



# NewsNet

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

## What Have We Learned, and Not Learned, from a Quarter-Century of Transition Harley Balzer, Georgetown University

A quarter-century of perspective is about the point where historians take over from political scientists. It probably should be the half-life of discussions about the “Transition from Communism.”

What have we learned? We might begin with terminology: “transition from” is a far more accurate formulation than “transition to,” especially when the “to” is followed by “democracy and the market.” Calling reforms “shock therapy” was a hideously poor choice.

More substantively, this essay focuses on three of the many lessons: 1) Rapid reformers fared best; 2) Politics consistently trumps economics; and 3) China’s surprising success challenges many assumptions and presents a stunning contrast to Russia. After briefly summarizing the first two topics, the emphasis here will be on the less-studied third set of lessons.

*Rapid reform vs. gradualism:* Strong evidence shows that across Eastern Europe and the CIS rapid reformers suffered less damage and recovered more quickly than partial/gradual reformers and non-reformers (Havrylyshyn 2016; Triesman 2014; Aslund 2014; Roland

2014). Partial reformers fared worse than non-reformers, especially during the first decade.

The “holy trinity” of reform for Soviet bloc countries facing economic crises included stabilization, liberalization, and privatization. Some economists suggested this should be a sequence (McKinnon 1991); for others, what mattered was that all three be implemented quickly (Woo 1994). Russia’s sequencing demonstrated that privatizing before achieving stabilization and liberalization was an invitation to disaster. Appel (1997: 1435) noted Russia’s policy allowing transfer of privatization vouchers, which resulted in poor and poorly informed individuals selling them for little. The Lithuanian and Czech programs prohibited transfers.

Many analysts have argued that institutions and a regulatory system should have been put in place prior to privatization. Kaufmann and Siegelbaum (1996: 425) provide a cogent analysis of why delaying privatization until a legal system and mechanisms to enforce it were functioning effectively would have resulted in there being nothing left to privatize; all of the assets with any value would have been seized by insiders. This reinforces

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arguments that speed was generally more important than establishing legal and regulatory regimes, *provided those regimes did not lag too far behind*.

The slow development of necessary institutions in many countries points to one of the surprises in post-Communist transitions. Contrary to the “lessons” from Latin America in the 1980s, winners benefitting from partial reform (Hellman 1998) were frequently a more serious impediment to continuing reform than the losers (Przeworski 1991). In Eastern Europe, economic difficulties resulted in elections changing governments, but not the fundamental direction of reform policies. As Abdelal (2001) noted regarding the Baltics, the elites and citizens of these countries knew they wanted to be part of Europe and were willing to pay a price to achieve this. However, winners slowing reform did not mean the danger of populist reversals ended, as recent developments in Hungary and Poland demonstrate.

Living standards and human development indicators improved in the rapid reform countries (Triesman 2014), but also for a time in hydrocarbon exporters and most impressively in China. Poverty was reduced in the successful reform countries, though China’s success, again starting from a low base, dwarfed the East European achievements.

Thick integration with the global economy (Balzer 2008) advanced reform, even if it carried risks. Countries that resisted integration were not really insulated from global economic fluctuations, especially if they exported commodities.

*In politics*, we learned that democracy is more likely when democrats come to power (McFaul 2002), but keeping them democrats requires strong institutions, equally strong protections, and an electorate that pays attention. The shift from emphasizing democratization to “managed democracy” (Lipman and McFaul 2001), “managed pluralism” (Balzer 2003), “virtual politics” (Wilson 2005), “patronal politics” (Hale 2014) and a slew of other terms chronicles the problem.

The retreat from democratization accentuates the lesson that democracy and the market are mutually reinforcing, especially in the long term. Triesman (2014) shows that democratization is often followed by economic reform, but economic reform does not predict democratization. Russia and China since 2012 demonstrate that politics trumps economics.

Critics would say that this summary amounts to an endorsement of “neoliberal globalization.” Yet most

of the critics focus on the shortcomings of the reform projects rather than offering genuine alternatives (Stiglitz 1999; Murrell 1993). The recent comprehensive analysis of neoliberalism by Appel and Orenstein (2016) emphasizes competition for investment as the driving force, rather than identity. Yet overwhelming evidence that rapid reformers performed better suggests gradualism involves long-term costs and risks of capture or retreat.

My own “bleeding-heart neoliberalism” emphasizes the most important thing that was NOT learned: how to maintain social safety nets in chaotic political and economic transformations. Reformers consistently talked about the need to protect the vulnerable, but ignored the reality of the needy lacking political power (Nooruddin and Simmons 2006). I spent about 18 months in 1991-92 trying to generate interest in Washington to have the G-7 pay the salaries of the teachers and physicians in the vanishing USSR. This might have helped preserve a middle class. When George Soros asked me to lead a project to support scientists, it seemed to be a good first step.

When Stiglitz (1999: 23-24) lauds gradual reform, his favored example is China. *The comparative lessons from China’s experience* are among the most under-studied aspects of the transition from communism, and it is worth devoting the remainder of this essay to those lessons.

The narrative of China’s impressive rise since 1978 favored by Vladimir Putin’s team and by China’s rulers emphasizes gradual reform centrally administered by a wise Communist Party that achieved its goal of economic development. While attractive to authoritarians, this narrative ignores the crucial elements in China’s success. If control by the Party-State was the basis for China’s economic miracle, the state sector should be the leader rather than a continuing drag on growth. If centralization was the key, why did regions that implemented their own programs perform better, often developing approaches subsequently accepted in Beijing? Most important, despite the emphasis on “Chinese characteristics,” China’s success involved thick integration with the global economy; willingness to learn; significant foreign investment; along with rapidly growing involvement in global supply and production chains, knowledge economy relationships, and human capital exchanges. In each of these area, China presents a sharp contrast with Russia (Balzer 2008; 2010; Balzer and Askonas 2016).

Many analysts reject learning that Russia and China are NOT a contrast between rapid “big-bang” reform and gradualism. As Havrylyshyn et al. (2016) note,

“much of the writing about Russia does not recognize that the big-bang reforms were short-lived and then reversed.” Russia’s government began to run budget deficits by the second quarter of 1992. The money supply doubled by October 1. Chernomyrdin replaced Gaidar as Prime Minister in December. Russia’s Central Bank guaranteed inter-enterprise debts, making it possible for firms across the ruble zone to issue credits to each other. This drove inflation to 2000% (Woo 1994: 278). Woo concludes that “incoherence of microeconomic liberalization without macroeconomic stabilization is almost akin to shock without therapy.”

China’s reforms were “gradual” in that they did not try to do everything at once. The Communist Party retained power, and faced no economic crisis involving linked economies. But China’s most successful reforms were neither planned nor gradual. Experiments took on a life of their own, often at a pace far beyond what leaders intended. Shue (2004) may exaggerate in saying that the Chinese leaders deserve credit mainly for getting out of the way, but Deng in particular was impressively pragmatic, admitting openly that the development of a flourishing private sector in the countryside was unexpected and welcome.

Complete loss of control promotes anarchy. China fared best where it *partially* lost control. This was clearly evident in regional economic development. There is no

more stunning difference between China and Russia than in the policy agendas of regional leaders. Chinese cadres are evaluated overwhelmingly on the basis of GDP growth. The resulting incentive structure induced growing numbers to promote economic development.

In Russia, weak central control in the 1990s was replaced by heavy-handed centralization in the Putin era (Petrov 2013). The incentive structure encouraged regional and city leaders to foster local economic development only for the few years when they were elected (Konitzer-Smirnov 2003). Under Putin, the incentive structure for Russian regional officials does not reward local development. Regional executives rarely move to another region. Their calculations involve doing Moscow’s bidding, turning out the vote for the ruling party, maintaining social stability, and lobbying for funds from the center (Kuz’menko 2015; Sharafutdinova and Turovsky 2016). Many are predatory rather than entrepreneurial.

The first and in many ways most important Chinese reform was decollectivization. While some experiments had been allowed for a decade before 1979, the rapid dismantling of China’s collective farm system was accepted, not organized. The largely spontaneous shift to “household responsibility” was not reversed (Zhou 1996; Qian 2000). Zweig (2002) describes many other policies, including special economic zones and international education linkages, creating “fevers” stemming from

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partial openings and uncertain time frames. Chinese rushed to take advantage of opportunities that might be short-lived; others imitated their behavior even when they lacked official approval. Rather than fostering development, Russia's special zones became havens for smuggling alcohol, tobacco, and other goods.

China's decollectivization improved agricultural productivity, generating a surplus rural labor pool. Russian state and collective farms typically punished those seeking to leave. Chinese peasants made redundant found employment in burgeoning Township and Village Enterprises (TVEs) that began to satisfy demand for goods. The cooperatives in Russia were mostly parasitical, using state resources for private profit. China's decollectivized peasants also became the labor force for new industrial zones. In Russia, the priority was to keep workers at overstaffed enterprises from becoming unemployed, creating problems that persist to this day (Kapeliushnikov et al. 2012).

Until 1994, Chinese regions were allowed to keep a significant share of increased revenue. The pro-growth incentive structure combined with regular rotation of cadres and some level of Party discipline did not prevent corruption, but often channeled it into less destructive forms. Many Chinese officials accepted a share of profits rather than stifling small and medium businesses. In contrast to Russian officials positioned to enjoy natural resource and administrative rents or strip assets, Chinese officials needed to help create wealth before they could grab a share. Improving local GDP meant career advancement. Campaigns against corruption, while always flawed, provided a stick accompanying the carrots.

The Chinese story should not be idealized. The corruption is real, and in some cases destructive. Emphasizing growth encourages negative externalities, most notably inequality, environmental degradation, and property expropriation. The emphasis on economic reform without political reform, lauded by some analysts, has emerged as a serious problem since 2012.

Russia, under Putin's with much tighter central control, matches China in inequality, environmental problems, and insecure property rights, while sharing none of the economic, technological, or scientific success visible in China.

China's success has been due to learning and thick integration with the global economy. Russia has remained far more thinly integrated, and epistemic communities are more inclined to perpetuate Soviet practices.

