers, especially journalists, who obsessively described the “darkness of the lived moment” at the start of the 20th century, but as a critical method, as an answer to despair, to pessimism; and, most recently, people who were sure that 1917 was that rare, infinitely improbable moment (“sacred time”) when, as many then said, they were experiencing “resurrection” and “salvation,” a “time of miracles.”

Allow me to make this even more personal. The personal, we know, can be political too—and perhaps a source of analytical insight. As some of you know, I met my wife Jane at an ASEES meeting (then AAASS) in Columbus, Ohio, in 1978. And, if that were not unforeseeable and unpredictable enough, ASEES has played a role again in my personal life: I mention this in case you did not know (and perhaps need to know) how romantic our conventions are! I have found love again—with someone I have known since we were both students in Leningrad in 1984, but with whom I have kept in touch at ASEES meetings (thanks in large part to friends I also mainly see here).

Slightly less personal (at least, less likely to make me blush) is the work of my son, Sasha, known to millions (literally) as Sasha Velour—who, among other connections to our field, spent a year in Moscow on a Fulbright Fellowship, studying for an MA with a focus on contemporary Russian political arts. At a very personal level, Sasha found in transgressive, queer performance a way to

process and transform her own demons, the darkness in her own spirit and experience: including the death of his mother. Famously, Sasha became a bald drag queen as a way to embrace Jane's chemo-therapy-caused baldness, but also the celebrate Jane's refusal to hide her baldness, to emphasize the beauty, the “ferce beauty,” of a bald woman, of looking reality in the face. Of course, this is not only about personal darkness.



Sasha has explicitly embraced the utopian power of drag (always there but rarely articulated): in her words, from an interview with the *Guardian* newspaper in October 2017 (an appropriate year), “It's all that darkness turned into power.”⁸ Or, as she said in a more recent interview with *Gay Times*, “Drag is defined only by radical and ever-expanding possibility.” Exactly: “ever-expanding possibility.” Again: utopian belief as critical method—but dressed fabulously.

I will conclude with one last story about darkness and belief. And I would reiterate this point: that belief in possibility against the prevailing lived darkness (historical, political, personal) is the foundation and essence of utopia as we need to understand it. (Or as Ron Suny said at the Plenary, echoing the philosophers I have been talking about: “we must not mistake the present for the future.”)

This summer and early fall I was in Odessa doing research on a new project of comparative urban history. Odessa, of course, has a history full of cruelty and suffering: including pogroms, occupations, crime, violence. Everyday life now is marked by a suffering economy, buildings and roads crumbling, homelessness, deadly fires, and still many prejudices and enmities. And yet, there are insistent assertions of radical possibility and belief, of the utopian principle of hope.

This is on display in the embrace of a new version of the Odessa myth: as a city of happy and tolerant cosmopolitan multiculturalism, a city of joyous transgression, where everyone is welcome (the popular interpretation of the gesture of the famous statue of the Duke de Richelieu, one of first builders of Odessa, who is facing the sea).

The recent moment that I want to pause over is Odessa's Gay Pride Parade at the end of August. Almost every local religious organization—Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish—signed a letter (a shameful one, if I might editorialize) demanding that the mayor ban the parade as immoral, unnatural, anti-family, and thus anti-nation. (Or, using the term that Laurie Essig mentioned at the Plenary: as “gender ideology”).



Instead, to their credit, the city deployed hundreds of police and National Guard to protect the marchers. We marched through cordons of police. A few so-called “provocateurs” who tried to disrupt the march were arrested. But it was not all joyous and free. Dark reality was still there. At the end of the march, everyone was told to put away their rainbow flags and signs, dress more modestly, and not travel in groups on public transport. The risk of violence was very real—and the police would no longer be there to protect you.

We cannot and should not ignore the darkness of lived reality. Nor can we ignore the pathologies of belief. It was, after all, belief (religious, normative, emotional, ideological) that led opponents to Pride to demand it be banned (as they have succeeded, of course, in Russia—and elsewhere in the region and the world). And much worse has been produced in history by belief, including ethnic cleansing, terror, and genocide. Moral righteousness, especially when bolstered by a belief in one's place in universal history, can be murderous. And I don't need to tell you that there are still leaders who speak of evil actors, traitors to the national spirit, enemies of the people. So, disbelief is also a necessary critical method.

When writing this talk, I found the hardest part was figuring out how to end: With the darkness? With “the principle of hope,” the “utopian impulse,” the leap in the “open air of possibility,” the flashes of messianic time, the improbable that is not the impossible? Perhaps I cannot figure out how to end because there is no end to the question: to reconciling “that which merely is” (as Adorno put it) with what we know *ought* to be. Perhaps I am uncertain how to conclude because this is beyond our power. As scholars, we can interpret the world, but we can't change it. I don't know. I do know, that being president of ASEES certainly gives you no power to change reality, to tip the scales: sorry Jan (in case you were hoping)!

So, I will end with only this. An improvised riff, perhaps, relevant to our work as scholars. Belief is a method of thinking, no more and no less. A critical method—which can lead us beyond normative assumptions (including our own) about what is real, right, and possible. And that, I would like to think, is why we are here. As they said in San Francisco in the 1960s: for love not money. And that is worth a lot.

Mark Steinberg is a Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently working on two new books: Utopian Russia and The Crooked and the Straight in the Modern City: Disciplining and Improvising Moralities in New York, Odessa, and Bombay, 1919-1939.

Endnotes

- 1 Walter Benjamin, “On the Concept of History,” *Selected Writings*, 4 vols. (Cambridge, Mass., 2003), 4:389-411.
- 2 Hannah Arendt, “What is Freedom,” *Between Past and Future* (New York, 1977), 165-69.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Benjamin, “On the Concept of History”
- 5 Benjamin, “On the Concept of History”
- 6 “Something's Missing: A Discussion between Ernst Bloch and Theodor W. Adorno on the Contradictions of Utopian Longing,” in Ernst Bloch, *The Utopian Function of Art and Literature: Selected Essays*, trans. Jack Zipes and Frank Mecklenburg (Cambridge, Mass., 1988), 12; Ernst Bloch, *Geist der Utopie* (Munich and Leipzig, 1918), 9; idem., *The Spirit of Utopia*, trans. Anthony Nassar (Stanford, 2000 [from the revised 1923 German edition]), 3; idem., *The Principle of Hope*, 3 vols. (Cambridge, Mass., 1995), especially 1:3-18 (Introduction) and 287-316 (“Summary/Anticipatory Composition”).
- 7 Ruth Levitas, *Utopia as Method: The Imaginary Reconstitution of Society* (New York, 2013). See also Frederic Jameson, *Archaeologies of the Future: The Desire Called Utopia and Other Science Fictions*. (New York, 2005).
- 8 Kathryn Bromwich, “Sasha Velour: ‘Drag is darkness turned into Power,’” *Guardian on-line*, 29 October 2017. www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/oct/29/sasha-velour-drag-is-darkness-turned-into-power-rupaul-drag-race-interview
- 9 Sam Damshenas, “Sasha Velour on deconstructing gender and what it would mean for drag,” *Gay Times on-line*, 14 February 2019. www.gaytimes.co.uk/culture/118580/sasha-velour-on-deconstructing-gender-and-what-it-would-mean-for-drag/

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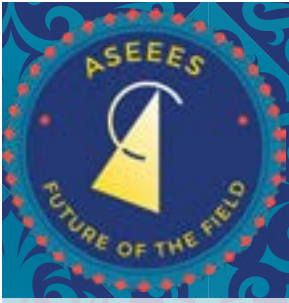
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FUTURE OF THE FIELD IMPACT SUMMARY

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends, ASEEES celebrates the success of the Future of the Field Campaign. Nearly 300 individuals and institutional partners generously responded, investing more than \$1,300,000 in the future of our field. We exceeded our aspirations for fundraising by 188% and increased member participation in annual giving by 760%.

Your contributions will provide multi-year increases in support for travel and scholarship. And, although the work continues, we are proud to celebrate the exciting outcomes and opportunities listed below that will make a positive difference in our field.

Convention Travel Grants

- Awarded over 110 Travel Grants in 2019 with the number expected to grow in 2020 and 2021
- Supported 54 graduate students via Graduate Student Travel Grants (135% increase over 2018)
- Launched the Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grants, which supported 6 students in 2018 and 11 students in 2019
- Increased funding for other travel grant programs, including the Regional Scholar Travel Grants, Russian Scholar Travel Grants, and Convention Opportunity Travel Grants
- Established the Catharine Nepomnyashchy Travel Grants starting in 2020

Research/Internship Grants

- Doubled funding for the Research Grant Programs and distributed over \$127,000 to 23 grantees in 2019
- Established new research grants in Women's and Gender Studies, LGBTQ Studies, and the Joseph Bradley and Christine Ruane Dissertation Research Grant
- Funded 5 research projects through the newly created Civil Society in Russia Research Grant program
- Increased funding for the Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship program for 2019 through 2021
- Created career opportunities through the new Internship Grant program which launches in 2020

[READ THE FULL IMPACT REPORT ON THE ASEES WEBSITE](#)

These investments will help to sustain the research, writing, and critical discussions that influence leading thinkers of today and tomorrow. Thanks to these first steps, every member will have the opportunity to have a positive impact on our field. We look forward to continuing our work together.

Ongoing member support will sustain these high impact investments for the next generation:

- Make an impact through a one-time gift or multi-year pledge
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2019 Executive Director's Report

Lynda Park

2019 was a significant year for ASEEEES as we successfully concluded a major Future of the Field fundraising campaign. Thanks to the generosity of our members and foundations, we were able to dramatically increase support for existing grant programs and establish new programs. We also held a productive annual convention in San Francisco and a summer convention in Zagreb, Croatia.

Membership

The 2019 individual membership remained steady at **3,491** members in total, of which 685 were student members (19.6%), 338 were affiliate members (9.7%), and 1,246 were international members (35.7%) from 49 countries (527 from the 18 countries in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including Russia). For comparison, in 2018 we had 3,537 members: 699 student members (19.8%); 375 affiliate members (10.6%); 1,119 international members (31.6%) from 53 countries, of which 497 were from Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The top five countries outside the US with most members are: Russia, UK, Canada, Germany, and Poland. For 2019 institutional membership, we had 58 members: 19 premium members; 39 regular members.

2019 Annual Convention

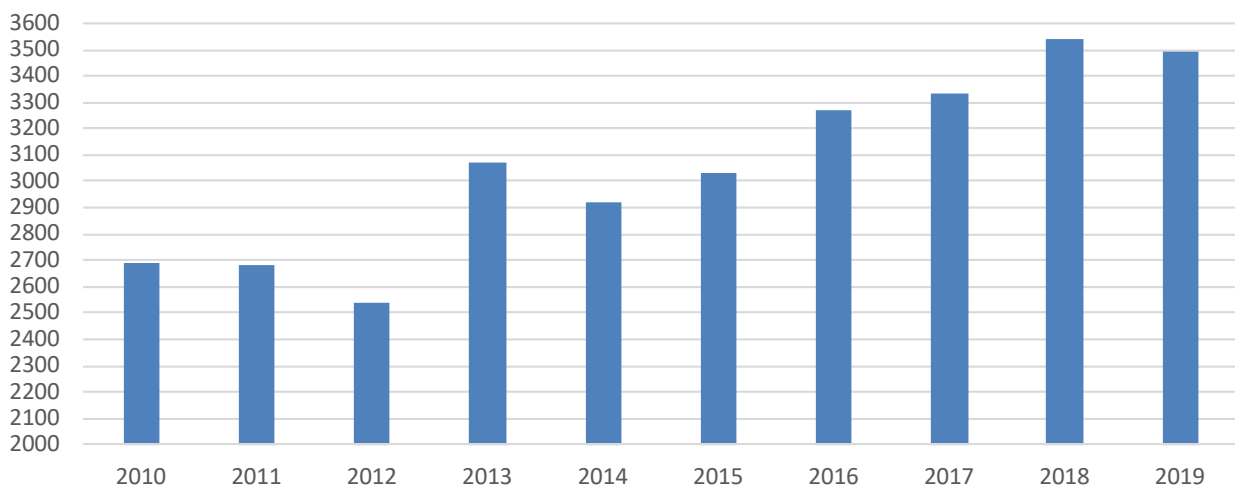
The 51st Convention at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis on November 23-26 was an outstanding event, albeit slightly smaller than the anniversary convention in Boston in 2018. With the theme "Belief," the convention program included 479 panels, 170 roundtables, and one lightning round, organized by the Committee for the Advocacy of Diversity and Inclusion, for a total of 650

sessions, plus the Presidential Plenary, five film screenings, and 42 meetings. The Presidential Plenary, "Illuminating the Darkness: Practices of Belief and Disbelief," featured Eliot Borenstein, Laurie Essig, Joan Neuberger, and Ronald Suny. The 2019 president, Mark Steinberg, gave his Presidential Address, "Belief: Possibility and its Discontents," during the Award Ceremony. We thank the convention program committee chair, Stephen Bittner, for his efforts in scheduling the sessions as well as organizing key roundtables.

The final registration data are as follows. Of 2,502 registered participants, 2,211 were members (88.5%), 291 were non-members (11.5%), 448 were students (18%), 494 were first-time attendees (20%), and 973 were international registrants (39%) from 45 countries. In total, we had 2,571 attendees, including the exhibitors. The exhibit hall consisted of 62 booths by 60 organizations and programs. We thank the 12 sponsors for their contribution and support.

For the first time we instituted a new code of conduct policy and provided an ombuds. We also offered a nursing room. One major issue we faced was the exorbitant audio-visual equipment rental costs. Since 2013, we have been providing digital projectors in every meeting room, the cost for which has been the largest portion of the overall convention expenses. The A/V costs have been increasing dramatically over the years, but in San Francisco the prices skyrocketed. For the 2020 convention we plan to see if we can offer the projectors only in select rooms where the equipment is requested.

Membership by Year





SCENES FROM ASEEES 51ST ANNUAL CONVENTION SAN FRANCISCO, CA



Photos by Amy Parlier

The 2020 Convention, presided over by Jan Kubik as ASEEEES President, will be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park on November 5-8 and explore the theme of “Anxiety and Rebellion.” The program committee is chaired by Elena Prokhorova (William & Mary).

Convention Travel Grants

Thanks to the generous gifts made for the Future of Field campaign, we awarded **111 travel grants and disbursed a total of \$71,630**. We conferred 54 Graduate Student Travel Grants (28 to students at US institutions and 26 at non-US institutions, including citizens of 17 different countries), disbursing a total of \$26,900 and more than doubling the 2018 total of \$10,600. For the Regional Scholar Travel Grant, we presented 13 grants to scholars from 7 different countries for a total of \$12,430. For the Convention Opportunity Travel Grant program, we provided 11 grants to scholars from 7 countries for a total of \$5,300. For the Russian Scholar Travel Grant program, we awarded 23 grants for a total of \$22,000. This program is funded mainly by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. We completed the second year of the Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant competition, awarding 10 grants for a total of \$5,000 and doubling the funding from 2018.

Summer Convention in Zagreb

The 2019 biennial Summer Convention was held on June 14-16 at the University of Zagreb in Zagreb, Croatia. The university’s Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted the event. With the theme of “Culture Wars,” the program included 164 sessions (136 panels and 24 roundtables) and a keynote address by Wendy Bracewell. 492 participants registered, of which 215 were ASEEEES members (44%); 131 were from the US (27%); and 237 were from Eastern Europe and Eurasia (48%), including 45 from Ukraine, 45 from Russia, 30 from Croatia, and 29 from Poland. We awarded 12 travel grants to ASEEEES members to present at the convention. We thank the Program Committee co-chairs, Maša Kolanovic and Mary Neuburger, for their hard work in putting together the convention program, and the University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for hosting the event. We also thank the International Association for the Humanities (MAG) for providing travel grants to scholars from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus to participate in the event.

The 2021 Summer Convention will be held at the University of Latvia in Riga in June 2021. The exact dates will be announced soon.

Future of the Field Fundraising Campaign

I am delighted to report that the Future of the Field fundraising campaign has successfully concluded, far exceeding the initial goal to raise \$700,000. As you know,

the campaign was established in June 2018 and publicly launched at the Boston Convention in December 2018. The goal was to double the funding for ASEEEES’ existing and new programs to fund priorities, such as dissertation research and completion, convention travel grants, and internships. 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 and worked tirelessly to engage members on the impact their gifts can have. The campaign officially ended on December 31, 2019.

Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and institutions, we raised over \$1,300,000 from 278 individuals and 13 institutions. Together, we exceeded our aspirations for fundraising by 188% and increased member participation in annual giving by 760%. We received four major foundation grants and contributions. The Carnegie Corporation of New York provided a grant for \$100,000: \$50,000 as a challenge grant for the campaign and \$50,000 for the Russian Scholar Travel Grant Program. The KAT Charitable Foundation renewed their support for the Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship Program for 2019-2021 with a gift of \$425,000. We received two grants from the US-Russia Foundation. The first grant was for \$103,000, of which \$72,000 was for the new Civil Society in Russia grants and was used to raise matching gifts for research grants. We recently received a second grant of \$220,000 to establish a new internship grant program that will allow students to take unpaid/underpaid internships in Russia-related fields in 2020-2022. We hope to apply to other foundations for grants to support internships related to regions outside of Russia.

The contributions to the Future of the Field campaign will provide multi-year increases in support for research and scholarship. Although the work continues, we are proud to celebrate the exciting outcomes and opportunities that will make a positive difference in the present and future of our field. A full report of Future of the Campaign can be found on the ASEEEES website.

Fellowships and Grants

With an increase in the stipend from \$22,000 to \$25,000, we awarded seven **Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowships** in 2019: five research fellowships and two dissertation completion fellowships. For the **Research Grant programs**, we were able to **more than double the funding in 2019** thanks to the Future of the Field campaign and awarded 23 research grants for a total of \$127,150 in 2019. We awarded 18 grants for dissertation research for a total of \$103,150, including the new grants in LGBTQ

studies and women's and gender studies and the Joseph Bradley and Christine Ruane Grant. With funding from the US Russia Foundation, we launched the new Civil Society in Russia research grant program, which awarded five grants, totaling \$24,000. Finally, for the **First Book Subvention** program, we disbursed \$10,000 to support the publication of five books.

2019 Board Decisions

The ASEEES Board of Directors met on November 23, 2019, in San Francisco for its annual meeting and approved the following: the new convention [code of conduct policy](#); the new [convention site selection policy](#); creation of a new committee on sustainability; allocation of Future of the Field gifts to double funding for the Regional Scholar Travel Grant program; revised description of the [Distinguished Contributions Award](#) to broaden the scope; limiting the book prize nominations to two prizes per book; a self-nomination process for Board candidates and appointed positions; a small increase in membership dues in 2021 to cover increase in staff time to manage new and expanded programs; and reactivation of the Slavic Review Committee to address the contract for the *Slavic Review* editorial office for 2021-2026 after the current agreement with the University of Illinois ends in 2021.

2019 Board Election/2020 Incoming Board Members

The 2019 election for the Board of Directors was held from June to September. We sent out 3,313 ballots to eligible members, 1,321 of whom cast their votes (40% participation). Sibelan Forrester (Swarthmore College) was elected vice-president/president-elect for 2020; Michael Kunichika (Amherst College) and Karen Petrone (U of Kentucky) were elected members-at-large for 2020-2022; and Christina Novakov-Richey (UCLA) was elected the graduate student representative for 2020-2021. The other incoming Board members in 2020 are Joseph Lenkart (U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) as the CLIR chair, Kate Pride Brown (Georgia Tech) as the Sociology representative, and Asif Siddiqi (Fordham U) as the AHA representative.

Finally, I thank the University of Pittsburgh for having been a generous host of the ASEEES main office since 2010 and for agreeing to host us for another five years (2020-2024). I also thank the ASEEES board and committee members and staff at the main office as well as the *Slavic Review* editorial office for their tremendous efforts and commitment to the association's mission.



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 **MONASH** University



Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute Launches New Contemporary Ukraine Program

Emily Channell-Justice, Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program

When retired Ambassador John Tefft visited Kyiv, Ukraine, in September 2019 for the YES (Yalta Economic Strategy) Conference, he felt a palpable sense of excitement about the recent election of Volodymyr Zelensky and his Servant of the People government to power. Motivated by youth and change, Tefft felt that people sensed that something new could be afoot. But, as one of his Ukrainian friends cautioned, “This is our fourth second chance.” Despite the idealism of the new government, the difficulties of actually governing the country, especially in the context of Russian aggression in Ukraine, will surely be a challenge for Zelensky and his team.

Reflecting on this visit, as well as his 45 years of experience in the United States foreign service—during which he served as ambassador to Russia (2014-2017), Ukraine (2009-2013), Georgia (2005-2009), and Lithuania (2000-2003)—Ambassador Tefft helped launch a new initiative at Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI). The Temerty Contemporary Ukraine Program (TCUP) seeks to foster discussion between academic and policy spheres around issues relevant to contemporary Ukraine. Through a combination of programming and research, TCUP intends to create a space for dialogue about current issues in Ukraine, such as the conflict in the Donbas, internally displaced populations, and the potential of President Zelensky's intended reforms. Tefft's remarks came largely from his experience in the policy world, and the lessons he has learned throughout his decades of service shape his approach to protecting Ukraine's sovereign democracy.

Having served both on the Soviet Union desk as well as in several post-Soviet countries, Tefft framed his comments with Secretary of State James Baker's five principles of U.S. policy following the collapse of the USSR: respect for self-determination, recognition of existing borders, support for democracy and the rule of law, preservation of human rights, and respect for the principles of international law. Tefft argued that up to now, every U.S. president's administration has supported these policy goals in Ukraine, as well as in the other post-Soviet nation-states. Now, however, it is unclear if the Trump administration has these same policy priorities.

In addition to U.S. policy, Tefft also discussed the potential of Zelensky's proposed reforms. The former diplomat remained optimistic, speaking hopefully about Zelensky's promise to tackle corruption and rein in oligarchs. Yet Tefft also mentioned some potential pitfalls. Specifically, he discussed Zelensky's

as-yet unclear relationship with oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, whose PrivatBank was nationalized under the previous administration following allegations of fraud and the discovery of a missing \$5.5 billion on the bank's ledgers. Kolomoisky funded the TV show that made Zelensky famous, although the latter claims that he is not beholden to the former. Given that new IMF assistance packages for Ukraine are contingent on the continued prosecution of cases against Kolomoisky, it is crucial that Zelensky not be Kolomoisky's man.

Tefft addressed several major concerns for Ukraine's coming years. Namely, he discussed the war in the Donbas, arguing that finding a resolution is a priority but Zelensky must be cautious about compromising. As Tefft noted, Zelensky acquiesced to the Steinmeier Formula on October 1, 2019, a path toward ending the war through potentially granting autonomy to the Donetsk and Luhansk regions following OSCE-certified elections. But Zelensky's announcement of these plans resulted in protests around the country that framed the Steinmeier Formula as “capitulation.” Tefft argued that Ukraine should not move forward with elections unless it clearly controls the territory in question; thus, the removal of Russian troops must take place before elections are held. Further, Tefft pointed out that displaced populations from the Donbas—of which 1.5 million have moved elsewhere in Ukraine—may or may not return to vote, a question which will certainly influence the outcome of any elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

In addition to Ambassador Tefft's remarks during the program launch, TCUP has hosted several lectures from both policy and academic spheres during the fall

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).