China's three-decade run of economic growth has been badly misconstrued in Russia, fueling related myths of a strong leader, centralization, and state enterprises generating economic success. The keys to China's economic growth were 1) an unintended but accepted flourishing of private enterprise; 2) opening to and learning from the outside world; 3) some regions and many entrepreneurs pushing and sometimes altering the boundaries of the permissible; and 4) leaders willing to accept significant deviation from official policy when the results proved economically beneficial. Other explanations for Chinese success, such as diasporas or historical continuity, fail a comparative test (Balzer 2008 & 2010; Balzer and Askonas 2016).

Developments in China and Russia since 2012 compel us to reconsider the economics/democracy debate. Alt (2000) contends that "democracy is neither necessary nor sufficient for economic growth," and that it "has more to do with freedom and choice than welfare *per se*." Alt is correct that democracy is not the sole route to growth, nor a sufficient route. But what generates sustainable growth? What prevents predatory or incompetent rulers from stifling economies? *Limited government* is the only path to sustainable balanced growth. It may be achieved by an enlightened despot (therefore dependent on the individual in power who may or may not remain enlightened and may or may not be succeeded by someone enlightened), a balance between competing forces (subject to imbalances over time), or by democracy (based on institutions that may endure if defended). Democracy may promote equality and be sustained, though neither of these outcomes is guaranteed.

Precisely because the system lacks institutional safeguards, China's success now is threatened by a "Xi change." Along with a serious campaign against corruption, Xi Jinping has sought to increase CCP involvement in many areas of Chinese life and exert greater control. These policies, while ostensibly aimed at providing more balance and equity, entail the risk of stifling the bottom-up and private initiative that have been responsible for most of China's success.

China's economy is now 70-75% private (Lardy 2016). Even this understates the importance of the private sector. With the exception of a few profitable monopolies, China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are poor economic performers (Hong and Nong 2013: xxi-xxiii). In 2009, ten firms accounted for 70% of SOE net profits. Of these just two firms, China National Petroleum Company and China Mobile provided more than one-third of the total. The average return on equity for China's SOEs in 2001-



09 was 8.16%. In the same period, non-SOEs returned on average 50% more (12.9%). In 2009 SOEs returned 8.18%; non-SOEs nearly double that (15.59%).

The poor performance by SOEs remains heavily subsidized. Chinese SOEs have a lesser tax burden and receive fiscal subsidies from the central government. Banks provide credit at below-market interest rates. Land and resource rents are subsidized. Hong and Nong calculate that if all of the benefits are taken into consideration, the average real return for Chinese SOEs in 2001-09 was *minus* 6.29%. Despite this weak performance, managers and workers in state enterprises often receive higher pay than those in the private sector.

Hong and Nong (2013: xxiii) describe an accelerating phenomenon of *guo jin min tui* (state advance and private retreat). While this has been visible for well over a decade, the process has intensified since Xi came to power in 2012. As in Putin's Russia, policies include stricter media controls; curtailing the independent activity of civil society; reaffirming the role of the ruling party, with party cells playing a role in private enterprises; renewed emphasis on ideology; favoring Chinese firms while limiting foreign business competition; and a more aggressive foreign policy.

It appears that rather than Russia learning from China's economic successes, China is adopting Putin's tightening of domestic political life. Putin views globalization as a threat. Xi has either misunderstood or rejected the pragmatic interaction with the global economy that made China's economic miracle possible. Given that both countries' economic models are in need of serious overhaul (Kudrin & Gurvich 2014; He 1999; Naughton 2015), it is plausible that Xi and Putin will end up resembling Thelma and Louise, driving their economies over the cliff. That leaders in Hungary, Poland and elsewhere are implementing similar policies suggests that the transition may not be over.

*Harley Balzer retired in June from his full-time positions in the Department of Government, School of Foreign Service and Department of History at Georgetown University. In 1982-83 he served as a Congressional Fellow, with responsibilities including helping to secure passage of Title VIII. In 1992-93 he served as Executive Director of the International Science Foundation, and then worked with the MacArthur Foundation and Carnegie Corporation to design the Basic Research and Higher Education Program for Russia.*

[Full citations of the resources used in this piece can be found on the ASEES website.](#)

## ASEES Announces the Results of the 2016 Board of Directors Elections

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These new board members will begin their work on January 1, 2017.

## Forthcoming in *Slavic Review* Winter 2016 Articles

“‘Maria Ivanovna Was Reclining on a Settee’:  
Gleb Uspensky’s Search for a New Optics”  
**Anna Schur**

“Odessa as ‘Point de Capital’: Economics, History,  
and Time in Odessa Fiction”  
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“The First World War and the Polarization of the  
Russian Right, July 1914–February 1917”  
**Mikhail N. Loukianov**

“Viacheslav Ivanov in the 1930s: The Russian Poet  
as Italian Humanist”  
**Emily Wang**

“Unraveling a Tradition, or Spinning a Myth?:  
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“Imagined Institutions: The Symbolic Power of  
Formal Rules in Bosnia and Herzegovina”  
**Karlo Basta**

“Transnationalism in One Country? Seeing and Not  
Seeing Cross-Border Migration within the Soviet  
Union”  
**Lewis H. Siegelbaum and Leslie Page Moch**

## THE ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 ASEEEES PRIZES

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**Wayne S. Vucinich Book Prize** for the most important contribution to Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies in any discipline of the humanities or social sciences

**Ronald Grigor Suny**, *"They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else": A History of the Armenian Genocide* (Princeton University Press)

**Honorable Mention: Michael Kunichika**, *"Our Native Antiquity": Archaeology and Aesthetics in the Culture of Russian Modernism* (Academic Studies Press)

**Honorable Mention: Douglas Rogers**, *The Depths of Russia: Oil, Power, and Culture after Socialism* (Cornell University Press)

**University of Southern California Book Prize in Literary and Cultural Studies** for outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe or Eurasia in the fields of literary and cultural studies

**Stephen Lovell**, *Russia in the Microphone Age: A History of Soviet Radio, 1919-1970* (Oxford University Press)

**Honorable Mention: Alice Lovejoy**, *Army Film and the Avant-Garde: Cinema and Experiment in the Czechoslovak Military* (Indiana University Press)

**Reginald Zelnik Book Prize in History** for outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe or Eurasia in the field of history

**Adeeb Khalid**, *Making Uzbekistan: Nation, Empire, and Revolution in the Early USSR* (Cornell University Press)

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**Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies** for outstanding monograph on Russia, Eurasia, or Eastern Europe in anthropology, political science, sociology, or geography

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**Douglas Rogers**, *The Depths of Russia, Oil, Power, and Culture after Socialism* (Cornell University Press)

**Honorable Mention: Susanne Wengle**, *Post-Soviet Power: State-led Development and Russia's Marketization* (Cambridge University Press)

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**Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies** for the best book in any discipline, on any aspect of Polish affairs

**Iryna Vushko**, *The Politics of Cultural Retreat: Imperial Bureaucracy in Austrian Galicia, 1772-1867* (Yale University Press)

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**W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize** for an author's first published monograph or scholarly synthesis that is of exceptional merit and lasting significance for the understanding of Russia's past, published in the previous two years.

**Rebecca Mitchell**, *Nietzsche's Orphans: Music, Metaphysics, and the Twilight of the Russian Empire* (Yale University Press)

**ASEEES Graduate Student Essay Prize** for an outstanding essay by a graduate student in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

**Anca Mandru**, "The 'Socialist Intellectual Brotherhood' and the Nationalist Challenge," PhD Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize** for an outstanding English-language doctoral dissertation in Soviet or Post-Soviet politics and history in the tradition practiced by Robert C. Tucker and Stephen F. Cohen, defended at an American or Canadian university

**Leah Daphne Goldman**, "Art of Intransigence: Soviet Composers and Art Music Censorship, 1945-1957," University of Chicago, 2015

Prize winners will be recognized during the ASEEES Annual Convention award ceremony on Saturday, November 19, 7:00pm, in Washington, DC. The event is open to the public. Full citations will be printed in the convention program.

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# The Kremlin Blamed Our Work When It Declared Russia's Levada Center a "Foreign Agent"

Theodore Gerber, University of Wisconsin-Madison & Jane Zavisca, University of Arizona

*This article was first published as "The Kremlin blamed our work when it declared Russia's most respected polling firm a 'foreign agent'" on September 17, 2016 in The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post.*

On September 5, 2016, Russia's Justice Ministry declared the country's leading independent polling organization, the Levada Analytical Center, to be a "foreign agent." The designation applies to nongovernmental organizations that take part in "political activities" and receive foreign funding.

The "foreign agent" label saddles its recipients with burdensome monitoring and reporting requirements. But it's especially harmful for an institution that relies on the trust of potential survey respondents. Suspicion of foreign influence has been on the rise in Russia, and the "foreign agent" moniker connotes "spy." It discredits the Levada Center in the eyes of the public and will probably put the internationally respected pollster out of business.

Social science will suffer as a result. The Levada Center has generated a remarkable trove of information about Russia's society, politics, and economy over the past quarter-century. Its high-quality work inspired us to collaborate with it on numerous projects, including the study that served as the initial pretext for labeling it a foreign agent.

## Our research with the Levada Center is basic social science

In July, the website of a pro-Kremlin group named "Anti-Maidan" called for the Justice Ministry to deem the Levada Center a foreign agent because of its work on a project sponsored by the U.S. Defense Department. Anti-Maidan claimed the University of Wisconsin was an "intermediary" taking orders from the Pentagon. That is a misleading characterization of the project in question, on which we are the principal investigators.

Our research is a broad sociological study of the relationship between homeownership and societal stability in four post-Soviet countries with emerging housing markets. We examine how housing contributes to well-being, social networks, civic engagement, and political grievances. We have collected focus group and survey data addressing these questions in cooperation

with local organizations in each of the four countries we are studying. Levada Center was our partner in Russia from the time we started the project in 2013.

The research is indeed funded through a grant from the Minerva Research Initiative of the U.S. Defense Department. This program supports basic research on social science topics relevant to national and global security. We applied in response to an open call for proposals examining "determinants of societal stability." Our proposal was selected through a competitive peer review process, similar to those employed by other major federal funders of science such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

We alone—not anyone in the Pentagon or anywhere else—conceived, designed and implemented our project. The Minerva Initiative's involvement was to select the project and provide the funds necessary to carry it out. The Minerva program insists on giving social scientists the freedom to pursue their projects as they see fit rather than respond to government dictates. It simply funds projects that it believes will illuminate issues important to global stability. The guarantee of academic freedom was a necessary condition for us to apply for Minerva program funding. It was also important to our international partners, with whom we have been open about the funding source from the outset.