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

semester. Benjamin Schmitt (Harvard University Center for Astrophysics and Former European Energy Security Advisor, U.S. Department of State) spoke about the stakes of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline for Ukraine's energy future. J. Dickinson (Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont) discussed the changing nature of a Ukrainian village in Zakarpattia, where she has done research since 1995. Oksana Kis (Institute of Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) traced developments in Ukrainian feminism since independence. TCUP will continue to host scholars and practitioners who share an interest in contemporary Ukraine.

TCUP's inaugural conference will take place at Harvard on April 29 and 30, 2020. It will be organized around the theme of democracy in Ukraine, and it will bring together policy makers and scholars who have an interest in the major issues facing Ukraine today, such as institutional reforms, the energy sector, diversity, and civil society. Panels will be organized as a conversation among participants, rather than in a traditional paper panel format. In the future, TCUP plans to hold a conference dealing specifically with the conflict in the Donbas and its potential resolution.

TCUP's broad research agenda will focus on major issues in contemporary Ukraine, such as internally displaced populations, institutional reforms, and peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Donbas. These research themes will

intersect with the Ukrainian Research Institute's MAPA: Digital Atlas of Ukraine, as well as with future TCUP programming themes.

The TCUP program was founded with the generous support of James Temerty, a Ukrainian-Canadian entrepreneur and philanthropist. Temerty was born in the Donbas but came to Canada as a child, where he eventually entered the world of computer sales. He built Northland Power, the largest power company in Canada. In addition to his investments into Ukrainian studies, he has also contributed to arts programs such as the Royal Ontario Museum and the Ontario Philharmonic.

HURI, founded in 1973, is known for its support of researchers in humanities fields, especially literature, language, and history. The institute has three endowed faculty chairs in these disciplines and supports research fellows each year. Additionally, HURI runs the annual Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute in cooperation with the Harvard Summer School and maintains an active publications program. TCUP is an important expansion of HURI's activities, signaling an increasing focus on contemporary Ukraine through active research, guest speakers, and an annual conference.

TCUP Director Emily Channell-Justice joined HURI in July of 2019.

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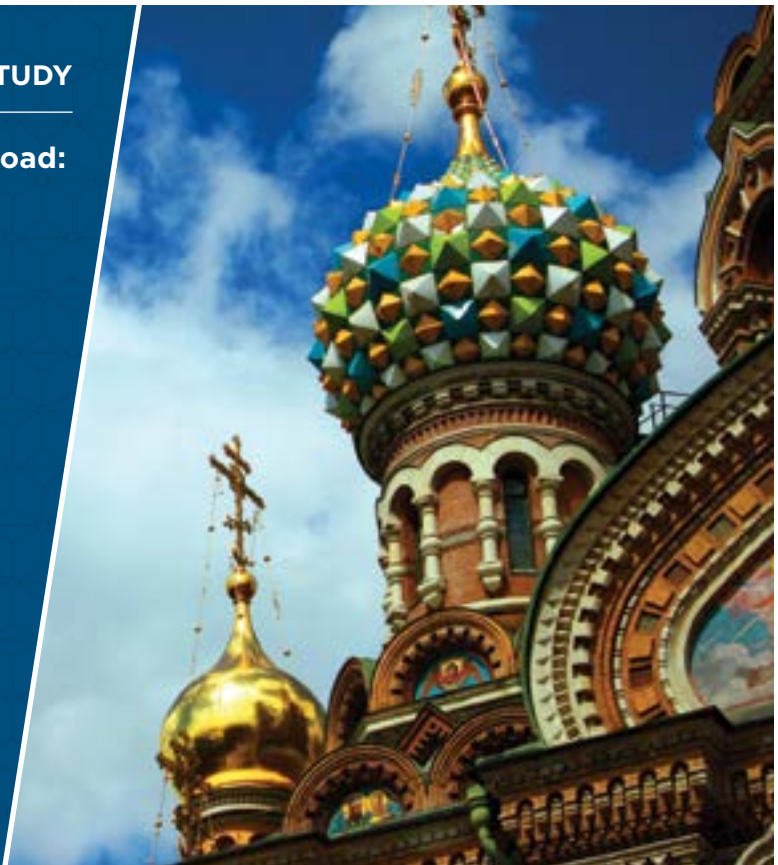
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Abolishing Academic Serfdom

Yulia Mikhailova, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Soon after getting my PhD in medieval history, I was lucky to spend a semester in the Research Triangle; even more fortunately, I was introduced, via email, to some Duke and UNC professors, whom I could ask for assistance. Being an “independent scholar,” the assistance I needed most, was library access. The UNC library rebuffed all attempts to breach its bastions, but a heroic battle waged on my behalf by the Duke historian Jehangir Malegam resulted in me getting “limited access.” I was sent to a library employee who either explained to me the existing rules or had the authority to determine them herself. She looked and sounded as if the latter were the case – her attitude implied a position of power, which she apparently enjoyed as she listed all the things I could not do, such as access electronic texts off-campus. When I pleaded that it took me two hours to get to the library and that consulting texts from home would be of immense help, her voice rose in indignation. A person of my status could not get these privileges. I was vividly reminded of the *vakhtiors*, the guards stationed at the entrances of Soviet public buildings. One such *vakhtior* in an academic library examined every page of my internal passport, which he demanded to see along with my library pass every morning, and then, with a slight nod, allowed me to enter without deigning to utter a word. Some of my angry fellow library users said that he had probably served in the Gulag, and I liked to believe it, although we did not have any proof, and, of course, not every self-important petty tyrant has to be a former camp guard – my Duke librarian is a case in point. Her “tyranny” was, indeed, petty, and I would not have recounted this trivial episode if not for one detail: our conversation took place under the gaze of Che Guevara, whose portrait adorned her cubicle. She apparently fancied herself “left” and “progressive,” siding with the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized, all the while participating in the oppression of people as marginalized, and in some cases as poor, as Che’s peons – non-tenure-track scholars.

Just think of Margaret Vojtko, who died homeless at the age of 83 after her 25 years of teaching at Duquesne University.¹ Some aspects of Vojtko’s case may be not typical. We do not often see police removing an octogenarian adjunct from campus for sleeping in a university office. However, the main outlines of her situation – no retirement benefits, no health insurance, meager salary – are realities for many post-secondary educators who have “part-time” legal status along with full-time teaching loads.² The humanities

are overrepresented among “part-timers” with terminal degrees.³ Vojtko never finished her dissertation, which did not disqualify her from teaching, but, apparently, was an excuse for not paying her a living wage. For PhDs, the chances of getting a full-time appointment may be higher, but they still stay in the vicinity of winning a lottery, especially with a degree from non-top-tier institutions.

I am a lucky lottery winner: with a degree from the University of New Mexico, of an advanced age, I am now an assistant professor of history at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT), where I had previously been an adjunct. Hence a request from *NewsNet* to share my advice for recent graduates and my thoughts “on how the field might address challenges surrounding employment,” which made me feel both honored and conflicted. What advice on the best strategies for winning a lottery can one give? Keep buying tickets – that is, finish your PhD, publish your research, do your best at teaching? Since this is impossible to do while struggling to pay bills, my main “advice” to those who wish to emulate my spectacular success – achieving the status of being paid for my work – is to marry somebody who earns a living wage. My monograph became possible largely thanks to that semester in North Carolina, where my husband was on sabbatical. I took a semester off, which would not have been an option without his salary.

Getting published may be achieved with spousal support or, possibly, through a life of extreme asceticism. Still, even with publications, the odds of getting a full-time position are too small for any advice to be meaningful. No amount of spending on lottery tickets guarantees a win, and, by definition, most players will lose their money. The same is true of the “academic market,” a concept that reminds me of the Soviet propaganda line about the “temporary difficulties” causing shortages of consumer goods. In reality, the shortages were inherent to the Soviet economy, just as the “tight labor market” is inherent to academia today. The market – defined as the supply of and demand for labor⁴ – may indeed be tight for some segments of our field. However, for most disciplines, the demand could hardly be any higher.⁵ If “the number of tenure-track positions now available is insufficient to meet institutional teaching and research needs,”⁶ then, by the logic of supply and demand, the institutions should hire more employees. Indeed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected a 15% growth in the

need for postsecondary educators. The academic market is booming – yet, contrary to the economists’ orthodoxy, the boom does not translate into higher wages and better working conditions.⁷

One oft-heard explanation is the cuts in funding for higher education. However, the cuts have largely been offset by increases in tuition, with revenues spent on administration, athletics, facilities – on everything, that is, except instruction. Thus, the share of part-time employees simultaneously grew among college teachers and declined among administrators, whose salaries reached a record high.⁸ Nor can the “financial austerity” argument explain adjunctification in private schools with multi-billion-dollar endowments.⁹ Universities pay teachers below the poverty line not because of some “objective” market forces, but because this is what their administrators choose to do and what the remaining tenured faculty either support or do not resist vigorously enough.

Indeed, my best tip for how to transition from a part-time to a tenure-line position is finding a school where full-time faculty respect and support their part-time colleagues, and the administrators do not follow the adjunctification trend. To be completely truthful, I must mention that our fine arts instructors are still “contracted employees” who, like the late Vojtko, are deemed good enough to teach, but not good enough to be paid for their teaching. However, apart from the sad exception of the Fine Arts, NMT is an example worth considering in the “academic market” debate. In fact, this essay is an opportunity to do just that.

I am grateful to the *NewsNet* editor who, after I expressed my misgivings about sharing advice on the “challenges surrounding employment,” encouraged me to write a different essay, not on “adapting” to an exploitative system, but rather on the need for systemic change, while also highlighting a school that generally does the right thing when it comes to employment. NMT is ranked number seven in the US for students’ access to tenured and tenure-track professors.¹⁰ Remarkably, as it reduced its share of part-time instructors, NMT rose in various rankings and is currently number nine among the top American STEM schools.¹¹

NewsNet readers may not be excited about such a school, where social sciences and humanities are taught to satisfy the gen-ed requirements, but I enjoy being here. I would surely welcome a teaching load lighter than my current six courses a year, but I would not trade teaching history to future engineers and scientists for working with history majors. I like the luxury of being able to give honest advice to undergraduates interested in the humanities, which is, of course: do not pursue it as a career. Talking to students

who want to turn their love of history into a profession is always a bittersweet moment for me. Judging from their performance in my courses, I see that, given a chance, they would indeed thrive as historians. However, society in its present state does not give them this chance.

For some, the pull of the humanities is too strong to resist, no matter what. When I hear the oft-posed question of why so many people go into demanding professions that give modest income to some and abject poverty to most, I respond, why do so many people have children? As many *NewsNet* readers know first-hand, the desire to study literature, languages, or history may be as visceral, as powerful, and as little affected by economic considerations as the desire to have a child.