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*McGill University is committed to diversity and equity in employment. It welcomes applications from: women, aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity, visible minorities, and others who may contribute to diversification. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. McGill University is an English-language institution, but a working knowledge of French is an asset.*



## The Levada Center's "foreign agent" designation follows sinking poll numbers for the ruling party

The attack on the Levada Center shows that academic freedom is imperiled in Russia. As we recently argued in the *Washington Quarterly*, since annexing Crimea in early 2014, the regime of Russian president Vladimir Putin has stepped up claims that the United States and its allies seek to destabilize Russia.

Authorities have used the "foreign agent" law to put pressure on organizations that they claim are working for hostile governments to set off a "color revolution" in Russia. In May 2016, the Russian parliament expanded the foreign agent law to specifically cover public opinion research, a signal that the Kremlin wanted to move against the Levada Center.

The Levada Center faced similar scares in the past. We believe it survived until now because it reported high approval ratings for Putin; those reports were especially credible given its reputation for objectivity. But recently, the center showed declining support for the ruling party and for Putin, just before the parliamentary election. These poll results have nothing to do with foreign funding. They reflect the reality of growing popular discontent in Russia in the face of enduring economic crisis and corruption. Rather than acknowledge that reality, the regime has chosen to muzzle the messenger.

### If the Levada Center closes, it will be Russia's loss

Based on our experience of more than two decades of conducting social science research in Russia, we predict that losing the Levada Center will have profound consequences. It will precipitate a rapid demise of independent social surveys of Russians. Other Russian pollsters will balk at projects sponsored by foreign entities. No credible domestic funding sources are available.

There will be lasting harm to Russia's social scientists and policymakers, who need to formulate solutions to Russia's problems on the basis of scientific evidence rather than conjecture. If, as we expect, the Levada Center's fate deters Russian social scientists from working on Western-funded projects, it will undermine the government's recent efforts to secure a respectable position in the international science community, improve the standing of its country's universities and attract foreign scientists to work in Russia.

To thrive, social science research must be free from political interference. This basic principle applies as much to research with implications for domestic and international security as it does to research relevant to health, economic growth, social welfare, and other aspects of public well-being. That mandate is fully respected by the Minerva Initiative program. The Russian government's move against the Levada Center will most likely have a negative effect on social science, the scientific community and the society it serves.

*Theodore P. Gerber is Director of the Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia and Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has worked with the Levada Center on 20 survey projects since 1998, funded by a variety of U.S. government and private sources. Gerber will also be speaking on this issue during the roundtable entitled "Working With Eurasia: International Research and Scholarly Collaboration" at the ASEES Convention in Washington, DC.*

*Jane Zavisca is Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor of Sociology in the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Arizona, and author of *Housing the New Russia* (Cornell University Press, 2012).*

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

**October 1**  
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[researchfellowships.americancouncils.org](http://researchfellowships.americancouncils.org)





## The Pedagogy of Images: Depicting Communism for Children

Serguei A. Oushakine, Princeton University

Less than five months after the Bolshevik revolution, the newspaper *Pravda* published the polemical essay “Forgotten Weapon: On Children’s Books.” Written by Leonard Piragis (also known as L. Kormchii), a former editor of a children’s magazine *Vskhody* (Sprouts), the essay pointed to the fact that literature for young readers was completely neglected by the new regime. As the former editor put it, “The bourgeoisie knew all too well the importance of children’s literature as a useful tool for strengthening its own dominance. . . . The bourgeoisie did all it could to make sure that our children began as early as possible to absorb the ideas that later would turn them into slaves. We should not forget that the same tools, the same weapons, can be used for the opposite goal.”

Weaponizing children’s literature, though, was not that easy. After the revolution, the book market for children almost collapsed (together with many other markets). For instance, in 1921, there were only 33 book titles published for children. Yet, by 1926, this situation began to change, and the number of titles reached 936; within three years, more than 1,500 new titles were available ((Lidia Kon, *Sovetskaia detskaia literatura, 1917–1929* [Moscow: Gosizdat, 1960], 63–65.)

By 1936, Detgiz, a specially created publisher of children’s literature, produced annually 40 million copies of books and magazines for children. Within fifteen or so years, a whole new cultural field emerged.

No doubt, this field was a part of the massive Soviet cultural industry, which made little distinction between education and propaganda; basic literacy skills were acquired through reading revolutionary primers. Still, this new – post-revolutionary – literature for



1925 Надежда Кустович,  
Большевик Том (1925)



два брата



Как приехал шоколад\_в  
моссельпром

children was more than just a newly reclaimed ideological weapon. Children’s literature had to deal with a radically changed audience. As *Literaturnaia gazeta* put it in 1929, “Whereas previously, kids of hunters and nomads . . . merely populated the pages of children’s books, now they demand books for themselves.” The necessity to take into account the radical expansion of the demographic borders of the reading audience significantly modified the early Soviet book for children. The modes of perception, levels of abstraction, or frames of metaphorical references on which books of the past had relied could no longer be taken for granted. Confronted by the actual comprehension skills of the socially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse “mass reader,” on the one hand, and the ideological demands of the time on the other, the practitioners of the new Soviet literature focused on two main goals. In content, children’s literature was to be concrete, useful, informative, and realistic, aimed at a reader who was active and independent (*samodeiatel’nyi*). In form, the new literature was expected to bring the textual components of the book as close as possible to the pictorial by turning the “graphic language” (*graficheskii iazyk*) of the new book into a default communication interface with “a multilingual” reader. Taken together, this dual approach resulted in a stream of picture books that explained the world by segmenting it into digestible gnoseological units. Titles like *Where Do Dishes Come From?* (*Otkuda – posuda?*), *How Was this Book Made* (*Kak delaetsia eta kniga*) or *How a Shirt Grew in a Field* (*Kak rubashka v pole vyrosla*) were ubiquitous. Against the backdrop of attractive color illustrations, actual narratives functioned as mere captions.

In the end, it is precisely this *graphic* component of the early Soviet book

that makes it so distinctive and interesting now. The need to translate complicated ideological notions into visual formulas easily accessible to the young audience coincides here with a very different trend, namely, the modernist attempt to explore the limits of the pictorial by deconstructing it to its basic structures, colors, or shapes.

It is somewhat ironic that Princeton University benefited from these early Soviet attempts to create a special visual genre of political pedagogy. Over the years, the library amassed a vast collection of printed books available through [The Cotsen Children's Library](#). Not all of them are Soviet, of course. Some go as far back as the middle of the seventeenth century. Yet, out of more than 1,800 titles, about one thousand books were from the period between 1917 and 1941. The collection owns the best examples of the genre – books illustrated by authors from Boris Kustodiev to El Lissitzky, from David Shterenberg to Vladimir Lebedev, and from Aleksander Deineka to Solomon Telingater. However, what makes this collection particularly interesting is that its holdings allow us to see how the avant-garde aesthetics of these truly innovative artists were quickly adapted and simplified by their imitators and followers, creating a peculiarly “mass” version of avant-garde visual sensibility.

Starting in 2015, the Princeton Library began digitalizing imprints, making them publically available through its [Digital Library](#). For now, there are 160 titles, but this collection is steadily growing. Just as important is an attempt to turn this collection into a research resource.

In May 2015, Princeton hosted the first symposium called “[The Pedagogy of Images: Depicting Communism for Children](#).” Organized by Thomas Keenan (Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Librarian), Katherine Hill Reischl (Slavic Department), and myself, the symposium tried to map out approaches that could bring together the visual, the pedagogical, and the ideological components of these books. The initial symposium created a foundation for a collective volume of essays, which were discussed during the follow-up [workshop this fall](#). Also, the symposium pushed us more into the field of digital humanities. Together with the Center for Digital Humanities, Katherine Hill Reischl is working on a digital companion project, “[Playing Soviet: Visual Language of Early Soviet Children's Books, 1917-1953](#),” which would allow us to explore relationships among artists, image types, color, style, and publication information on screen. Finally, in March 2017, we plan to invite to Princeton (through an open call for papers) a group of graduate students who are interested in studying the already digitized imprints.

Somewhat unexpectedly, this collection has emerged as an exciting and promising hub of new ideas, methods, and materials that give us a chance to re-imagine the ways we see and understand the early Soviet culture.

[Serguei A. Oushakine](#) is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Slavic and Director of the Program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at Princeton University

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Submit as a single pdf document a cover letter, curriculum vitae, teaching philosophy and research statement by November 1, 2016 to the Department of Russian Search Committee via Interfolio ByCommittee at: <https://apply.interfolio.com/35959>. In addition, arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent via Interfolio to the Department of Russian Search Committee. Applications received by November 1, 2016 will receive full consideration.



# ASEEES 48th Annual Convention

November 17–20, 2016 • Marriott Wardman Park, Washington DC  
[aseees.org/convention](http://aseees.org/convention)

## NOV 17

THATCamp (The Humanities and Technology Camp), 9:00a-12:00p

Vice President-designated Roundtable: Lessons Learned: Initiatives on Careers beyond the Professoriate, 5:00p

Opening Reception and Exhibit Hall Tour, 6:30p

## NOV 18

Presidential Plenary I: "On Whose Authority? How Area Studies Scholars Can Go Global, or Not," 12:00p

Vice President-designated Roundtable: Careers in Think Tanks and Policy Institutes, 1:45p

ASEEES Annual Meeting of Members, 5:45p

Film Screening of Roman Liberov's "Sokhrani moi u rech' navegda" on Osip Mandelstam's life and writings, 6:15p,  
and Kira Muratova's "Brief Encounters/ Korotkie vstrechi," 8:00p

## NOV 19

Presidential Plenary II: "Russia's New Role in the Middle East," 12:00p

Pre -Award Buffet, 5:30p

Awards Ceremony & President's Address: "Thinking Global, Speaking Regional: Area Studies in the World" by Padraic Kenney, 7:00p

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## 2017 ASEEES Convention Theme

ASEEES 49th Annual Convention, November 9–12, Chicago, IL

### Convention Theme: Transgressions

The 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution inspires the 2017 theme, and invites us to rethink the ways in which cultural, economic, political, social, and international orders are undermined, overthrown, and recast. The storming of the Winter Palace, in both popular history and cultural representation, exemplifies how revolutionaries violated physical and political boundaries and imposed a new organization of power. Yet the revolution also invited new cultural iconoclasm and smashed existing social relations right down to individual families. It justified the overthrow of the economic order and the elimination (physically and/or politically) of collective actors and individuals.

The anniversary of this fundamental transgression, the deliberate violation of the status quo, invites us to consider how social, linguistic, artistic and other orders in various domains are deliberately and explicitly defied—and how they are constructed in the first place. How are social norms challenged and re-constructed? For example, we see anti-clericalism and pro-LGBTQ movements in conservative and religious countries in the region, such as Poland or Lithuania. How do these actors negotiate strong advocacy in the face of hostile popular sensibilities? The migrant crisis illustrates how strong norms can clash. Representatives of Western European countries have condemned what they see as parochial and xenophobic attitudes in Eastern Europe, but the acceptance of Muslim immigrants can also constitute a violation of local norms of religious and ethnic homogeneity. Here, too, we might ask, who defines linguistic transgressions? How do the “acceptable” linguistic registers in which ethnic and religious categories are discussed emerge? How have artistic and cultural iconoclasts such as Zbigniew Libera or Petr Pavlesky transgressed, who defines these “transgressions,” and what are the cultural and political implications?



Transgressions are not limited to artists or social movements. National, elected, “mainstream,” officials also flout and defy public institutional norms. In international politics, Vladimir Putin has repeatedly violated international borders, held sacrosanct by international organizations. Within the realm of domestic politics, we have the specter of EU members led by anti-EU leaders, who openly abuse and disregard the norms of rule of law and media independence. Such actors publicly (and successfully) defy the pro-democracy consensus that appeared to structure politics for the first two decades after 1989 in the “democratic frontrunners” such as Hungary or Poland.

The theme also invites us to consider transgressions more broadly and comparatively. What are the actors and forces that generate existing boundaries and expectations, and how are these

questioned and recast? How do the models of political, cultural, and social change, which tend to emphasize gradualism, allow us to explore deliberate and radical change? How do we compare transgressions: for example, how useful is it to compare 1917 with 1989/ 1991? Is transgression “contagious”—does it diffuse across domains? Finally, how are transgressions absorbed and digested, and how do they become the mainstream, the “new normal?”

Proposals from all disciplines and historical periods are welcome, and encouraged to engage in transgressions of their own. **Deadline for ALL Submissions (panels, papers, roundtables, meeting rooms) due February 15, 2017.**



## NEW FROM SLAVICA PUBLISHERS

**Adele Lindenmeyr, Christopher Read, and Peter Waldron, eds.** *Russia's Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914–22, 2: The Experience of War and Revolution*, 511 p., 2016 (ISBN 978-0-89357-426-0), \$44.95.

The editors hope that these essays will encourage study of the social impact of total war and revolution, the grassroots mobilization of Russian society during this period, and the methods of adaptation and self-reinvention adopted by ordinary men and women in response to prolonged crisis.

### Slavica Publishers' 50th Anniversary

In honor of Slavica's 50th anniversary, we are offering a series of reprints of notable books published by Slavica but now long out of print. We are restoring these titles to print and making them available free of charge in .pdf format on our website, [slavica.indiana.edu](http://slavica.indiana.edu):

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*Ol'ga Freidenberg's Works and Days*, Nina Perlina

*Lord Novgorod the Great: Essays in the History and Culture of a Medieval City-State*, Henrik Birnbaum

*A Short Dictionary of 18th Century Russian*, Charles E. Gribble

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*Agreement in Contemporary Standard Russian*, Dina B. Crockett



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Vol. 17, no. 3 (Summer 2016)

*Forum: Soviet Central Asia in and after World War II*

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Becoming Soviet through War

CHARLES SHAW

Soldiers' Letters to Inobatxon and O'g'ulxon

TIMOTHY NUNAN

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*Review Essays*

JULIA LEIKIN

Across the Seven Seas

JARED MCBRIDE

Who's Afraid of Ukrainian Nationalism?

ANNA IVANOVA

Socialist Consumption and Brezhnev's Stagnation

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

**Valentin Rasputin.** *Ivan's Daughter: Stories and a Novella*, trans. **Margaret Winchell**, viii + 308 p., 2016 (ISBN 978-089357-454-3), \$19.95.

The stories and novella in this collection of work by the late Valentin Rasputin (1937–2015), leading representative of the village prose movement and one of Russia's greatest contemporary writers, depict life in Russia during the traumatic years following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. By bringing a variety of characters to life—from young children, teen-agers, and middle-aged adults to old peasants and new Russians—Rasputin delves into the burning issues of that time, including questions of morality as well as sheer survival, and allows readers to experience the immediate post-Soviet past together with the “ordinary folks” who were fated to live it. In addition to shedding light on the present, these works offer an armchair trip to Siberia along with the aesthetic pleasures that flow from the pen of a master storyteller.



## Three String Books

**Boris Poplavsky.** *Apollon Bezobrazov*, trans. **John Kopper**, xxvi + 172 p., 2015 (ISBN 978-089357-453-6), \$19.95.

This novel by “recovered Surrealist” Russian émigré poet Boris Poplavsky describes in colorful, poetic detail the hand-to-mouth existence of a small band of displaced Russians in Paris and Italy, chronicling their poverty, their diversions, their intensely played out love affairs, and its namesake's gradual transformation in the eyes of his admiring followers. Abounding in allusions to Eastern religion, Western philosophy, and 19th-century Russian literature, the work echoes Joyce's *Ulysses* in its experimental mixing of genres, while its use of extended metaphors reveals the stylistic impact of Marcel Proust. Not published in complete form in Russian until 1993, *Apollon Bezobrazov* significantly broadens our understanding of Russian prose produced in the interwar emigration.





## Member Spotlight: Kieran Williams

Kieran Williams is Visiting Professor of Political Science at Drake University

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

In high school I found that I was fairly good at learning languages, and was fortunate that Russian was offered, so I began taking it in 1983. In the summer between junior and senior years (1984), I was selected to attend a five-week college-level program, New Jersey Scholars, held at the Lawrenceville School, and that year's topic was Russia. It was a fantastic combination of history, politics, literature and art, and whetted my appetite for an area-studies approach, which I follow to this day. I went to college at Princeton in 1985 already set on majoring in Slavic Languages and earning the certificate in Russian Studies.

*How have your interests changed since then?*

By the time I was finishing college, perestroika was in full swing and my interest in politics overtook my original focus on language and literature. Also, I started learning Czech with the great linguist Charles Townsend, who steered me toward a focus on Central Europe. The revolutions of 1989 occurred right as I was beginning postgraduate work at Oxford, and allowed me to write my dissertation on the 1968 "Prague Spring" using archives in Czechoslovakia and declassified documents from other countries, including Russia. It was later published as

*The Prague Spring and its Aftermath*. My subsequent research focused on aspects of democratization in Central Europe, especially the Czech and Slovak Republics, such as electoral system design, election law disputes, reform of the intelligence services, lustration of former collaborators, and minority rights.

*What is your current research/work project?*

I have just published *Václav Havel* a biography of the Czech writer and president, as part of the Critical Lives series from Reaktion Press (in the UK) and the University of Chicago Press (in the US). I found myself drawn to the poetry Havel wrote as a young man and I used it to frame his better-known writings (plays, essays, prison letters and presidential speeches) and to tell his familiar life story in a new way. My next project will apply methods of quantitative text analysis to discussions of firearms and gun control in former Communist states.

*What do you value about your ASEES membership?*

From 1993 to 2002 I worked at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in London, with dozens of colleagues who were world-class specialists. At the same time, my wife-to-be, Laura Belin, was a Russia analyst at RFE/RL in Prague, so I felt as immersed as anyone could be in our field. When we moved to Iowa, that changed overnight and I have relied on ASEES (its annual conference and publications) to stay connected to colleagues and stay on top of the professional trends and challenges facing us.

### CCNY ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN RUSSIA AREA STUDIES

Carnegie Corporation of New York is announcing the recipients of three \$1 million grants to strengthen the study of Russia at U.S. universities. Through a competitive process, a jury of independent experts selected the following institutions: **Columbia University, Indiana University, and the University of Wisconsin–Madison.**

The grants, announced at the September Board of Trustees meeting, follow a Carnegie Corporation-commissioned assessment by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEES) of the state of Russian studies at U.S. universities. The report, *The State of Russian Studies in the United States*, concluded that while in many respects Russia-related graduate training and research remain strong in the United States, the study of Russia at U.S. universities has atrophied in recent years because of neglect and reduced federal funding. The report identified several major causes for concern and specifically found that "Russian studies within the social sciences are facing a crisis: an unmistakable decline in interest and numbers, in terms of both graduate students and faculty." The findings led Carnegie Corporation to issue an RFP to further its support of Russia expertise in the United States through institutional investment. The awarded grants aim to encourage the universities to build up Russia-relevant training, research, and outreach programs, and facilitate engagement with Russian academic communities and institutions.

The initiative is aligned with Carnegie Corporation's long-standing commitment to advance the understanding of Russia in the United States. Carnegie Corporation's attention to Russian area studies underscores the importance of Russia to the United States and signals the continued need to improve U.S. training and study on Russia, so as to expand the ranks and deepen the expertise of relevant scholars, analysts, and practitioners. For more, <https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/russia-area-studies/>





## Publications

*Americans in Revolutionary Russia* (Slavica Publishers) is a new series of re-publications of books by American eyewitnesses in Russia during the Russian Revolutionary Era (1914–21). The men and women who wrote these accounts left a rich treasure of insights on a kaleidoscopic range of issues such as politics, ethnic identity, military, war, travel, and much more, offering readers a first-hand view of a tumultuous and complex era. Yet, while the eyewitness accounts were popular and influential in America at the time they were published, they can be difficult to read today without knowing the context of the time and place they were written. To address this gap in understanding and to make the works of many American observers accessible to the modern reader, each account in this series will be accompanied by an expert introduction and annotation by a leading scholar.

This series is edited by Norman E. Saul and William Benton Whisenhunt

*Containing Balkan Nationalism: Imperial Russia and Ottoman Christians, 1856-1914*, by Denis Vovchenko, was published by Oxford University Press in August 2016.