This is another reason why I use quotation marks with “academic market.” A university is no more a business than a family or a church are. These institutions do have material needs and budgets, but their *raison d’être* cannot be expressed in market terms. At the same time, the impossibility of attaching a market value to parenting does not detract from the fact that this “job” is of fundamental importance to the economy.¹² The grim social consequences of neglecting humanistic education may be less immediately evident than those of an insufficient birthrate, but grim they are. There seems to be a growing realization of this fact. Why else would a journalist writing about social media’s impact on society find it necessary to describe the background of the Silicon Valley luminaries in the humanities, which is, predictably, woefully inadequate?¹³

Indeed, Zuckerberg’s childish musings about history, quoted in an essay with the telling title “Can Mark Zuckerberg Fix Facebook Before It Breaks Democracy?”¹⁴ are the best proof that the story of bright young entrepreneurs dropping out of college to found their successful startups is not the celebratory narrative it is commonly believed to be, but rather a cautionary tale. Many people, from the Rohingya to the US voters, would have been better off today if Zuckerberg and his ilk had completed those gen-ed liberal arts requirements before going off to change the world. They expected the change to be entirely beneficial and enthused over the great things brought about by the printing press, blissfully unaware that this new technology ushered in a century of religious wars.¹⁵

The misconception about printing exemplifies the simplistic view of history and society often displayed by natural scientists and engineers who do not have sufficient exposure to the humanities. A recent study argues that focusing on “marketable” skills at the expense of “useless” humanities may explain why engineers are overrepresented among

extremists of all sorts, from jihadists to Russian neo-Stalinists to American white supremacists.¹⁶ A crude, narrow-minded approach to social problems typical of extremist mentality may be inadvertently fostered by college programs that make students “spend almost all their time with the same set of epistemological rules.”¹⁷ Of course, most engineers do not go on to become terrorists; however, if they concentrate too narrowly on their professional education, they do tend to develop a reductionist worldview. This trend can be seen in NMT students and, sadly, in some of our colleagues from the STEM departments. At the same time, most students are smart and intellectually curious; helping them appreciate the complexity of human society and exposing them to the ways of thinking practiced in the humanities is immensely rewarding. This sense of mission is the main reason why I enjoy being at a school that does not offer a major in my field.

Ultimately, my thoughts on “challenges surrounding employment” stem from this feeling of a mission and a calling shared by many people in the humanities, but mostly expressed in private. The feeling appears to be strongest among premodernists whose position reminds me of early medieval monastic scholars. In a society that did not have much demand for educated people, the torch was carried by those who renounced the world and who copied, created, and read books because it was a way to serve God. Modern-day scholars are not necessarily motivated by religion, but many, especially those studying a more distant past, do renounce the world in the sense of sacrificing material wellbeing for a higher purpose. Indeed, if humanities as a whole are marginalized, premodernists exist on the margins of the margins. This is not to say that students are not interested in our fields – they are. A particularly telling case is a mismatch between popular interest in the Middle Ages and dearth of up-to-date, accessible information about the period. Medieval history is now being weaponized by white supremacists, who stepped into the void created by reckless cuts of the courses and programs deemed “irrelevant.”¹⁸

I suggest that, to bring about systemic change, we reject the buzzword of “relevancy,” articulate the “closeted” understanding of our profession as a calling, and work on changing our own culture. After all, this is something over which we do have full control. At the present moment, we may not be able to change the way scholars are paid and promoted, but we can and should stop attaching any value to these arbitrary metrics and think about ourselves not as “professors” or “part-times,” but as carriers of the torch who serve knowledge and the public good.

In practical terms, it should become unacceptable to treat

contingent faculty as second-class citizens. My position in the department did not change after I became an assistant professor: like other adjuncts, I had voted at department meetings and had access to institutional resources. There is no reason for full-time faculty to exclude their less fortunate colleagues in the way it happens in some universities, where adjuncts do not participate in faculty events or do not have library cards. Should not these pariahs be part of the ASEEEES inclusion and diversity effort?

Such an effort may begin with data gathering. The ASEEEES membership form could add three questions for the non-student members with the income under \$30,000: what their position is, whether they work part-time by choice, and whether they are members of other professional organizations.¹⁹

If the number of part-timers is as large as widespread anecdotal evidence suggests, publicizing it will liberate the unfortunate job seekers from the feeling that something is wrong with them; it may also change the perspective of older-generation advisers who feel disappointed by their students’ inability to secure an academic post and resent writing recommendations for yet another round of job applications. One more facet of my multi-faceted good fortune was the rock-solid support that I always received from my adviser, committee members, and even from scholars with whom I did not have formal, institutional relations. I thank all of them,²⁰ and I would also thank another Duke librarian, the one who provided me with access to valuable resources, but I am afraid to name her: it seems that she acted contrary to the orders of her superior, the Che Guevara fan. This is what I mean by changing our culture: in healthy academia, a librarian should be awarded for helping scholars and censured for creating obstacles for their research, not the other way around.

However, changing our culture is only the first step. The real solution is having an adequate number of full-time positions, which is predicated on restoring the value of liberal education and reviving the perception of the university as a public good. The defunding of education, and of the humanities in particular, partially stems from the view that they are not worth taxpayers’ money. Ironically, the general public has a voracious appetite for the knowledge generated by research in the humanities and social sciences. Like children who think that food comes from the fridge, without realizing that someone needs to put it there first, many people do not realize that all these Wikipedia entries and YouTube videos they consume are based on someone’s research.

The idea of cutting the Internet middleman and engaging with the general public directly is now gaining traction,

and some promising steps in this direction have been made;²¹ however, many scholars cannot take on one more responsibility, in addition to teaching and research. Here, professional organizations, such as ASEEES, can help by starting a discussion about alternative ways of evaluation for tenure and promotion that reward and encourage popularization in the same way that more traditional peer-reviewed forms of scholarship are.

This is not to say that we need to concentrate exclusively on long-term goals and abandon the effort to improve the situation here and now. ASEEES travel funding is one commendable example of such effort. We may also consider holding the Convention in less expensive cities and providing more help with budget accommodations. However, all this is akin to helping individual serfs – an admirable endeavor, as long as we pursue the ultimate goal of abolishing serfdom. To reach this goal, we may campaign for raising the awareness of college applicants about the significance of the part-time to full-time faculty ratio – after all, the latter spend 50 to 100 percent more time per credit hour on instruction than the former.²² Colleges that promise great education in their recruitment materials and then have adjuncts teach freshmen courses may be brought to task for false advertising. By normalizing adjunctification, we betray not only our less fortunate colleagues and our professed commitment to social justice, but also American students. “Adapting” to serfdom is a road to nowhere. Our energy would be better spent on fighting for its abolition.

Yulia Mikhailova is Assistant Professor of History at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

1 Claudio Sanchez, “The Sad Death Of An Adjunct Professor Sparks A Labor Debate,” September 22, 2013, <https://www.npr.org/2013/09/22/224946206/adjunct-professor-dies-destitute-then-sparks-debate>

2 The numbers are surprisingly hard to get. As of 2018, about 73% of faculty in all disciplines had non-tenure-line positions; the data for 2017 suggest that about 12% of such positions may be full-time. Darrin S. Murray, “The Precarious New Faculty Majority: Communication and Instruction Research and Contingent Labor in Higher Education,” *Communication Education* 68 (2019): 235-245. According to one estimate, “part-time teachers alone represent 40 percent of the academic workforce,” Danielle Douglas-Gabriel, “It Keeps You Nice and Disposable: The Plight of Adjunct Professors,” *The Washington Post*, February 15, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/it-keeps-you-nice-and-disposable-the-plight-of-adjunct-professors/2019/02/14/6cd5cbe4-024d-11e9-b5df-5d3874f1ac36_story.html. The share of part-timers is more than 50%, according to the estimate of the American Association of University Professors report “Background Facts on Contingent Faculty Positions” at <https://www.aaup.org/issues/contingency/background-facts>.

3 Phillip W. Magness, “For-Profit Universities and the Roots of Adjunctification in US Higher Education,” *Liberal Education* 102 (2016), <https://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/2016/spring/magness>; Michael Bérubé, Jennifer Ruth, *The Humanities, Higher Education, and Academic Freedom: Three Necessary Arguments* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015); Jonathan Kramnick, “How the Jobs Crisis Has Transformed Faculty Hiring,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 26, 2018, at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/How-the-Jobs-Crisis-Has/244324>. See also New Faculty Majority at <http://www.newfaculty.com/info/research-and-resources/>

4 Will Kenton, “Labor Market,” *Investopedia*, June 25, 2019, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/labor-market.asp>

5 Thus, English is among the hardest-hit fields, and evidently not because colleges stopped teaching English. See Magness, “For-Profit

Universities,” Kevin Birmingham, “‘The Great Shame of Our Profession’: How the Humanities Survive on Exploitation,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 12, 2017, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Great-Shame-of-Our/239148>

6 *Contingent Appointments and the Academic Profession: Report of the American Association of University Professors*, at <https://www.aaup.org/report/contingent-appointments-and-academic-profession>

7 The projection was made in 2016 for the ten-year period. According to the same BLS forecast, the majority of the projected growth will be part-time. Murray, “The Precarious New Faculty Majority,” 238.

8 Benjamin Ginsberg, *The Fall of the Faculty* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 8-12; Elvira Nica, “Has the Shift to Overworked and Underpaid Adjunct Faculty Helped Education Outcomes?” *Educational Philosophy and Theory* 50 (2018), 213; Caroline Fredrickson, “There Is No Excuse for How Universities Treat Adjuncts,” *The Atlantic*, September 15, 2015, <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/09/higher-education-college-adjunct-professor-salary/404461/>; Glenn Harlan Reynolds, “Beat the Tuition Bloat,” *USA Today*, February 17, 2014, at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/02/17/college-tuition-job-students-loan-debt-column/5531461/>.

9 Birmingham, “The Great Shame.”

10 “Where Are Students Most and Least Likely to Be Taught by Tenured and Tenure-Track Professors?” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 10, 2019, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Where-Are-Students-Most-and/245850>. The ranking is for four-year public institutions.

11 “50 Best STEM Schools in the U.S.” https://learn.org/articles/50_best_stem_schools_in_the_us.html.

12 See e.g., Laurent Belsie, “The Cost of Low Fertility in Europe,” The National Bureau of Economic Research, at <https://www.nber.org/digest/jul09/w14820.html>; “America’s Fertility Rate Continues Its Deep Decline,” *The Economist*, October 31, 2018, at <https://www.economist.com/democracy-in-america/2018/10/31/americas-fertility-rate-continues-its-deep-decline>. *The Economist*, April 26, 2014 is a special issue on the economic consequences of aging population.

13 Andrew Marantz, “The Dark Side of Techno-Utopianism,” *The New Yorker*, September 23, 2019, at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/09/30/the-dark-side-of-techno-utopianism>.

14 Evan Osnos, “Can Mark Zuckerberg Fix Facebook Before It Breaks Democracy?” *The New Yorker*, September 17, 2018, at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/09/17/can-mark-zuckerberg-fix-facebook-before-it-breaks-democracy>

15 E.g., Mark Zukerberg, “Mark Zuckerberg on a Future Where the Internet Is Available to All,” *The Wall Street Journal*, July 7, 2014, at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mark-zuckerberg-on-a-future-where-the-internet-is-available-to-all-1404762276>.

16 Diego Gambetta and Steffen Hertog, *Engineers of Jihad: The Curious Connection between Violent Extremism and Education* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), 49. Contrary to what some readers may assume, most terrorists with engineering degrees have not been recruited as technical experts, but rather are prominent among the founders and leaders of extremist organizations. Osama bin Laden may be the most notable example of an engineer turned terrorist. The ASEEES members may also think of the engineering student Nikolai Kibalchich and the natural scientists Alexander Ulyanov.

17 Dan Berett, “Does Engineering Education Breed Terrorists?” *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 03.23.2016 at http://www.chronicle.com/article/Does-Engineering-Education/235800?cid=right_trend accessed 09.03.2019.

18 On the white supremacists appropriating medieval history, see e.g., David M. Perry, “How to Fight 8chan Medievalism—and Why We Must,” *Pacific Standard*, June 27, 2019; Kelly Weill, “The Alt-Right Is Taking Over Renaissance Fairs,” *Daily Beast*, August 02, 2018; Hannah Natanson, “‘It’s all white people’: Allegations of white supremacy are tearing apart a prestigious medieval studies group,” *The Washington Post*, September 19, 2019.