This book highlights international and domestic efforts to contain ethnonationalism within traditional religious and dynastic institutions in the Ottoman Empire. Additionally, the text emphasizes elements of continuity in relations between Russia and Ottoman Christians and investigates the relationship of Russia to Muslim Slavs from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria, comparing the importance of religion and ethnicity in Russia and the Balkans from a new angle. Finally, Vovchenko offers new analysis suggesting ethnonationalism did not eclipse religious and dynastic identities at the turn of the twentieth century.

*The Chukhloma Region: Architectural Heritage in Photographs* is volume fifteen in the series "Discovering Russia," written and photographed by William C. Brumfield. Although relatively unknown, the Chukhloma area has a wealth of architectural treasures. The text, in English and Russian, gives special attention to the careful restoration of the wooden mansion, or "Terem," from the end of the 19th century at the village of Astashova. The book also focuses on churches near Astashova. Of particular interest is the abandoned Church of the Convocation of the Mother of God at Verkhniaia Pustyn with surviving fragments of remarkable frescoes that are given their first publication here.

The Chukhloma area also contains the idiosyncratic wooden mansion erected in the village of Pogorelovo near the Viga River. Both rustic and rich with carved ornamentation on the exterior, the large house has a rare interior that still preserves spaces decorated in an urbane, sophisticated manner.

The book covers the small town of Sudai, with its brick churches and distinctive wooden houses from the turn of the 20th century. The concluding section is devoted to the renowned Dormition-St. Avraamy Gorodetsky Monastery, located on a bluff overlooking Lake Chukhloma and now being restored to its former luster.

The book offers a comprehensive visual survey of the above, with 62 black-and-white photographs and another 18 in color.

*Dostoevsky Beyond Dostoevsky: Science, Religion, Philosophy*, edited by Vladimir Golstein and Svetlana Evdokimova, was published by Academic Studies Press in August 2016.

*Dostoevsky Beyond Dostoevsky* is a collection of essays with a broad interdisciplinary focus. Issues such as evolutionary theory and literature, science and society, scientific and theological components of comparative intellectual history,

### LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE HIRING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN

Lewis & Clark, a private liberal arts college with 2,000 undergraduates, invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures beginning in fall 2017. Preferred teaching and research fields include Russian literature or linguistics; open to any period or specialization.

Ph.D. is required at the time of appointment as a tenure-track member of the faculty. Native or near-native fluency in both Russian and English. Potential for excellent teaching and research, as well as ability to run successful Russian program at an undergraduate institution, are essential. Usual load is five courses per academic year and may include regular participation in the College's general education program.

A complete application must include: cover letter of application which includes statements of research interests and teaching experience, as well as a description of how the applicant's teaching and/or work in the campus community will contribute to a culture of inclusion and campus diversity; curriculum vitae; statement of teaching philosophy and evidence of teaching effectiveness; sample of scholarship (published articles, and/or works in progress); graduate transcripts; three letters of recommendation (uploaded separately by the referees). All materials should be addressed to Freddy Vilches, Chair Russian Search Committee, and must be submitted via Interfolio <http://apply.interfolio.com/37633>.

Review of applications will begin on November 4 and continue until the position is filled. Lewis & Clark College will conduct background checks on the finalist.

*Lewis & Clark College is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to status as a protected veteran or a qualified individual with a disability, or other protected status, such as race, religion, color, national origin, sex or age. Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or OCR. The College is committed to preparing students for leadership in an increasingly interdependent world, and affirms the educational benefits of diversity. (See <http://www.lclark.edu/dept/about/diversity.html>)*

and aesthetic debates of the nineteenth century Russia form the core of the intellectual framework of this book. Dostoevsky's oeuvre with its wide-ranging interests and engagement with philosophical, religious, political, economic, and scientific discourses of his time emerges as a particularly important case for the study of cross-fertilization among disciplines. The individual chapters explore Dostoevsky's real or imaginative dialogues with aesthetic, philosophic, and scientific thought of his predecessors, contemporaries, and successors, revealing Dostoevsky's forward looking thought, as it finds its echoes in modern literary theory, philosophy, theology, and science.

Contributors include: Carol Apollonio, Anna Berman, David Bethea, Steven Cassedy, Yuri Corrigan, David Cunningham, Svetlana Evdokimova, Susanne Fusso, Vladimir Golstein, Robert Jackson, Sergei Kibalnik, Liza Knapp, Marina Kostalevsky, Charles Larmore, Deborah Martinsen, Inessa Medzhibovskaya, Olga Meerson, Gary Saul Morson, Michal Oklot, Donna Orwin, Victoria Thorstensson, and Daniel P. Todes.

*Eastern European Youth Cultures in a Global Context*, by Matthias Schwartz, was released by Palgrave Mcmillan in 2016.

This volume examines contemporary Eastern European youth cultures from an interdisciplinary perspective, investigating how the radical changes resulting from the demise of state socialisms and concurrent increased globalization processes have resulted in huge challenges for young people and a reimagining of youth itself.

*How Russia Learned to Write: Literature and the Imperial Table of Ranks*, by Irina Reyfman, was published by University of Wisconsin Press in July 2016.

In the eighteenth century, as modern forms of literature began to emerge in Russia, most of the writers producing it were members of the nobility. But their literary pursuits competed with strictly enforced obligations to imperial state service. Unique to Russia was the Table of Ranks, introduced by Emperor Peter the Great in 1722. Noblesse oblige was not just a lofty principle; aristocrats were expected to serve in the military, civil service, or the court, and their status among peers depended on advancement in ranks.

Reyfman illuminates the surprisingly diverse effects of the Table of Ranks on writers, their work, and literary culture in Russia. From Sumarokov and Derzhavin in the eighteenth century through Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, and poets serving in the military in the nineteenth century, state service affected the self-images of writers and the themes of their creative output. Reyfman also notes its effects on Russia's atypical

course in the professionalization and social status of literary work.

University of Rochester Press recently released *Kyiv as Regime City: The Return of Soviet Power after Nazi Occupation*, by Martin J. Blackwell, charts the resettlement of the Ukrainian capital after Nazi occupation and the returning Soviet rulers' efforts to retain political legitimacy. This book chronicles how a socially and ethnically diverse milieu of Kyivans reassembled after many years of violence and terror.

While the Ukrainian Communists successfully guarded entry into their privileged, elite ranks and monitored the masses' mood toward their superiors in Moscow, the party failed to conscript a labor force and rebuild housing, leading the Stalin regime to adopt new tactics to legitimize itself among the large Ukrainian and Jewish populations who once again called the city home. Drawing on sources from the central, regional, and local archives of the former Soviet Union, this study is essential reading for those seeking to understand how the Kremlin reestablished its power in Kyiv, consolidating its regime as the Cold War with the United States began.

HURI Publications recently published Mark R. Baker's book, *Peasants, Power, and Place: Revolution in the Villages of Kharkiv Province, 1914–1921*. This is the first English-language book to focus on Ukrainian-speaking peasants during the revolutionary period from 1914 to 1921. In contrast to the many studies written from the perspectives of the Ukrainian national movement's leaders or the Bolsheviks, urban workers, this book portrays this period of war, revolution, and civil war from the viewpoints of the villagers—the overwhelming majority of the population of what became Ukraine.



The **Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies (WCED) at the University of Michigan** invites postdoctoral scholars to apply for the Emerging Democracies Postdoctoral Fellowship. The fellowship supports research on the broad historical, political, economic, and societal conditions under which democracies emerge—and autocracies endure.

Visit [ii.umich.edu/wced](http://ii.umich.edu/wced) for more information  
Application deadline: **January 15, 2017**

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wced.postdoc@umich.edu  
734.764.0351



Utilizing previously unavailable archival documents, Baker opens a unique window into the tumultuous events of those years in Ukraine and across the crumbling Russian Empire. One of Baker's key arguments is that the peasants of Kharkiv province thought of themselves primarily as members of their particular village communities, and not as members of any nation or class—ideas to which peasants were only then being introduced.

Thus this study helps to move the historiography beyond the narrow and ideologized categories created during the Cold War and still employed today. Readers will gain a broader understanding of the ways in which the majority of the population experienced these crucial years in Ukraine's history.

*Rasputin: Faith, Power, and the Twilight of the Romanovs*, by Douglas Smith, will be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in November 2016.

On the centenary of his murder, Grigory Rasputin continues to excite the popular imagination as the personification of evil. Numerous biographies, novels, and films recount his mysterious rise to power as Nicholas and Alexandra's confidant and the guardian of the sickly heir to the Russian throne. His debauchery and sinister political influence are the stuff of legend, and the downfall of the Romanov dynasty was laid at his feet. But as Smith shows, the true story of Rasputin's life

and death has remained shrouded in myth. A major new work that combines probing scholarship and powerful storytelling, Smith separates fact from fiction to reveal the real life of one of history's most alluring figures. Drawing on a wealth of forgotten documents from archives in seven countries, Smith presents Rasputin in all his complexity: man of God, voice of peace, loyal subject, adulterer, drunkard. *Rasputin* is not just a biography of an extraordinary man but a portrait of the twilight of imperial Russia as it lurched toward catastrophe.

*Socialist Churches: Radical Secularization and the Preservation of the Past in Petrograd and Leningrad, 1918–1988*, by Catriona Kelly, was published by Northern Illinois University Press in October 2016.

Legislation on the separation of church and state in early 1918 marginalized religious faith and raised pressing questions about what was to be done with church buildings. While associated with suspect beliefs, they were also regarded as structures with potential practical uses, and some were considered works of art. This study draws on religious anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, and history to explore the fate of these "socialist churches," showing how attitudes and practices related to them were shaped both by laws on the preservation of monuments and anti-religious measures. Advocates of preservation, while sincere in their desire to save the buildings, were indifferent, if not hostile, to their religious purpose. Believers, on the other hand, regarded preservation laws as irritants, except when they provided leverage for use of the buildings by church communities. The situation was eased by the growing rapprochement of the Orthodox Church and Soviet state organizations after 1943, but not fully resolved until the Soviet Union fell apart. Based on archival documentation, Kelly's narrative portrays the human tragedies and compromises, but also the remarkable achievements, of those who fought to preserve these important buildings over the course of seven decades of state atheism.