19 This last question will help if we then proceed to collect more comprehensive data. ASEEES may reach out to the MLA and other organizations with a proposal to include similar questions; knowing how many low-income members belong to more than one organization will allow us to calculate their total number in the humanities and social sciences.

20 I would like to use this opportunity to thank those who helped me with the job search. My adviser Timothy Graham, a Western medievalist, my committee members Erika Monahan, David Prestel, Tanya Ivanova-Sullivan, and Melissa Bokovoy, as well as Jonathan Shepard and the Western medievalist Nancy McLoughlin, wrote countless letters of recommendation for me and supported my job search in various other ways. I also received valuable advice and support from Mary-Allen (Pasha) Johnson and Jennifer Spock.

21 See e.g., “HST6089: Wikipedia and Medieval History,” The University of Sheffield, at https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/current_students/postgraduate/ma/programme/modules/hst6089; a discussion at https://twitter.com/Pseudo_Isidore/status/1184852658965876736?s=20.

22 *Contingent Appointments and the Academic Profession*, a report by the American Association of University Professors, at <https://www.aaup.org/report/contingent-appointments-and-academic-profession>.

NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

Alexander Marshall, John W. Steinberg, and Steven Sabol, eds. *The Global Impacts of Russia's Great War and Revolution, Book 1: The Arc of Revolution*, xix + 569 p., 2019 (ISBN 978-0-89357-432-1), \$44.95.

Choi Chatterjee, Steven G. Marks, Mary Neuburger, and Steven Sabol, eds. *The Global Impacts of Russia's Great War and Revolution, Book 2, The Wider Arc of Revolution, Part 1: xvi + 452 p.; Part 2: xvi + 380 p.*, 2019 (ISBN 978-0-89357-433-8; 978-0-89357-434-5), \$44.95.

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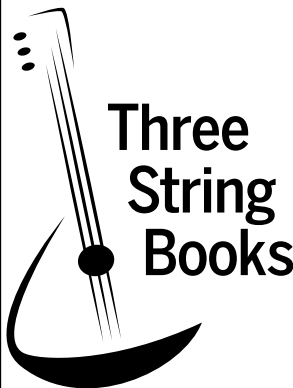
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Talasebek Asemkulov. *A Life at Noon*, trans. Shelley Fairweather-Vega, xii + 210 p., 2019 (ISBN 978-089357-500-7), \$29.95.

Azhigerei is growing up in Soviet Kazakhstan, learning the ancient art of the kuy from his musician father. But with the music comes knowledge about his country, his family, and the past that is at times difficult to bear. Based on the author's own family history, *A Life at Noon* provides us a glimpse into a time and place Western literature has rarely seen as the first post-Soviet novel from Kazakhstan to appear in English.



Alexander Rojavin, trans. and ed. *The Predictability of the Past: Three Contemporary Russian Plays*, viii + 234 p., 2019 (ISBN 978-089357-476-5), \$29.95.

A bear self-begets in an ordinary Russian family's bathroom, Pushkin accidentally survives his duel with d'Anthes, and the ill-fated family of a small boy born in prerevolutionary Russia stumbles through the 20th century all the way into the 21st, where the not-so-distant past is faded in the minds of the newest generations. But does that make the past irrelevant? Three plays accurately portray a Russia that is constant—constantly in flux, with both its present and its past changing from day to day. With time flowing forward, backward, and even sideways, the three plays in this book serve up an unflinching reflection of Russia's tumultuous timeline.

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Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History

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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 for all questions regarding subscriptions and eligibility for discounts.

Vol. 20, no. 4 (Fall 2019)

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ASEEES Congratulates Affiliate Organizations' 2019 Prize Winners

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SLAVIC STUDIES

AWSS Outstanding Achievement Award

For her many achievements as a teacher, mentor, and scholar, AWSS bestowed its 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award on **Irina Reyfman**. Over more than three decades, Reyfman has been a role model as a dedicated scholar-teacher. A specialist in eighteenth-century Russian literature, Reyfman has published four single-authored monographs, two co-edited volumes of essays and, co-authored a comprehensive history of Russian literature.

Heldt Prizes

Best book by a woman in any area of Slavic/East European/Eurasian Studies was presented to **Hannah Pollin-Galay** for *Ecologies of Witnessing: Language, Place, and Holocaust Testimony* (Yale UP, 2018)

Honorable Mention were given to **Edyta Bojanowska** for *A World of Empires: The Russian Voyage of the Frigate Pallada* (Harvard UP, 2018) and to **Sarah Cameron** for *The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan*, (Cornell UP, 2018)

Best book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's and Gender Studies was received by **Kateřina Liřková** for *Sexual Liberation, Socialist Style: Communist Czechoslovakia and the Science of Desire, 1945-1989* (Cambridge UP, 2018)

Best Translation was given to **Natalie Kononenko** for *Ukrainian Epic and Historical Song: Folklore in Context* (University of Toronto Press, 2018).

Siobhan Hearne won **Best article in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies** for "To Denounce or Defend: Public Participation in the Policing of Prostitution in Late Imperial Russia," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 19(4): 717-744. **Colleen Lucey** received Honorable Mention for "Fallen but Charming Creatures: The Demimondaine in Russian Literature and Visual Culture of the 1860s," *The Russian Review* 78(1):103-121.

Mary Zirin Prize

Dr. Yelena Kalinsky was the 2019 recipient of the Mary Zirin Prize for Independent Scholarship.

Graduate Essay Prize

The AWSS Graduate Essay Prize Committee awarded the prize to **Alena Aniskiewicz** for "Playing Authentic: Masłowska's Critique of Genre and National Convention"

AWSS Graduate Research Award

Rebecca Daviddi, PhD Candidate in Sociology at McGill University, received the 2019 AWSS Graduate Research Award for her project, titled "Muslims, Money, and Marriage: Transnational Polygamous Marriages in Bosnia-Herzegovina." The Committee

also awarded an Honorable Mention to the proposal submitted by **Leah Valtin-Erwin**, PhD Candidate in the History of Eastern Europe at Indiana University, for her project, "From Shortage or Supermarket: Transformations in Grocery Shopping in Warsaw, Bucharest, and Berlin, 1980-2000."

CZECHOSLOVAK STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The CSA book prize was awarded to **Celia Donert** for *The Rights of the Roma. The Struggle for Citizenship in Postwar Czechoslovakia*, (Cambridge UP, 2017). The committee awarded honorable mentions to **David Gerlach** for his book *The Economy of Ethnic Cleansing: The Transformation of the German-Czech Borderlands after World War II* (Cambridge UP, 2017), and to **Roman David** for *Communists and Their Victims. The Quest for Justice in the Czech Republic* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018).

EARLY SLAVIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ESSA)

2019 Raeff Prize was given to **Derek Offord**, **Vladislav Rjěoutski**, and **Gesine Argent** for *The French Language in Russia: A Social, Political, Cultural, and Literary History* (Amsterdam UP, 2018).

The committee awarded Honorable Mention to **Denis Sdvizhkov**, *Pis'ma s Prusskoi voiny. Liudi Rossiisko-imperatorskoi armii v 1758 godu* (Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2019).

SOCIETY FOR ROMANIAN STUDIES

The 5th Society for Romanian Studies book prize went to **Bruce O'Neill** for *The Space of Boredom: Homelessness in the Slowing Global Order* (Duke UP, 2017) with an Honorable Mention presented to **Irina Marin** for *Peasant Violence and Antisemitism in Early Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS & SCIENCES IN AMERICA

Susanne Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award: **Antony Polonsky**, Emeritus Professor of Holocaust Studies, Brandeis University.

The Oskar Halecki Polish History Award: **Anna Müller**, University of Michigan-Dearborn, for her book *If the Walls Could Speak: Inside a Women's Prison in Communist Poland* (Oxford UP, 2018).

The Bronislaw Malinowski Social Sciences Award: **Jeffrey S. Kopstein**, UC, Irvine and **Jason Wittenberg**, UC, Berkeley, for their book, *Intimate Violence. Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Eve of the Holocaust* (Cornell UP, 2018).

The Waclaw Lednicki Humanities Award: **Marek Haltof**, Northern Michigan University, for his book *Screening Auschwitz: Wanda Jakubowska's "The Last Stage" and the Politics of Commemoration* (Northwestern UP, 2018).

The Ludwik Krzyzanowski Polish Review Award: **Christopher Garbowski**, Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin, "The City as a Lieu de Memoire: Phenomenological, Symbolic, and Self-Reflective Levels of the Past in Lublin's Present," v. 63/3, pp. 35-48.

ASEEES 52nd Annual Convention
November 5-8, 2020 • Washington, DC
Convention Theme: Anxiety & Rebellion
aseees.org/convention

In today's world anxiety is pervasive. The uncertainties of the changing climate and the increasingly unstable international environment are at its root, but in Eastern Europe and Eurasia anxiety is also engendered by people's disappointment with elements of post-communist politics, uncertainty about their economic status, and fear of losing their traditional ways of living.

Some see the gulf continue to widen between the haves and the have nots, some are alarmed that the existing cultural maps of the world are crumbling under the impact of what they perceive as detrimental if not catastrophic effects of cosmopolitan multiculturalism, uncontrolled population movements, or demands for gender and racial justice. Anxious and uncertain, they search for remedies, often attempting to organize a defense of "their" cultures. This is a rebellious impulse, fueled by the new media technologies that exacerbate the anxiety engendered by the rapidly changing world and unrealized promises of post-communist transformations.

An impulse can breed rebellion when initially inchoate sentiments are solidified into actionable guidelines. This occurs when politicians, priests or other "influencers" frame people's anxiety in terms of more or less coherent discourses or ideologies. Recently, some of these public figures have begun bringing back ideas that – we would have thought – had lost their attractiveness after the atrocities of the twentieth century. Racial and ethnic purity, unquestionable "normalcy" of heteronormativity, religious fundamentalism

or advantages of authoritarianism and illiberalism are invoked with unsettling assertiveness. As a result we observe a rise of rebellions that gain influence on their countries' politics and in some cases help to install in power right wing governments.

This provokes counter-mobilizations propelled by the fear that the progress achieved under the banners of economic equality, inclusive democracy, universal human rights, racial and gender equity, and acceptance of all sexual orientations is being reversed. People who reject the certainties of "pure" race, "proper" gender roles, "true" religion, or "clean" ethnicity are increasingly vocal and



alarmed that remedies designed to deal with the globalization anxiety and transformational fatigue may push the world towards another catastrophe.

The ensuing dialectic of rebellion and counter-rebellion has now begun defining the cultural and political landscapes in our region and many other parts of the world. Its most worrying consequence is the growing polarization of politics and societies that many observers see as detrimental to democracy, social fairness, economic growth, and emotional well-being.

The 2020 ASEEES Annual Convention invites panels and papers that examine the social, cultural, and economic sources of the rising anxiety, examine the concept's strengths and limitations, reconstruct the politics driving anti-cosmopolitan rebellions and counter-rebellions, and provide a deeper understanding of the discourses and forms of artistic expression that reflect, amplify or stoke sentiments and motivate actions of the people involved. We want to approach this situation from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, ranging from economics to anthropology and cultural studies. Cross-regional comparative studies are encouraged, as they are often as revealing as intra-regional comparisons. Additionally, we invite examinations of previous periods in history that were pervaded by heightened anxiety, in an attempt to understand its origins and consequences. We also welcome in-depth case studies on the dialectic of anxiety, rebellion, and counter-rebellion. Proposals from all disciplines and historical periods are welcome, and encouraged.

The deadline for paper, panel, and roundtable submissions is February 15, 2020.
The deadline for meeting room requests and film proposals is April 1, 2020.

aseees.org/convention/cfp



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Publications

Darra Goldstein's *Beyond the North Wind: Russia in Recipes and Lore* (Ten Speed/Random House, February 2020) takes a new look at Russia's culinary culture. Ignoring the obvious dishes, the French-inspired haute cuisine of the tsarist past and the kitschy dishes of the Soviet era, the book re-conceptualizes Russian food practices by revealing the benefits of austerity rather than its limitations—how a harsh climate, poor soil, and limited availability of foods can foster an astonishingly complex cuisine characterized by exhilarating flavors and innovative techniques. Noted author and scholar Darra Goldstein delivers 100 traditional yet surprisingly modern recipes from the far northern corners of Russia that celebrate whole grains, preserved and fermented foods, and straightforward but robust flavors. The book includes photography, personal stories from nearly 50 years of travel to Russia, and essays on the little-known culinary history of this fascinating and wild part of the world.

Citizen Countess: Sofia Panina and the Fate of Revolutionary Russia, by Adele Lindenmeyr, was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in fall of 2019. It is the first biography in any language of Countess Sofia Vladimirovna Panina (1871-1956). Descended from two of Russia's most influential aristocratic families, she followed the script for a young woman of her class until a failed marriage made her turn her back on elite society, and an inherited fortune allowed her to assert her independence. Sometimes called "Russia's Jane Addams," she found her true calling in progressive social work among the poor of St. Petersburg, and the "people's house" she built in 1903 still exists today. The Great War and 1917 Revolution propelled Panina into the national political struggle over the fate of Russia. From the beginning of the war Panina took a leading role in the organization and distribution of state allowances to soldiers' wives in Petrograd as well as refugee relief. With the fall of the Romanovs in 1917 she was appointing Assistant Minister of State Welfare, becoming the first woman in history to become a government minister -- though her career, like the Provisional Government she served, was short-lived. Arrested by the Bolsheviks as an "enemy of the people," she defied the authority of the Petrograd Revolutionary Tribunal in the first political trial held by the new Soviet order. After fleeing her homeland in 1920, Panina spent the rest of her life in Europe and the United States, where she used her own experience of exile to assist fellow refugees in the Russian diaspora.

The Epistolary Art of Catherine the Great (Liverpool University Press, August 2019) is the first study to analyze comprehensively the letters of Empress Catherine the Great of Russia (reigned 1762-1796) and to argue that they constitute a masterpiece of eighteenth-century epistolary writing.

In this book, Kelsey Rubin-Detlev traces Catherine's development as a letter-writer, her networking strategies, and her image-making, demonstrating the centrality of ideas, literary

experimentation, and manipulation of material form evident in Catherine's epistolary practice. Through this, Rubin-Detlev illustrates how Catherine's letters reveal her full engagement with the Enlightenment and further show how creatively she absorbed and responded to the ideas of her century. The letter was not merely a means by which the empress promoted Russia and its leader as European powers; it was a literary genre through which Catherine expressed her identity as a member of the social, political, and intellectual elite of her century.

Piotr Florczyk edited and translated *I'm Half of Your Heart: Selected Poems 1967-2017* (Lost Horse Press, September 2018).

In more than seventy poems gathered in *I'm Half of Your Heart: Selected Poems, 1967-2017*, readers encounter a poet who is as politically outspoken as he is lyrically private. This career-spanning volume provides readers in the English-speaking world with the largest ever selection of poems by one of Poland's premier poets.

The Lands in Between: Russia vs. the West and the New Politics of Hybrid War, by Mitchell A. Orenstein, was published by Oxford University Press in May 2019.

Russia's stealth invasion of Ukraine and its assault on the US elections in 2016 forced a reluctant West to grapple with the effects of hybrid war. While most citizens in the West are new to the problems of election hacking, state-sponsored disinformation campaigns, influence operations by foreign security services, and frozen conflicts, citizens of the frontline states between Russia and the European Union have been dealing with these issues for years.

This book contends that these "lands in between" hold powerful lessons for Western countries. For Western politics is becoming increasingly similar to the lands in between, where hybrid warfare has polarized parties and voters into two camps: those who support a Western vision of liberal democracy and those who support a Russian vision of nationalist authoritarianism. Paradoxically, while politics increasingly boils down to a zero sum "civilizational choice" between Russia and the West, those who rise to the pinnacle of the political system in the lands in between are often non-ideological power brokers who have found a way to profit from both sides, taking rewards from both Russia and the West.

A Life at Noon, by Talasbek Asemkulov and translated by Shelley Fairweather-Vega, was published by Three Strings Books in October 2019.

This book tells the story of Azhigerei, who is growing up in Soviet Kazakhstan, learning the ancient art of the kuy from his musician father. But with the music comes knowledge about his country, his family, and the past that is at times difficult to bear. Based on the author's own family history, *A Life at Noon* provides readers with a glimpse into a time and place Western

literature has rarely seen as the first post-Soviet novel from Kazakhstan to appear in English.

Jacob Edmond's new book *Make It the Same: Poetry in the Age of Global Media* (Columbia University Press) explores how poetry—an art form associated with the singular, inimitable utterance—is increasingly made from other texts through sampling, appropriation, translation, remediation, performance, and other forms of repetition.

One chapter (on “The Art of Samizdat”) focuses exclusively on Russian writers and artists. Overall, the book argues that modernist and contemporary literature is defined not by innovation—as in Ezra Pound's oft-repeated slogan “make it new”—but by a system of continuous copying. And it shows how the old hierarchies of original and derivative, center and periphery are overturned when we recognize copying as the engine of literary history.

New Russian Drama: An Anthology, edited by Maksim Hanukai and Susanna Weygandt, was published by Columbia University Press in August 2019.

New Russian Drama took shape at the turn of the new millennium—a time of turbulent social change in Russia and the former Soviet republics. Emerging from small playwrighting festivals, provincial theaters, and converted basements, it evolved into a major artistic movement that startled audiences with hypernaturalistic portrayals of sex and violence, daring use of non-normative language, and thrilling experiments with genre and form. The movement's commitment to investigating contemporary reality helped revitalize Russian theater. It also provoked confrontations with traditionalists in society and places of power, making theater once again Russia's most politicized art form. This anthology offers an introduction to New Russian Drama through plays that illustrate the versatility and global relevance of this exciting movement.

Permanent Evolution: Selected Essays on Literature, Theory and Film, by Yuri Tynianov was translated and edited by Ainsley Morse & Philip Redko.

Tynianov was a key figure of Russian Formalism, an intellectual movement in early 20th century Russia that also included Viktor Shklovsky and Roman Jakobson. Tynianov developed a conceptualization of literature as a system within—and in constant interaction with—other cultural and social systems. His essays on Russian literary classics, as well as on the emerging art form of filmmaking, provide insight into the ways art and literature evolve and adapt new forms of expression. Although Tynianov was first a scholar of Russian literature, his ideas transcend the boundaries of any one genre or national tradition. *Permanent Evolution* gathers together for the first time Tynianov's articles on literary theory and film, including several articles never before translated into English.

Douglas Smith recently released *The Russian Job: The Forgotten Story of How America Saved the Soviet Union from Ruin*.

In 1921, facing one of the worst famines in history, the new Soviet government under Vladimir Lenin invited the

American Relief Administration, Herbert Hoover's brainchild, to save communist Russia from ruin. For two years, a small band of Americans fed more than ten million men, women, and children across a million square miles of territory. Now, almost a hundred years later, few in either America or Russia have heard of the ARA. The Soviet government quickly began to erase the memory of American charity. In America, fanatical anti-communism would eclipse this historic cooperation with the Soviet Union. Smith resurrects the American relief mission from obscurity.

Saint-Making in Early Modern Russia. Religious Tradition and Innovation in the Cult of Nil Stolobenskii, by Isolde Thyrét, was published by New Academia Publishing in August 2019.

The book investigates the importance of a growing patronage network for the cults of early Russian saints and the role that local laymen and monks and high-ranking Russian Orthodox church officials played in the development of the hagiographic, liturgical, and iconographic image of individual saints and in the creation of the physical infrastructure of their cults. The study breaks with traditional scholarship to highlight the impact of local conditions and forces as valuable subjects of historical inquiry in their own right. It also questions the scholarly assumption that the first half of the seventeenth century represented a period of cultural stagnation in Russia.

Seasoned Socialism: Gender and Food in Late Soviet Everyday Life was edited by Anastasia Lakhtikova, Angela Brintlinger and Irina Glushchenko and published by Indiana University Press in April 2019.

Seasoned Socialism considers the relationship between gender and food in late Soviet daily life. Political and economic conditions heavily influenced Soviet life and foodways during this period; the book explores Soviet women's central role in the daily sustenance for their families as well as the obstacles they faced on this quest while offering new insights into intergenerational and inter-gender power dynamics of that time. Food, both in its quality and quantity, was a powerful tool in the Soviet Union. This collection explores the intersection of gender, food, and culture in the post-1960s Soviet context. From personal cookbooks to gulag survival strategies, *Seasoned Socialism* considers gender construction and performance across a wide array of primary sources, including poetry, fiction, film, women's journals, oral histories, and interviews. It also provides insight into how the Soviet government sought to influence what citizens ate and how they thought about food.

Stalin's Soviet Justice: 'Show Trials, War Crimes Trials, and Nuremberg, edited by David M. Crowe, was published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2019. It begins with the evolution of Soviet criminal law, particularly as it was applied in the various domestic 'show' trials in the 1920s and 1930s. It then looks at how these trials affected the Soviets' legal team at Nuremberg, who sought to use the trial to underscore Russia's important role in defeating Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War. Though the Soviets contributed significantly to the trial, they struggled to deal comfortably with a western-style legal proceeding.



Institutional Member News

CFA: THE SUMMER RESEARCH LABORATORY AT ILLINOIS

The Summer Research Laboratory will be open this year, from June 15 to August 9, 2020, 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 stage of their work.

The SRL offers scholars the following opportunities: Full access to our Library and its physical and electronic collections; One on one research consultations with the experienced bibliographers of our Slavic Reference Service; Access to scholarly programming and discussion groups on our campus throughout their stay, to help them meet other scholars and learn about new research in progress.

Scholars participating in the Summer Research Laboratory may apply for: up to 12 days of dormitory housing on campus; travel grants of up to \$500 in support of the trip to Urbana-Champaign; research stipends

The SRL is supported by the US Department of State's Title VIII Program for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, which exists to support policy-relevant research on the region.

SRL applicants are also encouraged to consider studying an area language at Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop, located in nearby Bloomington, IN, immediately before or after their participation in the SRL. Those interested in overseas language study are particularly encouraged to pair SRL participation with an application for an IU Title VIII Overseas Fellowship. More information on Indiana's Title VIII funding opportunities, languages, and the application can be found at the Summer Language Workshop website.

Each year, during the SRL, we host research workshops and training sessions that may be of interest to visitors: please see here for details. This summer, they are hosting the following workshops: Media Culture in Balkan and Eurasian Muslim Communities; Climate and Society in Eurasia: Past, Present, and Future; A Woman's Work is Never Done: Female Life and Labor across the Imperial, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Eras

Applications are now open, with the deadline for grant funding being February 10, 2020. REEEC will continue to accept applications for the SRL after the deadline, but they will be at a lower priority for funding.

For further information, please see: reeec.illinois.edu/programming-and-events/summer-research-laboratory/

THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER Title VIII Fellowships

The Kennan Institute offers 3-9 month research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. It also offer two-month summer research fellowships. The deadline for the next research and summer research fellowship competitions is January 31, 2020.