*Václav Havel*, by Kieran Williams, was published in August 2016 by Reaktion Press in the UK and is distributed in the US by the University of Chicago Press. This biography is the first to pay close attention to the young Havel's poetry and to place the later work for which he is best known - plays, essays, prison letters and presidential speeches - in the context of his poetic beginnings, his formative stylistic and philosophical influences, and his lifelong rivalry with slightly older poets who turned, as he did, to other genres. Through a reading of Havel's complete works in Czech, including first drafts of his plays and his voluminous correspondence, Williams produces a rounded picture of a man of courage and paradoxes.

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# Institutional Member News

## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY CRITICAL LANGUAGES INSTITUTE

The ASU Critical Languages Institute is accepting applications for its 2017 summer language programs in the U.S. and abroad.

CLI offers intensive courses in less commonly taught languages in the U.S. and overseas. Students admitted to CLI pay a flat fee of \$900 for up to 13 semester credits, in addition to study-abroad fees if they opt to study overseas. Scholarships are available for undergraduate students, graduate students, and non-students: Department of State Title VIII Fellowships for selected languages; ROTC Project GO Scholarships for selected languages; Melikian Scholarships for all languages, and language-specific support for several languages. <http://cli.asu.edu>. Admission is competitive. The deadline for funding and priority admission is January 27, 2017 (Jan 17 for Project GO).

**COMBINATION COURSES:** 2 months intensive study at ASU with optional 1 month study in country, providing 8–13 academic credits. Courses offered in Albanian, Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Modern Hebrew, Indonesian, Persian, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Uzbek. Sessions in ASU include daily co-curricular programming, grant mentoring and career planning opportunities. Sessions abroad feature academically challenging study, and extensive co-curricular programming integrated into academic coursework and conducted in 1-on-1 or small-group format by local activity guides.

**OVERSEAS PROGRAMS:** 2-month intensive programs provide 8–10 academic credits in Albanian, Armenian, BCS (Sarajevo), Indonesian, Russian. Programs feature homestays, and extensive co-curricular programming, integrated into academic coursework and conducted in 1-on-1 or small-group format by local activity guides.

## CFP: YOUNG RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE, HAVIGHURST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND POST- SOVIET STUDIES, MIAMI UNIVERSITY 13-16 June 2017

Discussing the Russian revolution is impossible without addressing the causes, legacy, and echoes of this event. The very phrasing is contentious—was 1917 a revolution, overthrow, or accident? Examining the Russian and Soviet response is complex enough, yet the Bolshevik takeover had ramifications for the world. In literature the image of the revolution and the ensuing changes was polarized from the beginning, both in the new Soviet state and abroad. Those in history and the social sciences have long puzzled over interpreting the USSR, its influence on Eastern Europe (and the developing world), and the aftermath of its collapse. In otherwise disparate regions—from eastern Germany to Central Asia and the Russian Far East—1917 and

the USSR defined the twentieth century, whether as horrific trauma, utopian promises, or a confounding combination of the two. How our field responds to the Russian revolution will define Eurasian studies for the coming decades, just as experts continue to debate the significance of other cultural markers such as 1905, 1956, and 1989.

Papers submitted to the Young Researchers Conferences should examine how 1917 influenced events in politics, economics, literature, religion, art, or culture, whether in the former Second World or beyond its borders. The Young Researchers Conference welcomes papers from those who are completing their dissertation or have received their PhD (or candidate degree) within the past three years. Please submit by November 21, 2016 a one-page, single-spaced abstract (including tentative bibliography) as well as a one page, single-spaced curriculum vitae to Benjamin Sutcliffe, Professor of Russian, Miami University: [sutclibm@miamioh.edu](mailto:sutclibm@miamioh.edu)

The conference will be held in Cuma, Italy, which is located on the Bay of Naples, one hour's drive from Naples, and an hour and a half from Capri. The train ride from Rome's Termini train station is about 1-1.5 hours. The Havighurst Center will provide all meals and 3 nights (shared room) at the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma. Participants will be responsible for all travel to and from the Villa, including international travel. Scholars are urged to seek support from their institutions.

## THE KENNAN INSTITUTE AT THE WILSON CENTER

The Kennan Institute is pleased to announce that it has been awarded Title VIII funding for the coming program year. As in the past, the Kennan Institute will be offering research fellowships for post-doctoral, early-stage scholars. It will also offer two-month summer research fellowships and one-month short-term grants. It anticipates the first deadline for the next round of competitions to be in January 2017. Please check the Kennan Institute website for the most updated news on our Title VIII-supported fellowship program: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-opportunities-and-internships>. For more information, please contact: Title VIII Fellowships – Liz Malinkin, Kennan Institute, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004-3027, Tel: (202) 691-4246, E-mail: [Liz.Malinkin@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:Liz.Malinkin@wilsoncenter.org)

## Other Fellowship Opportunities

George F. Kennan Fellows will be based at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC for three-month residencies. Fellows will receive access to the Library of Congress, National Archives, and policy research centers in Washington, DC, as well as the opportunity to meet with key experts and officials at the State Department, USAID, Department of Defense, and Congress.

While conducting research, the George F. Kennan Fellows are expected to actively participate in discussions with the policy and academic communities, including speaking engagements at the Wilson Center as well as potentially outside of Washington 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. Awardees are expected to commence their three-month appointments within one year of accepting the fellowship.

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

The next fellowship deadline is March 1. Applicants must submit a completed application: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/grant-opportunities-and-internships-0>

The Kennan Institute welcomes the following scholars:

George F. Kennan Fellows

Arbakhan K. Magomedov, Prof. of Russian Politics, Ulyanovsk State U. "Muslim Youth and Modern Russian Authoritarianism in Context of the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity."

Vladimir Rouvinski, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Studies, Icesi University. "From Comrades to Cossacks: The Symbolic Politics of Russia in the US 'Near Abroad.'"

Billington Fellow

Rozaliya Garipova, Visiting Associate, Institute for Advanced Study. "Sharia in the Russian Empire: Law, Ethics, and Governance in the Volga-Urals."

George F. Kennan Expert

Maria Stepanova, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Snob.ru. "In Memory of Memory: Between Private History and Street Photography."

Mozolin Fellow

Igor Novikov, Lawyer, Private Practice, Kazakhstan and Russia. "Civil Law and the Law-based State."

THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POLISH JEWISH STUDIES  
WORKSHOP: GENERATIONS AND GENEALOGIES  
April 2-4, 2017

This collaboration between the University of Illinois at Chicago, Princeton University, and the University of Michigan

has generated a series of gatherings bringing together scholars, public intellectuals, and artists working on Polish Jewish themes.

The aim of this workshop is to establish an international forum for communication among scholars working in the field of Polish Jewish studies; to identify theoretical and methodological developments and new research; and to create a forum for scholars, educators, and activists who rigorously pursue the study of Polish and Jewish cultures more intentionally.

The 2017 workshop will be held April 2-4 in Ann Arbor. It will explore key developments and new directions in the field of Polish Jewish studies, focusing on changing approaches to Polish Jewish culture, scholarship and identity under the rubric of "Generations and Genealogies." Panelists will explore the following questions:

- How does the concept of generation figure in understanding and interpreting Polish Jewish life as well as Polish Jewish relations? Is it a useful concept to make sense of social change, historical ruptures, and continuities? What does it allow us to uncover, what does it conceal?
- Are there distinct generations of scholarship in Polish Jewish studies, or coherent genealogies that can be traced?
- Are there distinct generational identities for Polish Jews? Are the experiences of Polish Jewishness and Jewish Polishness different for 18th, 19th and 20th centuries Polish Jews? For various postwar generations? If so, how? How is the hybridity experienced in different social and national contexts?
- Generations of Narrative: How have Polish Jewish narratives, both communal and literary, and Polish narratives about Jews, changed across generations? How is the narration of pre-war, occupied, and post-war periods in Poland different in the writings of different generations of non-Jewish Poles/Polish Jews/diaspora Polish Jews?
- Are there distinct generations of memory, or more of less identifiable genealogies of mnemonic cultures? Have the public and private ways to remember the Jewish presence in Poland, commemorate and grieve victims of the Holocaust change with postwar generational change? How?
- How does the experience of March 1968 for Polish Jews and non-Jewish Poles differ? Where does it fit in the Polish national narrative, and what is its place in the broader context of the 1968 upheavals? How is the legacy of the '68 generation felt and assessed today in various Polish and Diaspora milieus?
- Generational attitudes towards Polish Jewish culture. Within Jewish culture and literatures, elements of Polish Jewish culture have held radically different meanings and significance for different generations: from idealization, to rejection, to nostalgic recuperation. How have the relationships with certain elements of Polish Jewish culture, and their representation in literature, film and scholarship, changed over time?

Proposals (title, author institutional affiliation and abstract) should be emailed to Geneviève Zubrzycki no later than October 15, 2016 at [polishjewishconference2017@umich.edu](mailto:polishjewishconference2017@umich.edu). Travel and lodging of participants will be covered.



# In Memoriam

**Thomas Barrett**, professor of Russian and world history at St. Mary's College of Maryland, died of multiple myeloma on May 3, 2016 at the age of fifty-five. Born on September 8, 1960, Barrett received his B.S. in Commerce from the University of Virginia in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Russian History from Georgetown University in May 1997, where he studied under the influential historian Richard Stites. Barrett then went on to spend his academic career at St. Mary's College of Maryland, starting in 1995.

Barrett's research interests ranged widely across Russian history, from the tsarist era to late Soviet times, and touched on topics including the history of Russian frontiers, Cold War popular culture in the USSR, and impressions of Russia and Eastern Europe in US art and mass entertainment in the nineteenth century, including the American fascination for operas and musicals with Russian or East European themes. His book, revised and published as *At the Edge of Empire: The Terek Cossacks and the North Caucasus Frontier, 1700-1860* (Westview Press, 1999), quickly established itself as a statement of the "new imperial history" that has since grown into one of the most significant fields of Russian historical scholarship.

In addition to his seminal publications on the Caucasus and views of Russia in U.S. popular culture, he also published on Cold War science fiction writer Murray Leinster (Will Jenkins) and characters in James Bond.

*Excerpted from text provided by Adriana M. Brodsky, Associate Professor, History Department Chair at St. Mary's College of Maryland.*

**Robert Wellington Campbell**, Distinguished Professor of Economics at Indiana University, died on May 18 at his home in Bloomington. He was 89.

Campbell was an internationally distinguished expert on the economic systems of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and taught at Indiana for three decades, serving as chairman of the economics department and director of the Russian and East European Institute.