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

2020 ASEES DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD Call for Nominations

ASEES' Distinguished Contributions to Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Award honors members who have made major contributions to the field. Distinguished Contributions may be conceived of in diverse ways, and ASEES seeks to recognize outstanding service, leadership, scholarship, mentoring, and public outreach. In particular, we hope to receive nominations that highlight noteworthy contributions to public understanding, contributions that innovate and transform the way we understand our regions and our disciplines, and leadership that opens our disciplines to new perspectives and encourages fresh voices in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

NOMINATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Committee accepts nominations in writing or via e-mail from any ASEES member. The lead nominator should submit all documents and letters in one PDF file to the Committee Chair. The package should consist of:

- one nominating letter not exceeding 3 pages discussing the nominee's service, scholarship, mentoring and leadership; there is no limit to the number of signatories it may append;
- max. of 10 supporting letters of 2 pages each; letters must discuss evidence of the criteria categories;
- the candidate's full CV including publications, editorships, curatorships, awards and prizes; and service to ASEES and/or the profession.
- Self-nomination is not accepted.
- The Committee positively encourages nominations from ALL disciplines in SEES. It welcomes inclusive nominations that reflect the diversity of the profession, and the diversity of contributions colleagues can make.
- The Committee will seek to ensure a balanced pool of nominees and may survey the field for prospective award winners.

The deadline for nominations is April 1.

The winner of this award will be chosen by: Lauren Kaminsky, Harvard U, Chair, Eliot Borenstein, New York U, Gerald Creed, Hunter College, Dan Healey, Oxford U (UK), Olga Shevchenko, Williams College

resources of the DC area, while in residence at the Kennan Institute. The next deadline for these grants is March 1, 2020.

Please see the website for more details: wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-opportunities-and-internships.

George F. Kennan Fellowships

George F. Kennan Fellows are based at the Wilson Center in DC for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials. While conducting research, Kennan Fellows are expected to participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements at the Wilson Center as well as potentially outside of DC, and attending meetings, conferences, and other activities organized by the Kennan Institute and Wilson Center. Upon completion of the fellowships, the grantees become alumni, for whom Kennan will continue to offer opportunities for collaboration and engagement. 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, the 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.

The next fellowship deadline is March 1. Applicants must submit a completed application – please see the website for more details: wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/george-f-kennan-fellowship.

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following scholars:

Title VIII Research Scholars

- Jonathan Brunstedt, Texas A&M, “Entangled Defeats: The Soviet-Afghan War and the Shadow of Vietnam,”
- Tyler Kirk, Arizona State U, “Remembering the GULAG: Community, Identity and Cultural Memory in Russia’s Far North, 1987-2018”
- Brandon Schechter, Independent Scholar, “The Search for Salvation in the Second World War”

George F. Kennan Fellows

- Victor Kheifets, St. Petersburg State University, “Russia and Latin America in the Putin Era (and US Reactions)”
- Gonzalo Paz, Georgetown University, “Russia and Latin America in the Putin Era (and US Reactions)”
- Tatiana Vagramenko, University College Cork, “Religion Under Surveillance: Religion, Dissent, and Secret Police Archives in Soviet Ukraine”
- Oleksandr Zaytsev, Ukrainian Catholic University, “Retrospective Ancestral Constitution: Ultra-nationalist Movement of the 1920s-1940s in Post-Maidan Ukrainian Memory Politics”

Galina Starovoitova Fellows on Human Rights and Conflict Resolution

- Olimpiada Usanova, HELP Program, Council of Europe “Gender Discrimination Against Women and Domestic Violence - Is the US Experience Applicable to Russia?”
- Grigory Vaypan, Institute for Law and Public Policy

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APPLY ONLINE AT CLI.ASU.EDU

The Critical Languages Institute is a program of:

ASU The Melikian Center:
Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies
Arizona State University

(Moscow, Russia), "Constitutional Justice in Russia: What Went Wrong and How We Can Make It Right"

Title VIII Short Term Scholars

- Justin Canfil, Columbia University, "Governing the Uncommons: Technological Contestation in International Law"

SRAS WINDS OF CHANGE PROGRAM

SRAS announces its Winds of Change program in Central and Eastern Europe. The initial idea for this modular itinerary was conceived as we neared the 30th anniversary of the fall of communism. While various "retro" places and events exist to showcase in a way "life under communism," with each year that passes there are fewer and fewer who remember those years, to say nothing of the years before.

This coming summer, Nicholas Gossett of University of South Alabama will be leading the "inaugural" run of this itinerary. He will lead a group of students through Berlin, Warsaw, Gdansk, Prague, Kyiv, and Tbilisi. At each stage, they will look at the years leading up to the collapse of communism. Through lectures, experiences, and conversations with those who lived through this period of change they will attempt to understand what life was like and what social, economic, and political forces were at play. They will connect with the student generation of that period. They will listen to the music. They will create graffiti. In each country, they will learn firsthand just how the transformation took place, who the key players were. And finally, they will look to the long-term repercussions, the evolution of politics in the region, the rise of populism. Last but not least, they will spend some time enjoying the food and nature of Georgia. To read more about the Summer 2020 program, see sras.org/winds. Note that there is a credit (6 credits from University of South Alabama) and non-credit option.

cfa: US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM 2020 ANNUAL SEMINAR ON ETHICS, RELIGION, AND THE HOLOCAUST JUNE 15-19, 2020

The Programs on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is pleased to announce its annual seminar for faculty and ABD doctoral candidates from all disciplines. This seminar will consider the complex roles of religion (specifically Judaism and Christianity) in the Holocaust by addressing five key themes: everyday religious life under persecution; religion and violence; rescue, conversion, and coercion; religious/ethnic/national identities; and religious freedom in authoritarian societies. The

group will consider how similar issues play out in other cases of genocide or mass atrocity in order to explore how Genocide Studies might deepen our understanding of religion and the Holocaust. The seminar will emphasize practical approaches to integrating these topics into courses.

Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more about Museum resources and will consult with Museum staff and visiting scholars. More information about the Museum's programs on the historical role of religion during the Holocaust and the ways in which religious institutions, leaders, and theologians have addressed this history and its legacy since 1945 can be found at Programs on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust.

Applicants can be at any career stage but must be at accredited institutions in North America, including seminaries, colleges, universities, and community colleges. Applications must include: a CV, statement of specific interest and purpose for attending the seminar, and supporting letter from a department chair, dean, or dissertation advisor, addressing the candidate's qualifications and the potential applications of Holocaust-related courses or programming at their institutions.

For non-local participants, the Mandel Center will reimburse the cost of travel (up to \$600), and cover the cost of lodging. Incidental, meal, and book expenses are not covered.

Applications must be received by February 14, 2020. ushmm.org/research/opportunities-for-academics/faculty-seminars/ethics-religion-holocaust/2020-annual-seminar-on-ethics-religion-and-the-holocaust. Contact Rebecca Carter-Chand at rcarter-chand@ushmm.org with questions.

YALE UNIVERSITY NEWS

The Program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) at Yale University welcomes its new faculty and visiting scholars in 2019-2020: Jinyi Chu, Navid Hassanpour, Samuel Hodgkin, Pawel Machcewicz, Anna Machcewicz, Dominic Martin, Renata Mustafina, Claire Roosien, Ivan

The advertisement features a header with a globe icon and the text "Институт русского языка" and "BRYN MAWR COLLEGE". Below this, it lists "THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE INTENSIVE-IMMERSION OFFERS:" followed by a list of benefits: classes taught daily Monday-Friday, native and non-native Russian instructors, Russian-only lunch, weekly Russian cultural activities, a Russian-speaking dormitory with a resident tutor, 2 units of credit (8 credit hours at most universities), program location near historic Philadelphia, and available scholarships. It specifies "8 WEEKS • JUNE 3 - JULY 29, 2020". A testimonial from Belara Huang, an '18 & '15 participant, is included. Contact information for Bryn Mawr College Russian Language Institute is provided, along with a photo of students in a classroom setting.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2020

Safranchuk, Andrei Semenov, Vera Shevzov, Aniko Szucs, and Mitja Velikonja. The REEES Program hosted a conference on "Russia and Asia in the 20th and 21st Centuries" in November, 2019 and will host "The Other Europe: Changes and Challenges since 1989" on April 10-11, 2020.

TWO NEW EXHIBITS AT THE ZIMMERLI

Dialogues – Ilya Kabakov and Viktor Pivovarov: Stories About Ourselves focuses on the two artists' work created in the format of the album, a genre of visual art popularized in the 1970s by conceptual artists in Moscow. With loose pages of images, often complemented by handwritten texts, an album is simultaneously a drawing and a novel, an installation and a performance.

Still active today, Kabakov (b. 1933) and Pivovarov (b. 1937) were integral to the movement known as Moscow Conceptualism, which subversively flourished in the city from the 1960s to the 1990s. Both artists produced dozens of albums addressing the triumphs and tribulations of their everyday lives in the Soviet Union at the time. While official artists had established networks of support, those choosing to produce art in unofficial capacities had to be creative with their resources, finding outlets around social, political, and economic limitations. Kabakov and Pivovarov shared their albums in their homes and studios with friends. Among such friends was the collector Norton Dodge, who purchased albums, bringing them back to the US and exhibiting them for global audiences.

The exhibition includes the albums *Shower-A Comedy* (1970s-1985), *Mathematical Gorsky* (1969-73), and *Fruits and Vegetables* (1979) by Kabakov, as well as *Stairway of the Spheres* (1975), *Tears* (1975), and *Sacralizators* (1979) by Pivovarov. In addition, a selection of both artists' paintings and children's book illustrations created during the same period, as well as portraits of both Kabakov and Pivovarov. This exhibit, on view until March 29, 2020, is organized by Ksenia Nouril, Julia Tulovsky, and Jane A. Sharp.

Also at the Zimmerli is *A Celebration of the Children's Books of Vladimir Radunsky*, an exhibition that features recently acquired artwork and illustrations on loan from the collection of Eugenia Radunsky.

Radunsky (1954–2018) had a long career as a children's book illustrator and author. He invented new stories and drew upon favorites from his childhood. *The Mighty Asparagus* (2004) is a reimagining of a famous Russian folktale, combined with the culture of his adopted homeland, Italy. In this retelling of a story about finding help from unexpected partners, Radunsky mischievously adapted famous Italian paintings and transformed historical figures into humorous characters to both amuse children and introduce them to Renaissance art.

He also collaborated with major figures in the Russian expatriate community. *Discovery* (1999) features Radunsky's expressionist forms, which complement Joseph Brodsky's text. In *Because . . .* (2007), dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov tells a story that encourages all of us to share our unique talents with the world. Radunsky's longest creative partnership was with two-time Caldecott Medal winner Chris Raschka. Their final book, *Mother Goose of Pudding Lane*, published a year after Radunsky's passing, is a testament to their shared devotion to children's literature through a unique look into the life of this beloved figure.

In addition to the exhibition, copies of his books are available in the Duvoisin Gallery for visitors to read, along with hands-on activities. This exhibit, organized by Nicole Simpson and Julia Tulovsky, is on view through March 8, 2020.



Study Abroad

- Russian as a Second Language (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Irkutsk, Vladivostok, Bishkek, Kyiv)
- Language and Environment (Irkutsk)
- Language and Society (St. Petersburg)
- Policy and Conflict in the Post-Soviet Space (Kyiv)
- Central Asian Studies (Bishkek)
- Diplomacy & International Relations at MGIMO (Moscow)
- Semester at HSE (Moscow)
- Russia and the Asia-Pacific (Vladivostok)
- Spring Break: Introduction to Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg)
- The Cuba-Russia Connection: Studies in Cultural Diplomacy (Havana and St. Petersburg)
- St. Petersburg Summer School (media, energy, museum studies)
- Security and Society in the Information Age (Warsaw)

Custom (Faculty-Led) Programs

- Logistics (visas, housing, transportation)
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- Experiential learning (service learning, travel, workshops)
- Cultural programming (excursions, performances)
- Program development and promotion

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- Visas
- Translation
- Archive orientation
- Remote research services

SRAS Family of Sites

- Folkways.today
- GeoHistory.today
- PopKult.org
- MuseumStudiesAbroad.org
- SRASStudents.org



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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 for rates, specs, and production schedule.



In Memoriam

Shmuel Galai, Professor Emeritus of History at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, died on May 1, 2019, in Tel Aviv.

He was born in Baranovich (in present day Belarus) in June 1933. Galai and his family, together with the rest of the city's Jews, were moved by the Germans to the ghetto at the end of 1941. In March 1942, the first Aktion (operation involving the mass assembly, deportation, and murder of Jews by the Nazis during the Holocaust) took place. Galai's mother managed to move with him to a labor camp, from which they both later escaped to join the partisans. Following the liberation of the area by the Red Army in July 1944, Galai, his mother and stepfather arrived in a DP camp near Munich.

Galai immigrated to Israel in 1946 and was placed in a Kibbutz. From 1955-61, he studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, earning a BA in History and Economics and an MA in History. In 1963 Galai moved to London, where he earned a PhD from the London School of Economics. He and his family returned to Israel in 1967, when he joined the History Department at Tel Aviv University, relocating to Beer Sheva in 1974 to set up the History Department in Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Shmuel retired in 2000.

A specialist in the political history of late Imperial Russia, Galai's foremost scholarly work is *The Liberation Movement in Russia, 1900-1905* (Cambridge University Press, 1973), which explores the foundation of moderate and liberal parties in Russia. He also wrote a number of articles and book chapters on the Constitutional Democratic (Kadet) Party and its founders, the Revolution of 1905, the First State Duma, and the Jewish Question in Russian politics. Perhaps less widely known is his work on behalf of younger scholars and colleagues, in post-Soviet Russia, the US and Israel. His mentorship, organizational skills, and generous financial support were particularly crucial in helping to establish the academic publishing house ROSSPEN in 1991, a firm which has gone on to publish hundreds of significant Russian primary sources and scholarly studies.

Excerpted from text provided by Melissa K. Stockdale, University of Oklahoma

Dmytro M. Shtohryn, of the University of Illinois, passed away on September 25, 2019.

Shtohryn was born in 1923, in Zvyniach, Ukraine. He studied at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, University of Minnesota and University of Ottawa where he received his Master of Arts and PhD in Slavic studies, and Bachelor of Liberal Studies in library science. From 1960 until 1995, he was employed at the University of Illinois Library; from 1975 until his retirement, he also taught courses on Ukrainian literature and culture, as well as organized and conducted 25 annual conferences (1982-2006) on Ukrainian subjects. Shtohryn was also a visiting professor of the University of Ottawa, the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, and the Catholic University in Rome. In addition to being an ASEES member, he was a member of the American Library

Association (chairman of its Slavic and East European Section), a longtime member of executive committees of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in America, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the US, and the Ukrainian Historical Association. He was co-founder and longtime president of the Ukrainian Library Association of America and the Ukrainian Academic and Professional Society. Shtohryn was the author and editor of six books and about 100 articles in English, Ukrainian and German.

Excerpted from the obituary published in *The News-Gazette*.

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 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
Communications Coordinator: Mary Arnstein, 412-648-9809, newsnet@pitt.edu
NewsNet Editor & Program Coordinator: Trevor Erlacher, 412-648-7403, aseees.grants@pitt.edu
Membership Coordinator: Sean Caulfield, 412-648-9911, aseees@pitt.edu
Financial Support: Roxana L. Espinoza, 412-648-4049, aseeesfn@pitt.edu
Convention Manager: Margaret Manges, 412-648-4049, aseeescn@pitt.edu

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: ASEES, 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.

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



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Affiliate Group News

AATSEEL 2020 CONFERENCE

The program for the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) is now available.

AATSEEL 2020 will be held February 6-9, 2020 at the Omni San Diego. Please visit <https://www.aatseel.org/program/hotel/> to book or to find more information. Memberships and registration can be purchased online at www.aatseel.org. Conference registration includes complimentary continental breakfasts and unlimited access to all panels, coffee breaks, the Presidential Reception and Awards Ceremony, film screenings, Advanced Seminars, workshops, and special events.

Please direct questions to the Program Committee Chair, Yuri Leving (yleving@gmail.com).

CENTRAL SLAVIC CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 1, 2020

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Discerning eyes will note that the CSC has been moved for this coming year to a new slot in the spring. Otherwise, its favored location (Missouri Athletic Club in STL) and its emphasis on serving not only “traditional” scholars, but also graduate students and independent scholars remains strong. We are also proud to provide 1-2 panels for undergraduate participation. Those interested in participating should contact symposium coordinator Dr. Nicole Monnier at monniern@missouri.edu.

For the third year, the CSC will also dedicate a separate portion of the conference to undergraduate research presentations. Faculty are encouraged to support conference proposals from undergraduate students for this section of the conference. Limited funding is available to provide graduate and undergraduate students with travel stipends.

Charles Timberlake Memorial Symposium: Now a regular part of the CSC program, the symposium is dedicated to the memory and scholarly interests of longtime CSC member Charles Timberlake. Timberlake Memorial Graduate Paper Prize: Students who present at the CSC Annual Meeting are invited to participate in the Charles Timberlake Graduate Paper Prize competition. Dedicated to the memory of Charles Timberlake as a teacher and mentor, the prize carries a cash award.

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RUSSIAN STUDIES

ASSOCIATION MARC RAEFF BOOK PRIZE

The Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association is now accepting submissions for the seventh annual Marc Raeff Book Prize. The Raeff Book Prize is awarded for a publication that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for understanding Imperial Russia during the long eighteenth-century. The recipient of the award will be recognized with a cash prize, which will be presented in November 2020 during the ASEES annual convention in DC. The award is sponsored by the ECRSA and named in honor of Marc Raeff (1923-2008), historian, teacher,

and dix-huitième par excellence.

Eligibility:

- The publication must be a monograph, translation, or reference work about any aspect of the long eighteenth century, on any of the territories of the former imperial Russian state. Textbooks, festschrifts, and edited collections of essays are not eligible unless they constitute significant and innovative contributions to the field.
- Submissions must bear a copyright date of 2018 or 2019.
- Nominated works can be published in any language and in any format (analog or digital).
- The geographic area of study is broadly defined as the territories of the former imperial Russian state and the Soviet Union. The publication must deal with the long eighteenth century (the period from the last quarter of the seventeenth-century to the first quarter of the nineteenth-century.)
- Books that have received other prizes are eligible.
- Scholarly merit, originality, and felicity of style will be the main criteria for selection.

Nominating Instructions

- Any scholar in the field can nominate a book for the prize. Self-nominations are welcome.
- Nominations should be emailed to any member of the ECRSA Prize Selection Committee (listed below).
- One copy of each eligible publication should be sent to the ECRSA Prize Selection Committee members and to the ASEES office.
- Submissions should be marked “Marc Raeff Book Prize.”
- Nominations must be received no later than 15 June 2020.

ECRSA Prize Selection Committee:

- Lena Marasynova, Ulitsa Dmitriia Ulianova 19, Institute of Russian History RAN, Moscow 117292, Russia, lenamarasynova@gmail.com
- George Munro, Department of History, 813 S. Cathedral Place, Room 301, PO Box 842001, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23284-2001, gmunro@vcu.edu
- Tom Newlin (Committee Chair), Russian Department, 222 Peters Hall, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074, thomas.newlin@oberlin.edu
- Ilya Vinitzky, 17 Springdale Road, Princeton, NJ 08540, vinitzky@Princeton.edu
- ASEES Main Office, 203C Bellefield Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6424 USA

2020 MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE:

SCIENCE (&) FICTION(S)

APRIL 3-5, 2020, COLUMBUS, OH

[The 2020 Midwest Slavic Conference](#) will be held at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio on April 3-5, 2020. The conference committee invites proposals for papers on all topics related to the Slavic, East European, and Eurasian world, particularly those that explore science and the history

of science, science fiction in film, cartoons, art, music, and literary works, information science and disinformation. In a world where truth is often stranger than fiction—and harder to find—science fiction can be revelatory. As society grapples to answer questions about climate change, ecological justice, and environmental disasters, does the function and ethical responsibility of science fiction change? What is the relationship between science, fiction, and the arts? How do they illuminate, reinforce, and change each other?

The conference will open with a keynote address by Dr. Anindita Banerjee (Cornell U.). Building on the keynote address, a plenary panel will follow on April 4 and panels by conference participants will then be held on April 4-5. More information is available on the Conference [website](#). The Midwest Slavic Conference is organized by the Midwest Slavic Association and the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at Ohio State. Direct questions to csees@osu.edu or (614) 292-8770.

POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS & SCIENCES OF
AMERICA AND POLISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION JOINT
CONFERENCE

U OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO, JUNE 12-14, 2020

Proposals are solicited for complete sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the liberal arts, sciences, or business/economics. The theme of the conference is “Migrations,” for which Chicago, the destination of generations of Polish and other migrants from East-Central Europe, is a most appropriate setting. Therefore, we particularly welcome panel and paper proposals which discuss the determinants, processes, and outcomes of human migration in all of its manifestations and from various disciplinary perspectives, including the migration of ideas and material culture. However, papers do not necessarily have to address the conference theme. Since we value comparative sessions that place the Polish and East Central European experience in context, papers need not focus specifically on Poland or the Polish diaspora but could revolve around a central theme of a panel. Similarly, sessions including presenters from more than one country are encouraged.

Each session is scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers and time for discussion. The conference language is English. All conference rooms will be equipped with AV. Presenters are invited to submit their conference papers to be considered for possible publication in *The Polish Review* subsequent to the conference. To submit a paper or complete session, please send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program chair Patrice Dabrowski at pmdabrow@fas.harvard.edu. The deadline for proposals is February 1, though earlier submissions are welcome since capacity is limited. All participants are expected to pay the conference registration fee of \$80, discounted to \$40 for graduate students.

There are hotel blocs for a limited number of rooms from two hotels within moderate walking distance to the UIC campus: 1) The Hotel Chicago West Loop (Promo Code: PIASACHICAGO) and 2) The Crowne Plaza West Loop (Booking Link: PIASA Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences;

Group Code: NMD). Participants should book their reservations before May 13, 2020.

58TH ANNUAL MEETING SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ON
SLAVIC STUDIES

GREENVILLE, SC, MARCH 12-14, 2020

The Fifty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS) will be held at the Westin Poinsett Hotel in Greenville, South Carolina, and hosted by Clemson University. The John Shelton Curtiss Lecture at the Friday Banquet will be given by Professor Donald Raleigh (UNC-Chapel Hill). His talk is provisionally titled “GenSec: The Brezhnev You May not Know.”

Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome, as is participation from scholars of all Slavic, East European, and Eurasian regions. Papers can be on any time period and any topic relevant to these regions. January 27, 2020 is the submission deadline. Whole panel proposals or roundtables are preferred, but proposals for individual papers will also be accepted. Whole 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. AV requests must be made when the proposals are submitted. Email proposals to Emily Baran at scssprogram@gmail.com. For local arrangements or conference information other than the program, please contact Steven Marks at msteven@clemson.edu.

**Congratulations to the Fall 2019
ASEEES First Book Subvention Recipients**

University of Toronto Press, for *Ukrainian Women Writers and the National Imaginary: from the Collapse of the USSR to the Euromaidan* by Oleksandra Wallo (University of Kansas)

Cornell University Press, for *Tales From Albarado: Ponzi Logics of Accumulation in Postsocialist Albania* by Smoki Musaraj (Ohio 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.

There are two deadline each year, February 1 and September 1. For more information on the program, visit: aseees.org/programs/firstbook-subvention



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