He was born in 1926 in Wichita, KS. His experiences during the Depression fueled his interest in economics. Campbell earned a scholarship to the University of Kansas, where he earned a BA and MA.

He went to Harvard, where he earned an MA from the Russian area studies program and a PhD in economics in 1956, and learned Russian. Campbell began his teaching career at the University of Southern California, then moved in 1961 to Indiana University, where he taught general economics and courses on Soviet economy.

He traveled to the Soviet Union during the Cold War and scoured scanty information to put together a picture of the Soviet economy. He was expert on Soviet energy affairs and energy policy, the Soviet R&D establishment,

telecommunications in the USSR, and Soviet military affairs. His book *Soviet Economic Power* went through four editions and served many non-economists in Soviet studies as their basic introduction to the economic element of their field.

Campbell was the AAASS president in 1984; was named a distinguished professor at IU in 1987; and received the Ryan award for contributions to international programs in 2005.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, he began a second career as a consultant and advisor to governments and institutions in countries including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. He also worked on improving economics education in new countries where economists who had been trained in a rigidly Marxist perspective had little inkling of modern economics. He spent several stints in Kiev, Ukraine, where he organized an MA program in economics. More details about this work are available [online](#).

*Excerpted from text provided in Campbell's obituary.*

**Ross Chomiak**, ASEES member and journalist for the US Information Agency for many decades, passed away on December 7, 2015, at age 79. Born in Lviv, Ukraine, Chomiak worked for RFE/RL and Voice of America at USIA. He also served as a press attaché for the new US embassy in Kazakhstan. He retired from the USIA in 1994, after which he focused his journalism on the now-independent Ukraine. He spent a year in Kyiv managing the International Media Center and continued writing articles and commentaries for The Weekly, Svoboda and other media. He is survived by his spouse, Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, a scholar of Ukrainian women's history, and two daughters.

*Excerpted from <http://www.ukrweekly.com/uwwp/re-membering-rostyk-chomiak/>*

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## Affiliate Group News

### THE ASSOCIATION FOR DIVERSITY IN SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES 2016 ADSEEEES TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ADSEEEES) is pleased to announce the 2016 ADSEEEES Travel Grant recipients: Mina Magda (Yale U) is a graduate student in Slavic Languages and Literatures. She is currently researching racial aesthetics in modern performance with a focus on Balanchine's ballet in blackface, "The Triumph of Neptune."

Nora Webb Williams (U of Washington-Seattle) is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science. Her current research project examines online protest participation in the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States.

Honorable Mention was given to Emily Elliott (Michigan State U), a doctoral candidate in the Department of History. Her research compares temporary labor migration to Moscow during the late Soviet and early post-Soviet periods. Joanna Mazurkiewicz (U of Michigan), a PhD student specializing in the history of the Yiddish theater under Communism, also received Honorable Mention.

ADSEEEES also awarded two Convention Attendance Grant for Undergraduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving-Institutions (MSIs): Congratulations to Devin Riley and Quinton Faulkner both undergraduate students at Howard University.

### CFP 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WORLD CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NATIONALITIES 4-6 May 2017

The ASN World Convention, the largest international and inter-disciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics related to nationalism, ethnicity, ethnic conflict and national identity in regional sections on the Balkans, Central Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, the Caucasus, and Turkey/Greece, as well as thematic sections on Nationalism Studies and Migration/Diasporas. Disciplines represented include political science, history, anthropology, sociology, international studies, security studies, geopolitics, area studies, economics, geography, sociolinguistics, literature, psychology, and related fields.

The Convention is also inviting paper, panel, roundtable, book, documentary, or special presentation proposals related to: The Conflict in Ukraine; Russia and the New Cold War; Internally Displaced People and Refugees; The Rise of the Far Right; Political Violence; The Crisis in Turkey; or The Political Use of Historical Memory.

For several years, the ASN Convention has acknowledged excellence in graduate studies research by offering Awards for Best Doctoral Student Papers. Doctoral student applicants whose proposals are accepted for the 2017 Convention, who will not have defended their dissertation by 1

November 2016, and whose papers are delivered by the deadline, will automatically be considered for the awards (unless their paper is co-authored with someone not eligible for the doctoral prize). The Book Prize award comes with a certificate and a cash prize. For information on how to have a book considered for the ASN 2017 Convention Book Prize, please go [http://nationalities.org/uploads/documents/ASN17\\_RothschildPrize.pdf](http://nationalities.org/uploads/documents/ASN17_RothschildPrize.pdf) or contact Dmitry Gorenburg at [asnbookprize@gmail.com](mailto:asnbookprize@gmail.com).

The Convention is also inviting submissions for its ASN World Documentary Festival on new documentaries produced between 2015-2017. The documentaries are screened during regular panel slots and are followed by a Q&A. Documentaries are submitted with a secured streaming link. For information on how to submit a documentary, go to <http://nationalities.org/prizes/documentary-film-award> or see below.

Applicants can only send one paper proposal -- either as an individual proposal, or as a paper part of a panel proposal. If an applicant sends more than one proposal based on a written paper, neither will be considered. This applies to co-authors as well. A co-author can only appear on one proposal based on a paper. At the Convention, a panelist can only appear on a maximum of TWO panels, only one of which can be in the capacity of a paper presenter. For example, a panelist can be discussant or chair on a panel and present a paper on another, or chair a panel and be discussant in another, and so forth. This rule applies to co-authored papers.

Proposals must include four items: Contact information; a 300- to 500-word abstract that includes the title of the paper; a 100-word biographical statement, in narrative form; a Fact Sheet, to be filled out online. For documentary submissions, proposals must include a secure streaming link for reviewing purposes. All proposals must be sent in a single email message, with an attached proposal in a Word document (PDFs will not be accepted) containing the above items. The proposals must be sent to [darel@uottawa.ca](mailto:darel@uottawa.ca) AND [darelasn2017@gmail.com](mailto:darelasn2017@gmail.com). For more information, see [www.nationalities.org](http://www.nationalities.org)

### CFP: 8<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL AWSS CONFERENCE: ROOTS AND LEGACIES OF REVOLUTION Thursday, April 6, 2017

The Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS) solicits paper presentations on the theme of "Roots and Legacies of Revolution: Transformations for Women and Gender" for its 8th Biennial Conference to be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies (SCSS), which opens Thursday evening and runs through Saturday. Participants of the AWSS Conference are encouraged to attend and participate in the SCSS conference as well (a separate CFP will be issued for that conference) and can attend both conferences with the same registration.

The conference theme recognizes the centennial of the Russian revolutions of 1917, which had a significant impact on the status and lives of women, as well as on the configuration of gender relations and representations throughout our region. We also draw attention to the roots of those revolutionary transformations in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian social, economic, political, literary, and creative practices and events of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Moreover, we are still living with the legacies of 1917, especially the effects on women and the post-Berlin Wall gender order. Thus, while we commemorate the Russian revolutions, we welcome papers across chronological and geographical spans from the tsarist era to the present day, from Berlin to Vladivostok.

The conference organizers invite proposals from scholars at all stages in their careers and in any discipline of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. We especially encourage graduate students to participate in this conference. Proposals should consist of a 250-word abstract of the paper (including the paper's title) and a brief one-page CV that includes author's affiliation and contact information. Proposals are due by December 15 to Sharon Kowalsky, Associate Professor of History, Texas A&M University-Commerce (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu) or Betsy Jones Hemenway, Director of Women's Studies/Gender Studies, Loyola University Chicago (ehemenway@luc.edu). AWSS has limited funds to help defer the costs of attendance for graduate students (to cover registration fees and hotel accommodations). Please indicate in your proposal if you are interested in applying for graduate student funding.

CFP: ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF EASTERN  
CHRISTIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (ASEC)  
7<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
March 10-11, 2017

ASEC's seventh biennial conference will be held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, March 10-11, 2017 (with a pre-conference reception on March 9). The theme is "Eastern Christianity, Reformations, and Revolutions," in honor of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and the one-hundredth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, and is conceptualized to embrace any discipline, topic, period or region related to Eastern Christian groups.

The theme's intent is broadly conceived to address the impact of either the Protestant Reformation or the Russian Revolution on any form of Eastern Christianity, including their extended repercussions and legacy to the present day and globally, as well as the impact of other reform movements and revolutions. Papers are also welcome that do not explicitly address these topics. Scholars from all disciplines are invited to participate.

Panel proposals of three participants and chair/discussant are preferred, but individual papers are also encouraged. Send paper and panel proposals with abstracts of 100-200 words for each paper, and a brief one-page curriculum vitae for each participant to Eugene Clay (Eugene.Clay@asu.

edu). Proposals must be received by October 31, 2016.

Limited funding is available to provide graduate students with assistance for travel expenses. For more information on the conference and its venue, contact Scott Kenworthy (kenwors@miamioh.edu).

THE HUNGARIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION  
MARK PITTAWAY ARTICLE PRIZE

The Hungarian Studies Association announces the Mark Pittaway Article Prize for best scholarly article in Hungarian studies to be awarded in November 2016.

The committee is seeking nominations of scholarly articles in Hungarian studies from any discipline, published in English in 2014 or 2015. (Articles with a publication date of 2016 will be eligible in 2018.) The goal of HSA prizes is to recognize quality scholarship in Hungarian studies. The prize committee particularly encourages nominations of new findings by junior scholars who expand the field and will benefit from the prize early in their careers. The article prize is named in memory of historian Mark Pittaway, who passed away in 2010. Send nominations, including a PDF of the article if possible, to Katalin Fábrián (fabiank@lafayette.edu), Karl Brown (brownk@uww.edu), and Jeff Pennington (jpennington@berkeley.edu) by October 15th.

CFP: 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTHEAST SLAVIC, EAST  
EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE  
April 1, 2017

Joshua Tucker, Director of the Jordan Center, will be the President of the 2017 Conference. Scholarly papers and panels are welcome on any aspect of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Complete panels will receive preference over individual paper submissions. Proposals must include the following: title and a one-paragraph abstract; requests for technical support; presenter's contact information; presenter's institutional affiliation and professional status (professor, graduate student, etc.); and the name and contact information for the panel organizer, where applicable.

Since 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the 150th anniversary of the sale of Russian America/purchase of Alaska, papers and panels on those topics are especially welcome. Undergraduate students under the guidance of a faculty mentor may present a paper at the Conference if the faculty mentor submits the information listed above.

Please submit your proposals at <https://goo.gl/forms/iQIojuLk14Vdi6403> not later than Friday, December 16, 2016.

As always, professionals in the field are strongly encouraged to volunteer to serve as chairs and/or discussants. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Two juried awards of \$200 for first prize and \$150 for second prize are made annually for the best graduate papers presented at the NESEES Conference judged according to the following criteria: clarity of main research question outlining the scholar's approach to the topic; importance of the research to the

profession; amount of support for the argument; use of primary sources; adequate and interesting content; and readiness for publication: use of English, readability and style.

Following the Conference, graduate students may submit revised papers to the competition for review. Visual materials accompanying the presentation at the Conference should be submitted along with the written text for evaluation. The papers must be between 7,500 and 14,000 words in length. The first prize paper will be entered in the national ASEES competition.

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

Several new members joined SHERA over the summer, including two institutions: St. Petersburg Arts Project and The Getty Research Institute. Also this past summer, SHERA received its first donation to establish the Maya Semina Graduate Student Travel Grant.

SHERA members are taking part in approximately seven panels at the upcoming ASEES convention. SHERA membership meeting will take place on Friday, November 18, from 6:15 to 7:45 PM at Wardman DC Marriott, Mezz, Jackson.

CFP: 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING SOUTHERN  
CONFERENCE ON SLAVIC STUDIES

April 6-8, 2017

The meeting will be hosted by George Mason University's program in Russian and Eurasian Studies. The SCSS is the largest of the regional Slavic and Eurasian Studies associations and its programs attract national and international scholarly participation. The purpose of SCSS is to promote scholarship, education, and in all other ways to advance scholarly interest in Russian, Soviet, and East European studies in the Southern region of the United States and nationwide. Membership in SCSS is open to all persons interested in furthering these goals.

Papers from all humanities and social science disciplines are welcome, as is a focus on countries other than Russia/USSR. We encourage 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. Papers on the special theme of the centenary of the Russian Revolution of 1917 are especially welcome.

The program committee is accepting panel and paper proposals until January 15, 2017. Whole panel proposals (chair, three papers, discussant) 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 brief CV with institutional affiliation) for all participants. Proposals for individual papers should include email address, brief CV with institutional affiliation, paper title, and a one-paragraph abstract to guide the program committee in the assembly of panels. If any AV equipment will be needed,

the panel and paper proposals should indicate so when they are submitted. AV will be of limited availability and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Email your proposals to Emily Baran at emily.baran@mtsu.edu. If necessary, you may also send it by conventional post to: Dr. Emily B. Baran, Department of History, Middle Tennessee State University, MTSU Box 23, 1301 E. Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

For local arrangements or conference information other than the program, please contact Steven Barnes at scssalexandria@gmail.com. For questions regarding the program, please contact Emily Baran at emily.baran@mtsu.edu.

ZIMMERLI'S EXHIBIT, *THINKING PICTURES*, EXPLORES  
DEVELOPMENT OF CONCEPTUAL ART IN MOSCOW

Opening on September 6, the exhibition, *Thinking Pictures* introduces audiences to the artists and work that defined the development and evolution of conceptual art in Moscow in the 1970s and 1980s. *Thinking Pictures* opens with Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid's pivotal 1973 installation, Apelles Ziablov (*The World's First Abstract Art, Painting from the 18th Century by the Serf Artist*), which features a series of paintings and artist-created archival material that present the

WILLIAMS COLLEGE HIRING  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN

The Department of German and Russian at Williams College seeks to fill a two-year visiting faculty position in Russian, with four courses per year, with teaching to begin in the fall semester of 2017. Specialization is open. Ph.D. preferred. Native or near-native proficiency in the language is required. A passion for teaching is a must; specifically, the successful candidate will have significant language teaching experience, innovative ideas for upper-level courses in Russian, and a desire to work effectively, both inside and outside the classroom, with a student population that is broadly diverse. Our program is founded on close student-faculty interaction and strong mentoring, as well as vibrant scholarship. Application deadline: December 1, 2016. Application should include: CV, cover letter, and four reference letters; a writing sample and other materials will be solicited later. All materials should be addressed to Julie A. Cassidy, Chair, Department of German & Russian, and must be submitted through Interfolio. Fax and email applications will not be accepted. All queries should be directed to Janneke van de Stadt at [jvandest@williams.edu](mailto:jvandest@williams.edu). We welcome applications from members of groups traditionally underrepresented in the field. All offers of employment are contingent upon completion of a background check. Further information is available here: <http://dean-faculty.williams.edu/prospective-faculty/background-check-policy/>.

Position Begins: July 1, 2017

Application Deadline: December 1, 2016

Apply Online: <https://apply.interfolio.com/36570>

*Williams College is a coeducational liberal arts institution located in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts. The college has built its reputation on outstanding teaching and scholarship and on the academic excellence of its approximately 2,000 students. Please visit the Williams College website (<http://www.williams.edu>). Beyond meeting fully its legal obligations for non-discrimination, Williams College is committed to building a diverse and inclusive community where members from all backgrounds can live, learn, and thrive.*



artists' sudden discovery: an original creator of abstract art, the semi-fictional character Apelles Ziablov. The work, at once humorous and incisively critical of authority, whether governmental or historic, encapsulates the underlying spirit of the diverse practices and approaches that comprise "Moscow Conceptualism."

The exhibition follows the narrative arc of such major installations highlighting the incredible range of work created by Muscovite artists during this period and the unique sociopolitical contexts that bore it and made it distinct from analogous developments in the west. *Thinking Pictures* brings to the fore work that is formative to the development of contemporary art practices and yet has been little known or shared as part of the global dialogue. The exhibition will remain on view at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers through December 31, 2016.

Moscow Conceptualism was born in opposition to regime-mandated Socialist Realism, which required lifelike depictions of prosperous Soviet life, best expressed in painting. Forced to engage with traditional conventions of painting as the only true and allowable form of creative expression, the subversion of the medium became a necessary part of artistic dissent. Despite constant threat of censorship and harsh reprisal, the two successive generations of artists that defined the movement created work that eroded the formal and visual boundaries between painting, installation, and performance.

Among the featured installations are: Viktor Pivovarov's *Projects for a Lonely Man* (1975); the first U.S. presentation of

Ilya Kabakov's *The Great Axis* (1984); and a recreation and documentary materials of Irina Nakhova's *Rooms* (1984-1985).

Major featured installations are augmented by paintings, sculpture, photographs, works on paper, and mixed-media works by a diverse range of artists, including Yuri Albert, Nikita Alekseev, Eric Bulatov, Ivan Chuikov, Elena Elagina, Igor Makarevich, Oleg Vassiliev, and Vadim Zakharov. The exhibition concludes with documentation pertaining to performance art, in particular to the staged actions of Collective Actions led by Andrei Monastyrski. Additionally, archival material, drawn from Moscow Archive of New Art (MANI), will provide further historical detail on the varied, underground practices of these artists—much of which has not been seen in the U.S.

Featured works are drawn predominantly from the Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection at the Zimmerli. *Thinking Pictures: Moscow Conceptual Art* in the Dodge Collection is organized by Jane Sharp, Associate Professor, Department of Art History, and Research Curator, Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book, edited by Sharp, that features a collection of essays exploring Moscow Conceptualism's historical significance within the globalized context of conceptual art practices, past and present. The book includes new scholarship, presented by major and emerging voices in the field, including Adrian Barr, Sabine Haensgen, Matthew Jackson, Yelena Kalinsky, Terry Smith, and Jane Sharp.

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

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

*Editor's note: in David Ost's piece (August 2016 NewsNet), the end of the first paragraph should read "Are they committed to democracy at all? Both accept it now that it has brought one-party rule ..." An additional change has been made to the third paragraph. Both changes are included in the online version.*



# Personages

**Ainur Begim** received her PhD in Anthropology from Yale and is a UCIS Postdoctoral Fellow in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

The NEH Office of Digital Humanities announced awards from the Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities program. **David Birnbaum** won an NEH grant for his proposal, "Make Your Edition: Models and Methods for Digital Textual Scholarship." Funds will support a three-week summer institute on the theory and development of digital scholarly editions for 25 participants to be hosted at the University of Pittsburgh.

*Architecture at the End of the Earth*, an art exhibit at MIT's Wolk Gallery, explores the Russian North and its multifaceted architectural legacy through the photographs of the historian, slavist and photographer **William Craft Brumfield**. What began as a sporadic endeavor evolved into a multi-decade archiving project, which has been recognized in the United States and Russia for its historical as well as artistic accomplishment. [The exhibition runs from September 8, 2016 to January 13, 2017 at MIT's Wolk Gallery.](#)

**Fabrizio Fenghi** is now an Assistant Professor in the Slavic Department at Brown University.

**Anna Grzymala-Busse** is now the Michelle and Kevin Douglas Professor of International Studies, Senior Fellow at Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University.

**Allison Leigh** accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Department of Visual Art in Fall 2016.

**Anastassia Obydenkova**, a senior researcher at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, was named a 2016-2017 Fung Fellow through the Program on International Society: Institutions and Actors in Global Governance at Princeton University.

**Patryk Reid** received his PhD in History from the University of Illinois and is now a UCIS Postdoctoral Fellow in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

**David S. Siroky** was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University.

**Lina Steiner** has received a lifetime appointment as a senior researcher at the Institute for Philosophy, Rheinische Friedrich-

Wilhelms University in Bonn. Steiner will also continue to serve as an associate at the International Centre of Philosophy, NordRhein- Westfalen.

After four years as director of the Jordan Center at NYU, **Yanni Kotsonis** has decided to step down. **Joshua Tucker** has replaced Kotsonis as the second Director of Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia.

**Milada Anna Vachudova** (UNC Chapel Hill) has been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Studies.

**Cynthia Vakareliyska**, Professor of Slavic Linguistics at the University of Oregon, has been named Chair-elect of the American Committee of Slavists, effective immediately. Vakareliyska will oversee arrangements for American participation in the XVI International Congress of Slavists in Belgrade in late August 2018, and will become Chair of the Committee immediately following the Congress.

**Sergei Zhuk** was invited to teach a history of Ukraine as a Visiting Associate Professor of History at Columbia University during Spring 2016. During this period of time Zhuk was promoted to a rank of a Professor of History at Ball State University.

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